



## **HKSH Symposium to Explore New Frontiers in Cancer Management Experience Sharing by Local and Overseas Experts HKSH Hopes to Introduce Proton Therapy Soon**

(15 June 2014, Hong Kong) A panel of renowned experts from the U.S. and Japan shared their views with the local medical community on the roles and application of proton therapy (PT), one of the most advanced radiotherapy treatments in the world, at an inaugural scientific symposium organized today by Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital.

The U.S. experts also shared their experience on treating paediatric cancer patients with PT, a technology that has developed over the years and gained wider application in the world for its benefits of having lesser side effects and better clinical outcomes.

Committed to bringing in well-established advanced medical facilities and procedures to serve its patients, Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital has hoped for an early introduction of PT in Hong Kong and included the facility in HKSH Eastern District Advanced Medical Centre.

Cancer has become a global concern, causing over 8 million deaths worldwide in 2012. In Hong Kong, an average of over 10,000 cancer-related deaths occurs each year, accounting for nearly one-third of all deaths. The threat from cancer is likely to increase with the aging population.

Speaking at the HKSH Symposium on Advances in Cancer Management, Dr. Walton WT LI, Medical Superintendent of HKSH, said that with the rising number of cancer cases, it is imperative to keep up with the current landscape of cancer management. He said the symposium has offered a unique opportunity to foster fruitful exchange and knowledge sharing between overseas experts and the local medical professionals.

Dr. Joseph WT CHAN, Deputy Medical Superintendent of HKSH, added that with the rapid development of PT in recent year and the wider application of the technology in other parts of the world, HKSH has embarked on plans to bring the technology to Hong Kong with a view to providing a new treatment option for cancer patients.

Dr. Raymond HS Liang, Director of Comprehensive Oncology Centre of HKSH, said radiotherapy has long been one of the most common treatment methods in combating cancer. However conventional radiotherapy has its own limitations as healthy tissues or organs near the tumour may be affected during the treatment. There are still rooms for improvement particularly in the treatment of certain cancer types such as paediatric tumours, brain tumours, and head and neck tumours that cannot be effectively treated with conventional radiotherapy.

In PT, protons generated from hydrogen gas are accelerated up to the energy necessary for treatment. PT offers optimal dosimetry as compared to conventional radiotherapy.

Professor Nancy P. MENDENHALL, Medical Director at University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute said, “Protons are more accurate and efficient than x-ray based radiation therapy. For the latter, most of the radiation energy is deposited in normal tissues along the beam path whereas with protons most of the energy is deposited in the cancer itself.”

“Examples of cancers that may benefit from proton therapy include all paediatric cancers, sarcomas, skull-base tumours, some head and neck cancers, some lung cancers, some breast cancers and prostate cancer. There are many clinical trials going on across the world and clinical data, as it emerges from these trials and other studies, that have confirmed the theoretic benefits of proton therapy,” Professor MENDENHALL said.

The experts also shared the experience about the safety operation of PT centers at the symposium. “Currently, there are 42 operating proton centres, many of which are located in urban settings. In addition, there are a growing number of new centres under construction and development. In the U.S., there are 14 proton centres in operation, 10 under construction and 21 in development”, said Professor Thomas F. DELANEY from Harvard Medical School and Medical Director of Massachusetts General Hospital Francis H. Burr Proton Beam Therapy Center.

In Hong Kong, HKSH plans to include PT facility in the advanced medical centre to be built in A Kung Ngam, Shau Kei Wan. The centre will include a wide range of cancer diagnostic and treatment facilities such as CT, MRI and chemotherapy. The project is in planning stage and target for commissioning in 2019 the earliest, added Dr. CHAN.

“With the project we hope to bring enhanced treatment for better care of our patients who will no longer need to make overseas trip for PT treatment. The premier treatment will also provide a good learning and training opportunity for local medical professionals,” Dr. CHAN noted.

The Symposium on Advances in Cancer Management 2014 themed on “Proton Therapy: Redefining the Future of Cancer Treatment”, featured keynote speakers from the U.S., Japan and Hong Kong attracted about 400 healthcare professions to learn of the latest trend in cancer care.

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### **About Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital**

Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital is one of the leading private hospitals in Hong Kong. With the motto “Quality in Service Excellence in Care”, the Hospital is committed to serving the public as well as promoting medical education and research.

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Photos:



Dr. Walton LI, *Medical Superintendent of HKSH*, hoped that the inauguration of HKSH Symposium on Advances in Cancer Management 2014 would help more people to understand Proton therapy, in providing one more cancer treatment options for the local patients.



HKSH representatives and overseas PT experts at the press conference after the Symposium.





About 400 medical professionals in private and public sectors from a variety of specialties and disciplines joined the Symposium.



A group photo of the members of the Hospital Management Committee of HKSH and the speakers of the Symposium.



Professor ST FAN, *Director of Liver Surgery Centre, HKSH*, delivered his talk on “Advances and Opportunities for Liver Cancer Management”.



Professor Tony SK MOK, *Department of Clinical Oncology, Prince of Wales Hospital, the Chinese University of Hong Kong*, shared his view on Personalize Medicine for Lung Cancer.





Dr. CHUA Tsin Tien Daniel Associate Director, Comprehensive Oncology Centre (Radiotherapy), HKSH, talked about “Treatment of Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma by Tomotherapy: The Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital Experience”.



Professor Godfrey CF CHAN, Head of Department, Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, Queen Mary Hospital, The University of Hong Kong addressed his talk on “Recent Advances in Cellular Therapy for Paediatric Patients”.



Professor Nancy P. MENDENHALL, MD, *Medical Director at University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute* delivered her talk on “Proton Therapy: Promises, Applications, Early Results, and Barriers”.



Professor Thomas F. DELANEY, MD, *Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital*, talked about “Proton and Charged Particle Radiation for Bone and Soft Tissue Sarcomas”.