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Panel on Health Services

Meeting on 14 March 2025

Background brief on HKUMed Campus Re-development Project

Purpose

This paper provides background information on the **campus re-development project of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Hong Kong (“HKU”)** and summarizes the major views and concerns previously expressed by Members on relevant issues.

Background

2. Starting from the 2019-2020 academic year, the Government has been increasing the number of healthcare-related University Grants Committee (“UGC”)-funded first-year-first-degree (“FYFD”) places with a view to catering for the foreseeable tight manpower situation of the healthcare professions. Based on the results of the Healthcare Manpower Projection 2020, there will be a further net increase of 76 FYFD training places of healthcare professions subject to statutory registration per academic year in the 2022-2023 to 2024-2025 triennium.

3. To enable the UGC-funded universities which offer healthcare training programmes (i.e. The Chinese University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and HKU) to **upgrade and increase their teaching facilities following the increase in the UGC-funded healthcare training places as specified by the Government since the 2019-2020 academic year**, the Government has earmarked about \$20 billion for short, medium and long-term works projects as announced in the 2018 Policy Address. As announced in the 2022-2023 Budget, another \$10 billion has been set aside to ensure sufficient funding for completing all the planned projects. Upon the completion of the proposed facilities, the numbers of healthcare training places which the three universities would have the capacity to cope with are in **Appendix 1**.

4. The plan of the **Faculty of Medicine of HKU (“HKUMed”)** to expand its teaching and learning facilities in the vicinity of Sassoon Road is as follows (details are in **Appendix 2**):

Short-term Projects	- Enhancement of facilities cum medical campus development
Medium-term Projects	- Construction of an additional academic building and ancillary facilities for HKUMed
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

Major concerns of Members

HKUMed Campus Re-development Project

5. On HKU’s plan to redevelop a catering facility and the Madam S H HO Residence at No. 6 Sassoon Road into a Clinical Training Amenities Centre, some Members asked **whether hostel places would be reduced as a result**. HKU advised that the 300-odd hostel places of the Madam S H HO Residence and Patrick Manson Residence would first be relocated to a new facility and some additional 400 hostel places would be provided at a later stage.

Medical places

6. Some Members **proposed increasing the medical training places and other medical-related disciplines**. The Administration advised in April 2023 that the relevant medical teaching facilities, after upgrading, could cope with up to 800 medical places (400 of which would be provided by HKU), subject to the availability of sufficient teaching staff and hospital training places. UGC advised that it conducted planning on healthcare training places once every three years, in which the Administration would draw reference to the statistics of the Healthcare Manpower Projection and feedback from the universities concerned, before the Executive Council decided the number of medical places. The number of medical places had been on the rise in the past few planning periods, from 470 in 2016-2019 to 530 in 2019-2022, then to 590 in the period in 2022-2025. The projection of 800 medical places was a 10-year plan for 2020 and would be achieved gradually over the next few years.

The standard of healthcare teaching facilities of local universities

7. Some Members expressed concern about the **teaching quality of and research support provided by the medical schools concerned upon enhancement of their medical teaching facilities in comparison with those of top overseas universities, and whether such facilities were related to innovative biomedical research.**

8. The Administration advised that the healthcare teaching facilities covered areas such as precision medicine, genomic testing and big data applications, which were believed to be able to cope with the development of innovative biomedical research. However, there was no international ranking on the standard of teaching facilities of medical schools. HKU pointed out that its Faculty of Medicine would arrange for a comprehensive review of its facilities conducted by a review board composed of international members once in every six years. HKU's teaching and research facilities were assessed to have attained international standards, while the P3 laboratory and stem cell laboratory were both internationally accredited and certified by the Department of Health.

Medical ethics education

9. Some Members expressed concern about **what specific measures the medical schools of the universities had in place to cultivate medical ethics among students of the relevant departments.** The Administration responded that the universities concerned and the Medical Council of Hong Kong had certain requirements on the medical ethics of doctors.

10. HKU stated that the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery ("MBBS") programme and other programmes offered by HKUMed all included curricular elements on ethics, law, and professional issues to ensure students would be well-versed in the understanding and application of ethical principles, and in making ethical decisions within a professional role. Through the Medical Humanities curriculum of the MBBS programme, students would gain an understanding of the nature of personhood, the historical-cultural context of healthcare, and the social justice issues that would influence the doctor-patient healing partnership. In the Medical Ethics and Law curriculum, students would learn about the ethical principles, legal doctrines and the professional value system that underpinned contemporary healthcare practice. In addition, the "Doctors in Society" component focused 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.

Medical students going to the Mainland for exchange

11. Members expressed concern whether **Hong Kong's medical schools would arrange for their medical students to go to Mainland universities for short-term exchanges**. As advised by 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. MBBS students had been attached to Mainland universities for a variety of activities including exchange, intercalation and research attachment. HKUMed would continue to facilitate and support MBBS students to participate in teaching and learning activities in the Mainland.

Latest development

12. The Administration will consult the Panel on Health Services on 14 March 2025 on the funding proposal for **construction of a clinical training amenities centre at No. 6 Sassoon Road of HKU** (the interim project mentioned in paragraph 4 above) before submission to the Public Works Subcommittee and the Finance Committee.

Relevant papers

13. A list of relevant papers is in **Appendix 3**.

Council Business Divisions
Legislative Council Secretariat
7 March 2025

**Numbers of healthcare training places which the three universities
would have the capacity to cope with
upon completion of their healthcare teaching facilities**

	Capacity				Healthcare Training Places in 2019-2022 triennium (b)	Additional Capacity (c)=(a)-(b)
	The University of Hong Kong	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Total (Maximum Capacity) (a)		
Medicine	400	400	/	800	530	270
Nursing	300	330	293	923	620	303
Psychiatric Nursing	/	/	100	100	70	30
Medical Laboratory Science	/	/	100	100	54	46
Radiography	/	/	170	170	110	60
Occupational Therapy	/	/	180	180	100	80
Physiotherapy	/	/	240	240	150	90
Optometry	/	/	100	100	45	55
Total:	700	730	1 183	2 613	1 679	934

Source: Information extracted from the [*Administration's replies to Members' initial written questions during examination of estimates of expenditure 2022-2023*](#)

**The comprehensive plan of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Hong Kong
to expand its teaching and learning facilities in the vicinity of
Sassoon Road in the next 10 years**

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 Faculty of Medicine of the University of Hong Kong

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, personalized 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.

HKUMed Campus Re-development Project

List of relevant papers

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Health Services and Panel on Education	21 January 2019	Agenda Item II: Enhancement of healthcare teaching facilities of University Grants Committee-funded universities Minutes Follow-up paper
	5 March 2021	Agenda Item II: Enhancement of healthcare teaching facilities of University Grants Committee-funded universities Minutes Follow-up paper
Panel on Health Services	10 June 2022	Agenda Item III: Enhancement of healthcare teaching facilities of University Grants Committee-funded Universities Minutes Follow-up paper
	19 April 2023	Agenda Item V: Enhancement of Healthcare Teaching Facilities of University Grants Committee-funded Universities Minutes Follow-up paper
Legislative Council Public Works Subcommittee of the Finance Committee	31 May 2019	Agenda Item II: Head 708 – Capital Subventions and Major Systems and Equipment 61EF – Construction of a teaching-research complex in Tai Po Area 39 65EG – Enhancement of facilities cum medical campus development Minutes

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
	19 June 2019	Agenda Item I: Head 708 – Capital Subventions and Major System and Equipment 30EK – Campus Expansion at Ho Man Tin Slope Minutes
	30 June 2021	Agenda Item I: Head 708 – Capital Subventions 63EF – Renovation of Facilities in Choh-Ming LI Basic Medical Sciences Building (Remaining Works) Minutes
	17 September 2021	Agenda Item VI: Head 708 – Capital Subventions 67EG – Construction of a new academic building on an extension site east of No.3 Sassoon Road Minutes
	3 May 2024	Agenda Item I: 65EG The University of Hong Kong – Enhancement of facilities cum medical campus development (Phase 2 – Main Works) Minutes
Finance Committee	26 June 2020	Agenda Item V: Recommendations of the Public Works Subcommittee made on 31 May and 19 June 2019 61EF – Construction of a teaching-research complex in Tai Po Area 39 65EG – Enhancement of facilities cum medical campus development 30EK – Campus Expansion at Ho Man Tin Slope Minutes

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
	16 July 2021	Agenda Item III: Recommendations of the Public Works Subcommittee made on 30 June 2021 63EF – Renovation of Facilities in Choh-Ming Li Basic Medical Sciences Building (Remaining Works) Minutes
	8 October 2021	Agenda Item VIII: Recommendations of the Public Works Subcommittee made on 17 September 2021 67EG – Construction of a new academic building on an extension site east of No.3 Sassoon Road Minutes
	24 May 2024	Agenda Item I: Recommendations of the Public Works Subcommittee made on 3 May 2024 65EG – The University of Hong Kong – Enhancement of facilities cum medical campus development (Phase 2 – Main Works) Minutes