

Message from the Dean

Dear colleagues,

May I first wish you a happy and healthy Year of the Rooster!

I write to announce a series of senior leadership changes.

I am pleased to appoint Professor YS Chan, Dexter HC Man Family Professor in Medical Science, as Associate Dean (Development & Infrastructure), in addition to his current role as Deputy Director (Operations) of the School of Biomedical Sciences, effectively immediately. This is a new portfolio with a specific mandate to oversee the infrastructural renewal of the Sassoon Road medical campus. With much excitement I would like to report to you that the *in situ* extension project on our present site at 21 Sassoon Road has been progressing well with the formation of a Project Group under the Accommodation Committee of the University to monitor the scope, time, cost and development of the project. . I am also optimistic that the project of 3 Sassoon Road redevelopment will win the necessary external approvals for works to begin before the end of 2017. Renovation and expansion of the Laboratory Animal Unit will begin presently. In partnership with the office of the Executive Vice President, the Estates Office and the Finance and Enterprise Office, YS will also oversee long-term planning for redeveloping the other sites along Sassoon Road on behalf of the Faculty. YS brings with him a wealth of relevant experience having served as a long-time member of the University Accommodation Committee and as my Senior Advisor since 2015 to help steer the various Sassoon Road campus redevelopment projects during the preparatory stages.

On retiring from the University as Professor and Head of Nursing, Professor Agnes Tiwari starts a new chapter in her distinguished career today as Head of the Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital's School of Nursing. A senior professor has already been appointed and will assume office before the summer, when the headship exercise of the School will commence as soon as possible thereafter. Meanwhile, I am pleased to appoint Professor Judith Parker, full-time Visiting Professor of the School and former Head of School at Melbourne, La Trobe and Victoria to serve as the Acting Head for a period of four months from February 1. Judith has enjoyed a long association with HKU Nursing. She has been working closely with our nursing colleagues for years as the School's Honorary Professor, and under a renewed Visiting Professorship, she has been visiting the School on a regular basis since February 2015 to advise the School on its strategic development as well as administrative reorganization. We are thankful to Judith for taking on this transition role at a most critical time for the School of Nursing's renewal.

I take pleasure to announce that effective next Monday February 6, in addition to her current duties, Professor SY Leung, Associate Dean (Research), Y W Kan Professor in Natural Sciences and Chair of Gastrointestinal Cancer Genetics and Genomics, will take over from me as Interim Director of the School of Biomedical Sciences for the coming year, or until when the new Director takes office, whichever is sooner. This arises from a sudden change of plans at the eleventh hour of the candidate whom we were going to appoint as Director. Rather than waiting for an as yet indeterminate period, I have taken the decision to seize the positive momentum of the newly

amalgamated School structure. SY will be writing separately to members of the School about her plans, including proactively filling the additional professoriate posts made available to the School at its inauguration. In parallel, I am making a renewed and targeted effort to recruit the new Director, in order to bring the absolute best and most suitable candidate on board.

Professor Stephen WK Cheng, Serena H C Yang Professor in Vascular Surgery, succeeds Professor CM Lo, Chin Lan-Hong Professor in Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery and Chair of Hepatobiliary Surgery, as Head of Surgery starting today for a term of three years. CM has been on full-time secondment to HKU-Shenzhen Hospital as Hospital Chief Executive since November 2016. I am particularly grateful to CM for having shouldered concurrently two of the most challenging leadership roles as Head and as HCE during the past three months while selection of the next Head was ongoing. I am sure Stephen will continue to take the Department upward and forward, following in its own distinguished tradition, and that members of the Department will rally around him in his new role.

Please join me in welcoming YS, Judith, SY and Stephen to their respective new roles.

Warmest regards,

Gabriel Leung
Dean of Medicine