



NEWSLETTER

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THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE

Next Academic meeting on 21 August 2006

Health Care Financing Policy in Hong Kong Past, Present and Future

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Speaker : Dr. Gabriel LEUNG
Associate Professor,
Department of Community Medicine,
University of Hong Kong

Date : 21 August 2006 (Monday)

Time : 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Venue : Lecture Hall
4/F, Argyle Street Jockey Club School Dental Clinic,
147J Argyle Street, Kowloon

CME :

- 1 CME point accredited by Hong Kong College of Community Medicine
- 1 CME point accredited by Hong Kong College of Family Physicians
- 1 CME point for doctors who are not taking CME programme for specialists and have registered with one of the CME programme administrators (Department of Health, Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, Hong Kong Doctors Union Ltd. or Hong Kong Medical Association)

Coming soon

28 September 2006
Vector Survey Methodology
by
Mr. Thomas LEE, Head (Risk Assessment Unit),
Pest Control Advisory Section, Food & Environmental Hygiene Department

**Academic
meeting**

14 July 2006

Pathological Gambling Risk Factors and Prevention

Dr Irene WONG Larry WONG,

Coordinator, Responsible Gaming Training & Gambling Counseling,
Professional Practice Centre, Department of Applied Social Sciences,
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Abstract

Findings from several prevalence surveys revealed that pathological gambling in the general population has increased from 1.8% in 2001 (HKPU) to 2.2% in 2005 (KHU). The prevalence rates of pathological gambling among adolescents were higher than their adult counterparts, ranging from 2.6% in 2001 (HKPU) to 3.2% (HKPU) in 2006.

The significant predictors of adult pathological and problem gambling were gender, an education level of 9 years or lower, a monthly family income of HK\$ 10,000- \$24,999, and betting on horse races, soccer matches and casino games (Wong & So, 2003). Adult pathological gambling was associated with sensation seeking, impulsivity, emotionality, external locus of control, anti-social behavior and pathological dependence (Wan, 2003).

Adolescent pathological gambling has several distinctive risk factors, including family and peer influence, an early commencement of gambling activities, poor mental health, erroneous beliefs about gambling, low self-esteem, low perceived peer support, betting on Internet casino games, horse races, soccer matches and other ball games (Wong, 2006).

Harm reduction approach has been widely adopted in many preventive initiatives. The prevention efforts include media education, warning messages, and awareness promotion programs. The EdCity provides web-based and school-based education targeting at children and teenagers. The efficacy of these efforts should be evaluated systematically. A public health policy advocating socially responsible gambling is urgently needed to cope with the global trend of gambling expansion.



**Dr. Irene WONG (left)
and our Chairman,
Dr. Ronald LAM (right)**