

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

香港大學



6 March 2009

Dr Joseph Kok Long Lee
 Chairman of the Panel on Health Services
 Legislative Council Secretariat,
 Legislative Council Building,
 8 Jackson Road,
 Central, HK

Fax No: 2537 1851

Dear Dr Lee,

Support Letter to be submitted to Panel on Health Services

Challenges to Hong Kong's healthcare system that we are all facing include our ageing population and the ability to combat various communicable diseases. The increasing number of people with non-communicable diseases also poses a major concern. In order to meet these challenges, our healthcare system, both public and private, must collaborate to provide the best and comprehensive healthcare services to all Hong Kong people.

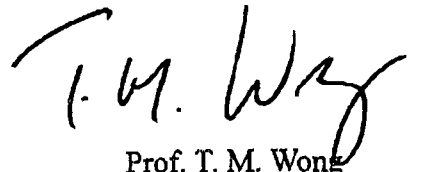
The HKU School of Professional and Continue Education strongly supports the Government's plan to develop an Electronic Health Record (eHR) sharing system in Hong Kong. We unanimously endorse the government's proposal regarding the overall direction and the development roadmap of eHR sharing. We believe that the Government has chosen the right course in ensuring access to comprehensive clinical information, at the point of care, across different sectors. eHR infrastructure would also facilitate learning from collective experience, and enable more sharing of new techniques, clinical protocols and best practices across different sectors. Most importantly, eHR is an essential infrastructure for healthcare reform by bringing together the patients and medical healthcare providers in both the public and private sectors.

During the daily clinical encounters, we envisage that eHR will bring about better and quicker access to information, including drug history and allergies, thus leading to

more accurate diagnosis and reducing medical errors. Professional time spent in documentation and making referrals to other specialties will also be reduced. In fact, the current paper medical records management system will be revolutionized, hence translating into greater efficiency and operational cost savings. For driving broad participation from the profession, we support more training for healthcare professionals as well as upgrading the IT infrastructure for all healthcare providers. In particular, the Government may consider providing necessary training to private doctors who are not familiar with electronic devices and the clinical information systems. In addition, the eHR system to be developed should be a doctor-friendly system that is easy to use.

On behalf of our School, we urge your full support to the Government's proposal, thereby advancing patient-oriented care, improving health care outcomes and developing HK into the center stage of a leading healthcare city.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. T. M. Wong

Head

College of Life Sciences and Technology

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