

Honorary Fellow A Citation

Dr Li Kwok-tung, Donald, SBS, BA, MBBS, FHKCFP, FHKAM (Family Medicine), FRACGP, FFPH, FAFPM, FACP, JP

It is said that medicine must, first and foremost, be human-oriented. In Chinese society, family comes first, and individuals are inseparable from their families. Family medicine, a 'people-first' medical science, has long been a fully-fledged practice in developed countries such as Australia and the UK, where it is regarded as the basis of community healthcare. Family doctors treat not just the disease but the patient, with an understanding of the whole family. In Western medicine, experience has proven this type of medicine to be the most efficient and cost-effective healthcare system for the community. Family doctors have become medical coordinators for the entire family, and frontline guardians of public health, with a far-reaching impact on the well-being of society as a whole.

Dr Li Kwok-tung, Donald is a specialist in family medicine in private practice, as well as a leading expert in the field. With the lofty goal of easing the suffering of the sick, Dr Li takes a hands-on approach to medical practice, posing as a role model for what an outstanding family doctor should be. Over the decades, he has been an ardent advocate for improving primary care, making significant contributions to family health promotion. Dr Li graduated from Cornell University in 1975 with a Bachelor of Arts degree, and went on to obtain his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degrees from The University of Hong Kong (HKU) in 1980. He is currently the President of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine; Honorary Treasurer and member-at-large of the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) World Executive Council; and Censor of the Hong Kong College of Family Physicians. As a pioneer of family medicine in Hong Kong, Dr Li has been an invited speaker at numerous local and international scientific conferences. He has also devoted his professional career to promoting the primary and family healthcare system in Hong Kong and the Asia Pacific region, achieving remarkable accomplishments along the way. His advocacy has helped advance the status of family medicine in Hong Kong, and the role of family doctors within society. The care and attention family doctors give to the poor and sick, as well as their timely and appropriate treatment, has made the world a better place. As a champion of family medicine, Dr Li deserves our applause for his remarkable efforts. As a humanitarian, Dr Li is concerned not only about public health issues, but also the destruction brought about by natural disasters, and how society copes in their wake. He believes that in many Asian countries, there is insufficient resource allocation, scientific

research and expertise to prepare for these risks. Hong Kong is a case in point. The general public is unaware of and unprepared for the destruction and turmoil associated with natural disasters. Should a disaster strike, there is no mechanism in place to lead, coordinate recovery efforts, and conduct damage assessment. To support the government in contingency planning and disaster response training, Dr Li advocated the establishment of the Hong Kong Jockey Club Disaster Preparedness and Response Institute (HKJC DPRI) under the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine. Through the funding of the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, the Institute has worked closely with Disaster and Medical Humanitarian Response, Faculty of Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), in support of numerous postgraduate programmes and fellowships, contributing immensely to worldwide humanitarian efforts. We are also grateful to Dr Li for the benefits brought to the University through these collaborations.

Dr Li is currently a Fellow of the Hong Kong College of Family Physicians, Fellow of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, Honorary Fellow of Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Fellow of the UK's Faculty of Public Health, Fellow of the American College of Physicians, Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners in the UK, and Honorary Fellow of the Hong Kong College of Dental Surgeons. While practising medicine, Dr Li has also dedicated much of his professional time to academia and teaching, including serving as a council member of Cornell University; Honorary Professor of HKU's Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine; and Clinical Professor (honorary) of The Jockey Club School of Public Health and Primary Care at CUHK. Many medical students at Hong Kong's two major universities had the honour to be taught by this distinguished scholar.

Fan Zhongyan, a prominent literary figure during China's Song Dynasty, once said, 'If you cannot be a good minister, aspire to be a good physician.' Both are noble professions, as a good minister improves social welfare and a good physician saves lives. In fact, Dr Li has been both a good physician and a good minister. Over the years, he has been devoted to community service, taking up responsibilities to help people in need and facilitate social betterment in both Hong Kong and mainland China. He has served in numerous posts at several governmental and public medical organisations, including Chairman of the Bauhinia Foundation Research Centre; council member of St John Ambulance Association; Chairman of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee for Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited; co-opted member of the Community Care Fund Task Force under the Commission on Poverty; and Chairman of the Governing Committee of the HKJC DPRI. Dr Li has also served as Honorary Consultant to Shanghai's Huashan Hospital,

member of the Board of Directors of the Hospital Authority, President of WONCA in Asia Pacific Region, President of the Hong Kong College of Family Physicians, member of the Greater Pearl River Delta Business Council, and member of the Board of Stewards of the Hong Kong Jockey Club. In recognition of the huge contribution Dr Li has made to society, the HKSAR Government appointed him Justice of the Peace in 2006, and honoured him with the Silver Bauhinia Star in 2011.

In his ten-year stint on the Board of Stewards of HKJC, from 2004 to 2013, Dr Li helped with the management of HKJC Charities Trust. Using his tremendous expertise in medical science and his experience in medical operations, Dr Li was able to provide evaluation of and insights into numerous medical grant and donation applications. He also helped establish Cadenza, an HKJC initiative for seniors aimed at coping with the issue of the aging population of Hong Kong. During this period, Dr Li helped the University secure numerous grants and donations from HKJC. He also provided full support for the development of CUHK's private teaching hospital. His contribution to the University will be remembered in perpetuity.

In recognition of a good physician and minister who takes the suffering of patients to heart, has contributed immensely to Hong Kong's family medicine, and provided tremendous help for the construction of CUHK's private teaching hospital, Mr Vice-Chancellor, it is my great pleasure to present to you Dr Li Kwok-tung, Donald for the award of an Honorary Fellowship of the University.