

THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Impact Case Study Prize
for the Dean's Research Fund 2020-21

Brief Introduction of Awardee's
Impact Case Study and Future Research/KT Development

Awardee (Dept):	Prof. CHIU Wing Kai Stephen, Chair Professor (SSC) Dr. SZE Tak On, Senior Research Assistant (AHKS) <u>Ms. LOUIS Yan (SSC)</u>
Impact Case Study:	<hr/> <p>The Development of Chinese Medicine in Hong Kong: Professionalization, Utilization and Policies</p> <hr/>

A. Briefly introduce your impact case study for which you have received the prize.

Chinese Medicine Studies (CMS) research team aims to provide a comprehensive study of the landscape of Chinese medicine (CM) professional development in Hong Kong. On the supply side, we delineate the professional identities of Chinese Medicine professionals (CMPs) and their views on major issues pertaining to the development of the profession. Whereas from the demand side, we chart the pattern of utilization of CM in Hong Kong as well as the community's perceptions and confidence toward this particular medical modality. The deepened understanding of views and identities of CMPs and the pattern of CM utilization buttresses further deliberations within the professional community over salient issues and policy options impinging on the development of the sector.

Our survey of CMPs profiled 1,541 registered CMPs in terms of their training background and current working condition, shedding light on the status quo and prospect for professional development of CM in Hong Kong. The detailed portrayal of local CMPs' disagreements and consensuses on the current and future professional development renders an invaluable input for policy-makers in their further policy deliberations. In the two surveys on the general public and CM users that come after, which interviewed 1,500 Hong Kong residents and 532 CM patients in 68 CM clinics operated by private individuals, private chains, and non-governmental organizations, we managed to depict the utilization pattern and attitude toward Chinese and Western medicines among Hong Kong residents. We also examine the community's expectations and concerns over policies related to CM development: demands for medical services provided by CM hospital, the future mode of collaboration between Chinese and Western medicines, and the role of CM to play in the public medical system. Finally, the decision-making process of CM users would also be unpacked with 50 follow up in-depth interviews to furnish an inside look into how CM is being utilized among the public.

Armed with a clear map of the CM supply and demand landscape, the research team will continue to work with the professional community on the further institutionalization of CM in Hong Kong, enhance public understanding of CM and offer recommendations on devising public policy towards CM professionalization and its application to enhance the health and well-being of Hong Kong residents.

B. How you used/will use your prize and perhaps its usefulness to your research / KT development?

The prize will be resourced to hire an SRA for 3 months to offer crucial support on data collection, networking with CM community and conducting pilot study. These will serve as the groundwork for new applications for research funding on new research projects on CM professional development.

Two new research projects are currently under preparation. One is on the construction and hosting of a deliberative platform among CMPs and CM professional organizations on major issues pertaining to the development of their practice: the promotion of CM specialization, the management of the CM Hospital, and the interactions and possible modes of collaboration between practitioners from Chinese and Western medicines. Another one will look into Hong Kong Chinese medicine practitioners' views on their own professional niches, attitudes toward the Greater Bay Area development, and also their readiness, preferred mode of practice, worries and expected support from the government on practicing in the region.

C. Expected research/KT outcomes/outputs/impacts arising from this prize.

Journal articles on professional identities of Hong Kong CMPs and CM utilization patterns with comparative prospective will be crafted and submitted. We shall also continue to tap into the various funding opportunities and especially the Chinese Medicine Development Fund and the Public Policy Research Scheme to support further research in this area.