

**An address given by  
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On behalf of all the awardees and myself, I would like to express our most sincere appreciation to The Chinese University of Hong Kong for conferring the Honorary Fellowships upon us.

It is indeed our great honour, and today is a special occasion that we happily share with our families, friends and colleagues who have supported and worked with us in our particular fields. It is also a privilege to have had the opportunity to make our individual contributions to the Chinese University and the community hoping that we can make a difference for the Chinese University to better prepare our next generation to create a better future for Hong Kong.

Many of us call Hong Kong our home, some, like myself, have spent years abroad, have had opportunities to settle abroad, but have instead chosen to return and call Hong Kong our home. We base our hopes and trust in the future of Hong Kong, for ourselves and for our children. Our trust is not without solid basis. Some would regard the rule of law, which we have always taken for granted and has always been seriously applied here, is an essential element for our social stability.

For those of us in the medical profession, we see health care as a prime concern of the people. Looking at health care systems around the world, how well a country can take care of the health care of the people indicate the ability of the people and the conscience of the nation.

Our doctors, trained by The Chinese University of Hong Kong and The University of Hong Kong, have always measured up well on international professional platforms. And Hong Kong's healthcare system is envied by many countries. Our system represents an undertaking that 'No citizen of Hong Kong will be denied adequate care because of lack of means.'

It has been said that our healthcare system is a case of having finite resources to satisfy infinite demands and needs. Medical and technological advances, new treatment modalities, rising staff cost with an increasing and ageing population will continue to challenge our ability to keep to our undertaking.

To maintain a functional and sustainable health care system is a major social-political-economical concern globally including the 'ObamaCare' in the United States and the National Health Service reform in the United Kingdom.

For Hong Kong, our major viable option is to increase the health service capacity, to offer more choices to the public, particularly in the form of medical insurance or health protection schemes in order to expand coverage for more patients.

The majority of private hospitals in Hong Kong operate as charitable or not-for-profit organizations. The Chinese University is committed to building a not-for-profit private hospital. The University has certainly risen to the occasion by extending beyond teaching and training to include establishing a healthcare service model in Hong Kong, adding to the much needed service capacity and service options for the people of Hong Kong.

The conventional approach in looking at health care systems is to classify patients according to diagnosis, assigning them to corresponding treatment protocols, counting the patients turnover, lengths of stay and waiting times and so on. That is the current trend to measure and compare the effectiveness and efficiency of different health care systems. However, training of our doctors should go beyond producing just numbers to fit the system. Our professional obligations to patients go far beyond that.

Even from my early medical student days when I first worked in different hospitals in America, to now over 40 years later as senior doctor and head of a hospital, I seem to see the same faces of patients in the hospital here in Hong Kong. With all the medical and technological advances, new cures and new treatment modalities developed through the years, we all inevitably have to face our own mortality. Sickness, disability and deaths remain the reality along with the fear, pain and suffering that come with them. For a doctor, providing comfort and relief to patients is as important as treating their sickness.

I understand the medical students of the Chinese University all pledge to 'The Hippocratic Oath', and to undergo a solemn ceremony of the gowning of the white coats of medical doctors to remind the students of such obligations which in my view should be taken most seriously to heart.

For all of us here, how well we will be taken care of when we become sick depends on how well our next generation of doctors is trained. It is very comforting for us to know that the Chinese University is providing such fine education.

Last, but most certainly not the least, we are all immensely proud to be Honorary Fellows of the Chinese University.