

Professor Cheng Chun-yiu Jack

Honorary Fellow

Citation

Fan Zhongyan, a famous Confucian scholar of the Song Dynasty, once said, "If I can't be a great statesman, I would willingly become a conscientious doctor." A skilled doctor with a compassionate heart not only can help to treat and alleviate diseases but can also help patients to rekindle the meaning of life, thus bringing blessings to mankind. Great statesmen with a broad vision and mission can foresee opportunities and hence guide the nation towards prosperity, providing a beacon of hope for society. Good doctors, similar to great statesmen, can equally contribute to the well-being of society by providing therapeutic care, health education and preventive advices.

A renowned orthopaedic specialist, Professor Cheng Chun-yiu Jack graduated with an MB BS degree from HKU in 1976, and was conferred the degree of Doctor of Medicine by CUHK in 1999. Professor Cheng joined the Faculty of Medicine of CUHK in 1983, and had since held, besides his academic teaching and research portfolios, various administrative positions, including among them, Chairman of the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology and

Associate Dean (Education) of the Faculty of Medicine. Later, he took up, on a concurrent basis, the position of University Dean of Students and subsequently, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University, during which time he was appointed to serve on a number of major policy committees of the University as well. In recognition of his remarkable performance both in teaching and research, the University conferred on Professor Cheng the Choh-Ming Li Professorship of Orthopaedics and Traumatology in 2015. Due to his exemplary academic leadership, he was appointed by the Hong Kong Government to serve as member of the University Grants Committee (UGC) from 2008 to 2013, following which as member of the Research Grant Council of the UGC from 2014 to 2016. When The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen (CUHK-Shenzhen) planned to set up its School of Medicine, he was appointed Director of the Joint Planning Office (JPS) of the School and helped to steer the School to a successful beginning. Even after stepping down from the directorship position, he continued to serve as Senior Consultant of the JPS. . Professor Cheng retired from the University

in 2018, and was henceforth awarded the title of Emeritus Professor of the University. During his tenure at CUHK, Professor Cheng had published extensively, including over 400 peer-reviewed research articles in international journals, over 500 conference presentations and 19 monographs. For his scholarly achievements, he was presented with more than 40 research related awards. He has also served on the editorial boards of a number of academic journals in the field, and was President of the Hong Kong Orthopaedic Association and member of over 20 local and overseas professional bodies and medical organisations, including the International Pediatric Orthopaedic Think Tank, in which he was one of the only two Asian delegates among the top 100 global experts in 1998.

A tender-hearted, proficient doctor and an orthopaedics specialist, Professor Cheng started his academic career at the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology of CUHK in 1983. Under the wing of the then Head of Department, Professor Leung Ping-chung, Professor Cheng focused his clinical expertise and

research on paediatric orthopaedics, with special interest in the etiopathogenesis of adolescent idiopathic scoliosis. He was an active participant in the "Operation Concern" project which was initiated by Professor Leung on the mainland, the aim of which is to provide free treatment and healthcare services for people with musculoskeletal disabilities in the remote regions of China. In reminiscence, Professor Cheng recalled how the support team provided in the 1990s various clinical services, from performing orthopaedic surgery to the installation of prosthetic orthotic appliances, for hundreds of suffering patients in the mountainous areas of Sichuan. Professor Cheng and the team did their best for these underprivileged people under very poorly-equipped and challenging environment. Over the past four decades, with dedication and limited resources, the warm-hearted Professor Cheng brought both hope and comfort to his patients, among them are often children affected by different neuromusculoskeletal problems including scoliosis (a three dimensional deformity of the spine). In Hong Kong, Professor Cheng had conducted, in addition to his teaching and clinical

duties, focused basic science, clinical and epidemiological research related to the etiopathogenesis and treatment of scoliosis in children. Through his research findings and the long-term follow-up assessment, the Hong Kong community has come to recognise the impact of scoliosis on school children and how it could be diagnosed and treated through early screening and detection. Professor Cheng has made impressive contributions in the field of paediatric orthopaedics, and have not only served the community well but have also brought important insights to other healthcare professionals. For all that he has done, he has earned praise and respect from his peers, and deservedly so.

For his extraordinary performance, Professor Cheng was appointed, on a concurrent basis, the University Dean of Students in 2000. Two years later, he was appointed Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University and, in the following decade, he was at the helm of the student affairs and global engagement of the University, his portfolios covering student recruitment and scholarships, university advancement, and forging closer

collaborations with both mainland and overseas institutions. During his term as Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Cheng had accompanied then Vice-Chancellor Professor Lawrence Lau Juen-yee on multiple visits to many academic institutions in Greater China, Japan, South Korea, Europe and North America. As a result, CUHK had signed up and enriched with fruitful faculty/student exchange, teaching and research partnership collaborations agreements with many renowned institutions worldwide. Simultaneously, Professor Cheng had been instrumental in bringing home a number of national level joint-partnership projects on focus research, among them the South China State Key Laboratory of Oncology in 2006, the State Key Laboratory of Agrobiotechnology in 2008, and the State Key Laboratory of Synthetic Chemistry in 2009. Turning his attention to the north, Professor Cheng also helped, during his Pro-Vice-Chancellorship tenure, set up at the CUHK-Shenzhen campus, a number of important research centres, including the CUHK Shenzhen Research Institute and the Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Integration Technology. An amiable academic with

a neither overbearing nor self-effacing manner, Professor Cheng had led University delegations after delegations to visit many key mainland academic institutions. During these visits, he would represent the University to make known to sister institutions the achievements, development blueprint and aspirations of CUHK. These visits helped consolidate existing collaborations, or paved solid foundations for future partnership agreements with sister institutions spreading over Beijing, Shanghai and the Greater Bay Area. Professor Cheng's vision stretches far and wide, and his network with academic institutions worldwide is broad and intimate. He has indeed made significant contributions to the internationalisation efforts of the University on all fronts.

Mr Chairman, this year marks the 60th anniversary of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. From a humble, and at times difficult, early start, the University has since made giant steps forward as we are celebrating our Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Today, CUHK is comfortably placed within the top 50 tertiary institutions

in the world, and has succeeded in making outstanding contributions to Hong Kong and the world of academia. Let us rejoice over this jubilant occasion by paying our solemn tribute to members of the CUHK senior management, past and present, for their selfless and dedicated efforts. Mr Chairman, it is my great pleasure to present to you Professor Cheng Chun-yiu Jack for the award of Honorary Fellowship.