

# Message from

## The Secretary for Food and Health



It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Health Research Symposium 2007.

Research aids and drives improvement in healthcare outcome. It expands our knowledge of human diseases, helps prevent serious illnesses, and contributes directly to policy formulation. Research also reduces healthcare costs through the discovery of more effective treatments. Through systematic research, public health is improved.

For more than a decade the Food and Health Bureau (and its equivalents in the past) has administered several funds that have provided considerable resources for basic and applied health-related research. The fruits of that investment are on display today, in this building, in homes, schools and offices, where improvements in the quality of healthcare have come as the result of application of research into efficacy, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness across the healthcare system.

Of particular importance is the cumulative research, supported for many years by the Bureau, which demonstrated the harm caused by primary and second-hand exposure to smoking. This has led to Hong Kong being one of the first regions in Asia to impose strict controls on smoking in public places through the Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Ordinance 2006. The Ordinance is making considerable improvements in indoor air quality and public health. Another notable example is the internationally recognised study that found the eradication of *Helicobacter pylori* with one-week course of triple therapy to be much more cost-effective in the management of peptic ulcer bleeding than long-term medication. This has resulted in significant health gain for the patients and considerable healthcare savings in the public sector.

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 hope you will take away from this Symposium the pioneering spirit of the many researchers and healthcare professionals.

I wish the symposium a great success!

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

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Dr. York Chow  
Secretary for Food and Health

