

Message from the Secretary for Food and Health



My warmest welcome to you all to the Health Research Symposium 2014.

Following the success of the Health Research Symposia in 2007 and 2010, I look forward to continuing this tradition by providing a platform to facilitate dialogue and discussion amongst our many local researchers on their latest achievements in health-related research.

The Health Research Symposium offers our local researchers an invaluable opportunity to showcase the outcomes of their health research projects supported by the Health and Medical Research Fund. It also presents another opportunity for us to express our appreciation and recognition to those outstanding studies which have not only set a benchmark for excellence in health and medical research but also contributed to the formulation of health policies in Hong Kong and beyond.

The theme of this year's Symposium is *"Translating Health Research into Policy and Practice for Health of the Population"*. In recent years, the Government has been facing many daunting challenges, from rising healthcare demands of an ageing population to threats from infectious diseases. We highly value the important role of independent health researchers in bringing improvements to our public health. This is reflected in the range of topics presented in the Symposium and the posters, covering epidemiology and prevention strategies for non-communicable diseases, chronic disease management, primary care research, control of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases such as H1N1 and H7N9 influenza, multi-drug resistant organisms, and a variety of advanced medical research including Chinese medicine.

Over the years, the Food and Health Bureau has been providing funding support for investigator-initiated and commissioned research projects under the Health and Medical Research Fund. These researches have expanded the local evidence base, built capacity in terms of research expertise and infrastructure and generated important findings for clinical practices. They have also facilitated informed public health policy and contributed to long-term development of a more healthy community for the people of Hong Kong.

I would like to express my gratitude to the renowned overseas speakers and our many local experts for sparing their time and efforts to participate in the Symposium to share their knowledge and experiences with us. I wish the Symposium a great success and you all have a most stimulating and rewarding occasion as in the past.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'wka', written in a cursive style.

Dr KO Wing-man, BBS, JP
Secretary for Food and Health
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region