

## Honorary Fellow A Citation



### **Dr Ho Tzu-leung, MD, FACS**

The Chinese University of Hong Kong is especially fortunate to have won the loyal support of Dr Ho Tzu-leung and the Ho family who have contributed to the University's development in many different areas over many years. Through the S.H. Ho Foundation Limited, of which Dr Ho is a Director, the University has benefited by way of the Ho Sin-Hang Engineering Building, student hostels at the three founding Colleges, a non-residential hall for students at New Asia College, as well as the building of the Madam S.H. Ho Hostel for Medical Students and its extension at the Prince of Wales Hospital. The Foundation also donated funds towards the establishment of the C.N. Yang Visiting Professorship Fund. More recently, the Foundation has supported the setting up of two innovative and superbly-equipped research centres: the S.H. Ho Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke Centre and the S.H. Ho Centre for Geriatrics and Gerontology. Through these highly strategic investments in the University's medical research capacity, the Foundation is ultimately making important contributions to the delivery of patient care in Hong Kong and well beyond.

The Ho family has also established the Ho Sin Hang Education Endowment Fund at the Chinese University, of which Dr Ho is a Trustee. This Fund has played a very significant part in the support of research at this University, across many disciplines. Key in the "Ho Sin Hang Education Endowment Fund" and the first thirty or so items captured by a computer search engine will be research papers and homepages in which CUHK scholars acknowledge the support of the Fund in enabling their work. The projects span the whole range of programmes at CUHK, including such diverse areas as business studies, architecture, computer engineering, English literature and psychiatry. Such funding is of incalculable benefit to the consolidation of research at the University and a much-needed supplement to funds supplied by the Research Grants Council.

Dr Ho himself is a distinguished urologist. He obtained his medical doctorate (MD) from the Chicago Medical School in 1966, became a member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Manitoba in 1968. He did his post doctoral Urological Surgery training at the Stanford University Medical School from 1968 to 1972. He received his Board Certificate from the American Board of Urology, USA, in 1976. Subsequently he was awarded a Fellowship by the American College of Surgeons in 1977. He has been for many years a medical practitioner in the United States, Hong Kong and Singapore. He is also a Director of the Board of Bethlehem Management Limited.

Dr Ho's recent support of medical research at this University has been focused on two areas of high community need that are at the same time fields in which the University has achieved high levels of research excellence. The first of these is the area of cardiovascular disease and stroke, conditions which kill 16.7 million people worldwide every year. In Hong Kong, more than 8,000 people per year or 20 people per day die of these two diseases. These



conditions trigger on average 50,000 hospital admissions annually in Hong Kong and produce a heavy economic burden on the whole community. It was to combat these diseases that the S.H. Ho Foundation gave HK \$10 million to the Department of Medicine and Therapeutics, in which two divisions have an excellent track record. The Division of Cardiology is one of the world's top cardiovascular research centres. Since 1999 it has become the most comprehensive and experienced biventricular pacing therapy centre for heart failure patients in Asia. At the same time the Division of Neurology has been in the forefront of research in intracranial atherosclerosis, which is the most common cause of stroke in Asians. It was the first research group in the world to predict the risk of stroke with the use of transcranial Doppler, microembolic signal detection and microbleeds.

The S.H. Ho Centre for Geriatrics and Gerontology similarly addresses an area of acute and growing community need. According to recent survey findings from the Census and Statistics Department, about 70% and 95% of elderly people living in domestic households and institutions respectively are reported to have chronic diseases. To promote healthy ageing and effective health service delivery to the elderly, better knowledge is needed about changes in life expectancy and the prevalence and effects of chronic diseases and disabilities. In fact, gerontology and geriatrics has also been an area of excellence in the Chinese University where researchers are well qualified to carry out the necessary work. Since the mid 1980s various departments in the Faculty of Medicine, including Medicine and Therapeutics, Psychiatry, Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Clinical Oncology and Nursing have worked on studies of the causes and treatment of chronic diseases, health education and services for elderly. The HK\$10 million donated by the Foundation for research on geriatrics and gerontology is a well-targeted investment in Hong Kong's future.

Mr Chairman, it is my privilege to present to you Dr Ho Tzu-leung, distinguished urologist and benefactor of the University for the award of an Honorary Fellowship.

*This citation is written by Professor David Parker*