

Message from

The Permanent Secretary for Health



Welcome to the Health Research Symposium 2007!

Every day we make decisions. Mostly these are trivial – such as what to wear or where to eat. Sometimes they are more important – such as which apartment to buy or whether one should start a family or not. As a public official, it is essential to make informed decisions based on evidence rather than emotion or intuition. When those decisions affect the health of the people of Hong Kong, the evidence must be relevant and accurate.

The Health Research Symposium 2007 is first and foremost an exhibition of scientific research in the area of human health. Much of the research on display today has been supported by funds administered by the Food and Health Bureau. The Symposium is also an event where like-minded health professionals can be informed of the latest research developments, evaluate the impact of that research and network with other professionals to incorporate useful information into their daily practice.

The theme of the Symposium is “Building Bridges Between Research, Practice and Policy”. We are delighted to have three renowned speakers from overseas presenting their insights on how research can be facilitated, assessed for its impact and value for money, and translated into changes in policy, practice and behaviour. Our local experts will share their valuable experiences with us as well. We hope that our combined contributions today will build lasting bridges that will help channel the results of research into public health benefits.

The Symposium is also a timely opportunity to remember that our funds are administered by a Research Council, a Grant Review Board, and a Referee Panel drawn from the highest levels of the health profession and academia. For over 10 years, they have provided their time and energy to establish an independent peer review mechanism to administer the funds and to ensure fairness and transparency. Today we honour those individuals who have so selflessly devoted themselves to these tasks.

I hope by participating fully in today's activities you will appreciate how much public health in Hong Kong has benefited from the Government's investment in health-related research over the years.

I wish you all good health!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Sandra SY Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ms. Sandra SY Lee
Permanent Secretary for Health