立法會

調查政府與醫院管理局 對嚴重急性呼吸系統綜合症爆發的處理手法 專責委員會

第三次公開研訊的逐字紀錄本

日期: 2003年12月20日(星期六)

時間: 上午9時正

地點: 立法會會議廳

出席委員

羅致光議員, JP(主席) 梁劉柔芬議員, SBS, JP(副主席) 丁午壽議員, JP 何秀蘭議員, SC, JP 陳國強議員, JP 陳婉嫻議員, JP 鄭家富議員 麥國風議員 勞永樂議員, JP

<u>缺席委員</u>

朱幼麟議員, JP

<u>證人</u>

第一部分

香港大學醫學院微生物學系感染及傳染病科副教授 何栢良教授

第二部分

香港大學醫學院內科學系胸肺/深切治療及內科系副教授 曾華德教授

第三部分

瑪麗醫院微生物學系主管/港島西醫院聯網感染控制主任 司徒永康醫生

Legislative Council

Select Committee to inquire into the handling of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak by the Government and the Hospital Authority

Verbatim Transcript of the Third Public Hearing held on Saturday, 20 December 2003 at 9:00 am in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building

Members present

Dr Hon LAW Chi-kwong, JP (Chairman)
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Kenneth TING Woo-shou, JP
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming, SC, JP
Hon CHAN Kwok-keung, JP
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, JP
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung
Dr Hon LO Wing-lok, JP

Member absent

Dr Hon David CHU Yu-lin, JP

Witnesses

Part I

Professor HO Pak-leung Associate Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong

Part II

Professor Kenneth TSANG Wah-tak Associate Professor, Specialty Division of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong

Part III

Dr SETO Wing-hong Chief of Service, Department of Microbiology, Queen Mary Hospital/Infection Control Officer, Hong Kong West Cluster

主席:

這次調查政府與醫院管理局對嚴重急性呼吸系統綜合症爆發的處理手法,這是我們第三次的公開研訊。每次我都要提醒各位委員,整個研訊過程內需要有足夠的法定人數,即包括我自己在內,需要有4位委員。

每一次我都要在開始時提醒今天旁聽研訊的公眾人士及傳媒,在研訊過程以外場合披露研訊中提供的證供,將不受《立法會(權力及特權)條例》所保障。因此,如有需要,各位列席人士和傳媒應就他們的法律責任,徵詢法律意見。此外,委員會亦決定證人須在宣誓後才接受訊問,所以我將在研訊開始時,根據《立法會(權力及特權)條例》第13.....對不起,第11條監誓。

研訊快要開始,今天研訊有3位證人。首先我們會向香港大學醫學院微生物學系副教授何栢良教授提出訊問,第二位是香港大學呼吸系統科副教授曾華德教授,我們主要問兩位的,是關於他們處理從廣東來港的劉教授個案的手法,以及請他們提供證供。第三位證人是來自瑪麗醫院的司徒永康醫生,他最主要是擔任瑪麗醫院微生物學系的主管。我們最主要的研訊範圍是關於醫院管理局和瑪麗醫院方面,特別是在溝通和資訊方面的問題。

我們第一位證人是何栢良教授,現在我們可以邀請他進來。

(何栢良教授進入會議廳)

何栢良教授,多謝你今天出席我們的研訊。本專責委員會傳召你到本委員會席前作證及提交證人陳述書。首先,本委員會決定證人須宣誓作供,我現以專責委員會主席的身份負責為你監誓。你可選擇以手按聖經以宗教形式宣誓,或以非宗教形式宣誓。請你站立,依照放在你面前的誓詞宣誓。何教授。

香港大學醫學院微生物學系感染及傳染病科副教授何栢良教授:

謝謝你,主席。

本人何栢良,謹對全能上帝宣誓,我所作的證供全屬真實及為事實之全部,並無虛言。

主席:

多謝,何教授,你亦曾向專責委員會提供證人陳述書,你現 在可否正式向專責委員會出示有關證人陳述書作為證據?

何栢良教授:

在這裏。

主席:

好,多謝你。

應專責委員會的要求,你亦曾向專責委員會提供閣下個人的 資歷及經驗的資料,你可否確認這些資料是正確的?

何栢良教授:

沒有問題。

主席:

多謝你,何教授。我首先要向你問第一個問題,我想請問何教授,在有關一個劉教授的病人進入廣華醫院之前,我們很想知道你和中山大學醫學院第一院或第二附屬醫院的人員有沒有接觸過,或以前曾否有一些學術交流的機會,或接觸的經驗呢?何教授。

何栢良教授:

我過往曾上去接觸過部分的醫生,但他們都不是呼吸科的。

主席:

是第一院還是第二院的醫生較多?

何栢良教授:

這點我記不起了,他們曾經邀請我們上去在微生物科方面有 一些交流。

主席:

即你主要......

以及和上面其中一間醫院,我不能肯定是中山一院還是二院,即是他們的皮膚性病科便曾經與我們有一些學術上的交流。 這已是超過3年之前的事了。

主席:

謝謝,何教授。另外,其他議員有沒有其他問題?陳婉嫻議員。

陳婉嫻議員:

多謝主席。何教授,我想再追問一下。剛才我們主席問你時,你說你曾經在廣州 —— 不知道是中山一院還是二院 —— 作一個學術交流……是關於微生物的,那當時的時間是甚麼時段?

何栢良教授:

這是很多年前了,即......

陳婉嫻議員:

即是說近年,即是說19.....2002或2003年你沒有去過,對嗎?

何栢良教授:

那......2000年之前。

陳婉嫻議員:

2000年之前,那麼,之後你們有沒有書信來往?書信?

何栢良教授:

沒有。

陳婉嫻議員:

電話?

何栢良教授:

沒有。

陳婉嫻議員:

其他資料也沒有來往?

何栢良教授:

沒有。

陳婉嫻議員:

即是不會在任何情況下,大家有一些這樣的交流渠道,這種渠道也沒有嗎?

何栢良教授:

沒有。

陳婉嫻議員:

即是2000年前你去過,之後便沒有任何的交流?

何栢良教授:

沒有。

陳婉嫻議員:

謝謝。另外,我想問一問,按照你的陳述書第1段所說,你跟 葉維晉醫生通電話,他請你到廣華醫院會診劉教授。我想問,在 電話中......

何栢良教授:

對不起,這個沒有聲音,我聽得不太清楚。

陳婉嫻議員:

 $OK \circ$

主席:

再試試看是否聽得清楚。

現在可以,謝謝。

主席:

OK.....

陳婉嫻議員:

是否我......

主席:

謝謝,不好意思。

陳婉嫻議員:

.....沒有問題嘛?

何栢良教授:

沒問題,沒問題。

主席:

或許再問吧。

陳婉嫻議員:

OK,好,謝謝。就是按照你的陳述書第1段所說,在2003年2月24日早上,你接到葉醫生 —— 葉維晉醫生 —— 來電,他要求你到廣華醫院一起參加 —— 會診劉教授。我想問一問,他在電話中告訴過你一些甚麼情況呢?

主席:

何教授。

他在電話內 —— 據我記憶所及 —— 提到有一個國內的教授因為肺炎進入了廣華醫院,所以想邀請我去提供一些意見和會診。

陳婉嫻議員:

在這情況下,按平常慣例你們會不會有這種做法?

何栢良教授:

因為我自己本身在香港大學工作,如果其他醫院遇上一些特別的感染病症,我們都有不少次數會去其他醫院提供一些意見和會診。關於這一點,當中也不盡是醫管局的醫院,有時私家醫院我們也會去。

陳婉嫻議員:

即是任何醫學界有疑難 —— 關於微生物學的事,你也會去和他們一起參與的,對嗎?

何栢良教授:

如果當時 —— 如果時間上許可的話,我們也會去的,過去 多年我們一直都有這種做法。

陳婉嫻議員:

我想問,你作為一般的醫院管理,很多時候有醫院來找你去辦事,那麼大學怎樣管理你的.....工作情況,你明白我所說的嗎?香港也有很多醫院,你剛才說連私家的也會去,那是制度上的容許,還是個人,還是怎樣呢?

何栢良教授:

這一點,我們很多時候......不是我們趕上班的時間,而我們在大學工作的都有一個責任,便是如果有一些特別的微生物科或傳染病的問題,我們知道在香港比較有經驗來在這方面跟進的醫生不是很多,所以我們作為大學的其中一分子,在可以幫忙的情況下,我們都會盡量提供一些協助和給予意見。

這一點,在大學和我們自己部門方面,都給予我們很大的自由度,亦鼓勵我們這樣做。

陳婉嫻議員:

但是,我再看你向我們提供的陳述書,你整段時間,即是你接到第一個電話時 —— 在2003年2月24日10時40分的時候,你接這個電話 —— 在這個電話過程當中,我注意到你一步一步地,十幾分鐘做一個動作,什幾分鐘做一個動作,你的陳述書是很詳細的,好像我們現時看到的偵探片一般,你很緊……那些步驟給我的感覺,在外行人看來,覺得你好像在處理一件很緊急的事,即是在2月24日10時40分去做一part事情、10時45分去做一part事情、11時去做一part事情。你很詳細地告訴我們,我們很感謝你,但我的感覺是,這些情況如何促使你這樣急促地進行……包括你找曾華德教授,通知他帶上裝備,是甚麼促使你這樣做呢?

何栢良教授:

這一點……我當時確實相當重視這個病人的會診,原因主要有兩個。其一是我知道他是由國內來港的病人,而在2月初,10日至11日的時候,香港的主要傳媒曾報道在國內爆發非典型肺炎,而那個非典型肺炎有幾個特徵,第一是其致病原不清楚;第二,其傳染性相當高,還有一個傾向,是會傳染給一些醫護人員。

而我在星期一接到那個電話之前的一天,在"城市論壇"跟勞永 樂議員也曾討論關於國內這個非典型肺炎的事,所以,在這前提 下,即有一個這樣的個案來了香港,我很自然的反應是要很小心 和很慎重地處理,所以接到電話之後,我也沒有甚麼懷疑......沒甚 麼猶豫,就找曾華德醫生和我一起會診。因為我的想法是,有多 一個有經驗的醫生來一同處理,怎樣也比我自己去好。

陳婉嫻議員:

我想問一問,除了你剛才說,你從傳媒看到,即不是醫院內部的指引,這一點,你們整組廣華醫院的醫生,我自己……主席,這是事實,上次我曾問他們當中一位教授醫生,他也說從傳媒看到,即是說,你們透過傳媒看到有關報道,於是你便覺得有需要做這些動作。

但我想問一問,除了你從傳媒覺得事情......你們覺得可能是要 很小心的,我就是問,葉醫生實際在電話中有沒有告訴過你這方 面的情況呢?

何栢良教授:

沒有。

陳婉嫻議員:

他有沒有告訴過你劉教授是廣州的醫生呢?

何栢良教授:

他……劉教授,我們知……知道他在廣州內是一個……即是我們稱為學術上受人尊重的一位教授,很多時候我們去應診,我們自己作為醫生,如果病人也是醫生,我們面對的壓力是會大很多的,往往我們在醫生診治醫生的時候,都會格外小心,這也是另外一個原因是為何我要找曾華德醫生和我一起去處理。

陳婉嫻議員:

何教授,按你所說,你們嚴陣以待,是否基於他是一位廣州 醫生?是基於你認為他......

何栢良教授:

不是,是基於我剛才所說的兩個原因,再加上他本身也是一位醫生,加上當其時他的病情已經相當嚴重,已經進入了深切治療部。

陳婉嫻議員:

你剛才說他是一位受人尊重的醫生,是否當時葉醫生很詳細地說及劉教授的情況,還是有其他的——例如廣州的醫院要求你們去呢?

何栢良教授:

我沒有,除了葉維晉醫生之外,我接到那個電話之前,沒有 和任何國內的醫生人員有任何形式上的聯絡。

陳婉嫻議員:

我也想問一問,實際上,在過去類似劉教授 —— 你剛才說,你從報章上感覺到這件事;第二,你覺得劉教授是一位教授,亦是一位醫生。因此,基於這個原因,你便囑咐曾教授帶兩套裝備去,實在你過往對於其他與有關這類的病症 —— 當然不是SARS,而是傳染病等 —— 你是否也有這種做法?

何栢良教授:

這要視乎對那個病的診斷,即是有甚麼病症是我們會懷疑的。我想再提出我剛才忘記提出的一點,就是當時在一星期前,香港和福建出現了兩個證實感染了禽流感的個案,這件事當時在學術界內,不單止是在香港,即使是國際學術界內,亦有人憂慮在國內的爆發是禽流感感染人類而造成的爆發,這亦是一個原因,解釋為何我去廣華醫院之前找來一些預防裝備,然後才離開瑪麗醫院。

陳婉嫻議員:

即是說,這件事很特別,之前很少有這種做法,是否這個意思呢?何教授。

何栢良教授:

因為之前那一個星期有好幾件不尋常的事情出現了,我想複述一次,那是我剛才所提過的這些不尋常的情況。

第一,在2月10日至11日,香港傳媒廣泛報道在國內有原因不明、被稱為非典型肺炎的傳染病爆發。這個傳染病的其中一個特徵,就是它會傳染給醫護人員。

第二是在一個星期前,有證實H5N1感染了人類的個案。而在學術界內,包括國際學術界內,有人提出過懷疑當時在廣州內的爆發,有可能是H5N1禽流感感染了人類之後的爆發。這可以說是非同小可的揣測。

第三便是在不足24小時之前,我曾經出席一個公開的論壇——"城市論壇",該論壇的主題是討論如何預防傳染病,而當中特別針對的是感染人類的H5N1禽流感,以及國內爆發的非典型肺炎。

第四,那名病人當時的情況相當危急,在他送院一天之後, 便需要深切治療部的治療,以及病人本身是一名醫生和教授。

基於以上所述的原因,我當時決定,這宗個案是屬於緊急的。 第二,我在毫不猶豫的情況下,找了一位我認為最有經驗的呼吸 科醫生曾華德醫生,和我一起會診。第三,我找曾華德醫生時, 是先取得了一些預防裝備,然後我們才離開,從瑪麗醫院出發的。

陳婉嫻議員:

何教授,多謝你。我想最後多問一個問題。其實你整個過程給我的印象 —— 我覺得在這個過程中,你每走一步,你都很慎重,而之前由於你接觸了社會的傳媒,你亦對這些訊息……因而令你在這個過程中慎重。我想問,你作為你,有否在這個問題上,將你的意見給予 —— 當然你在陳述書中已提及曾向袁教授提供意見 —— 我問的是,除此之外,你們有否機會將這些意見,透過這一個微生物部門,給予衞生署等部門,即是你的感覺是這麼強的時候,有否將這個訊息告知其他人呢?

何栢良教授:

2月24日,我去廣華醫院看劉教授那天,我們部門的主管袁國 勇教授請了病假,所以我在第二天早上才有機會聯絡上他。正如 我在陳述書中已指出,我在第二天早上和他通過一次電話,當中 我很詳盡地交代了一天前我到廣華醫院和曾華德醫生會診劉劍倫 這名病人的所有內容。

陳婉嫻議員:

你只是跟袁教授說,而沒有其他的,即是在你學校中的其他 渠道,例如可以傳達到衞生署等,是沒有的嗎?

何栢良教授:

而我們當時亦關注到,這宗個案是否已經被一些我們稱為高層的,即是醫管局或衞生署的高層,是否已經知道這宗個案。我是曾關注到這一點的。所以我亦曾和袁教授討論過這點。我其後得悉,袁國勇教授直接致電當時的衞生署署長......

陳婉嫻議昌:

是誰呢?

.....和她討論這一件事。

陳婉嫻議員:

衞生署署長是誰呢?

何栢良教授:

對不起,聽不到。

陳婉嫻議員:

衞生署署長是誰呢?

何栢良教授:

陳馮富珍。

陳婉嫻議員:

好,謝謝主席。

主席:

勞永樂議員。

勞永樂議員:

首先申報,我認識何栢良教授已久,亦有很多機會交流傳染病的意見,但我們從來沒有交流過這宗個案。

歡迎你到來,何栢良。我想請問,你去廣華之前,要準備一 些保護衣物。你準備了些甚麼保護衣物?

何栢良教授:

我們當時帶了的東西有手套、用完便不會再用,便會丟棄,或者我們稱為disposable的那些保護衣。

勞永樂議員:

嗯。

還有口罩 —— N95口罩。

勞永樂議員:

是,當時你準備這些保護衣物,是想到哪種傳染病?你剛才 提過禽流感,是否想過禽流感傳染人類,還是其他傳染病?

何栢良教授:

當時主要的考慮是引起傳染性肺炎的一些致病原,我承認禽流感H5N1是當時一個主要的疑兇。

勞永樂議員:

好,在第4段中,你自己估計的時間,是在廣華醫院逗留了兩個半小時。你經常參加會診,看病人;用兩個半小時看一宗個案,你覺得是一般、長,還是短?

何栢良教授:

我想澄清一點,如果在瑪麗醫院以外的地方會診,我不會用"經常"這字眼,即是有這樣做過。這一宗個案是用了較長的時間,其中一些原因是 —— 如果你看看廣華醫院的電腦紀錄,其中關於劉劍倫教授這名病人入院前的病歷資料,是相當少的。所以,我們用了很長的時間,嘗試澄清究竟他入院之前,有些甚麼線索,可以說用了很長的時間,我會用以下的字眼形容,便是嘗試"地氈式搜索"他的病歷,看看會否有甚麼線索,可以協助我們去求證他的肺炎的致病原。

勞永樂議員:

當時 —— 主席 —— 當時劉教授還能否說話呢?

何栢良教授:

當時劉教授已經是在深切治療部的一個獨立房間,他已經需要呼吸機器來協助呼吸,即是插喉,所以是不能說話的。

勞永樂議員:

你剛才說"地氈式搜索",有哪些人協助你"地氈式搜索"?你提到葉維晉醫生的名字、屈志亮醫生的名字,還有否其他人在場,可以被你詢問得到呢?

何栢良教授:

當時廣華醫院深切治療部的醫生中,屈志亮醫生在場,葉維晉醫生則在最初的時候在場,他其後由於一些原因而離開,要去手術室處理一些病症,中途離開了。我記憶中還有曾憲雄醫生,還有一些其他的深切治療部醫生在場,但是我記不起他們的名稱。而主要的資料來源,因為我自己本人不能直接問劉劍倫教授,亦沒有辦法直接問他的家人,所以便……你可以說這個"地氈式搜索",是搜索那些醫生究竟問了些甚麼,"十萬個為甚麼"般的問了他們很多問題。

勞永樂議員:

是,你主要是問那些醫生?

其實,除了想為病人做一個診斷,知道他究竟發生甚麼事,或者有甚麼致病原,你當時有否問過任何問題,是關於當時在廣州或者廣東省的情況?譬如說,廣州和廣東省在同一時間在做甚麼去處理同一類人?或者當時廣州和廣東省在做些甚麼去保護醫護人員?有沒有涉及那方面的問題?

何栢良教授:

當時主要的……內容,在兩方面。第一是病人的病的歷史;其二是這個病有否傳染給身邊的人,主要是劉教授的家人。另外剛才我提過,禽流感H5N1是一個主要的嫌疑犯,所以當時很多時候是盡量澄清他有否去過農場、市場、公園?有否以任何形式接觸過雀鳥?

勞永樂議員:

主席,當時何教授和那幾位醫生有否想過,劉劍倫教授的病是可以在他的工作崗位中引起的,並因此而詢問有關方面的問題?

有。實在我也有寫下這些資料……其中一些我當時問過的問題,在我當天回到瑪麗醫院時,在電郵中將那個內容告知了曾華 德醫生。

李柱銘議員:

對不起。可否影印給我們?

主席:

我們稍後可以要求。

何栢良教授:

其實,你看到我在那份作證書中,能夠指出在哪一段時間做 過些甚麼,是因為我已把有關內容打進了電郵之中。

勞永樂議員:

嗯。

何栢良教授:

我當時回去之後,立即打進了電郵之中。

勞永樂議員:

嗯。

何栢良教授:

當中內容是其後經屈志亮醫生去詢問他的家人 —— 我不知道他問哪些家人 —— 問了那些家人之後,屈醫生才告訴我,包括劉劍倫教授最早開始覺得不適,是在2月15日。劉教授在農曆年假的時候,並沒有返回醫院工作,他放了一個長假,直到2月8日才上班工作。他其後大約在2月12至13日期間,曾經診治過一些病人,有懷疑非典型肺炎的,而劉教授最早的臨床徵狀是好像感冒一般,有渾身肌肉疼痛、覺得很疲倦等。我亦已澄清,劉教授在來港之前,接受過甚麼藥物的治療,以及那些藥物是如何處方。還有的就是,到那天為止,劉教授的所有家人,並沒有任何呼吸道的徵狀,即沒有發病。劉教授亦沒有任何的歷史,例如在他病

發之前,接觸過一些家禽、雀鳥,他亦沒有去過市場、農場和公園。各位應記得,在這事件之前,香港亦曾經在公園、市場、農場找到禽流感,當時的時間與劉教授 —— 即廣州出現這個爆發的時候,是相當接近的,所以當時用了很多時間,嘗試澄清這些資料。

而在醫護人員方面,他們要小心 —— 即是廣華醫院的醫護人員,特別是深切治療部的醫護人員 —— 他們要小心,不要…… 預防這個病傳給自己這個內容,我們亦詳細討論過。我當時亦提出了一項很特別的建議,因為我們正面對着一個不知名的傳入。對於這個病,雖然他們已經採取了一個獨大的預防感染的控制措施 —— 這些措施包括劉教授在一個獨立的房間,所有進去的醫護人員需要嚴格遵守他們醫院防感染一個獨的措施,穿上保護衣物、手套、口罩、洗手。此外,盡量減少一些不必要的進出,以及限制進入的人員都抽取一個血液樣本的所有醫護人員,全部人員都抽取一個血液樣本的所有醫護人員,全部人員都抽取一個血液樣本有關樣本其後亦已送給我們。原因就是當時這個病還是不知醫護人員,我們便有一個底線的樣本,在他們病發之後,可作為一個很有用的值緝工具。

勞永樂議員:

何醫生,你取得了很詳細的資料,經屈醫生和你詢問問題。 到你收到全部答案的時候,日期是.....你是否記得呢?是何時呢?

何栢良教授:

當天。

勞永樂議員:

當天,即下午便已經有了?

何栢良教授:

還沒有到瑪麗醫院之前。

勞永樂議員:

即你到達,一打開email便有?

我當時離開廣華醫院之後......大約是在下午 —— 當天下午2時;到了瑪麗醫院,大約是下午2時30分。

勞永樂議員:

是。

何栢良教授:

我接着做的是 —— 因為我取得了一些劉教授的樣本,回去之後,我立即去找我們的同事,第一時間安排了那些樣本做一些快速的化驗,那是超過10種不同的快速化驗。主要的原因是,病人的情況危殆,所以如果可以盡快有一些檢驗的結果,即是如果我們查證到病原,那便對治療病人會有幫助。病人的病情便顯示了這些調查的緊急性,而當時有一個急切性,我們要去查證非典型肺炎 —— 即這個病當時的名稱 —— 的原因。我在電郵中亦有提及。

勞永樂議員:

好。

何栢良教授:

所以,我接着便將有關內容打進電郵中,電郵給曾華德醫生。

勞永樂議員:

好。可否這樣說......

何栢良教授:

稍後,我想差不多3時半,我才去吃飯。

勞永樂議員:

我們當醫生的經常都會這樣。你收到這些資料後,你問得很詳細 —— 有沒有接觸過禽鳥、雞等之後 —— 你當時的結論,你還記得起嗎?會不會是禽流感抑或不是很像?當時有沒有特別考慮受到感染的其他可能性,譬如說,在工作的地方受到感染?

劉教授曾經在大約2月12日至13日期間看過一些有呼吸道徵狀的病人,接着他自己於2月15日開始不適,所以說當時我們主要懷疑的,是他的病是因為診症而傳染得來的。至於你說那個病究竟是不是禽流感還是其他的致病原?當天我們沒有足夠的資料去作出任何結論。我亦曾在電郵內容中提到,我們要考慮任何的可能性。

勞永樂議員:

你是否因為考慮到有可能在工作上感染到這個病,而對廣華方面提出4項建議 —— 你剛才所說那4項很嚴格、很謹慎的建議?

主席:

或者何教授,你在電郵內有沒有提到,從病人那處感染到這個病的可能性,抑或是如你剛才所答,沒有排除包括從病人那處染上這個疾病的任何可能性?

何栢良教授:

我想我只可以說在時間上,有一個先後的關係,我自己本身是做研究的,所以在就一些因果關係立論之前,我們會很小心,所以當時的資料是不足以說服我自己去就這個因果的關係立論。但是在時間的先後方面,我們當時是有這樣的懷疑。

勞永樂議員:

這些重要的討論和想法,你便對曾華德醫生說過、對廣華的 屈醫生說過,也對袁國勇教授說過,對嗎?

何栢良教授:

我們曾在內容裏討論過。

勞永樂議員:

你感覺到,當時你們討論到這些結論,以及所需採取的措施, 你有沒有覺得很重要,要將這些訊息傳遞給例如衞生署、醫管局

總部,亦有沒有想過要推動它在醫管局的醫院體制當中,譬如說, 採取與廣華同樣嚴格的措施?

何栢良教授:

關於你所說的訊息傳遞,這在當時是有考慮過的,否則我也不會通知袁國勇教授,由他再通知衞生署署長。但是,你說的推動,我就不會覺得我自己有這樣的能力,可以做到這種事,可能要一些高層或議員才可以推動得到。因為醫管局和衞生署都是一些很高高在上的架構,你要推動它們是相當困難的,而當時對於這些架構,就正如我在前一天的"城市論壇"中提到,我相當不滿他們在處理一些爆發性的傳染病方面的透明度,而這透明度就是,我在一天前提到,過程的透明度嚴重不足,它們收集到甚麼資料、有甚麼數字、在做甚麼、預期何時才有結果,在當時的文化下,我感覺到這些都是欠奉,往往過了很久很久以後,到他們取得一些所謂鐵證如山的結論之後才會告訴我們。

勞永樂議員:

多謝你。最後一個問題,主席。容許我比較"長氣",你說你做 過10個快速測試?

何栢良教授:

超過10個.....

勞永樂議員:

超過10個快速測試。你現在有沒有文件可以向委員會提供? 你做了哪10個......

何栢良教授:

我在此處有......

勞永樂議員:

此處有.....

何栢良教授:

……那個快速測試的結果,我在同日下午6時,經電郵及傳真, 發給了屈志亮醫生、葉維晉醫生……曾華德醫生。

勞永樂議員:

或者請你向委員會提供資料,關於那10多個快速測試,你做 過甚麼、結果又是甚麼,好嗎?謝謝主席。

主席:

丁午壽議員。

丁午壽議員:

我很簡單的,主席。我想問一問,葉維晉醫生致電給你的時候,有沒有提及他因為接到廣州的電話,才通知你去?這是第一點,之後如果說了那番話,是否因為這樣的情況之下,你才去廣華醫院,抑或你根本覺得這位劉教授是受到大家尊重的醫生教授?

主席:

何教授。

何栢良教授:

當時正確的次序,應該是這樣的:葉維晉醫生致電給我,但 找不到,於是找了我們的秘書謝小姐......他是在10時40分打電話來 的,我們的秘書記下了時間,便於10時41分將這個訊息電郵給我, 我接着給他回覆電話,所以,並不是他直接致電給我,是我給他 回覆電話。當時我與葉維晉醫生電話當中的內容,我自己沒有用 筆記下,但我現在記起,他並沒有提到剛才丁議員所查詢的問題。 當中的內容,就是他提到有一位廣州教授,因患上嚴重的肺炎而 入院;2月初的時候,香港有廣泛報道非典型肺炎,他亦懷疑這位 教授感染到這個病,於是便邀請我過去會診。

丁午壽議員:

即是你當時並不知道這位是劉教授,是你比較尊重及醫學界比較尊重的人?

何栢良教授:

這是其中一個原因,正如我剛才所說,有其他的原因......

丁午壽議員:

不是,他有否提及這位劉教授?

何栢良教授:

有。

丁午壽議員:

謝謝。

主席:

接着是麥國風議員。

麥國風議員:

多謝。何教授,你的證人陳述書的時間是相當準確和正確的。 譬如第一、二點,你表明是10時40分、10時45分,接着其他的, 你說的是大概"At approximately",我想問一問,你所謂的大概是 加減多少分鐘?

主席:

何栢良教授,你能否回答此問題?

何栢良教授:

我沒有辦法回答這個問題。

主席:

麥國風議員。

麥國風議員:

謝謝。因為我覺得很精確。我問這個問題,是否你已有所有 紀錄?

何栢良教授:

電郵有時間。

麥國風議員:

有些沒有電郵。

何栢良教授:

所以就是大概。

麥國風議員:

所以我就問你,加減10分鐘還是15分鐘?

何栢良教授:

因為如果你3時半去吃飯,你吃飯時便會看鐘。

麥國風議員:

即是你到現在還記得,謝謝。接着有些事要澄清,我想繼續問。我有比較多的問題。以你所知,葉維晉醫生的角色是甚麼?

主席:

好,何教授。

何栢良教授:

我不太明白這個問題。葉維晉醫生就是廣華醫院的外科醫 生,我在當天之前已認識葉維晉醫生。

麥國風議員:

他在處理劉教授時的角色?

何栢良教授:

我沒有特別查詢葉維晉醫生在當中的角色,我想我當時很清 楚我在當中的角色,是去協助會診和提供我對病人的意見。

麥國風議員:

我問葉維晉醫生,不是你的角色。你的證人陳述書第4段說, 大概11時30分,你到達廣華醫院深切治療部,便"met Dr Andrew

Yip","met"的意思 —— 葉維晉醫生當時的角色是甚麼?你除了 遇見他 ——"met",他是甚麼角色?

主席:

或者何教授,你可否描述具體接見之後......

何栢良教授:

當時我開車過去。我開車前往時,要找葉維晉醫生替我安排, 待我到達時,可以把汽車停泊好。所以,我在廣華醫院地下致電 葉維晉醫生,因為廣華醫院地下停車場的護衞很兇,以及我之前 很少到廣華醫院,所以到達後,我便不懂得認路到深切治療部, 所以我去找他帶路,教我上去 —— 如何搭電梯、往幾樓,以及 門即使上了鎖,我也可以進去。

主席:

或者何教授,你描述的意思是,純粹是他在停車場幫你,帶你前往深切治療部,接着,可否繼續描述.....

何栢良教授:

接着,我們便到一個會議室內坐下,互相介紹,因為有些醫生是不認識曾華德教授的。坐下後,取了 —— 葉維晉醫生也有在場,但不是全部時間在場,即是在會議室內,各位醫生坐在一起。討論初期,葉維晉醫生還在場,其後醫院 —— 我相信因為有些病人要他自己接見和跟進,所以其後他離開了一段時間。取了劉教授所有的病人紀錄及X光片出來,就這樣當中每一項事件都很詳盡,也很小心地去留意和分析。最初這個討論,葉維晉醫生是在場的。

麥國風議員:

主席,我可否問一問何教授,葉維晉醫生是和你會診劉教授嗎?

主席:

或者何教授,你會否用"會診"來描述他的角色 —— 當時?

因為我不熟悉廣華醫院,如有一位病人臥在病床上,他的主診醫生或其他輔助會診,即是我們稱作"Consultation",即是架構是怎樣,所以我很難準確地說,葉維晉醫生是否在那裏會診......

麥國風議員:

嗯, OK......

何栢良教授:

……即是他在深切治療部 —— 我想我直接的想法是,那位主診醫生是屈志亮醫生那組,但不同醫院會有不同的安排,例如瑪麗醫院,深切治療部中有些是外科醫生,有些是內科醫生,所以我無法準確回答這個問題。

麥國風議員:

為何不是屈志亮醫生去找你會診劉教授,而是葉維晉醫生找你?這點你可否回答得到?

何栢良教授:

我當時並沒有問到這個問題,我亦無法回答。既然有人找我, 我亦覺得有需要,所以我便去。

麥國風議員:

這會不會是屈志亮醫生,給葉維晉醫生的角色搞亂了?兩方面的角色搞亂了,因為屈志亮醫生,原則上是......我想你知道屈志亮醫生和葉維晉醫生的角色,對嗎?或許他們.....

何栢良教授:

屈志亮醫生,我之前也認識他,我知道他是深切治療部的主管,但是你說他們互相之間在病人方面的角色,就……一般我不會那樣問,因為對我們來說,我們不會將事情分開成不同組別,來解決問題、去診症,所以我當時沒有問這樣的問題。

麥國風議員:

你個人在去會診劉教授之前,個人是否認識劉教授?

不認識。

麥國風議員:

你剛才提及.....你有沒有檢查過劉教授?

何栢良教授:

沒有。

麥國風議員:

即是純粹在文件上或資料上討論,是嗎?

何栢良教授:

是。

麥國風議員:

曾華德醫生有沒有檢查過劉教授?

何栢良教授:

也沒有。我想澄清這個原因,是因為肺炎 —— 即使到了2003年,即是今年,身體檢查對於診斷致病原,文獻中的分析都認為是沒有貢獻的。

麥國風議員:

你剛才提過袁國勇教授通知了衞生署署長這宗個案?

何栢良教授:

袁國勇教授這樣對我說。

麥國風議員:

這樣對你說。以你所知,袁國勇教授何時通知前衞生署署長?

我不知道時間,但我相信 —— 我估計,他該在2月底的時候,已經通知了她。

麥國風議員:

2月底。但於2月25日,你已經通知了袁國勇教授有這宗個案, 有這個病?

何栢良教授:

與所有發生的事一樣,我都與袁國勇教授討論過。

麥國風議員:

你與袁國勇教授的溝通在這方面是如何?因為在證人陳述書中,你說"ceased to have further involvement in the clinical care and advice on this patient",之後就沒有任何溝通了嗎——與袁國勇教授就這宗個案?

何栢良教授:

我們診症時要很清楚病人每一天由誰來直接跟進,所以我在其中一個電郵中,很清楚對所有參與的醫生交代了這件事,避免出現溝通上的混淆,否則甲醫生會對乙醫生說,其實丙醫生已經在跟進當中,這會令病人的治療出現問題。所以我經與袁國勇教授討論後 —— 袁國勇教授是香港唯一的一個傳染病科講座教授,也比我更加有經驗,所以跟他討論後,我們大家的共識都認為,由他直接跟進會更加合適,所以我們有這樣的安排及交代。

麥國風議員:

我問跟進之後還有沒有溝通?還有沒有討論一下?

何栢良教授:

後來是有討論過一些化驗的結果,但對病人的診治,其後則 沒有再跟進。

麥國風議員:

即是你沒有完全"ceased to have further involvement"。

對病人來說,是再沒有繼續跟進,所以我在文中這麼說,是 正確的。

麥國風議員:

是否可理解為袁國勇教授在2月底通知前衞生署署長時,你是 清楚瞭解的?

何栢良教授:

這點相信各位要與袁國勇教授澄清,因為無法確定他在哪一 天通知前衞生署署長陳馮富珍女士,但當時我們有關注到這個病 人有需要讓一些高層跟進。

麥國風議員:

袁國勇教授跟衞生署署長說過甚麼,除了通知.....

主席:

對不起,麥國風議員,我相信已有足夠關於另外一位證人所可以提供的證據。

麥國風議員:

好,OK,謝謝主席,多謝提點。我想再跟進關於個人保護裝備"PPE"的問題。你剛才告訴我們其他委員你當天帶了手套、N95口罩和一些即棄的......是不是袍?

何栢良教授:

是,沒錯。

麥國風議員:

你還有沒有其他?你可以再說詳細一點,有沒有帶眼罩?

何栢良教授:

沒帶眼罩,我記得只帶了這麼多東西。

麥國風議員:

即是3樣東西 — 手套、口罩和袍。你可否說當時這是適切的?即是會否多了或相當嚴謹?

何栢良教授:

我想指出,我很少到廣華醫院,所以叫作有"兩手準備",如果有需要,便不會想要甚麼卻沒有甚麼,所以我帶那些東西去的主要想法也是這樣,只是一個事前準備。而當時我們在會議室內討論時,並沒有使用那些東西。

麥國風議員:

最終沒有用上?

何栢良教授:

是無須使用。

麥國風議員:

但你卻建議要用 —— 你剛才回答勞永樂議員時,你說向廣華醫院建議一項很嚴謹的措施,包括人流很多,是嗎?

何栢良教授:

這個嚴謹的意思 — 其實在防感染的措施中,有些標準已確立多年,而嚴謹的意思主要是再三叮囑和提醒會直接面對這些風險和情況的醫護人員,要完全按照這些已被國際認可的措施處理。這些並不是一些新的特別措施,如果你說傳染性肺炎,譬如說以你進去為病人抽痰作為例子,國際上認可的措施便是我剛才所說的那些。

麥國風議員:

我還有兩條問題想發問,主席。我想瞭解一下你剛才提到關於很多......交流時談到這個非典型肺炎,即是當時你知道了很多資料,又說它有咳嗽、發燒之類的病徵。其實當時以你所知,你有沒有任何資料顯示他們國內有這方面的指引去處理這些情況?

沒有。

麥國風議員:

沒有,OK。我還想......

何栢良教授:

我想補充一點,關於傳染性肺炎其中一個可能性,我們曾考慮到的是肺結核。因為當時劉教授的X光片,其中看起來不正常的陰影,與其中一類肺結核脗合,所以補充剛才我所說那些防感染措施,包括獨立房間、口罩、手套、保護衣、洗手等,這些都是針對懷疑肺結核、懷疑傳染性肺炎,即已確立多年,即是在國際間有共識標準的防感染措施。

麥國風議員:

劉教.....何教授.....

何栢良教授:

那個要特別嚴謹遵守的原因是,以洗手為例,在非典型肺炎事件之前,在世界各地,不論任何國家,包括美國在內,在有需要洗手的情況下,如果你找一個第三者去覆核,即回看每100次有多少次有需要洗手而又真的做了,世界上任何國家過去的20至30年的調查中,一般的洗手率都不超過一半。所以要很嚴謹遵守,特別是提醒我剛才所說標準的指引,各人都必須做足。因為如果不做足,即使是一次的疏忽,那個醫護人員已可以因此而受感染。所以我想澄清和補充我剛才所說嚴謹遵守的防感染措施,就是指這一點。

主席:

麥議員,最後一個問題。

麥國風議員:

我有最後一個問題。何教授,主要的是你處理劉教授的嚴謹 度或緊張度,從你的陳述書可觀察得到。我想請問,如果是其他 病人,你是否都以相同的效率處理?

主席:

何教授。

何栢良教授:

如果病人的情況是危急的話,如果你說我自己看病,我不覺 得我有不同的標準去看不同的病人,這須視乎病人的情況。

主席:

好,請.....

麥國風議員:

可否直接答我,有沒有相同的效率?

主席:

何教授,你可以簡短地處理。

何栢良教授:

如果你舉一些抽鼻液的例子,即是抽取鼻涕化驗,譬如是否流感這些快速測試,如果是瑪麗醫院的任何一個病人,他的樣本送來給我們處理,我們基本上都是當天便會把他的報告通知他。就這個角度、這個例子來看,是沒有分別的。

麥國風議昌:

這不.....主席,不好意思,這不是單單抽取鼻液,你由瑪麗醫院立即 —— 讓我先看看時間,11時便立即 —— 10時45分找曾華德教授,11時便立即離開醫院,大概11時半便"飛車"到達,更是已把汽車停泊好。嘩,你還說廣華醫院那些沒可能有 —— 嘩,即是這般緊張的程度 —— 我覺得,會不會有第二間譬如.....

何栢良教授:

我想澄清.....

麥國風議員:

......有某間私家醫院叫你,又會不會這樣做呢?

這個病人當時有幾項不尋常的地方,所以我會決定聯同曾華德醫生一起去看,即是好像我剛才所說那5個原因,而不是單單因為他是劉教授或那情況很危殆,而是綜合這5個 —— 我剛才所說的5個原因。所以這宗個案有它一些很特別和不尋常的地方。如果你說與其他的個案比較,每一宗個案都有它自己獨特和不尋常的地方,所以如果你這樣問我,我很難一般性地回答你。

麥國風議員:

多謝主席。

主席:

鄭家富議員。

鄭家富議員:

多謝主席。

主席:

或許 —— 對不起,鄭家富議員,我也想提醒各位今次的重點,以及其他議員問過的問題,如果有必要才需要......

鄭家富議員:

我只是澄清一兩點。主席,我們快些吧,好不好?

主席:

OK,好,謝謝你。

鄭家富議員:

明白。第4段,何教授,我想澄清,我怕自己聽漏了,就是當時你到達廣華醫院,除了葉醫生和屈醫生,你說還有幾位醫生,那幾位醫生包不包括廣州的3位醫生?

何栢良教授:

沒有。

鄭家富議員:

你印象中是沒有的?

何栢良教授:

沒有。我也是前兩天看報紙才知道有幾位廣州醫生曾出現。

鄭家富議員:

即是那次你肯定在那一刻那幾位醫生不在場,其他醫生都是 深切治療部的醫生,是嗎?

何栢良教授:

是。

鄭家富議員:

那後來那幾位醫生,即是說.....

何栢良教授:

其實那些醫生,我想我應該說我是認識的,但不是相熟至見面時便能立即說出他們的名字。因為正如我剛才所說,我之前也認識屈志亮醫生,在當天之前大約1年半至2年,也曾與廣華醫院深切治療部合作,做過一些研究,而廣華醫院深切治療部的一些醫生亦有報讀我們部門舉辦的一些傳染病科的課程,所以可以說我們是認識他們的。

鄭家富議員:

最後一條問題,即是說接着之後,譬如那些化驗報告等等, 那幾位醫生也沒有與你直接聯絡去討論劉教授的病情,是不是沒 有?

何栢良教授:

你說的那幾位醫生是指......

鄭家富議員:

廣州那幾位醫生。

沒有。

主席:

謝謝。陳國強議員。

陳國強議員:

多謝主席。我想問問教授,除了知會了會診那幾位醫生外,你還有沒有把這個訊息告訴你們其他醫護……醫院的人,或瑪麗醫院的人,使他們知道有這樣的病人來了香港?

主席:

何教授。

何栢良教授:

我們自己部門以外的醫生,有曾華德醫生知道。如果是其他 人的話,我們沒有通知。

陳國強議員:

我想問問,你甚麼時候知道袁國勇教授告訴了陳太,即是記不記得大約的日子?

何栢良教授:

我沒有辦法回答這個問題,因為我沒有用文字去記下那個時間,以及期間發生了太多事。

陳國強議員:

剛才你說醫管局和衞生署是高高在上,透明度不足.....

何栢良教授:

這是當時我的感覺。

陳國強議員:

是。那如果透明度足夠的話,是不是防禦措施會做得更好呢?

主席:

陳議員,你或許可以試試,因為剛才是一般的意見,你是否 正在問何教授他對於一些醫院或衞生署的措施的個人意見?

陳國強議員:

是。即是如果透明度足夠的話,是不是......

主席:

或許這是問你的個人意見,你可以選擇用任何形式去回答。

何栢良教授:

我想如果對於一些爆發性的傳染病,那過程的透明度是相當重要的。這一點我也不是今天才說,在香港知道我們本土在這個地方有非典型肺炎或SARS之前,我亦已經這麼說。關於我對這一點的意見,如果議員有興趣知道多些,亦可以重看香港電台2月23日"城市論壇"的錄影。

陳國強議員:

好,多謝。主席,我沒有問題。

主席:

何秀蘭議員。

何秀蘭議員:

是,主席。我想問何教授,在2月24日早上通電話,當葉醫生 與他討論的時候,有沒有提出過這情況是緊急的,是需要即時處 理呢?

主席:

何教授。

何栢良教授:

那個病人的情形很緊急,在深切治療部內正在接受呼吸機的輔助治療,所以那個情形很緊急。

何秀蘭議員:

主席,但我想知道這是何教授的理解,還是葉醫生除了提到 一些資料之外,還有沒有提出過情況是緊急呢?

主席:

何教授。

何栢良教授:

我無法這樣針對性去準確回答,因為電話的內容差不多是在 10個月之前,而我沒有作即時筆錄。

何秀蘭議員:

主席,以往何教授與廣華醫院合作的經驗,在資料交流上是單向還是雙向的呢?因為譬如廣華醫院邀請了你過去幫忙,你提供了一些意見,直至他們自己有資料時,通常他們會不會告訴你,以幫助你的判斷更準確?

何栢良教授:

這是會的,這是會的。因為診治任何病人,我們涉及的是團隊的處理,每個人在其中也有自己的角色,所以對於團隊內所有的成員,一個很緊密及沒有障礙的溝通是很重要的。所以廣華醫院的醫生與我們的溝通,我不覺得有甚麼問題。

何秀蘭議員:

即是說,主席,這種交換資料的方法以往是否恆常地發生? 譬如說何教授到過廣華醫院之後,他們會有更多些資料,於是事 後會用電郵或其他形式交還給你?

何栢良教授:

我相信各種的方式也會用上,譬如病人,我們會再去臨床看他。如果你說在同一個團隊內醫生互相交流訊息的辦法,包括在病人紀錄中寫下、在電腦中記錄下來、面對面直接交換意見、通電話、電郵,或經過傳真,這些辦法一直都有使用。

何秀蘭議員:

主席,這種資料交換,通常會交還給接手這件事的教授本人 —— 此處即是何栢良教授自己,還是會交給部門主管,即是你們 香港大學的部門主管袁教授?

何栢良教授:

因為那個交流主要的目的是去幫助診治病人,對象是直接交給負責的那位醫生。所以如果在那段時間,那個病人是由我去診治的話,便會交給我;如果是我已經交給了—— 譬如我放假或其他原因,認為其他人更加合適,我交給了另一位醫生,那交流便會到了另一位醫生那裏。

何秀蘭議員:

嗯,主席,最後一個問題。當天的化驗報告,便是在6時至6時半已用電郵傳送到廣華醫院......

何栢良教授:

以及傳真。

何秀蘭議員:

是。在當天6時半之後,廣華醫院有沒有資料交回何教授,告知他中山有幾位醫生來過,亦提供了一些意見?你知不知悉他們——第一,是否有人來看過這個病人,其實剛才你已說不知道……

何栢良教授:

我不知道。

何秀蘭議員:

是。第二,則是當天**6**時半之後,廣華醫院有沒有更新的資料 告訴你關於劉劍倫教授的病情?

何栢良教授:

沒有。我6時半之後到了另一間醫院開會。

何秀蘭議員:

主席,其後何教授在25日交了給袁國勇教授,他便沒再跟進, 對不對?

主席:

對不對?那個答案是對或不對?

何栢良教授:

料。

主席:

是,答案是"對",OK。李柱銘議員。

李柱銘議員:

我想何醫生你看看自己的口供紙。在第2段最後那句"The following events took place and are provided to the best of my knowledge."。接着在第1段第3行你寫着"He briefed me over the phone on the captioned case."。這些字眼通常是律師採用的,這些字眼是你自己常用的,還是不常用的呢?

何栢良教授:

我沒見過律師,如果李議員的問題是 —— 全部都是我自己 寫的。我寫之前沒有向任何人諮詢。

李柱銘議員:

即是你平常寫東西的時候都是採用這類字眼?

何栢良教授:

我想可能那個"captioned case" —— 因為我們寫文章時都頗常用"captioned甚麼"的。

李柱銘議員:

我不是說錯,因為律師常用這個字。

何栢良教授:

因為我擔心,如果我的語文有錯,那便失禮。

李柱銘議員:

其實是用得很好。即是你一直也沒見過任何律師?

何栢良教授:

沒有。

李柱銘議員:

OK。其實那次你見過那位劉教授,與其他醫生討論過,你見他時,其實他是不能與你說話的,因為他插了喉。我想問診斷是甚麼?

何栢良教授:

嚴重肺炎。

李柱銘議員:

是不是各人看過後和討論完畢後,作出這樣的診斷?

何栢良教授:

是。

李柱銘議員:

但卻不知道這肺炎產生的原因,又不知道是屬於哪一類的肺炎?

何栢良教授:

是。不知道。

李柱銘議員:

你知不知道那天有一些從中山來的醫生,你知不知道有這件事?

何栢良教授:

不知道。

李柱銘議員:

直至現在還不知道?

何栢良教授:

現在知道,但我知道 —— 正如我剛才所說,我是幾天前看報紙才知道。

李柱銘議員:

嗯,OK。我想知道你 —— 當初曾維晉醫生打電話給你的時候,你在口供紙......

主席:

是葉維晉醫生。

李柱銘議員:

葉維晉打電話給你的時候,你在那裏說"He briefed me",他其實在電話裏對你說了些甚麼,令你這樣急速地馬上過去呢?

主席:

李議員,剛才他已回答過這問題。或許何教授再簡短重複一下。

何栢良教授:

他說有一個廣州的教授因嚴重肺炎進了醫院,懷疑是非典型 肺炎......

李柱銘議員:

OK,行了。我想問你,他有否告訴你這個劉教授是何時入院的?

何栢良教授:

沒有。

李柱銘議員:

你有沒有問?

何栢良教授:

因為……據我記憶,我沒有問過,因為他是找我去看的,而我 也打算去看,所以沒有必要在電話裏面很詳細地問。

李柱銘議員:

對你來說,以下這些是否重要,甚或有沒有relevancy:譬如這個劉教授是當天才進醫院的,而葉醫生即時便找你了;抑或他已進了醫院很久,到他的病情惡化然後才找你?對你來說,這些是否重要?

何栢良教授:

如果那個重要性是在於有多兩天時間去做一些種菌、種病毒的快速測試調查,那麼,多些時間便會有多些資料。就這一點來說,是重要的。

李柱銘議員:

在這樣的情況下,你寧願他早些通知你?

何栢良教授:

要值查一個傳染性肺炎的致病原,越早取得一些高質素的樣本,我們值查到致病原的機會便越大。原因是在發病初期,大部分的傳染病在樣本中的劑量是最高的。此外,病人在入院時,醫生會處方藥物給他治療,那些藥物如果選對了,便會很快將致病菌的劑量減低。所以如果在剛入院的時間便取得一些高質素的樣本,對微生物學上的分析,例如種菌,成功率從這個角度來看會較高。

李柱銘議員:

你剛才對我們說了很多理由,其中包括關於福建有禽流感等等,其他的不用重複了。其實回看起來,如果廣華醫院的醫生早兩天通知你,是否會好得多?

何栢良教授:

如果現在事後回顧,在我看來,這對偵查致病原的結果沒有 甚麼分別,因為我們所說的是一個在歷史上從未發現過的病毒。 如果你說早兩天的話,現在事後回看,我相信我們都需要這樣長 的時間才能偵破。

李柱銘議員:

但如果早兩天對病人……可以早些作出診斷,會否有一些幫助?即是如果你早兩天去的話。

主席:

李議員,我只是想提醒你考慮一下,你提問的重點是一些臨床的問題,還是有關SARS爆發的問題。不過,何教授你可以......

李柱銘議員:

其實,主席,這些他是可以處理的,他自己是明白的,不需要這樣小心地替他分開,不好意思。

何栢良教授:

我想這裏說的是,病人的結果會否被一些可以早點進行的化 驗影響。現在事後回看,病人是感染了一個全新的病毒致死,我 相信即使早兩天進行會診,結果都沒有分別。但這是一個揣測性 的結果。

李柱銘議員:

當你到了那邊的時候,你覺得那病人是"危殆"—— 你用了這兩個字。你當時心裏有沒有想"為甚麼不早些叫我來"?有沒有這樣想?

主席:

李柱銘議員,我只是想再提醒一次,我們的調查範圍並不包括臨床部分。

李柱铭議員:

現在是.....主席,其實......

何栢良教授:

我當時沒有想過這個問題,如果你是說"為甚麼沒有早點叫我去"。我想我在今天之前都沒有想過這個問題。

李柱銘議員:

OK。如果星期六找你去,你是可以去的,是嗎?

何栢良教授:

星期六......那時候我在香港,至於能不能去,我現在無法回答你。

李柱銘議員:

即是說如果能找到你,你便能去?

何栢良教授:

我記不起我星期六在做些甚麼。

李柱铭議員:

你說過在"城市論壇"節目中,你指衞生署的透明度嚴重不足, 剛才你是這樣說......

何栢良教授:

是過程的透明度不足。

李柱銘議員:

其實,為甚麼要有透明度呢?譬如它拿到所有資料,各間醫院都向它提供了所有資料,這樣它即使"閉門造車"也好,不管你

用甚麼字眼也好,它自己找到問題所在,然後再通知所有醫院作出哪些緊急措施,這樣有何不可呢?

何栢良教授:

這是關於資訊對控制傳染病的貢獻的課題。如果資訊是經由 政府高層,特別是一些權威人士準確發布,這樣可以說對任何組 別或階層的人都有幫助。舉例說,市民知道發生甚麼事,便會覺 得安心一點,而且會知道政府正做些甚麼,知道政府是有計劃的。 如果政府說了自已正做些甚麼,例如學術界或者醫管局裏面有類 似的工作正在進行,或者覺得有些東西應該加進去,在具備這些 資料的前提下,這些其他人員便可以作出選擇,主動提供協助, 或者主動提出我們都做着類似的事情。現在再看這份報告,裏面 亦有指出 —— 這個不是我的意見,是報告裏面指出的意見 — 這個報告亦有提到,那是這兩本報告裏面的意見:"在3月10日威 院的大爆發之前,有幾個軟性的線索都顯示,2月11日那個傳染性 肺炎可能已傳入香港。"裏面提到的個案有:一、廣華醫院劉教授 這個個案;二、仁安醫院其後轉院進了威爾斯醫院的個案;三、 從越南回來的美籍華僑進了瑪嘉烈醫院;四、從醫管局主動作出 的嚴重肺炎監察中,有病人因為懷疑患有嚴重肺炎,即懷疑是非 典型肺炎,而進了伊利沙伯醫院。這些資料都是在3月10日的爆發 之前已有的,但似乎根據這報告所述,當時擁有這些資料的不同 人士,沒有將這些軟的證據放在一起。所以我相信如果有高透明 度的資料交換和發放,便能提高將這些軟資料放在一起成為一幅 大圖畫而加速破案的機會。但我強調,這是我的意見,而且所說 的是一個機會分析。

主席:

李議員,有沒有補充?

李柱銘議員:

事後很明顯......回頭再看,就算那些軟件在那時候沒有公開, 有沒有影響到整件事的發展?

何栢良教授:

這是我個人的意見。香港的非典型爆發在2月21日發生,所以不論做任何事情,我們都是在那次爆發之後才知道,才能採取應變行動。我想,如果可以早點知道資料,透明度可以提高的話,

有一點可以在威院大爆發之前做的,就是經由一些權威人士,即政府高層、醫管局、衞生署或負責的人員,嚴正地預警香港的醫護人員。因為在2月10、11日,據傳媒在報道中引述廣州關於非典型肺炎爆發的事件的分析,其中一個特徵 —— 這個報告裏面也有提及 —— 就是這種病很容易感染治病的醫護人員。這一點我覺得是重要的。但如果你說整個爆發是在2月21日發生的,以當時香港的架構而言,而且我們所說的是一些百年一遇的傳染病大爆發,其結果可能分別不大。

主席:

各位議員,我希望大家掌握時間,集中在調查的重點,向證 人提問有關證供的部分。

李柱銘議員:

主席,其實這個是很重要的,不過可能是另外的一點,對這個聆訊是很重要的。

你對衞生署是否應公道一些,它會不會是害怕,如果從頭到 尾把事情全說出來,會令市民恐慌?

主席:

何教授,若是需要回答,你可以盡量回答。這不屬於我們邀 請你今天來作證的範圍之內,不過你有權選擇回答與否。

何栢良教授:

我所認識的香港市民,是很理智及有足夠能力分析一些資料。現在事後回看,世界各地爆發SARS這個百年一遇的傳染病,以香港而言,在市民大眾之間並沒有造成甚麼恐慌。

李柱銘議員:

我這個"魔鬼大狀"的責任已經完成,多謝。

主席:

麥國風議員。

麥國風議員:

最後一條問題,這是一個根本的問題。我想請問一下何教授, 廣華醫院是一間全科醫院,又有一個微生物學家Dr Melissa HO, 你可否解釋一下,為甚麼廣華醫院要找貴學系協助為這個病人會 診?

何栢良教授:

我想我無法回答這個問題,因為這是關乎對方的動機的問題。

主席:

麥國風.....

麥國風議員:

我不明白,可否解釋一下?因為你作為一個接收者,你提供一個專業的服務,你一定會在腦海裏問為甚麼找我、我是否"叻過"他們——似乎是吧——我那時有沒有在做研究,要不然,對方醫院在所有有關的範疇內都可以提供適切的服務。

主席:

或者直接一點罷,我相信剛才麥國風議員是問你,你覺不覺得廣華醫院認為你較"叻",或者你覺不覺得自己較"叻"?

何栢良教授:

我覺得曾華德醫生較"叻",所以便找了曾醫生一起去。他為甚麼找我,我沒法知道。

主席:

好了,多謝何教授。我們已向你提問了頗長時間,剛才你曾 提及的幾項資料,我們都希望你能提供給我們,包括那些電郵, 如果你不介意的話,還有檢驗的報告,即超過十多個快速測試, 以及你剛才回答問題時提到的一些文件。我們秘書處亦會與你聯 絡,希望你能夠提供這些資料。多謝你出席今次的聆訊,如果日 後有需要,我們有可能會再邀請你來,多謝你。

各位委員,大家是否需要稍作休息,然後才傳召第二位證人? 5分鐘?不要5分鐘了,若是休息,不如10分鐘好了。就10分鐘罷, 我們10時45分再回來吧。

(研訊於上午10時38分暫停)

(研訊於上午10時48分恢復進行)

主席:

坐下來吧,好嗎?我們可以恢復研訊。接下來的證人是曾華 德醫生。

(曾華德教授進入會議廳)

多謝曾華德醫生。教授,多謝你出席今天的研訊。委員會傳召你來委員會作證和提交證人陳述書。委員會亦作出決定,每一位到來的證人都需要宣誓。我現在以專責委員會主席的身份為你監誓。你可以選擇以手按聖經以宗教形式宣誓,或者以非宗教形式宣誓。現在請你站立,依照你面前的誓詞宣誓。

香港大學醫學院內科學系胸肺/深切治療及內科系副教授曾華德教授:

本人曾華德,謹以至誠,據實聲明及確認,本人所作之證供,均屬真實及為事實之全部,並無處言。

主席:

多謝你。曾教授,你亦曾經向專責委員會提交證人陳述書,你現在可否正式向專責委員會出示有關的證人陳述書作為證據?

曾華德教授:

可以。

主席:

多謝你。你亦應專責委員會的要求,提交了閣下的專業資格和經驗的資料,你現在可否確認這些資料也是正確呢?

可以。

主席:

多謝你。曾教授,我想問你一個簡單的問題,就是在劉教授 入住廣華醫院之前,即是在2月24日你知悉他在2月22日入院之 前,你和中山大學的醫學院以前有否接觸,有否作過一些交流呢?

曾華德教授:

我沒有和中山大學醫學院的職員或其他僱員有任何直接的接觸,直到......即據我所知來說。不過,中山醫院的校友之前曾邀請我講了一次課,不過已是很多年前了。

主席:

記不記得大約多少年前?

曾華德教授:

最少也有3年,但也不是直接邀請我,是香港的校友邀請的。

主席:

好,謝謝你。丁午壽議員。

丁午壽議員:

多謝主席。曾教授,我想問一下,當日何教授第一次page你之後,他跟你說了些甚麼 —— 關於要去廣華醫院診斷劉教授?聽到了嗎?

曾華德教授:

聽到。我不可以......

主席:

曾教授。

……多謝。其實,當日何栢良醫生page我時,是在極不方便的時候,因為當時我趕着巡房,以便我一個同事可以開始門診,因此是非常煩惱的。他叫我陪他去看一個嚴重的肺炎,是從廣州來的。我馬上知道事關重大,當時剛好完成巡房,我便答應了他。

主席:

丁議員。

丁午壽議員:

我想接着問一下,在你的陳述書內,即第2段所述,你聽到之後便立刻去取一些防護工具。

曾華德教授:

是。

丁午壽議員:

那些是何教授提醒你要取呢,還是你自己覺得由於那個病情的關係而要取呢?抑或是作為第二手準備,就這樣去取呢?

主席:

曾教授。

曾華德教授:

其實那些防護工具,其中包括帽、鞋、保護衣、N95口罩和手套,是我們做內窺鏡、氣管內窺鏡的正確常用裝置。因此,其實對於我來說,這些是經常用的,是我較為熟悉的保護工具。

丁午壽議員:

如果你到另一間醫院聯診,情況都是一樣,如果是肺炎病人的話?

曾華德教授:

當時的背景是,我們雖然沒有直接得到醫管局或者衞生署的 知會,但我們看到很多傳媒上面的很多報道、煲醋等等,令到我

們知道,其實應該從很多這些軟證據顯示,當時是發生了高度傳染性、危險性、甚至致命的肺炎。同時又不知道我們到了廣華之後,正常的程序是甚麼,所以這其實是出於我的一個條件反射,於是帶了這些工具。

丁午壽議員:

謝謝你。所以你到了廣華醫院,結果你診症完了下來後,你覺得那個病情十分嚴......即是那些病菌是很厲害的,所以你有一個advice,即11點半那一段,你說:"Dr Ho and I provided advice on the medical management, necessity for extreme precaution",是嗎?

曾華德教授:

是。

丁午壽議員:

我想問一下,接着你在下午……不,應是第二天早上,microbiological result出來,那些是甚麼result呢?

曾華德教授:

那些result是在一個電郵上面,是何栢良醫生給我 —— 我相信亦是葉維晉醫生的一個總結。我現在可以……我想這是非常……

丁午壽議員:

Technical?

曾華德教授:

……專業,亦是學術上的東西。但大致來說,是可能有衣原體 的抗體出現。那我們就要想想,這究竟是不是病情的起因。

丁午壽議員:

即是主要知道是一種嚴重的肺病。

曾華德教授:

沒錯。對。

丁午壽議員:

 $OK \circ$

主席:

剛才,曾教授你提到那個報告裏面指有衣原體的抗體存在,對嗎?

曾華德教授:

沒錯。

主席:

OK。或許,我也想問,想稍為補充一下,就是你收到那個pager 時正在巡房,你剛剛完成巡房,所以你便去會診。我想問一下, 實際上那天早上除了巡房之外,你有否放下其他工作而去了廣華 醫院呢?

曾華德教授:

多謝主席。其實我當時是極不方便的,因為當天我安排了一個澳洲學者來香港講學,是由我接待他的,當時我還約了他吃下午飯,之後還要去......當然,別人長途跋涉來到這裏,我們一定要跟他聊聊,以及介紹一下我們本地的設施。幸好有幾位同事馬上跳出來幫我做了這些接待工作,但是原本的學術交流,變了大打折扣。而且當天晚上,我本來請了那位外國學者去吃飯的,因此我是非常不方便的。

主席:

曾教授,你剛才的描述提到,有幾位同事跳出來幫你忙,那 幾位同事是否也知悉你是要去廣華醫院會診,而對該次會診的性 質,又是否知悉呢?

曾華德教授:

很粗略地知道。因為我亦……當時是因為何醫生迫我迫得很厲害,要我立即和他去,於是乎我沒有很詳細的機會解釋,我只是說有一件很緊急的事,似乎是廣州的肺炎,而我亦比他們高級,因此可以迫他們去做。

主席:

或許,曾教授,你用了"迫"這個描述,你覺得你也是.....主要 是你自己也同意需要去急速處理這件事,抑或礙於他迫你,所以 你才去呢?

曾華德教授:

我想兩方面也有。因為何栢良醫生是一個很細心、我亦相當尊敬的一個醫生。因為他凡事都很小心分析,他會很objective,很客觀地看一個問題,因此……我們亦合作多年,無論在臨床和在研究細菌學方面,因此,如果他提出這樣一個要求,我通常是會答應的。

主席:

但你自己是否同意需要這樣緊迫,要放下接待一位澳洲來的 學者和有關工作呢?

曾華德教授:

我想其實最主要的原因是,作為一個醫生,我們喜歡在日間看病,不喜歡在晚間看病。其實我們知道,我們的同事在那邊已經……我去到後發現已經兩天了。其實,如果你要我看一個肺炎的病人,我相信第一件事是抽取這些微生物學的資料,以及那些標本、樣本等。如你要回去實驗室,你當然是盡量希望在日間……即是越早取得那些標本越好。當時,我亦覺得可能我要參與抽取這個標本、樣本的步驟,因此才帶着那些PPE前往。

主席:

謝謝你。鄭家富議員。

李柱銘議員:

曾教授可以把那個東西掉換一下,不然你便要一直用手按着。

鄭家富議員:

對,對。不用按着的,這樣就可以。

李柱銘議員:

還是用這邊耳朵,隨你用哪邊耳朵。

曾華德教授:

爛掉了。

鄭家富議員:

或許,同事幫幫忙罷。

李柱銘議員:

要給他一個。

曾華德教授:

只是掉下來罷了。

鄭家富議員:

是嘛。行嗎?

曾華德教授:

只是耳朵那裏掉了下來,斷了。

主席:

好,謝謝。鄭家富議員。

鄭家富議員:

多謝主席。主席,我只是想就你剛才的問題跟進一兩點。曾教授你剛才的說法用了"迫"或"很煩"那些字眼,因為你要作出很多其他的調動。我想問一下,在過去,譬如你在瑪麗醫院的工作、在港大醫學院的工作,與其他醫院有類似這樣的緊迫情況,令你要突然間調動你原本已安排的工作而去進行這樣一次會診或者看看病人的經驗多不多呢?

其實,這些是很少數的時間。當然,我在大學工作或者在研究方面有特別的興趣時,會接受很多本地或甚至外地的個案,要求我們幫忙審閱等。但如你說的,要丟下全部工作,不去接待一個自己邀請來的外國學者,是我在香港大學工作9年來的第一次。

鄭家富議員:

即是那次經驗是9年來的第一次。

曾華德教授:

是。

鄭家富議員:

過去廣華醫院有沒有這樣緊迫地要求你去幫忙診症的機會呢?

曾華德教授:

我從未到過廣華醫院出診。

鄭家富議員:

沒有出診過。

曾華德教授:

是。

主席:

謝謝。其他委員有沒有問題?麥國風議員。

麥國風議員:

曾教授,你用了"事關重大"、"極不方便"去形容今次你為劉教授會診、到診。你有否想過為甚麼有這般重要,以致對方要求你這樣緊急地提供一個專業服務—— 不要忘記,對方是一間全科醫院,它有本身的……應該稱為顧問醫生罷,又或者其他專家,為甚麼還要找瑪麗醫院或者港大去提供這樣一個服務呢?

主席:

曾教授。

曾華德教授:

其實,作為一個教學醫院,甚至乎,因為我是在外國受訓居多,其實我作為一個教學醫院的研究和教職員,又是一個臨床醫生,這些事絕非不尋常。在外國,很多地方的教學醫院的顧問醫生級以上的人,都經常接收到外面非自己醫院的所謂求診的要求。有些時候,我們出外講學後,亦有些醫生把他自己的病歷寄給我們看看。我覺得這不是一個很不尋常的要求。

主席:

麥議員有否補充。

麥國風議員:

但是,今次是第一次到廣華醫院,對嗎?你剛才回答鄭家富 議員時說,今次是第一次到廣華醫院,對嗎?

曾華德教授:

對,但是我沒有何栢良教授那麼出名,因此很少人邀請我。

麥國風議員:

請問有否到過其他醫院呢?你在港大工作了9年。

曾華德教授:

我從來沒有這樣急切地出發去看第二個病人。

麥國風議員:

直接回答我的問題,有否去過其他醫院?

曾華德教授:

直接回答你的問題,在我記憶中是很少的。

麥國風議員:

有沒有?

曾華德教授:

好像有。

麥國風議員:

可否提供一些.....

曾華德教授:

我……麥議員,因為在壓力之下,我要回想清楚我以往9年來每天的經歷,但這是很少數的。我亦有去過別的醫院看別的病人,但以這樣的急切性來說,是絕無僅有的,只有這一次而已。

麥國風議員:

絕無僅有。OK。那我想瞭解一下,當時是否何栢良教授叫你帶備那些個人保護裝備前往廣華醫院?

曾華德教授:

我不記得是他叫我,還是我自己帶。不過,這是我作為一個 經常進行氣管鏡的肺科專科醫生的條件反射。

麥國風議昌:

你有沒有帶帽去呢?除了你有手套、N95口罩......不如你告訴我你帶了甚麼前往。

曾華德教授:

在我記憶中,當然我沒有寫下我帶了甚麼東西去。但事後那 些護士都取笑我,說為甚麼我帶了這麼多東西去,其中包括我常 用的,包括帽,是紙的帽,即是用一次便可以棄掉的;N95,是鴨 嘴形的N95;以及纖維式、即不是布製的防護衣;還有鞋套及手套。

麥國風議員:

請問有沒有用過?

沒有用過。

麥國風議員:

我想請問,你剛才回答丁午壽議員的問題時,好像曾提及你在3時39分,即是你在證供上所說,你和何栢良醫生用電郵溝通,你好像說過你也有告知葉維晉醫生,是嗎?

曾華德教授:

我本人並不認識葉維晉醫生,我第一次和他見面是在廣華醫院,之後我不記得我曾見過他。

麥國風議員:

不,我是指在3時39分,你也有把這個電郵 —— 可以說是副本 —— 也給了葉維晉醫生,是嗎?或者你和葉維晉醫生是怎樣 溝通的?

曾華德教授:

我沒有和葉維晉醫生有直接的溝通,這個溝通是由何栢良醫 生發出的,他只是給了我一個電郵。

麥國風議員:

主席,我想瞭解一下,曾教授你覺得葉維晉醫生在處理這件 事件上的角色是甚麼?

曾華德教授:

我不知道他在處理這個事件上的角色是甚麼。在很多時候, 在不同的醫院內,你和別人溝通,也有一些接頭人,我相信葉醫 生是接頭人。

麥國風議員:

但你知道屈志亮醫生是深切治療部的主管,對嗎?

我到了之後知道。

麥國風議員:

到了後知道。那為甚麼不是由一個主管和你溝通,而是由葉維晉醫生 —— 一個不知是甚麼角色的人 —— 和你接觸或溝通呢?

主席:

曾教授。

曾華德教授:

麥議員,據我所知的是,兩位也沒有和我溝通過,我只是一個小配角的角色,陪同何栢良教授去提供我的意見。

麥國風議員:

但你在證人陳述書上說,大概在11時35分,你到達時有見到 葉維晉醫生。你第一個便寫"met Dr Andrew Yip",而不是寫屈志 亮醫生,根本就把葉維晉醫生放在前面,對不對?你和葉維晉醫 生是有溝通的,當日你們一定有溝通。

曾華德教授:

我和他握手。

麥國風議昌:

即.....

主席:

麥議員,你想問的問題,我希望你想一想重點放在哪裏,否 則我相信曾教授回答你的問題時可能有困難。

麥國風議員:

我主要想瞭解葉維晉醫生在這件事上的角色,即是處理劉教 授這個病人的角色。

主席:

或許,曾教授你還有甚麼補充呢?在你到達廣華醫院,你所知悉的,就是葉維晉醫生的角色是甚麼?還有沒有補充呢?

曾華德教授:

我沒有補充。不過,或許我可以很簡單地再說一遍,就是據我所知,葉維晉醫生是邀請何栢良醫生的接頭人,而我就和何栢良醫生一起出現。葉維晉醫生是一個聲名顯赫的醫生,我有幸地和他握了手,接着說多謝他邀請我過來。接着葉醫生 —— 據我所知,可能是幾分鐘之內 —— 已經離開了深切治療部。在此之後,我到現在也沒有遇過他。

麥國風議員:

謝謝主席。

主席:

勞永樂醫生。

勞永樂議員:

多謝主席。我亦要申報,我認識了曾醫生很久,亦在SARS期間有很多交流,但我們從沒有交流過這個個案。

歡迎你來立法會,曾醫生。剛才在你作供期間,有幾件事情我印象很深刻:第一是你說9年來第一次;第二是用"迫"這個字—— 我不是說何栢良迫你,你迫何栢良那些—— 令我感覺到他當時好像有一種壓迫感。何醫生剛才作供,之前的證人作供也說,當時媒介有很多有關的報道,我想問一問你,當時你是否有一種預備,預備着內地發生的事情始終會有一天來到香港?當你接到何醫生的電話時,你的感覺是不是那個肺炎已經來到呢?

主席:

曾教授。

曾華德教授:

我想很多在座的人在當時......即各位尊貴議員在當時都看過報紙,我得到的唯一資料就是報紙上的那些。報紙上的資料有理

性的,亦有一些"煲醋類"的文獻。我作為一個長期研究肺科感染的學術和臨床醫生,我覺得不傳過來的機會是極少的。至於你問我直接的問題,我是否相信當時一定會傳過來,其實我當時亦好像你所說,我是在奇怪為甚麼還沒有傳到過來。不過,在數據上,我們要知道這是甚麼病,這個病的傳染模式、臨床徵狀、診斷方法、治療方法及善後方法,還有在社區上和在衞生健康上應該做的措施,這些都需要知道,但當時我們全都不知道。

勞永樂議員:

主席,剛才曾醫生你說,你當時所有知道的事情都是從媒介得來的,那是否表示你去看劉教授之前,你沒有其他途徑,或者你沒有得到過其他方面關於內地肺炎情況的資料?

曾華德教授:

是。

勞永樂議員:

當你去看完劉教授的時候,在廣華逗留了兩個多小時之後, 你有沒有得到一些關於內地肺炎情況的額外資料?

曾華德教授:

在那兩個多小時的時間裏,我得到的資料全部都並非不尋常。譬如我曾詳細研究過每一張肺片與日子的關係,發現了一些很特別的肺片"花"得很奇怪。另外一點就是看他的血液報告。隨後發現,其實當時的臨床資料,我們在電腦上能夠看得到的是很少的,亦沒有機會接觸到他的家人,或是詢問這個病人——因為當時已給他插喉——因此,其實我們到了那邊的時候,對於這個爆發在傳染病學方面的資料,是完全沒有得到的。

勞永樂議員:

曾醫生,你看完這個症時 —— 你剛才回答上一個問題時說,不傳過來才奇怪 —— 有沒有增加你的危機感,而你在往後的工作崗位裏,之後你有沒有做過一些甚麼額外的事情,譬如做一些額外的事情,令到你在工作崗位裏可以對肺炎的到來加強準備?

主席:

曾教授。

曾華德教授:

其實這個……我亦順應瑪麗醫院的行政,當時我回來之後和一些同事,特別是跟我一起工作的同事 —— 肺科的同事談過這件事情,不過這是在一天之後,因為當晚我要陪同外地來的學者吃飯,弄到很晚。後來得到何栢良醫生的報告,我便和我幾位同事談過,恐防會有這種事情發生,接着亦和我另外一批香港胸肺學會的委員談過,但那是很informal,只在電話中談一談,詢問他們有沒有見過。接着開始陸續爆發的時候,到了3月初的時候,我們就很積極地去……因為我們亦慢慢要……可能要磨熱,即我們開始要warm up,要熱身,去找找有甚麼對策,以及更加投入地去找。

勞永樂議員:

你剛才說是在3月時做了這樣的工作。我希望你回想一下 —— 我問你一個意見上的問題,不是一個事實上的問題 —— 你覺得2月24、25甚至26日這些時間,那時香港整個醫療體制,對於內地的肺炎可能會傳入香港,那時的準備或警覺是怎樣的?

曾華德教授:

你問我一個個人意見的問題?

勞永樂議員:

是。

曾華德教授:

其實我相信這個問題很難回答,因為我每回答你的時候,我便可能會觸動到一些你應該直接問的人。但是我覺得其實"事後諸葛"是很容易看出來,當時我們要明白那個背景,就是我們不知道發生甚麼事,我們不知道那個病原體是甚麼,以及這個病的治療方法。以我本人來說,亦不知道整個醫院管理局的龐大架構裏面應該做些甚麼。但如果你問我,當時如果能夠有先知先覺,能夠果斷地將部分病人或是接觸的人隔離,根本就不會有SARS全球爆發的事件。

勞永樂議員:

好,我沒有問題要問了,主席。

主席:

麥國風議員。

麥國風議員:

多謝主席。

主席:

簡短的,對嗎?

麥國風議員:

是,希望是簡短的。曾教授的證人陳述書提到,在10時45分,何栢良教授page他,他說當時正在巡房。我想請問,當時巡房工作完了沒有?曾教授。

曾華德教授:

我聽不到後面那句說話。

麥國風議員:

即你完成了巡房的工作沒有,在10時45分的時候。

主席:

或許簡單說,即當他page你的時候,你正在巡房,還是已經做完了巡房的工作?

曾華德教授:

我差不多已做完了巡房的工作。

麥國風議員:

當天你是幾點鐘開始巡房,可不可以講一下大概時間?

我不敢保證,但是通常我們的慣例是在10時左右巡房。

麥國風議員:

10時至10時45分這45分鐘內,你巡了多少個病人?

曾華德教授:

如果你需要這個......

主席:

對不起,麥國風議員,你問的問題與今天的調查有沒有關係?

麥國風議員:

有.....

主席:

或許你再想一想。

麥國風議員:

有,有關係,因為我想瞭解為甚麼曾教授可以放下所有當時 正在做着的工作,而即時去處理一個剛剛接到的訊息,是即時處 理。

主席:

你不覺得剛才已問得相當足夠了嗎?

麥國風議員:

但他沒有說過巡了多少個病人。我想知道巡了多少個病人。

曾華德教授:

我通常......

麥國風議昌:

如果他肯回答,就讓他回答,好嗎?

主席:

曾教授。

曾華德教授:

如果麥議員需要的話,我可以與我當時的病房經理查閱一下當天在我的病房裏有多少個病人,不過我們對每個病人都……我通常是和我一批同事一起去巡房,做的較多是決定的事情,因此通常不是用最多的時間,因為大部分資料已經由我的同事 —— 特別是我的medical officer,即和我一起的中級醫生 —— 已經分析及掌握了。

麥國風議員:

你剛才說到何栢良教授"迫"你,他如何迫你?由10時45分開始,他迫你到11時,接着你們似乎已經準備好所有東西,如果根據何栢良教授的陳述書,在11時已經坐上他的車子離開。在這15分鐘內,他是怎樣迫你的?用甚麼方法迫你?

主席:

曾教授。

麥國風議員:

可不可以講出完全的exact verbatim,或者大概內容。

曾華德教授:

我.....

主席:

不過,麥國風議員,你要求一個人記憶那麼多個月前的 verbatim,我相信這不是相當容易的事。我希望曾教授你只按你能 記憶多少,去描述你感覺到的那種"迫"的感覺。

曾華德教授:

或許"迫"並不是一個很好的字,或許他是很主動地向我解釋, 說這件事的重要性,令我覺得從同事、朋友、義氣以至科學上, 我都要不惜一切地跟他去做。

麥國風議員:

不惜一切?!

曾華德教授:

我用錯字,我中文不流利。I mean to give up what I was doing at the time to accompany my good friend and colleague to do something for the society, scientifically and also out of friendship。

麥國風議員:

你的證人陳述書上說"requesting my participation",如果你說"迫",為甚麼不用另一個字呢?

主席:

麥議員,我相信大家的求知慾都相當之強,不過我希望大家 要考慮效率的問題,看看與核心有沒有關係,好嗎?

麥國風議員:

我仍然覺得,他先前雖然說他的中文不太流利,但"迫"是很嚴重的,在這個情況之下,我對何栢良教授有點兒.....

主席:

剛才他已回答了你的問題,好嗎?或許讓.....因為還有3位議員,我亦希望大家把握時間。我先請鄭家富、李柱銘、勞永樂,希望大家問的都是簡短的問題。

鄭家富議員:

主席,其實我想跟進剛才勞永樂議員問曾教授的個人意見,因為你是這方面的專家。其實你不需要擔心觸動到其他我們將會問的一些這方面的類似意見。我想回到你的證人陳述書,你在2時半至3時那一段,你說你一回到寫字樓,就立刻電郵給何醫生,然後就道出……即講出你覺得應該怎樣去調查……這裏寫的英文是"the need of teamwork, and the need of extreme caution to be exercised"。這裏我想問一下,因為剛才你亦說過,你在口供裏說,如果立即隔離那些病人,或有可能防止全球爆發等等。那你覺得你提出了這些意見之後,現在你回看SARS在香港那麼多醫院爆發,以你的專家意見去看,當時其實醫管局是在甚麼階段……或許

這樣說罷,首先問,有沒有一個階段是做到你這裏所寫的"extreme caution to be exercised"?如果有,是從甚麼時候開始才做到;如果沒有,你覺得這是不是一件很不幸的事件?

主席:

曾教授。

曾華德教授:

"Extreme caution"是極度小心的安排,其實我覺得到了SARS 爆發中期才達到,其實可以看到很多醫院對這個extreme caution,即正式的保護衣、員工洗手、個人的保險和安全,以及將病人迅速隔離、分流這些,亦不是在早期達到的。當時在這件事發生的時候,不可以單單指醫院管理局,即使是我本人 —— 研究了10多年肺感染的人,我亦不知道會是那麼嚴重的事情。雖然是extreme caution,極度小心,但我相信如果你回頭再看的話,你說醫院管理局當時到了哪個階段……我當然不可以代表全部同事,但我個人的意見 —— 一個大學的研究的臨床前線醫生的意見就是,當時甚麼資料都沒有給我們,直至3月的時候,我們所收到的都是很少的資料。我們全部的資料,即在前線的肺科顧問醫生那個層次,都是從報紙上看到的,或者是從電視上看到的。

鄭家富議員:

就跟進你這裏所說只給了你們很少資料這一方面,如果當時 的資料很充足,或者溝通上很恰當,如果可以將你們的訊息,以 及你們的專家意見,能夠在醫管局內妥當地執行的話,是否便可 減低爆發的機會呢?以你的意見來看。

曾華德教授:

我想在事後來說,很難說可不可以成功,成功與否是一回事,但一定要用全心全力去做一件事情。以我個人來說,我覺得如果當時能夠先知先覺一點,能夠努力一點,能夠作出適當的決定,有決心去做的話,這件事情不會弄到這樣,即整個爆發的範圍及地區性會縮小。

鄭家富議員:

主席,只有最後一條問題,就是"need of teamwork"及這裏說的"extreme caution",你在這裏這樣寫。當時在瑪麗醫院,你的這個意見,你覺得瑪麗醫院是否做得到呢?

曾華德教授:

瑪麗醫院做到了teamwork,譬如在我們SARS的籌備期及實質運作的時候,我們都有不同科目的醫生自願出來做,有些很資深的醫生、教授等出來做一些差不多是實習醫生的工作,我們從不同的部門抽調護士進來,很多亦是自願的。很多醫生做完之後,亦自願留在這裏繼續工作。我們行政方面,譬如那些工程組,亦給了我們很多協助,甚至裝一個廁所板都可以一日之內完成。因此,我覺得不論做任何事,teamwork是最重要的,特別是在這些我們完全不知道的情況之下,只可以做多,不可以做少。

主席:

各位議員,時間真的過得很快。另外,我亦希望大家可以避免,作為一個研訊,向我們的證人發問太多"如果"或者"假設"的問題,希望大家可以盡量就着事實來發問。當然,我們都明白,有時候我們有專家在這裏,大家都想知道專家的意見,可以給我們作為一個參考。不過,希望大家可以盡量精簡。3位議員:李柱銘、勞永樂及陳國強。李柱銘議員。

李柱銘議員:

其實,曾教授,何栢良醫生他為甚麼迫你去,他已告訴了我們,因為他覺得你比他"叻"。

曾華德教授:

我完全不同意。

李柱銘議員:

你不同意,哈哈。在我生平,很少看到那麼多人那樣謙虛。

曾教授,我想再問一問你,你這裏寫"need of teamwork",其實你這裏說的只是醫院裏的teamwork,還是整個社會上的teamwork?

我的意思是那裏的teamwork。

李柱銘議員:

只是醫院的?

曾華德教授:

其實我這個評語是給廣華醫院的。其實,當時我覺得他們已 發揮了teamwork。

李柱銘議員:

即廣華醫院裏面的teamwork?

曾華德教授:

是。

李柱銘議員:

但是,再看下去,你的口供紙裏面,你接着說"'infectious-and-lethal'case......

曾華德教授:

是。

李柱銘議員:

......of community-acquired pneumonia",即很明顯,你覺得這一類東西是會致命的,是嗎?

曾華德教授:

沒錯。

李柱銘議員:

其實你那天回到寫字樓,心情是否很緊張、很擔心呢?是否這樣呢?你是否覺得事態嚴重呢?

當然,我覺得事態嚴重,不過當時我覺得那個病人的治療,在很多方面我們有加入意見,但我們覺得它也做得十分妥當。但回去之後,當然我有一個很害怕……不,應是一個緊張的心情,因為你見到一個那麼嚴重的case,如果這個病人是有傳染性的話,可以令到其他病人也跟他一樣,那便是一件非常重要的事。不過,據我們所知,廣華醫院當時已經報告了衞生署或者醫院管理局。當時在我們與他們的對話裏,所知的是他們已經報告了,後來我翻閱他的病人的病歷,亦發現在22日的時候,他們已經呈報上去,因此我知道起碼是有專家跟進的。

李柱銘議員:

剛才你作供期間回答勞永樂議員時,你說其實你看到廣東發生這樣的事情,你就想着為甚麼還沒有來到香港,現在這件事來到了香港,雖然這個人也是從大陸下來的,你是否覺得香港很可能會面對很大的問題,有沒有這樣想呢?

主席:

曾教授。

曾華德教授:

我有這樣想。

李柱銘議員:

所以你是否很緊張地處理這件案。

曾華德教授:

我算是很緊張地處理這件案。

李柱銘議員:

直至後來到了第二天,他說這件案已經交了給袁教授,那你 便沒有看這個症了。但你仍然有跟其他同事談,是嗎?

曾華德教授:

是。

李柱銘議員:

因為你覺得這件事可能會傳過來香港。

曾華德教授:

沒錯。

主席:

李議員,還有沒有跟進。

李柱銘議員:

沒有問題了,多謝。

主席:

勞永樂議員。

勞永樂議員:

其實,曾教授剛才回答我的問題時提出的意見是,如果這些病人能夠被果斷隔離,疫情就可能不會像已發生的那樣。曾教授,可否多說一些你指應果斷隔離的病人是哪些?

主席:

曾教授。

曾華德教授:

我不知道甚麼才是最理想,第一是不會傷害任何人,以及資源上可以容許的。但是我個人的經驗是,由3月中開始,我們已經有這樣的措施,目前來說仍然在執行的就是,凡是發燒及患有肺炎,即肺片上顯示有肺炎的病人,都會進入特別的肺炎病房,經常由資深的醫生跟進,看看他是否有治療效果,譬如能夠痊癒的就當然……應該不是SARS,否則的話,如果他惡化下去,就要考慮他是否SARS。就是這樣將他完全隔離到一個高防性的地方,而那些員工在裏面要穿着很穩妥的PPE,這樣的地方就是我認為的隔離方法。而病人出來之後,仍要放進一些低一個危險層次的地方,接着在那裏再接受觀察,然後才可以回家。我覺得這樣起碼就肺炎來說,能診斷出的肺炎來說,才可以說是有效。

勞永樂議員:

可不可以再說清楚一點,你認為有哪些病人是沒有果斷地被隔離?

曾華德教授:

我不太明白,你的意思是......

勞永樂議昌:

你剛才說,回頭想一想,如果能夠在疫症初期果斷地隔離一 些病人,疫情可能會不一樣。

主席:

勞議員,你是要求曾教授評價有沒有個別病人的處理,沒有 達到他剛才所說的要求,對嗎?

勞永樂議員:

我是想理解清楚所謂"果斷隔離病人"的意思是甚麼?有沒有一些你可以指出的例子是"並無果斷隔離"?

曾華德教授:

我在全個……即宏觀上,對於某間醫院的運作、不同地方醫生的工作、以及醫院的設施和行政方面,我不能達到可以完全理解的程度。我只可以明白,在我工作的醫院中,我們做了甚麼事,那就是凡有肺炎的病人而有發燒的,我們恐防他有非典型肺炎,就會將他放進特別的隔離病房。這些病房裏面除了有特別多醫生和護士照顧他們,即是人手要充裕,把他完全隔離之外,病房亦不准探病。

主席:

即是說,曾教授你剛才的評論是就一般情況作出的評論,而 並非就個別你所知悉的個案的處理而作出的一個評論?

曾華德教授:

對。

勞永樂議員:

好。主席,我沒有問題要問,但我們可以看一看的是,曾教授的評語,即"果斷隔離"這幾個字,在我們以後的研訊中,我們可以留意這一點。

主席:

陳國強議員。

陳國強議員:

是,主席。我想問一問教授,你知道有這麼重大的事情發生,你自己有沒有通知你所屬的瑪麗醫院或者你所屬大學的同事有關這些情況?

主席:

曾教授剛才曾回答說你有通知袁國勇,第二天亦有和你的同事溝通,還有沒有其他補充?還有向甚麼人交代過?

曾華德教授:

我沒有向其他人交代過,因為其實我當時亦深信袁國勇教授 的經驗及他的長處,對他沒有質疑。另一方面,當時我們很想知 道會種出甚麼菌來。當時是求知的階段,我們只能豎高耳朵看看 發生甚麼事情。

陳國強議員:

那麼,有沒有通知你自己屬下的人?

曾華德教授:

和我一起工作的人都知道我對肺炎是很小心的。

陳國強議員:

不,你有沒有通知他們發覺有這樣的情況,要他們小心呢?

曾華德教授:

有。

陳國強議員:

還有,你剛才說,如果有決心做一件事情,便可能不會發生這麼嚴重的事件。你所說的"決心",他們有甚麼地方讓你感到他們沒有決心去做?

曾華德教授:

你的意思是......你所指的"他們"是誰?

陳國強議員:

剛才你提到要先知先覺,如果有決心做一件事情,便不會有那麼嚴重的後果等等......大意是這樣。我的意思是,他們沒有決心做哪件事情,才會有這樣的結果?

主席:

或許可以回頭說說,曾教授剛才你的評價是,關於處理疫情方面,如果能夠果斷或果斷地隔離一些病人.....到底是哪方面、哪些人沒有這樣的決心,你的描述是甚麼?

陳國強議員:

會不會是……我的想法是,會不會是醫管局,譬如它做一件事情,做了一會便沒有決心做下去,如隔離、不隔離之類……有沒有這些情況,有沒有給你這種感覺?

曾華德教授:

這是個人的感覺,可能在數據上不能支持我的建議。其實我覺得,可能……你說決心,決定要隔離病人之後,有沒有很快地把它付諸實行呢?付諸實行之後有沒有不怕……即那些病人……譬如你要做一件事去保護大家時,就要把……譬如把同一批病人放在一起時,你會不會害怕有交叉感染呢?對病人是否公平?對病人的家屬是否公平?對員工是否公平呢?這些要放在下一個層次,即是決心要隔離便隔離。究竟這些有沒有做到?我很想待你這位尊貴議員找到答案後看你的報告。

陳國強議員:

好。主席,我沒有其他問題。

主席:

OK,那便.....

麥國風議員:

還有……還有一條很簡單的問題要問,很簡單的。教授,你覺得這件事情相當嚴重,但你只通知了袁國勇教授,有沒有通知…… 其實在整個體系,即瑪麗醫院的體系,你可以通知你的醫院行政 總監,或者是過一會兒來作證的司徒永康醫生,他作為瑪麗醫院 的Infection Control Officer,而你沒有這樣做,對嗎?

曾華德教授:

我沒有這樣做。

麥國風議員:

OK,謝謝主席。

主席:

OK。謝謝,曾教授。多謝你今天出席研訊。如果有需要的話, 我們將來有可能會再找你來作證供。我們多謝曾教授。我們下一 位證人是司徒醫生。我們邀請下一位證人。

關於司徒永康醫生,趁他還沒進來,我可以介紹一下,司徒永康醫生是瑪麗醫院的感染控制人員。司徒醫生在感染控制方面有相當多的著作,他亦有參與醫管局有關整體感染的工作。所以今天當我們向司徒永康醫生提問時,除了詢問有關瑪麗醫院,亦會問及有關醫管局以及整體上對於感染控制方面,他作為一個專家的一些意見。我們等待他進來。

趁這個時候,我提醒大家,我們原本預計11時至12時半這段時間是給司徒永康醫生的。希望大家盡量把握,我們希望盡量可以從司徒醫生那裏問到一些最重要的問題。我們再多等一會。

(司徒永康醫生進入會議廳)

多謝司徒永康醫生。多謝你出席今天的研訊。專責委員會傳 召你今天到來作證及提交證人陳述書。首先,本委員會決定每一 位證人也須宣誓作供,我現在以專責委員會主席的身份監誓。

你可以選擇用手按聖經以宗教式宣誓,或者以非宗教式宣誓。請你站立及依照放在你面前的誓詞宣誓。

瑪麗醫院微生物學系主管/港島西醫院聯網感染控制主任司徒永 康醫生:

多謝主席。我想用英文發言。

主席:

可以。

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

多謝主席。我想以英文宣誓。I, SETO Wing-hong swear by all mighty God that the evidence I shall give shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Thank you.

主席:

多謝你。司徒醫生,你曾經向專責委員會秘書提供證人陳述書......

司徒永康醫生:

是。

主席:

你現在是否正式向專責委員會出示有關證人陳述書作為證據?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Yes, I now submit the document that I have given to the Legislative Council earlier but I have a slight amendment for Table 2 which I have already tabled to the Clerk......

主席:

你現在可以說。

And the Table 2, just a slight amendment. The table is a survey on infection control practices comparing the isolation ward and other clinical areas. And there are some slight calculation errors on the second column which is under other wards. A2, C2 and the A&E and it is not corrected. So now mask 19 is 13%, glove 26 is 41%, gown 2 is 3% and hand washing 61 is 97%. You compared these with the previously what I handed and it's just some slight minor error. And I now tabled this to the Legislative Council. Thank you very much.

主席:

多謝你。

司徒永康醫生:

是。

主席:

司徒醫生,你曾經應專責委員會邀請,提交個人專業資格和 經驗資料......

司徒永康醫生:

是。

主席:

你現在可否確認這些資料是正確的?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Yes, I affirmed that these are true records.

主席:

OK, 司徒醫生亦提交了兩份電郵, 是你交給醫管局的......

司徒永康醫生:

是。

主席:

可以作為證供,對不?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

These are two e-mails that I have mentioned in my statement and they are just copies of the actual e-mail.

主席:

OK,多謝你。司徒永康醫生,我亦想向你交代一下,本來我們最初想就兩個範圍邀請你,一個範圍是關於一位加拿大遊客由聖保祿醫院轉往瑪麗醫院的情況,另一部分是關於瑪麗醫院和醫管局有關感染控制的問題,我們委員會就前部分,即有關聖保祿醫院轉送病人的暫時不會發問,我們會集中問感染控制方面的工作,稍後委員可能會發問有關你作為專家對感染控制的意見。我想問在瑪麗醫院有兩位教授於2月24日去廣華醫院一同會診來自廣州的劉教授,他們覺得在防感染上要相當謹慎,你何時知道這個訊息?而知道這個訊息後,可有採取甚麼特別做法?司徒醫生。

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

As I recollect, I read about this in the newspaper. All right. And you must remember that as an Infection Control Officer, the other term for this is a hospital epidemiologist. As an epidemiologist, we see things globally. We don't see one specification. Now when the outbreak occurred in Canton, we knew about this outbreak. And already there were work been done to track the situation in Hong Kong. As you can remember, we tracked the severe atypical pneumonia rates in the Hospital Authority's hospitals. All right. These rates are tracked. The other thing is that the number of atypical pneumonia diagnosed by the doctors in the public hospitals and discharged is collected. So we also have those rates. I can tell you that as an epidemiologist, we just use several things to check because we can't check everything. There is no such resource available to check everything. Now the big thing we look for is what we call rates. If the rate remains the same, then we watch and see. If there is a significant increase in rates, then one must wake up straight away. Now commenting on the rate, you'll find that the rate of atypical pneumonia discharged, the numbers discharged from the public hospitals in February and March 2003 is about the same as 2002. There was no increase. If you look at the mortality rate, there was also no increase. It all remained about the same. Now looking at the rate, there is nothing special. So tracking the severe atypical pneumonia rates, it doesn't seem to be increasing as compared to the

previous years. The second thing as an epidemiologist, we will carefully look for unusual clusters. OK, the rate hasn't gone up but are there any unusual clusters? Sometimes this could be one unusual case. Unfortunately if you look at SARS, the presentation is very typical "atypical pneumonia". Cough, fever, all these are very usual symptoms. So it's very hard to pick up the unusual case. What really sparked me off and got me to stand up hearing is a hospital outbreak in the Prince of Wales. Now, as an epidemiologist, this just rocked me off. I wake up, very alert. I like to know more. Because this is an unusual cluster and this is very important to me. In my mind, I read about the case of the Professor but I look at the symptoms, he doesn't seem to out of the ball-park. It is still pretty much the usual symptoms of atypical pneumonia and I am not aware, at least in late February, I am not aware of any unusual cluster around this individual. So in my memory when I heard about the case, it did not sort of shake me up as compared to a cluster in a hospital.

主席:

謝謝。鄭家富議員。

Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo:

Thank you Chairman. Dr SETO, can I refer to your statement, this is, of course the second part, the first part we're not dealing with the first part. The second part, page two from the introduction part. In the third line, you said "Although I am a member of the Central Infection Control Task Force, this was mainly an advisory group to the head office on all aspects of Infection Control, but did not basically have the responsibility of communication to the individual hospitals." In writing this, you are telling us that the Central Infection Control Task Force is only an advisory group. Then you put a few words on the responsibility of communications. In your experience as a Task Force member, do you think when the communication put in the Task Force to communicate to, between Hospital Authority and the hospital? Do you think the Task Force can do better after the SARS experience?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

In my opinion, the statement here as far as I know is true. In those days the task force is mainly an advisory body, and we give advice as directly reported. In my opinion, even before the days of SARS, the communication between the headquarters and the individual hospital, I would say, is pretty good. You see, we have already all the information system set up. You must also understand about infection control. Infection control really hinges on very small behaviour like hand washing and remembering to wear a mask. To explain to my learned gentlemen here, it's like remembering to bring your phone, to bring your spectacles, small things like that. You must also be careful of not having

information overloaded. You want them to know the key and salient points. That is why in my own cluster, I narrowed it down to the most important point. In my opinion, even before the days of SARS, information and communication — I would rate it as pretty good. In fact I would even caution that after SARS, we might be even giving too much. And if you give too much information, it may not necessary be constructive for infection control.

Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo:

What you just told us is before the outbreak, what I am asking you is how about during the outbreak, you know, the whole three or four months outbreak, by that time do you think the Central Infection Control Task Force, in terms of communication, do you think anything that can be improved?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Of course, everything can be improved. But I think basically the amount of communication, the means of communication are available and has been used. Now as I had said in the conclusion, what perhaps can be done, now in retrospect of course, is what to emphasize. The key and salient point to emphasize, when to ask you to do what, the timeliness and all these. We will have to go into a microscopic examination to see whether each can be improved, but by and large I would say that the public hospital in Hong Kong is really of an international class in terms of communication. We have used all modern means — the e-mails are there, the phone and all kinds of announcements are made. So really the most modern means has been put into place in my opinion.

Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo:

Thank you. Can I turn to your comments in page 3, the third paragraph of your comments......

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Yes.

Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo:

And the second line of the third paragraph. After you realized, it says, an email from Dr LYON that regarding to the outbreak in Ward 8A, PWH, you said "I was disappointed at the lack of information on the outbreak. To me, the outbreak in ward 8A was a critical turning point....." Can you tell us more about the details of your disappointment on the lack of information in this aspect?

Yes, thank you very much. Now I just want to clarify one point before I answer your question precisely. First of all I mentioned this to stress the point that besides the official communication, we also have this whole network of infection control officers that communicate with one another, which is so valuable. So for instance, in this example that I pointed out, we have this information from a fellow colleague in Prince of Wales mentioning this outbreak. This was the first time I knew about the outbreak. As I mentioned earlier, to me, having a cluster like this in another hospital is critical. Now the statement I put here was that we went for a meeting and I was very disappointed with the information provided. Now what was the information that I would like to have? I think I have listed it in the e-mail that you now have, which I did not produce in this document but which all of you have requested. I mentioned some of those, like having a precise line listing of all the cases, exactly how it happened, having an epidemic curve and all these. We did not have all these information when we went for the meeting. In my opinion, I was disappointed. I am only representing myself. And that is why I wrote e-mails to express my opinion which you now have in your hand.

Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo:

So do you have such disappointment such bitter experience, disappointment that you don't have much information in order to know some of the disease or virus of such kind before in your experience as a doctor or academics in universities?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Well, if I understand your question correctly, I think my answer will be "no" because the problem here is this. We knew about the situation in China in those days. Now I would also like to report to this expert panel here that even if you read the British medical journal, they also mentioned the words "an epidemic of rumours". So you must remember that in those early days we sat down not knowing how to fully evaluate the situation in China. Then suddenly to me, there is this e-mail from a colleague saying that there is a cluster in Ward 8A. So I sit up. If you ask me, did I experience such disappointment before? I cannot remember a single such similar incident. You must also remember that as professionals in infection control, we feel that we are responsible to ourselves. If I don't know something, I got to find out. I don't kind of say "how come people don't tell me". We know the field we oversee. So for me especially, my disappointment was that I went to the meeting and I don't get those information, some of which I have put in my e-mail. We also want to practise professional courtesy. We don't want to be overcritical, but in this situation, I think my e-mail express it quite well since you have requested for it. I just expressed my

disappointment on what I would like to hear on that day, which I did not hear. But to answer your question, no, I can't remember having a similar experience of disappointment until that day.

Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo:

Chairman, last question I ask Dr SETO is, you did not get any response from the head office at all by e-mail. Have you ever tried then to discuss this with some of your colleagues and tried to dig out the response, answers from Hospital Authority?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

You must remember that I did send the e-mails. I must also say that I am not that kind of person who sends e-mails expressing my disappointment all the time. In fact, in my memory, this one is either the first or the second time. All right, I don't send it all the time. In fact, in my memory, this is the only time I sent another e-mail the next day. I think, as colleagues, we all should work together, harmoniously as much as possible. To the credit of the Hospital Authority leaders, I would say that most of the time, this was our relationship. Now you must also remember that on the 14th, we set up our Isolation Ward in Queen Mary. On the 15th, things started moving and things were rip-roaring. I have never worked so hard in my life. I can tell you that the good results in Queen Mary Hospital are teamwork with colleagues like Professor TSANG, but we worked really very hard. So if you ask me, did I aggressively seek for an answer? I mean we are all adults. I had already sent a second e-mail and now things are moving. Also now I already sort of know what I need to do in Queen Mary. We now also have Mr AU in our ward because, as I wrote in my earlier report, we really zero in on Mr AU when his nephew-in-law came in. Straightaway we knew, we've got something in our hands. So the isolation ward was set up. There were lots of things to do. We need to check the isolation wards. In fact on the 6th, everything was ready. Now we just met up, and it was putting "Lego" pieces together. Straightaway we move in on the 15th, and on the 16th, everything was isolated. For the whole SARS period, we admitted 704 patients into the isolation ward. It's a lot of work. Of which 52 were now proven to be SARS cases. So to answer your question, I did not really pursue very aggressively. You know, my hands were full.

Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo:

Thank you, no further question.

主席:

勞永樂。

勞永樂議員:

多謝主席。首先我要申報我和證人認識,而且差不多認識了 20年,亦有機會共事,當時還是醫務衞生署,我在瑪嘉烈醫院負 責感染控制,而司徒醫生在瑪麗醫院負責感染控制,很多香港感 染控制人員亦由司徒醫生訓練出來。過往多年,我們亦經常有溝 通,但是沒因為今天為這個個案出來作證而曾作溝通。我想用廣 東話問司徒醫生,因為司徒醫生……

司徒永康醫生:

是,可以。

勞永樂議員:

......聽得懂廣東話,我和他平日以廣東話對話。在他的陳述書第3頁,他曾提及一個感染控制人員的網絡在SARS期間發揮了非常大作用,我想問司徒醫生,究竟這個網絡何時設立?So I am talking about the ICO network.

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

The ICO has always communicated with one and other. But in my memory, it was I think in 1993 or 1994, we formally set up the Infection Control Task Force in the Hospital Authority Head Office. You must also remember that even before 1993, there was an Infection Control Task Force in the Department of Health, that's before the HA was formed, of which I was at one time a member. Then when the Hospital Authority was started, there was a little gap. Then in my memory, it was formally formed in 1993. Now since the set up of the task force, we have a microbiologist on duty every month who would vet all the data that comes in. Because we have this network, either formally or informally, we really keep in touch with one another. You must also understand that there are not that many microbiologists in Hong Kong. So it's a small little group and we sort of know each other by name. So we have both formal and informal communication pretty regularly.

勞永樂議員:

主席。司徒醫生,你在陳述書舉出一個例子,就是LYON醫生3月10日以電郵方式講關於威爾斯醫院的問題。我想問你,這個網絡是否自3月10日才開始發揮比較大的作用?

No. In fact these information is passed around, even for instance, during the anthrax scare in Hong Kong. A lot of information was passed around and if one hospital noticed something that is important, you would either e-mail to all of us or you would be e-mail through the headquarters to the microbiologist on duty and then it goes out to all of us. So it was a very useful means to alert all of us. Now the precise e-mail that I referred to from Dr LYON, at least the first time he mentioned, he mentioned two items. In fact this was the second item, it was the shorter paragraph. But he did mention that in Ward 8A, there was a big outbreak. All right, just to fill in the details, in that similar e-mail, he also mentioned of a forty-one-year-old man that might be SARS and proven not to be. So you must understand that this is the problem in epidemiology. Retrospect, it seems to be very easy but in actual real time situation, the precise point will come with lots of noises which you have to sort out. And I already mentioned that we used the rates, unusual clusters and sometimes even one unusual case. These are the things that we zero-in, onto what we think could be significant events.

勞永樂議員:

主席,我們可否透過你要求司徒醫生提供LYON醫生3月10日給他的電郵?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Yeah, I got it here.

Dr Hon LO Wing-lok:

OK, thank you. 好的。

主席:

或者電郵應該由Dr LYON給司徒醫生的......

司徒永康醫生:

是,他給HAHO,然後再分出來。

Chairman:

OK °

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

I now provide just the exact copy. All right.

勞永樂議員:

主席,司徒醫生的評論說,鄭家富議員亦提過,不過未有深入問過,他說"The outbreak in Ward 8A PWH was a critical turning point in the development of the events."主席。司徒醫生,你可否詳細解釋一下?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Yes. Whereas I mentioned earlier, we looked at the rates and then as I mentioned earlier, the rate remained the same as last year. But it is pretty unusual to have a cluster of similar syndromes happening among hospital workers. And in this case in the Prince of Wales, it was a cluster of hospital workers. Now as you look at the turn of event in Queen Mary, we set up our isolation ward in 2 to 3 days and it was on the 15th even though it was ready. This was one event that sparked it off. Then we met quite quickly and decided to set up the isolation ward. Now to answer your question, I think, as I say on the unusual cluster. To me, my opinion is that having a cluster of healthcare workers reported having a similar syndrome that we're seeing around, it's unusual. It should be studied very carefully and the moment we got a second case admitted to my hospital, I am referring to Mr AU's nephew-in-law, we started moving very quickly. Add on to that, Mr AU not only has his nephew-in-law infected. As you know he was in St Paul's Hospital and there were three other healthcare workers, and a patient in the same ward also got infected. So, on 15th, when all these information came in, to me, "that's it, we go for broke". From the 15th onwards, in Queen Mary Hospital, we go for broke. We treated it as a very serious epidemic.

勞永樂議員:

你剛才跟我們說,不同地方都有醫護人員感染,由於這個關係,3月15日瑪麗醫院已經採取一系列措施,你亦於13、14日發電郵給醫管局總部,講出你認為當時不理想的情況,之後,醫管局對你有何回應?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

As I said in my reply earlier, I.....in my memory, I do not remember any response to those e-mails that I had sent out. But on the other hand I must also admit I was very busy. I did not aggressively seek for a response. In my mind, in those days especially after 15th March (this can be verified by the action we took in Queen Mary) in my heart I know what to do. See, we have pulled out all the stops, we have implemented everything we can to make sure that the outbreak would not break out in Queen Mary Hospital. At the same time we can serve the community by admitting all these cases. So in response to your question, I think

the Hospital Authority headquarters might have very good reasons. But in my memory I have not got any reply for these e-mails.

勞永樂議員:

你剛才說,在你心裏你知道應該做些甚麼,你現在回想起來,當時醫管局總部或者威爾斯醫院方面,有否做到你心中所認為應該要做的事?當時。

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

I must qualify my answer by saying that I am not very close to Prince of Wales. All right. You know it's on the other side of the harbour. And also I think every hospital, every major acute hospital has its own Infection Control Officer. We have to take responsibility for our hospital. Now I took full responsibility for Queen Mary Hospital and our cluster. Looking at the situation of course, now in retrospect, since there is such a big outbreak in the other hospital, I would tend to think that perhaps more could be done and especially looking at the success of prevention in Queen Mary Hospital. But I must say I did not know in detail exactly how the situation was. But to me, if infection control is practised properly, the basics adhered to, and the concepts properly understood, it should successfully be effective in preventing the spread of SARS in the hospital.

勞永樂議員:

OK,司徒醫生,你認為當時醫管局中央有沒有一個機制令你剛才所言,心裏認為應該做的而做得到?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

The Hospital Authority has got Infection Control Officers assigned and appointed in all the major acute hospitals. So they can take responsibility. Now if you were to go into the details, I am sure that you may find some inadequacies in many hospitals and maybe also in mine. But I would like to also state before this learned panel that before SARS, most countries don't take infection control seriously. All right. In fact if you say you cannot find inadequacies, it's hard to believe that there are really no inadequacies. And I am glad right now that infection control is taken more seriously. Now to answer your question, I have to say "yes" we could have taken it more seriously when we confronted SARS. I cannot dissect the thing in detail but if we have taken it more seriously, and perhaps by taking more precise and correct action, Hong Kong may not have as a big cluster as we had. Now I think seriously I really believe that it'll be impossible to have zero case in Hong Kong. We are just next to Canton, you see.

But I think if we were to be better prepared, probably we can have a smaller cluster.

勞永樂議員:

主席,今早早前兩位證人何栢良教授和曾華德教授,還有你本人,均予我們一個印象,你們當時的感覺是事態嚴重,你們所做的是平日不會做的,是做多了許多,我想問你可否公平地評論當時你們感覺的緊張,而醫管局中央機制未有相同程度的緊張?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Probably the level of concern, perhaps was higher in Queen Mary Hospital. All right. But really I did not study or did a detail assessment whether it was the same. Now perhaps the way to look at it is this, there are some very clear principles in infection control. Example, if you are concerned of a new infectious disease, then you isolate the patient, which we did. Now so if you ask me then, if the other hospitals adequately isolate patients in those early stages, I have to tell you I don't know. OK, because I was not involved in the other hospitals. In Queen Mary, we tried our best. Because it is a basic principle that you take those that you consider infectious, identify them early and you isolate them. Now on the other hand it's also a basic infection control principle that you cannot isolate everybody. Isolation must somehow be based on the diagnosis. That means somebody, and usually the doctors, have to say that this is a case and that is not a case. Why can't we isolate everybody? Because it's not tenable. There are not enough resources. We shouldn't also isolate people just based on a symptom. Should we isolate everyone that has a fever? In the traditional of infection control, we don't do that. We base our isolation policy on the diagnosis. Now you also might have heard of the term we call "standard precautions" or "universal precautions" whereby in 1994 the CDC proposed that we assume everyone, all patients coming into the hospitals to have a bloodborne infection. I can tell you that when this was proposed, it was a big revolution in the field of infection control because now we treat everybody the same. But after many many meetings and many moments of pondering, we realized that this seems to have sense because most bloodborne infections have no symptoms, for example hepatitis, AIDS, and therefore the CDC took a very radical step and applied what they called at that time "universal precautions", or "standard precautions" as we call now. Having said that, therefore we don't extend "standard precautions" beyond to those that have symptoms. So for instance, tuberculosis today is still only isolated when we have the diagnosis. We don't isolate just anyone who coughs as TB. We must have the diagnosis, and then isolate. If not, it is not a practicable or tenable endeavour in the hospital environment.

主席:

勞議員。

勞永樂議員:

聽司徒醫生說話有如上課,又上了一課,我想再問一次,以 另一個方式再問一次剛才的問題,我可否這樣說,就是當時何栢 良醫生、曾華德醫生、你自己對於這些肺炎的緊張、那種執着, 沒辦法從當時的機制,經過醫管局中央傳遞到其他醫管局醫院或 單位?

主席:

司徒醫生。

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Yes, let me say here that before the outbreak in Prince of Wales, I looked at the rates. I studied it very carefully and I know that the rates are not higher than last year. In fact I was one of those who think that we must be very careful not to overdo. You see, the rates were not higher. As I keep saying, the thing that turned me around was the unusual cluster in the Prince of Wales. That was on the 10th when I got the e-mail. On the 15th, we got the nephew-in-law coming in and all these other information. From the 15th onwards I was so busy. And I must say I just sent those e-mails out, you see, this is not a usual practice for me. I usually don't send lots of e-mails out. But perhaps the two e-mails already showed my deep concern. But if you ask me, have I aggressively pushed all concern to come down on it with a big hammer? I have not done that. But because I have my hands full for my Hong Kong West Cluster.

勞永樂議員:

我沒有問題。

主席:

李柱銘議員。

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

Doctor, of course the Prince of Wales Hospital is not really your concern strictly speaking.

Yes.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

But I supposed that a professional in this particular field you consider that if it happens in one hospital, it becomes a concern of people in the same profession. You call them ICO, right?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Yes

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

Of course it is always easy to be wise after the event. You knew on the 10th, there was this cluster phenomenon in the Prince of Wales Hospital. You immediately try to do something to make sure that it doesn't happen to your hospital, right?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Yes.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

But if a number of medical staff, doctors and nurses and other people are affected in one hospital, can you really control it and confine it to within that hospital and stop it from spreading to the community?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

It's difficult to say. We don't know the disease. But definitely you must pull out all the stops and try your best. It's within the tradition of infection control that we isolate, we axe them out whenever we have a cluster of unusual infection. We dig it out and this also applies to the principle of quarantine. Now you have heard of the word "quarantine". Technically in infection control, "quarantine" is different from "isolation". What is the difference? Isolation is when we put patients who have signs and symptoms of the disease in isolation. When these contact people have no symptoms and they are all healthy, and they are walking about. Then we call it "quarantine". "Isolation" and "quarantine" are two tools that we use in infection control for years and years. So definitely if I have a cluster in my hospital, I would take out these tools straight away. To implement these tools, you then have to have very aggressive and accurate contact tracing. Then you know who are the people involved. So you got to work out a "case

definition" and know who you are looking for. Once you got those people, they must be isolated or they must be quarantined. Now another tool that we have is, "to close ward" or "to close hospital". Now this is a difficult decision. You have to wrestle because you know that there is always a downside. You close the ward, that's lots of other implications. And moving one step further, closing the hospital, closing a department is even bigger. But it must be on the table. It must be considered very carefully and very precisely. And it must be taken if needed. This is the key.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

Now if all these measures are taken, and adequately taken, could you actually confine this type of disease to within the hospital and stop it from spreading to the community?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

I think so, if the contact tracing is done carefully. Now it depends on the disease. Say a disease, like smallpox, that we know is spread by air and very infectious. Fortunately by God's grace, it is no more with us. But say smallpox, it will be very difficult to contain. More difficult, not very difficult, as it can still be [contained]. That is why in the early days of infectious disease and infection control, they even build smallpox hospitals so that all smallpoxes are taken care of in one hospital. Then it is easier to control. Now, looking at what we know about SARS, in my opinion, that if the contact tracing is done adequately and if the quarantine and isolation is done properly; and if hospitals are closed at the right time, it probably can be contained within the hospital.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

Now on the 10th you knew about the cluster phenomenon in the Prince of Wales Hospital. I think at that time, the community at large was assured by the government that it is being contained. Am I correct?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

To my memory, yes, and in the sense it is quite a true statement because it was a hospital cluster, you know.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

But how would you, you see how would you contain it? Sort of, how can you properly contain it if you allow doctors and nurses and visitors to go home from the hospital?

Now I think I should not comment too much on the details of the implementation in the Prince of Wales. You correctly say that I was not there then. I would say that much, that if there were 20 or 30 staff infected in my hospital, I would take drastic measures in my hospital. But again, now I have the privilege of hindsight. I would say also that now we know more about SARS. We know certain things. We know it's not very infectious in the early stage. From all that we know, it is droplets, not airborne. Unless you have some machines involved. We also know that those who have recovered generally don't spread the infection. You got to have symptoms to spread. Now with all these criteria, it is not really that difficult a disease to control, if the right measures were taken.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

To be fair to the people concerned, you got to go back to the 10th March, and imagine that you only have the information at that point of time. If the Queen Mary Hospital has been hit with a cluster of doctors and nurses of this particular disease which you know to be SARS. On the 10th March, what would you have done?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Definitely, you must understand that I got these e-mails on the 10th. In my memory we were told that we'll have a meeting soon, where things will be explained to us. And if you read the e-mail that I wrote, my concern was that I don't want such a thing repeated in Queen Mary Hospital (in fact I stated that in the e-mail). We went to the meeting and I was disappointed with the meeting. The big reason why I was disappointed was that in the tradition of hospital infection, we investigate outbreaks aggressively. Finally at the end, an outbreak in my hospital has two nurses infected. We finish our investigation in 48 hours. So all outbreaks must be aggressively investigated so that we know how and why. Short of that, we have to think of very draconian measures, even closing wards and closing hospital. Now I must however add, we don't investigate every possible outbreak, for example, when you have an outbreak of a disease that you already know how to control. I give you an example. Like the recent Norfolk outbreak. We know how to control Norfolk outbreak because basically they contaminate the environment very widely. So we just got to clean it up, and if it still spreads, we close the ward. We have done this several times and it works. In the SARS scenario, even when investigating outbreak is a lot of work, we investigated our outbreak in 48 hours. I have at my hands at least about 10 colleagues who help me to collect the data. Then we do what we call a casecontrol study, but I don't want to get too technical. It's a lot of work. We have to comb through all the information; every case, every contact has to be tracked and traced it. You find that index case and you must check whether you have missed

cases. You see, lots and lots of work. But in the tradition of infection control, it must be done very quickly. Why? Because the hospital is a very congested area of sick people. In fact my teacher who taught me says that in hospital infection, when you have an outbreak, it's almost like a serial killer moving around in the hospital. You better do it fast......

Chairman:

Sorry.

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

And that's why we do it.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

It's like what moving around?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

It's like a serial killer.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

Oh!

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

A known serial killer moving in the hospital. You see, you have all these sick patients in the hospital, especially when you see colleagues and other patients falling sick. You better find out why. So aggressive monitoring and outbreak investigation technique must be applied very aggressively and we do that in our hospital.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

I like the analogy of the serial killer which is also invisible.

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Yes. It is something that twenty years ago, one of the teachers who taught me infection control had given me this quotation and I think it is very important.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

Also you got to read it in the context of another move "Invisible Man".....

Oh, Yeah.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

But how would you say two nurses got it? You got to do the investigation very aggressively and quickly.....

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Yes.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

With the co-operation of a lot of people, right?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Yes.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

And at the convenience of also a lot of people?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Yes, that is the reason why in the CDC recommendation, way back in the 70's, they already said that you should have one infection control nurse for every 250 beds. If you read those recommendations carefully, it was based on a big study and the study shows that a large amount of work for the nurses is really surveillance and collecting data. Now, if you don't collect data, you can cut off the work almost by half. We already have this kind of team in Queen Mary Hospital and then of course with the SARS as a background, everybody was very willing to work. In fact I would say that to me, it was like an epidemiologist's dream. I sit there. I just want any data, someone will go and get it. Why do we need to collect data? For at least two big reasons. Number one you must make sure there are no new cases. So tracking down all the cases is very important. We have to really comb the environment and make sure that there are no new cases. Now once we got the cases, we have to find out why they got the infection. We call this hypothesis generation. How do they get it? I mean there can be all kinds of theories. For instance you might have heard that some people even believe that vinegar may help to prevent SARS. After we have a hypothesis, we were able to finish what we call a case control study. Now what is a case control study? Very simple. We get those who are infected, these are the cases. Then we find out why the others who are in the same environment, during the same day, and

why they are not infected? You see, to make sure the theory works, you must explain why the cases get infected. You must also explain why these others don't get infected. So we have what we call a case control study. Now so when we got the microbiology result and the lab result and the case control study, then in epidemiology, we take it that this is the most likely reason why this outbreak occurs. It takes a lot of work. It also not only a lot of work, it needs specialist training and understanding and knowing how it works.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

Yes, but how do you keep it at least try to stop it from going into the community? What measures would you have to take?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Yes, I would, as you have pointed it out, isolate the cases, check the cases, quarantine all those exposed. Now I would not say that I would stop all healthcare workers from going home but definitely those who are exposed, especially unprotected exposure (or those that are not sure). By unprotected exposure, it means that they came in touch with the patient, and didn't wear the right mask, for instance. Or in their memory, they did not wash their hands or things like that. So those with unprotected exposure should be quarantined.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

So those would not be allowed to go home?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Quarantine means they should be put in a place, whereby you know where they are and they should not be exposed to another person.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

That means they can't go home?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

They can't go home, yes. But sometimes there's such thing called home quarantine. All right. As you are aware, that in Singapore, they put cameras to make sure they stay at home. There's such a thing called home quarantine. Yeah.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

This legislature would not allow that.

OK.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

But if you do nothing of the sort, if you don't quarantine the people who might be in contact with the patient and so on, could you actually say that they can be confined to within the hospital and will not be spreading to the community? As a matter of common sense?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Yes. If we don't isolate. Now even if you isolate and quarantine, it may not work. For instance if your case tracing is not good enough.....

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

Yeah.

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

All right. But obviously if you don't practice proper isolation and proper quarantine, then you can expect the cluster to spread......

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

So if somebody were to say we haven't done that but I can assure you that it won't spread to the community then it is totally irresponsible, what would you say?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

I would have to listen more. I am always open to learn. Maybe there is some new tricks in the book, you know. But isolation and quarantine are not new tools. Surveillance is not a new tool. It is the anchor rock of good infection control. Proper surveillance, getting the data, nailing in all the cases, isolate those infected. Now quarantine is not always done. It depends on the disease. I would also tell you that most infectious disease doesn't need quarantine. Because sometimes we have to stop. For instance, you ask me a question, isn't there a chance that is this healthy spread to another generation? Yes, there is no such thing as zero chance......

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

Yes.

Traditionally in infection control, we don't quarantine the contact. We feel that quarantine of the contact of the cases is already good enough. You know what I mean? So somewhere we draw the line and this is where we draw the line. But yes, isolation and quarantine are basic anchor rock strategy in the field of infection control.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

One more question, Chairman. Now based on the knowledge that you had on 10th March, all right, you then had, not now, do you think that hospital should quarantine, either isolation or quarantine the staff who had contact with patients affected by this particular disease at that time known to you?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

We do it for our hospital. To my understanding, in some form, it must also be practiced in other hospitals, because quarantine and isolation are not new tools. Can I just add one more point to this learned Panel here? You must also understand that in the field of infection control, one of our biggest problem by far is how to implement policies. Because yes it's easy to say let's quarantine but then, will people listen to you? Because putting someone healthy away for 10 to 14 days is not easy. They want to go out and shop, you know, do their things, you see? But not only that, even smaller things like getting them to wash their hands. As you know, we call this the "Holy grill" of infection control. We know we should wash our hands but the best study done so far has shown that it never gone beyond 70%. In fact most of times it is below 50%. In the data I present here for Mr AU, we are so glad to find in our hospital, it was 97% for the general medical ward. I was just amazed, even to me. But we have done years and years of training and we are one of the pioneers in studying how to really modify behaviours. It's not just education. For instance, we invented this "link nurse" idea that is now practised around the world. So you must understand, sir, that getting compliance to infection control policy is a very difficult thing. It takes lots of work, lots of manpower and a lot of push, a lot of education, a lot of people going out to speak. In my hospital, for instance, we gave 63 talks to all hospital staff during the SARS outbreak period by direct face to face talking.

Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming:

Doctor, I think you would be happy to know that I now know how to wash my hands properly after 64 years.

主席:

麥國風議員。

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

Thank you Chairman. Maybe Dr SETO, please refer to the Table no 3.....

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Yes.

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

Given by you.....

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Yes.

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

So would you please explain to us why doctors were not surveyed for the infection control practices?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Well, as you can see this is the isolation ward. Now the survey was done on 20th which was just quite soon and I would say that there were several reasons why we did this survey. It's the tradition in our hospital. When we have something unusual, we survey them. It's just part of our life. The second thing was when we heard about the outbreak, we were quite concerned that there were no cases [among staff] here. So we want to know what's going on. And number three, these data were collected with four other hospitals. In fact we published a paper in the Lancet regarding some of this data. Now to answer your question, there were only about 3 to 4 doctors and they were all in the isolation ward. Unlike the nurses and the other staff, these are there, these are stationed there. The doctors come for the ward round and then they go off. But I think it is fair to say that these few doctors, which include Dr TSANG for instance, I am quite sure all of them would wear their masks and their gloves and everything else. Because they are very careful doctors. In fact if we have surveyed them, we would just put the percentage higher. But to answer your question, they were not surveyed because the doctors were not there all the time. So we did not capture the few doctors. I think there were about 3 doctors only in the population. But I don't think it should affect the result too much because of the 18, we just miss three.

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

OK, thank you. For the column "Gown" in other wards, you mentioned 2 nurses, but the percentage is 0......

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Yeah. That was an error. It should be 4.4%

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

Should you give us an amended copy?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Yes, I will. It should be 4.4%.

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

OK. You mentioned that in your statement concerning Mr AU's case in QMH, you mentioned that however hand washing must be done every time before and after each patient's contact. You also told us that it couldn't be 100%. In some areas it was only 50%......

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

In some reports, but in our particular survey it was 97%.

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

Yeah 94% and 97% respectively. So can you tell us why the compliance of 100% is so difficult?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Now in our studies we found that an average nurse would touch a patient at least 22 times in a shift. In fact we've done this study both in Hong Kong and Singapore. In Singapore, the average per nurse is a bit lower and probably the reason is because they have more staff than us. Now the average is 22 times and if you extrapolate the amount of time spend in washing hands, it should be almost one and a half hours. It's just common sense that if you ask a staff to spend one and a half hours hand washing in a shift, it's going to be very difficult. Now looking at these data, you'll find that usually the isolation ward and the ICU is a bit easier and the reason is because the staff per nurse ratio is much lower. Sorry, I mean the patient per nurse ratio is much lower. So therefore it is easier for them to wash their hands. Now, this comes back to the big reason on why it's very difficult to expect staff in a general medical ward to wash their hands every

time, because they have so much work to do. This is why it's so important to pick up any possible infectious case and get them isolated. Because once they are isolated, the number of staff per patient is much less, and then they can put themselves onto a higher alert. In a sense I don't know how to answer your question. Perhaps the answer is human nature. We are just not 100% perfect. But just because you miss 1 or 2 to 3 times, usually it doesn't matter. Unless you are so unfortunate that the time you miss is the time you touch the virus. That is the reason why in the infection control world, we do guidelines but we keep telling people, guideline is not everything. You must, as a healthcare worker practise risk reassessment as well. So if you touch something wet in the environment and it's not the patient, you should still wash your hands. This is the big reason why we keep telling people you shouldn't wear glove all the time because if you wear glove all the time and you touch something wet, you won't know. You should only wear gloves and do that particular procedure. Once it is done, you should remove the gloves and wash your hands. So I must say that hand washing is very difficult because it's just human behaviour. It's not 100% but there're mathematical models showing that if you can get the staff to keep up close to 70%, there will be a global impact of it on the whole ward. So this is our goal and as you can see, our figure here is pretty pleasing, as it is 97% in our general medical ward.

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

Yes, can you be prudent to say that non-compliance of 100% hand washing would lead to cross infection?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Definitely! Now I would say this. In fact we also have another study that shows you cannot expect 100% compliance. It's almost the same as when you cross the road, you look right, look left and look right again. It still doesn't guarantee that you would not be hit down by a car. But it certainly reduces the risk. To prevent motor accidents, what do we do? We reduce the traffic and we teach people to look right, look left and look right. Now, on the same argument, you also know that if a person comes out, he doesn't look right, look left and look right; he still may not get an accident. This is life. Now so what we do in infection control. We just reduce the risk. We tell people you should do this and that, and we know that it will never be perfect. But if you follow good infection control practices, most of the time, you can drastically reduce the risk of cross infection.

主席:

麥議員。

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

Yes, for hand washing which is very important as mentioned by Dr SETO, but the e-mail you sent to Dr LIU Shao-haei on 13th March, didn't mention this very very important element of infection control, right?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Now there are already guidelines in regards to the isolation by the HA. The more important reason is because the topic I was asking was that there's an outbreak and I wanted to know why. You can read the content. It was the outbreak that I wanted to know and I was disappointed with the lack of information. So obviously, I didn't mention about hand washing. I didn't mention about many other things too, like I didn't mention that you should wear the right mask. I also didn't mention like (some of you may know my views) about the barrier-man which I don't like. There are many reasons why I don't like it but I didn't mention it in the e-mail. The barrier-man is counter-productive for good infection control in SARS but I didn't mention it because the topic was, "there was an outbreak and I wanted to know why".

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

OK, thank you. For the management of Mr AU's case was that QMH.....

主席:

麥議員,我或者都要提醒議員和證人,如果無須提及病人的 名字,就不要提。如果你可以描述病人的背景或某一些已經足夠。

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

I am just mentioning his surname. Anyway for the last page, that means page 6, bullet point no. 2, you mention other beds were at least over 6 feet away. Please tell us that if it is practised in HA. I mean overall speaking, is this a requirement practised everywhere in the HA?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

When I mentioned this, the patient was in an ICU cubicle, a single bed ICU cubicle in Queen Mary ICU. Now, I would guess that in many ICUs in HA, this is probably practised, if it is in a single bed cubicle. I would also guess and in fact I can even say that in our general ward, it is not practised. I wrote this down to stress the point that this patient came into our general medical ward for six and half hours. Then he was transferred to the ICU. In the ICU he was in the single bed cubicle whereby there was no bed around him within 6 feet. In fact I would even say more than 7 feet because it was really a cubicle with walls separating

him and the other beds. So, if you ask me, is it practised? It's not practised in our general medical ward. To my understanding and knowledge, before the days of SARS, it's probably not practised anywhere in the public hospitals general medical wards. You must understand that in Hong Kong, space is very expensive.

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

Thank you. Probably 6 feet apart is.....I mean is a professional way of handling this sort of patient. But in SARS you know 3 feet are enough for droplet infection, right?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Yes. The 3 feet in a sense it's not a concrete figure but it was through research showing that. Let me again explain that way back we used to think that many diseases spread by air, like the common cold. Then we discover that when you get infected you don't just cough out the virus, you cough out secretions with the virus, so they come out in big droplets and as you know, when big droplet comes out, it drop straightaway to the ground. Now from research, in fact there've shown in the flu studies in UK that even if you were to sit facing one another in the same table playing cards and don't touch one another, you don't get the common cold. So from there we come up with this figure of 3 feet. It's not a magic figure. I mention about the 6 feet because I think that at least one reason why we have no cases in those early days with this particular patient was that the other beds were quite far away. And the patient was pretty ill and he did not walk around. So this is probably one reason why no other patients were infected and no staff was infected.

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

And also on your "Final Comments" in QMH's case, you mention that your hospital has very good infrastructure for infection control, including fully trained ICO and ICNs, and an ICN with a bed ratio of 1:250. So can you tell us the standard elsewhere in HA hospitals? Do you know?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

I do not know. Now there was an audit done and you can ask for the document to read it for yourself, in 2001 I guess. Even in that audit, the ratio in Queen Mary was 1:275. And the big reason was because my infection control sister in charge, also then have to look after Quality Improvement. So they took half away from that and our ratio drop below the 1:250. But I'll say that for most of the time in my hospital, I would say since 93 (since HA was formed) we were most of the time pretty close to 1:250 ratio. I also want to add that this is just a

figure quoted in the 70's. If you look at more recent data from the CDC, they are saying that for acute hospitals, probably you need more than 1:250. They even quote ratio like below 1:200, if you have lots of cases like transplantation and others who are critically ill.

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

May I ask you some comments on masks? How do you differentiate between surgical masks and N95 masks in infection control measures against this SARS?

主席:

或者麥議員,你的問題可否略為具體?你要司徒醫生就甚麼 給予意見?

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

In the infection control.....I mean in the cross, in the possible cross infection of SARS.

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Yes. In all infectious disease, we are concerned about secretions that are coming out from the patient. The skin is very protective. We have always work on this assumption. The skin is very protective because God make it so. Now what is not protective is the mucus membrane. So where are the mucus membranes? Also all wounds and cuts. That is why we tell staff if they have a wound and cut, you must cover it with a elastic plaster. If it is too big a wound, then don't come to work. So where are the mucus membranes? In your mouth, your nose, and your eyes. Now the eyes are pretty fortunate because you can blink. Of course it may not be fast enough. So we still also have eye shields and goggles. You must understand that every time we protect these parts, there is always a downside. For instance when you put on a goggle, you can't see too well. You put on a mask, I don't hear what you're talking about. So we have this dictum in infection control. Use protective gear, but not all the time. Only when you need it. But once you put it on, you must assume it is dirty. Because if it never gets dirty, then why are you wearing it? This is taught to me way back even when I first started a doctor training in infection control. So back to your question, why do we wear the mask? To prevent these droplets dropping on your mask. But then there are airborne diseases. If airborne disease happens, and in fact in the CDC guidelines, they are only three airborne diseases now, TB, measles and chicken pox. Both measles and chicken pox, it is very much because of the rash. The others are droplets. So when it is airborne, the surgical mask may not be good enough because now, it's not just to stop the droplets falling on you.

You are worried that the virus can go through the edges of the mask, or the filter of the mask may not be strong enough to filter it out, so that the virus may reach your nose and into your respiratory track. Now when we say airborne it's because the particles produced are so small that it can go straight from the air into your chest. So now we need a filter. The mask now serve not just as a protective cover for the mucus membrane, it also must be a filter. Now that is the key of the N95. The N95 is supposed to serve also as a filter, filtering out 95% of all the particles in the air. Now you also must have heard of the N100. Now what is the N100? N100 is a HEPA filter. It filters out 99.9999%. Do we need it? In the early days, the CDC even proposed it for TB in America. We in infectious disease control think it is an overplay. We got to draw a line. Those N100 in those days are big junky thing. You walk in and the patient thinks it's weird. So by and large, even in America, they have ruled it out. They recommend the N95. So the function of N95 is, besides blocking droplets falling on your mucus membrane, it also blocks out and filters the air. That is the precise role. Now just one final comment on SARS. When SARS happened, there were many who wore the N95.

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

Right.

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

But you must remember, it is basically droplets. So you are wearing the N95, the droplets are still falling on the mask. That is why in Queen Mary Hospital, from day one, we tell people to throw the N95 away after use. Because, unlike pure aerosol, if it is aerosol, it filters in and the aerosol sticks on to the mask. You can reuse the mask again if you are careful. But since SARS is basically droplets, then the N95 should be used like a surgical mask.

主席:

各位議員,我要提醒大家時間,雖然大家很好學,上了很多有關感染控制,我希望大家可以集中證人證供部分,不要太好學, 問太多有關知識的問題。

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Now I apologize for.....

主席:

與你無關。

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

One or two more questions......Referring to your response to query 2, the communication between the Hospital Authority and the particular hospital. On page 3 you said that "I wrote sternly to the head office in two e-mails" so probably they didn't give you any response. But on the final comments on Page 4, you mentioned that "In my opinion, communication was adequate during the SARS outbreak." So is it a rather contradictory comments on your initial saying that they did not, I mean the Hospital Authority Head Office didn't respond to your stern e-mail?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Yes. Let me just clarify. My "Final Comments" was a global comment because the brief given to me was to comment on the communication between the Head Office and the individual hospitals. As I mentioned in the introduction, I can only comment and tell you everything to my knowledge and tell you everything that I have in terms of my hospital. And the reason why I mention this was very much because I want the Panel to know everything. Even the e-mails, since you have requested for it, I have passed it on to you. Now if you ask me again, I would say that globally, I think all the means of communication is used. Yes, I haven't got any response to this e-mail and I do not know why. Maybe they had some very adequate good reasons. I must also say, in my memory it's not the first time that my e-mail was not replied before. So I really have no comments on..... I don't think it's a contradiction, it's just because my e-mail was not replied this one time, should not deter me from looking at the global picture. But I also do rightly point out, I think, in the "Final Comments", it's not just the communication, it's the timeliness, the implementation of the recommendations is probably more important and actions taken. You see, these need to be evaluated also at the same time.

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

Can you comment that the communication although adequate, was it effective?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

I work on the premises that ultimately the Infection Control Officer of the particular hospital has to take the responsibility. If you ask me, for me, I think it's adequate for Queen Mary and effective enough, but I take responsibility. When I get the communiqué, I look at it and I should not blindly follow it. I must always think what is most important and relevant for my hospital and if I don't understand it, I should have interaction with the headquarters. And this is precisely what I do. I understand from the Panel, you would like to know the

earlier stage. I could write 10 more pages on whatever that occurred, which I think for the time being is not of particular interest. So I just narrow it down to the early stage. Now I think you must also assume, as I always tell people, that in infection control you cannot do without smart ICOs, smart A&E doctors and smart frontline workers. They must learn how to assess the risks. This must be in place and very important.

主席:

麥議員,還有沒有......

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

Chairman, I think that these "Final Comments" from you on communication was probably not just communication between your hospital and the Hospital Authority Head Office. It was on HAHO with other hospitals as well. So my question was, was it effective among other, with other hospitals?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

As I say in the introduction, I have no way of really making a fair judgment since I was not involved in the procedure. As I say in the introduction, I can only make fair judgment on Queen Mary and our cluster and I have, to the best of my knowledge, tell you everything that I think is important to you. Now whether it is effective in other hospitals, I don't think I can fairly comment. I can only add a minor clause that the outbreak we had in Hong Kong was quite a large one. Could we have done better? We surely could. But how? I don't know because I am not in access to all the information. I have just taken upon myself to make sure it works in Queen Mary Hospital and we have really done our best for Queen Mary and our cluster.

主席:

麥議員,再有沒有......

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung:

Just one more final question. Can you comment that, we heard that someone from the Chinese University was advocating to close PWH. What are your comments on closing PWH?

主席:

麥議員,我相信這個問題超出了我們要求司徒醫生作證的範圍,或者我交給下一位議員發問,何秀蘭議員。

Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan:

Yes, Mr Chairman, I want to follow up on one comment that made by Dr SETO just now. He said that due to limited resources, isolation should be on diagnosis. And I am seeking professional comments here, whether he would consider the isolation of Professor LIU in Kwong Wah Hospital an isolation on diagnosis or what?

主席:

司徒醫生。

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Now as I made in my statement that if you look at the CDC guidelines, they have said that for acute respiratory illness in adult, if you don't know their diagnosis, probably universal or standard precaution is good enough. In fact this was what we have done for Mr AU, for the patient in our hospital. But then back to this case in Kwong Wah Hospital, from what I have heard, it was quite a severe case. With all the outbreak happening in Canton, if you ask my expert opinion, I would isolate him if he come into my hospital. But to my understanding, in Kwong Wah Hospital he was isolated.

Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan:

Mr Chairman, but is that an isolation decided according to the diagnosis of the condition of the patient or decided according to the media reporting?

主席:

司徒醫生,你可否回答?

Dr SETO Wing-hong:

Yes. He was diagnosed as having severe community acquired pneumonia like the one that we have seen in China. Now surely if in my hospital, if this is the information given to me, that is a diagnosis. I would isolate him. Just to explain further, as compared to, say we have got this patient from China and he has only got fever, full-stop. Then, let's find out more before we isolate. Because if you isolate everyone with fever, we don't have enough resources and it is not in the dogma of infection control to practise such a practice. But then, once the doctor is willing to make a commitment, saying that this is most likely the CAP (which at the time we didn't even know it's SARS), that you have seen in Canton, I would isolate the patient, for sure.

主席:

OK,各位議員,時間差不多,我亦多謝司徒永康醫生到此作證,除了提供有關瑪麗醫院的工作,亦就防感染、非防感染提供個人專業意見。

司徒醫生,如果委員會有需要,日後都有可能再邀請你,今日多謝你。

各位議員,我們這個公開研訊部分結束,大家可否到C房,我們處理其他事務。多謝大家。

(研訊於下午12時56分結束)