

## **Presentation 2:**

### **Amyloid in Poststroke Dementia - Insights into Dementia Prevention**

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#### **Summary:**

Burden of dementia will continue to escalate in Hong Kong in the coming decades because of a rapidly aging population. Primary prevention provides the greatest opportunity in reducing this burden. The strategies of preventing dementia will depend on the mechanisms underlying dementia among the older people. Cerebrovascular disease (e.g. stroke) is a common cause for dementia in Asia. Up till the beginning of 21st Century, the exact mechanisms of how cerebrovascular disease can cause dementia in many of the cases remain uncertain. For example, why a stroke patient develops dementia soon after stroke, while another stroke patient, despite having similar stroke related features, do not develop dementia after stroke is unknown. With the support of Research Funding from Food and Health Bureau in 2010, we conducted a study utilizing the state-of-art amyloid positron emission tomography among stroke patients, showing for the first time *in vivo* that brain amyloid plaques significantly increased the risk of developing dementia after stroke or transient ischemic attack. Overall, our findings suggested that amyloid and cerebrovascular disease often go hand in hand in causing the dementia syndrome in many older people. Such findings provide insights in devising preventive strategies and direction for future research with respect to dementia prevention.