

# *Message from The Secretary for Food and Health*



It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the Health Research Symposium 2010.

After the success of the first Health Research Symposium in 2007 in showcasing outstanding local health-related research, I am looking forward to continuing this tradition.

The aim of the Health Research Symposium 2010 is to publicise the outcomes of health research projects supported by the Food and Health Bureau and to recognise outstanding studies that have not only set a benchmark for good research but also assisted the formulation of health policies in Hong Kong and beyond. It will provide a platform to facilitate the exchange of ideas between overseas experts and local researchers.

In May 2009, Hong Kong was affected by the global pandemic of human swine influenza H1N1. The spread of this disease has been closely monitored by the Food and Health Bureau through the Department of Health and its Centre for Health Protection. Dedicated research funding was immediately made available to address the epidemiology, pathogenesis, treatment and prevention of the novel virus. Several aspects of that research will be discussed today.

In contrast to research into sporadic outbreaks of disease, health services research follows a continuous path of incremental improvement. Building on the strength of our advanced medical sector and the high quality of our healthcare professionals, the Government is promoting medical services as one of the six new priority industries to support our overall economic growth.

The theme of this convention, "Improving health and recognising excellence", highlights the Government's support and recognition of the efforts of independent researchers in improving public health.

I would especially like to thank our renowned overseas speakers and our many local experts for giving their time to share their knowledge and experiences with us. I greatly appreciate your support for and participation in the Symposium. I hope you will have a stimulating and rewarding time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Y. Chow', written in a cursive style.

**Dr. York Chow**  
*Secretary for Food and Health*