

For Immediate Release

## **The launch of Clinical Affiliation Scheme Signifies the Strong and Productive Partnership between HKSH and HKUMed in Training Healthcare Professionals**

(17 November 2022, Hong Kong) HKSH Medical Group (HKSH) and The University of Hong Kong (HKU) today signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) as a new milestone for their long-standing partnership in the areas of teaching, patient care, academic research and health education in Hong Kong, in which HKSH will serve as the affiliate teaching hospital of HKUMed.

Hong Kong has been known for its world-class healthcare provision as well as comprehensive medical care that runs on a dual-track system encompassing the public and private sectors. The imminent challenges Hong Kong facing is to attract exceptional professionals to stay in the medical field and train the next-generation healthcare talents for sustaining the high-standard medical care.

Under the MoU of HKSH and HKU via LKS Faculty of Medicine, the **Clinical Affiliation Scheme (“The Scheme”)** will be launched in April 2023 with the aim of attracting medical and nursing practitioners to pursue further and higher training and sub-specialty training in priority areas of strategic importance for the healthcare sectors in Hong Kong. The Scheme will also provide a collaborative framework to pursue a systematic and sustained exchange of personnel, resources and expertise between the two institutions in the areas of clinical services, teaching and research.

The Scheme will facilitate HKU to assign medical professoriate staff / practitioners and nursing practitioners to perform clinical services at HKSH facilities including Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital, HKSH Eastern Medical Centre and HKSH Healthcare medical centres. By so doing, HKU staff will gain wider exposure to different clinical situations and healthcare settings, opening up opportunities for enhancing their professional skills and research capabilities. For the growing cohort of medical students at HKU, the Scheme can also provide more clinical teachers to engage in a broader scope of undergraduate clinical training, including in the state-of-the-art establishments of HKSH.

**Dr. Walton LI, Chief Executive Officer of HKSH Medical Group and Medical Superintendent of Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital**, said, “HKSH and HKU have been sharing common endeavour in nurturing high-quality medical professionals for Hong Kong and beyond. With an aim to bolstering medical education and medical research in Hong Kong, we leverage our synergies through shared resources and expertise to motivate young scholars / professors to reach out to the community through interactions with our patients and our experienced medical practitioners.”

Dr Li believes that the collaboration not only builds a meaningful bridge between academic and clinical practitioners for stimulating new knowledge in medical education, research and clinical practices, but also supports the University in attracting talents and increasing its capacity in teaching and research.



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“This is a platform for knowledge transfer and resource sharing between academic, public and private sectors. With our contribution, it is hoped that HKU can create more new posts for enhancing its teaching and research. On one hand, many of our veteran specialists, who are former professors at medical schools, can continue their mission in knowledge transfer and experience sharing with HKU’s young doctors and professoriate associates in their current role at HKSH, the affiliate teaching hospital of HKU. On the other hand, HKU’s medical and nursing affiliates can gain new knowledge and apply their learning in the real-life clinical context. Moreover, they have full access to the cutting-edge medical devices and technologies at our establishments. They are also eligible for applying for our scholarship and taking study leave to gain international exposure in overseas medical training. The Scheme embodies the ongoing commitment and efforts of HKSH and HKU in nurturing future healthcare talents for the betterment of our community,” said Dr Li.

**Professor Chak-sing LAU, Dean of the Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, HKU,** said, “We are deeply delighted to see this opportunity to take our clinical and specialty training, medical education and research to the next level at HKSH establishments around Hong Kong. This is indeed a timely extension of our clinical service network in response to the soaring demand for quality healthcare service. We are thus most grateful to HKSH, which has afforded us tremendous support for the past 50 years and helped HKUMed groom graduates to become young doctors and researchers with outstanding calibre and professionalism.”

“As we set the Scheme in motion today, we look forward to more opportunities of enhancing and extending our partnership with HKSH for the benefit of all,” added Professor Lau.

Under the current Scheme, participating medical or nursing affiliates, who have performed clinical services at HKSH for at least 12 months, are eligible to apply for the Li Shu Pui Medical Foundation and Dean’s Fund established by HKSH to engage in professional development for academic, training and research purposes at overseas medical institutions.

The HKSH-HKU partnership began half a century ago when Dr Li Shu Fan, the founding father and former medical superintendent of HKSH, donated a parcel of land in Pokfulam to his alma mater in 1961 as a token to facilitate its expansion in medical education. Apart from offering scholarships and bursaries to medical students, HKSH has been conducting training programmes for more than 3,300 HKU medical students and postgraduate medical training for doctors to become specialists across a range of specialities including surgery, family medicine, ophthalmology, orthopaedics and Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery since 1998. In 2014, the HKU Clinical Academic Unit (CAU) was established at the Li Shu Pui Block of the Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital as a facility dedicated for research and specialist training.

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HKUMed

**About HKSH Medical Group**

Officially launched in September 2017, HKSH Medical Group promotes public health and advanced medicine through a multi-faceted, coordinated approach in clinical services, medical education, scientific research and public health education. Members of the Group, including Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital, HKSH Healthcare and HKSH Eastern Medical Centre, are dedicated to offering top-quality holistic care to patients, upholding the motto “Quality in Service, Excellence in Care”.

**About Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital**

Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital is one of the leading private hospitals in Hong Kong. With the motto “Quality in Service Excellence in Care”, the Hospital is committed to serving the public as well as promoting medical education and research.

**About LKS Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong (HKUMed)**

The LKS Faculty of Medicine of The University of Hong Kong (HKUMed) is the oldest local institution of higher education in Hong Kong. It was founded as the Hong Kong College of Medicine for Chinese in 1887, was renamed the Hong Kong College of Medicine in 1907 and became the premier founding Faculty when the University was established in 1911. From its modest beginnings, the Faculty has grown to become the largest faculty of the University.

Teaching is conducted by more than 390 full-time, highly qualified teaching staff, alongside about 3,000 honorary teachers, most of whom are doctors in public hospitals or private practitioners. The excellence of the education we provide can be seen in our graduates, who have gone on to be leaders in their fields, in Hong Kong and the world.

HKUMed is comprised of one department and five schools - namely, School of Biomedical Sciences, School of Chinese Medicine, School of Clinical Medicine, School of Nursing, School of Public Health - and a number of strategic centres of research excellence. For more information about LKS Faculty of Medicine, please visit: [www.med.hku.hk](http://www.med.hku.hk).



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**Photo Captions:**

1. Dr. Walton LI, Chief Executive Officer of HKSH Medical Group and Medical Superintendent of Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital (second from left), and Professor Chak-sing LAU, Dean of HKUMed (second from right), signed the MoU, as witnessed by Dr. Joseph CHAN, Chief Medical Officer of HKSH Medical Group and Deputy Medical Superintendent of Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital (first from left), and Dr. Victoria WONG, Associate Dean (Clinical Affairs) and Director of HKU Health System (first from right). HKSH (the Affiliate Teaching Hospital of HKUMed) and HKU will launch the Clinical Affiliation Scheme in April 2023.



2. The launch of Clinical Affiliation Scheme signifies the strong and productive partnership between HKSH and HKUMed in training healthcare professionals.





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- Over the years, HKSH has been offering various training programmes, scholarships and bursaries to bolster medical education and medical research in Hong Kong. Having benefited from Li Shu Pui Medical Foundation for medical research in new frontier, four professors/ scholars of HKUMed joined the MoU Signing Ceremony to share their research plan/ outcomes.

