



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部醫務衛生局
Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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Clerk to Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Road
Hong Kong
(Attn: Mr Colin CHUI)

Dear Mr CHUI,

Legislative Council Panel on Health Services

**Enhancement of Healthcare Teaching Facilities of
University Grants Committee-funded Universities**

At its meeting held on 19 April 2023, the Legislative Council Panel on Health Services discussed the enhancement of healthcare teaching facilities of University Grants Committee-funded universities and requested some supplementary information. In consultation with the universities concerned, the information is set out at **Annex** for Members' perusal.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emmanuel Lam'.

(Emmanuel Lam)
for Secretary for Health

- (a) The comprehensive plan of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Hong Kong (“HKU”) to expand its teaching and learning facilities in the vicinity of Sassoon Road in the next 10 years;**

In response to the increase in the University Grants Committee (“UGC”)-funded healthcare training places as specified by the Government since the 2019/20 academic year, HKU has proposed short, medium and long-term works projects to upgrade and increase teaching facilities to accommodate the teaching need.

Short-term Projects – Enhancement of facilities cum medical campus development

Phase 1 enhancement covers an urgent stop-gap through the conversion works for additional anatomy dissecting laboratories and storage for cadavers at the Laboratory Block, as well as virtual connection by telepresence solution across different teaching venues at the Sassoon Road medical campus buildings and Queen Mary Hospital. Phase 2 enhancement involves remodelling existing space at William M. W. Mong Block of the Faculty of Medicine Building and implementation of technology-enabled measures. The short-term projects are expected to be completed by 2025 tentatively subject to funding approval.

Medium-term Projects – Construction of an additional academic building and ancillary facilities for the HKU Faculty of Medicine (“HKUMed”)

Phase 1 consists of the redevelopment of the catering facility and the Madam S.H. Ho Residence for medical students, both at 6 Sassoon Road, into two new blocks of a Clinical Training Amenities Centre. Phase 2 involves the construction of a new academic building at the “Green Belt” area located east of 3 Sassoon Road to accommodate additional teaching and research facilities, laboratories, lecture theatres, offices and ancillary facilities. The medium-term projects

are expected to be completed by 2030 tentatively subject to funding approval.

Long-term Projects – Redevelopment of Patrick Manson Building at 7 Sassoon Road, remodelling of Laboratory Block at 21 Sassoon Road and construction of a University corridor at Sassoon Road Campus

For the first component, subsequent to the relocation of Patrick Manson Student Residence to the new facilities at 6 Sassoon Road in around 2026, Patrick Manson Building would be demolished by phases for the construction of a new academic building. The new building will contain teaching and research laboratories, teaching venues, offices and supporting facilities to promote the development of a wide spectrum of disciplines in support of teaching and research, including integrative medicine, comparative medicine, personalised medicine, while adopting advanced medical technologies such as telemedicine, artificial intelligence and medical robotics, medical 3D printing etc. For the second component, the existing Laboratory Block at 21 Sassoon Road will be remodelled to provide teaching / research laboratories and office area. For the third component, with the increasing number of students and teaching staff and additional academic buildings on Sassoon Road, there is a need to construct a safe and effective pedestrian access for an uninterrupted direct linkage between Queen Mary Hospital and the Sassoon Road medical campus, in the form of a continuous elevated pedestrian network connecting the buildings. The long-term projects are expected to be completed by 2031 subject to funding approval.

- (b) the specific measures taken by HKU, the Chinese University of Hong Kong (“CUHK”) and The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (“PolyU”) to cultivate the medical ethics of their medical students and students of other medical-related disciplines;**

HKU

It has long been a goal of HKUMed to nurture healthcare

professionals who can demonstrate competence, professionalism and a keen sense of responsibility to the society from its Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (“MBBS”), Bachelor of Nursing, Bachelor of Pharmacy and Bachelor of Chinese Medicine programmes. There are curricular elements on ethics, law, and professional issues in all of the above professional undergraduate degree programmes to ensure students are well-versed in the understanding and application of ethical principles, and in making ethical decisions within a professional role.

In particular, in relation to the MBBS programme, HKUMed has established the Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit (“MEHU”) in 2012 to deliver two longitudinal curriculum threads of Medical Humanities (“MH”) and Medical Ethics and Law (“MEL”) with close to 70 contact hours with students in the MBBS curriculum. Through MH, students will gain an understanding of the nature of personhood, the historical-cultural context of healthcare, and the social justice issues that influence the doctor-patient healing partnership. In the MEL curriculum, students will learn about the ethical principles, legal doctrines and the professional value system that underpin contemporary healthcare practice.

In recent years, MEHU has diversified its staff profile with new recruits from different humanity backgrounds so as to broaden the understanding of Medical Humanities such as medical anthropology and history of medicine. More external parties such as law firms and patients’ rights organisations have been invited to share their insights into ethical issues with our students.

To reinforce the teaching of professionalism in MBBS, a new “Doctors in Society” component was introduced in 2022 in the MH curriculum thread which focuses on the exercise of medical professionalism in the context of socio-political agenda, social responsibility, citizenship, use of social media, and ethical and legal boundaries. The teaching of medical ethics will continue to be renewed in the ongoing curriculum reform of the MBBS programme.

In addition, HKUMed has been collaborating with the HKU Faculty of Law in running the Centre for Medical Ethics and Law, with greater connection with and involvement of international experts in teaching and research in medical ethics and law, covering topics from AI in medicine, advance directive to end-of-life care, to advanced reproductive technology and gender inclusivity. Traditional topics such as doctor-patient relationship and bioethics will gradually move away from a purely Western orientation to one that also encompasses the Asian perspectives, so as to prepare students for their future practice in a greater geographical context. The emphasis is on a better appreciation of the impact that cultural plurality and different socio-political set-ups may have on doctors' roles and experiences as healers and responsible citizens.

CUHK

The CUHK Faculty of Medicine ("CUMed") is committed to training professional and ethical doctors to serve the community, through strong emphasis on ethics education. Both professionalism and medical ethics are an integral part of the current curriculum. The "Bioethics" curriculum, introduced in 2015, aims at raising the awareness of important ethical issues and society's expected professional behaviour of a medical professional, with regular assessments including the topics of (a) critical thinking tools of ethical analysis; (b) philosophical and historical foundations of bioethics; (c) ethical challenges of biomedical research; (d) healthcare delivery and policy, doctor-patient relationship and medical professionalism; (e) clinical ethics and decisions at the bedside; and (f) ethics, medical innovation and emerging biotechnologies.

For professionalism, throughout the six years of the medicine programme, medical students are required to develop a formal record of his/her professional learning and behaviour using the 'Professionalism Track Portal' with three main components: Educational activities, assessments and expressions of concern and disciplinary issues. Moreover, CUMed has set out the "Code of Conduct" as a general guideline for medical students starting from their first day of study. All medical students are requested to sign a

declaration of acceptance when they are newly admitted. A “Fitness to Practice Committee” has also been established in the Faculty since March 2012 as the governing body of the disciplinary matters related to medical students.

CUMed will continue to review the teaching contents, including reviewing social issues affecting the healthcare system of Hong Kong and explore the possibility of enhancing the syllabus on such topics as “doctor-patient relationship” and “clinical decision at the bedside” to address newly arising local and worldwide societal concerns from an ethical perspective, in order to guide students in their analysis and reflection. Webinars at the university level covering the topic of public health safety have also been organised to enrich students’ understanding of relevant social and global issues from the medical ethics perspectives. CUMed will also conduct regular reviews of the ethical standards, professional conduct and integrity applicable to medical students, with a view to facilitating students’ understanding towards their values and importance.

PolyU

PolyU takes a holistic approach to cultivating ethics for healthcare disciplines and professions. PolyU places a strong emphasis on healthcare / medical ethics education, particularly for its healthcare-related training programmes. At the faculty level, the PolyU Faculty of Health and Social Sciences has developed a range of subjects in healthcare / medical ethics that cover key topics such as confidentiality, informed consent, end-of-life care, ethics of emerging technologies, and professional conduct. Students in programmes such as Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Nursing, Radiography, Medical Laboratory Science, Optometry, Social Work, and Guidance and Counselling must complete the required courses on healthcare / medical ethics and professionalism. At the university level, all research students have to take the compulsory subject “Ethics: Research, Professional & Personal Perspectives”. Discussion and analysis on ethical issues are included in different courses and clinical placements.

PolyU supports ethical research for its staff and students (undergraduates and postgraduates), and has established an interdisciplinary Institutional Review Board under the Research Committee of the University to develop ethics policies and guidelines. The university regularly organises seminars, conferences, and talks on healthcare / medical ethics that are open to faculty and students from all disciplines. The emphasis on ethics at both the faculty and university levels helps build a strong culture of ethical thinking and practice among PolyU's future healthcare professionals. Through both didactic and experiential learning, students will develop an understanding of the ethical significance, complexities and implications in their fields and their responsibilities as healthcare practitioners.

- (c) whether CUMed will arrange short-term training placements for its medical students at the Medical Centre of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen; and;**

CUMed provides medical students with short-term voluntary training placements or exchange opportunities around the globe, including the Mainland. Currently, the CUHK-Shenzhen Medical Centre is under construction.

- (d) whether HKUMed and CUMed will arrange short-term exchange programmes for their medical students at Mainland universities (e.g. Sun Yat-sen University and Southern Medical University).**

HKU

Regular teaching activities for all MBBS students are conducted in the University of Hong Kong-Shenzhen Hospital ("HKU-SZH"), where students can learn about the healthcare services and development in the Mainland and gain clinical experience at HKU-SZH.

In addition, over the past five years, more than 30 of MBBS students have been attached to Mainland universities such as Peking University, Tsinghua University, Xian Jiaotong University, Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, etc. for a variety of activities including exchange, intercalation and research attachment. HKUMed will continue to facilitate and support MBBS students to participate in teaching and learning activities in the Mainland.

CUHK

CUMed provides medical students with short-term voluntary exchange opportunities in different parts of Mainland. Students may participate on a voluntary basis. Due to travel restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Faculty did not arrange exchange programmes in the Mainland in the past few years. Exchange with partner institutions has resumed after the pandemic, and clinical electives at the Peking University Health Science Center, Shanghai Jiao Tong University etc. will be arranged for students.