

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE FOUNDATION FOR THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 2018 - MARCH 2019

The foundation continued to serve and proliferate during the year 2018/19. In support of the promotional campaign of the Health Department towards organ donation, the Foundation has devoted much of its effort to launch various publicity movements to encourage people to sign donation card.

With the Foundation objective continued, we were dedicated to serving the community and to offer various kinds of service and education to the community related to liver health. Though funding and resources continued to be the biggest obstacle in our operation, we have never been obstructed by any hardship and would strike to intensify our work to serve the community in different dimensions.

I) PUBLIC EDUCATION ACTIVITIES & SERVICES

1. Liver Donation Campaign

Concerns for the interest of the end-stage liver patients who much undergo liver transplant for survival, is one of our core object. Being a liver health promotion organization dedicated to raise people's awareness of "liver donation save life" concept, we deemed it our mission to remind people the crucial issue whenever chances arose.



Community promote

Two exhibitions were held in Lok Fu Plaza on 6th June 2018 and in Fung Tak Estate on 13th September 2018, with the objective to further promote liver donation. The exhibitions attracted more than 500 people to attend. Many participants filled in the Organ Donation Card provided during the event and they thought that the event were understand more about hepatitis.



2. Hepatitis Vaccination Program

To arouse people’s attention of the importance of liver health, the service became a routine program for people of Hong Kong who want to protect themselves against hepatitis A and hepatitis B infection. There were over 40 participants enrolled to hepatitis A and 11,500 members join in hepatitis B.

3. Newsletter

Two issues were published during the period.



	38th issue	39th issue
Published date	Jun 2018	Dec 2018
Covering feature	Fatty Liver	Hepatitis A
Editor(s)	Dr. Hui Yui	The Foundation
No. of copies printed	18,200	10,600

4. Fibro Screening program

It had been a very pleasant experience for this trial. A total of 139 people attended this first time “paid” service at \$400 each on 24th and 25th January 2019, with the support of Chong Lap H.K. Co. Ltd. The service was originally planned for one day (maximum to serve 70), but was extended to one more day with Chong Lap generous support since the activity got very good response for over 300 calls. No one had any doubt about the fact we imposed charge for the service. They seemed feeling well and accepted the arrangement. This can be regarded as an indirect means of regular service for generate fund for supporting the operation of the Foundation.

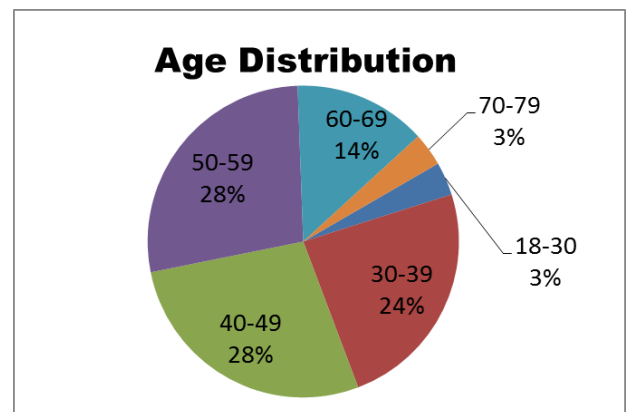
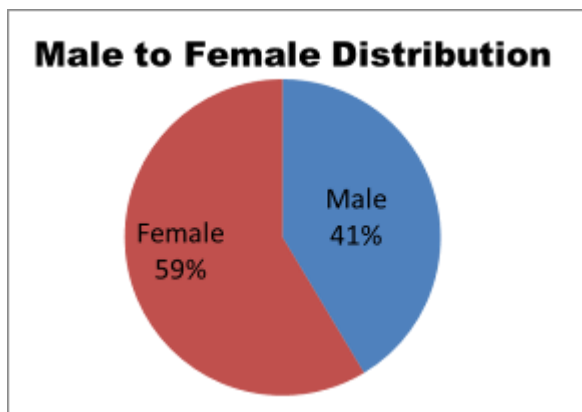
5. Community Service Program for Hepatitis B Carriers

“Community Service Project for HBV+” is still on-going. From 29th June 2018 to 8th February 2019, there have been 29 people joined the scheme, including 1 member of Liver Care. Together with the participants joined the program before, there have been totally 148 people joined the scheme. We aimed to serve Hong Kong Citizen who had confirmed to be Hepatitis B carriers and did not perform any of the liver function tests. Participants were offered initial free blood test and one free doctor consultation (at the first consultation only). The Foundation has teamed up with our volunteer doctors to kick off the “Community Service Program for Hepatitis B Carrier”.

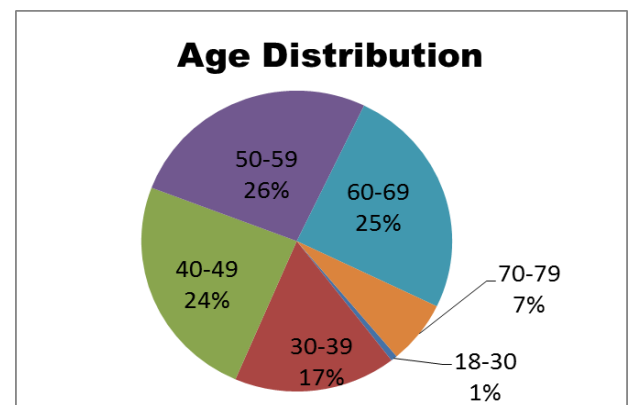
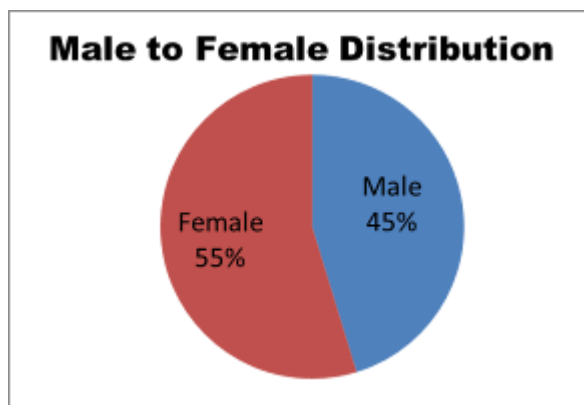


The distribution of participants is as follow:

Distribution of participants between 29th June 2018-8th February 2019:



Distribution of participants of the whole period starting from March 2018



6. Meeting with Liver Specialists Patient Gathering Sessions

Recorded as one of the most welcoming program for HBV+ patients and interested individuals, the scheme was re-run again on 12 May 2018 and 2 March 2019 at Sheraton Hong Kong Hotel, with over 50 interested participants attending per session. Participants were contented to receive expertise advice from liver specialist and gave a high praise to the program. We thanked “Abbvie Pharmaceutical Company” for their sponsorship and concern of the community.



7. World Hepatitis Day

On 28 July World Hepatitis Day brought the world together to raise awareness of global burden of viral hepatitis. People living with hepatitis world eventually die because of the negligence. With better awareness and proper understanding, many of these deaths can be avoided



In response to the World Hepatitis Day, the Foundation organized a free “fibroscan screening service program”. The examination took place at the Foundation office on 27th July 2018. We thanked Chong Lap (HK) Co., Ltd for providing equipment and support as response enthusiastically to the service.

8. Health Talk

8.1) To promote greater awareness of liver-related issues, the Foundation has organized three health talks sessions in 2018 - 2019

- a) at Foundation’s office on 23 August 2018 conducted by Dr. Francis Li
- b) hosted by Dr. Wong Siu Yin on 13 September 2018 at Foundation’s office

8.2) There were over 50 interested participants joined the health seminars. All attendees felt thankful the Foundation for giving them an opportunity to know more about liver health.



II) PATIENT SUPPORT GROUPS ACTIVITIES

1. Liver Buddies patient support group

- a) Simon K Y Lee Memorial Scholarship



Scholarship was awarded to 12 applications this year. The scholarship presentation was held on 15 December 2018 at the Christmas party held at Queen Mary Hospital. Successful candidates were excited to receive the appreciation from the Foundation Chairman Ms. Mildred Law and Dr. Chok Siu Ho, each successful candidate was presented in cash of \$2,000.

b) Christmas Party 2018

This was a celebration event for liver transplant recipients to rejoice their gift of life and a promotional activity for appeal of liver donation. The annual function was held on Saturday, 15 December 2018 at Block K2 at Queen Mary Hospital. 28 members of Liver Buddies, accompanied by their family members, totaling 81 guests, joined the activity and expressed their delight toward the gift of life.



We thanked sponsors/ donors for their support which made the function a memorable one for the children.

2. Liver Care patient support group

The Foundation has organized a health check program in June every year to members of the group to provide them a channel to receive proper health check. It was one of the most welcome activities for the group.

III) RESEARCH PROJECTS

The Population-based study on seroprevalence of viral hepatitis in Hong Kong

The HKU research team collaborated with the Hong Kong Liver Foundation, a non-government organization dedicated in combating liver diseases in Hong Kong. From 2015 to 2016, our team visited all 18 Hong Kong districts, giving health promotion lectures and offering free blood testing for HAV, HBV, HCV and HEV in participants aged 18 years or above. Participants have to also fill in a 2-page questionnaire on their socioeconomic and medical background. Those who were tested positive for HBV or HCV were provided a referral letter to specialist care.

This study recruited 10,256 individuals over a period of 19 months. The mean age in male and female participants was 50.4 years and 52.3 years, respectively. Participants came from all 18 Hong Kong districts, especially Yuen Long (10.8%), Hong Kong East District (10.7%) and Kwun Tong (10.4%).

The overall prevalence of HBV in Hong Kong was 7.8% (male 8.8%, female 7.3%). Very importantly, 48% of HBV-infected participants were unaware of their HBV status prior to this study. The prevalence of HBV was 8.3% among Hong Kong-born participants prior to the availability of universal HBV vaccination. Among those born after commencement of universal vaccination, the prevalence was still 1.8%. HCV was uncommon in Hong Kong, with a prevalence of 0.3%.

HAV and HEV are usually acute self-limiting infections with no long-term sequelae. 65.1% and 33.3% had antibodies to HAV and HEV, respectively, a significant increase from a previous survey in 2001. HAV and HEV antibodies were more common in participants with a lower family income.

Significance of the study and suggestions

With this first largest population territory-based study done in Hong Kong, HKU team confirms HBV remains a common disease in Hong Kong as well as the effectiveness of universal HBV vaccination. As almost half of patients with HBV were unaware of their disease status, the study results urgently call for raising public awareness and screening on HBV, especially if Hong Kong is to achieve the public health objectives of WHO in 2030.

“To achieve the WHO 2030 goal, implementation of whole-population screening for HBV is necessary. A comprehensive health care strategy is required for the whole of Hong Kong if we are to improve diagnosis and treatment coverage and reduce the risk of liver cirrhosis and cancer.” says Professor Richard Yuen Man-fung, Li Shu Fan Medical Foundation Professor in Medicine, Chair Professor of Gastroenterology and Hepatology of Department of Medicine, HKUMed.

The World Health Organization 2030 Objectives on Viral Hepatitis

In 2016, the World Health Organization (WHO) set the global objective in eliminating viral hepatitis, mainly HBV and HCV, as a public health threat by 2030. This included achieving a diagnostic coverage of 90%, a treatment coverage of 80% among eligible patients, and a reduction of 90% and 65% in new infections and liver-related death, respectively. Based on its 2017 report, the global diagnosis and treatment coverage of HBV was only 9% and 8%, respectively, signifying much public health efforts are still needed.

Liver disease is common in Hong Kong, with HBV being the major cause. Prior to the availability of universal HBV vaccination in 1988, the major route of HBV transmission was mother-to-child during or just after childbirth. HBV can also be transmitted through blood and body fluids, for example through sharing of contaminated needles and sexual contact. Patients who are infected with HBV can become chronic carriers. As most HBV carriers are asymptomatic, most patients are not diagnosed until hepatitis B develops into cirrhosis and liver cancer. Liver cancer is a deadly cancer, its mortality rates are ranked 3rd in male and 4th in female. 1,540 patients died of liver cancer in Hong Kong in 2016.

IV) FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES

Charity Bazaar 2018

A charity bazaar was taken place between November and December 2018. Special thanks to Chairman Mrs Mildred Lee for allowing us to arrange sales at one of her shops in Gold Swan Building for two weeks with very good sales generated. For the rest of the period, sales continued at the office.



Items sold include scarfs, woollen clothes and ties, which raised \$21,605. The amount was aimed at supporting the local community auxiliary medical services provided by the Foundation, as well as promoting organ donation campaign.

V) SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE 2018



Seasonal Influenza vaccine protect against infection by influenza viruses. The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that vaccination against influenza reduces sickness, medical visits, hospitalizations and deaths.

The Foundation has organized seasonal Influenza vaccine at Foundation's office in October and November 2018 and co-operate with leading laboratory to launch this service program. The service was offered to general public as usual.

VI) Others

1. Restructuring of manpower & administration

The Council called for a special meeting on 3rd December 2018, resolved to reduce cost for a better financial position/cash flow. The council had a thorough discussion on the way to cut cost but at the same time keeping all the programs running. As a big portion of the operation expenses went to salary, members all agreed to keep a minimal staff headcount, with following action taken.

i/ Personnel Changed

a) Reduced headcount by serving one month notice to the following three staff :

- * Ms Doris Ho – Executive Administrator (on Dec 4, 2018)
- * Ms Joan Tsao – Project Officer (on Dec 14, 2018)
- * Ms Karen Lam – Accounting Officer (shifted to the position of part-time Accounting Officer since Mid July 2018) (on Dec 14, 2018)

b) Two staff resigned from HKLF as follow :

- ◆ Ms. Wenda Chan – Project Assistant (resigned and left HKLF on 20 June 2018)
- ◆ Ms. Chelcie Tsang – Administration & Project Officer (resigned and left HKLF on 6 January 2019)

c) After the restructuring since January 2019, HKLF employed two full time staff in total to run the office:

- Mr. David Cheung – Administration Officer(commenced on 21 January 2019)
- Ms. Lilian Leung - Administration Officer(commenced on 18 February 2019)

ii/ Bank Accounts Issues

With the departure of Ms. Doris Ho, her name as authorized signature had been removed from all bank accounts of Hang Seng Bank Ltd and OCBC Wing Hang Bank, with effective from 1 January, 2019.

iii/ Reduced the size of office

The HKLF office had been moved from 11A to 14B at the same building started from 15 January 2019. It saved HK\$12,000 per month for the cost of rental.

2. Spring Dinner

2018-2019 Annual Dinner had been held at The Chariot Club after the 75th Council Meeting. 15 members joined in the dinner.

The Foundation is need of public support to develop more community project. We are most thankful our supporters and donors for their continued support throughout the year, particularly to the medical team, who backing up our work. We are here to express our sincere appreciation.

