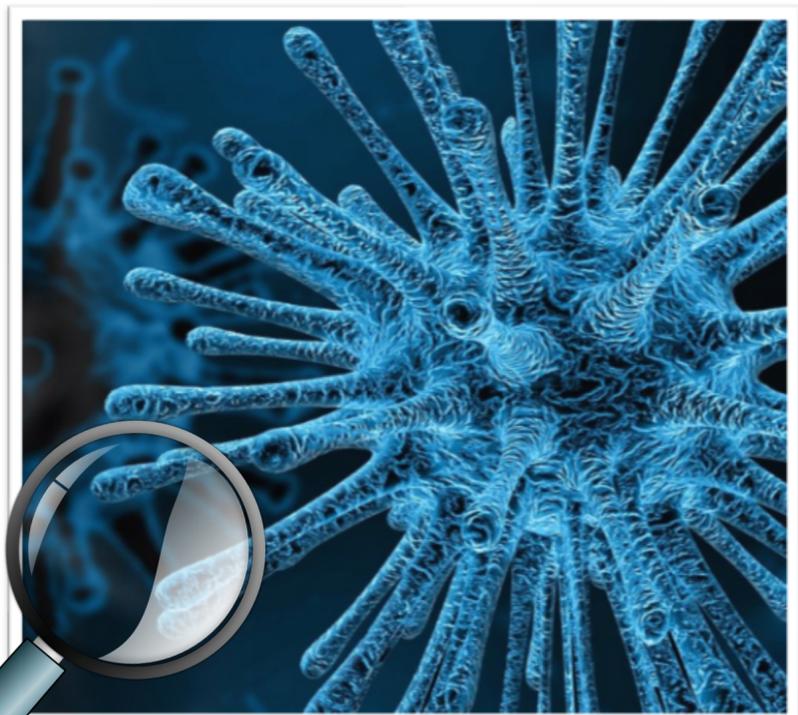


Co-organisers:



Update on COVID-19 from Expert Local Scientists

(TECT1905)

Opening Speech:

Professor Lap-Chee TSUI (President, The Hong Kong Academy of Sciences)

Speakers:

Professor Ben COWLING and Professor Leo POON

(The University of Hong Kong, Faculty of Medicine, School of Public Health and YASHK Founding Member)

Moderator:

Dr. Stephanie MA (The University of Hong Kong, Faculty of Medicine, School of Biomedical Sciences and YASHK Founding Member)

Programme Content:

The new coronavirus (COVID-19) was identified in Wuhan in December 2019 and has now spread to many other countries. While most infections cause mild illness, a minority of infections can lead to more severe disease particularly in older adults or those with underlying medical conditions. The infection is not highly contagious and spreads mainly through prolonged close contact, and outbreaks have been reported when people spend time together in crowded indoor areas. In Hong Kong, transmission has been contained in February and early March through a number of specific measures including isolation of cases, quarantine of their contacts, social distancing (school and workplace closures) and individual changes in behavior (staying at home more often, and wearing face masks when going out). Two local experts will discuss what is known about COVID-19 and the virus causing this disease (SARS-CoV-2), and provide an update on the situation so far and what might happen in the coming months. These experts will talk about the importance of sharing their findings to various national and international healthcare organizations for combating this newly emerging disease.

Date and Time of Event:

14 March 2020

(Saturday)

2:00pm to 3:30pm

Language:

English / Cantonese

Registration:

Click [here](#)

Capacity:

500 participants*

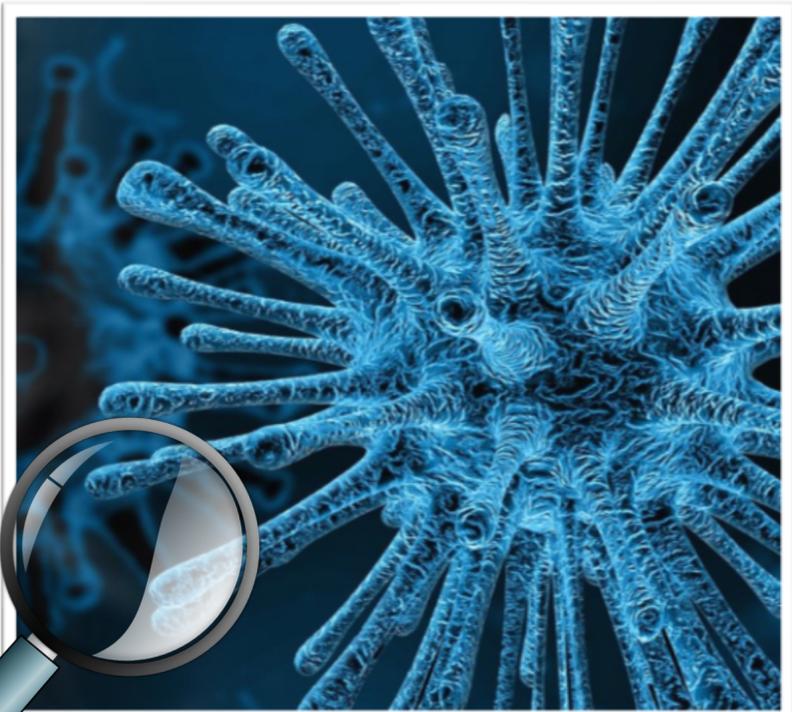
Mode of Delivery:

Online session using Zoom (view and ask questions) / YouTube Live (view only)*

Target Participants:

- HKAGE student members
- Mentees of ASHK mentorship programme
- School teachers
- General public

***If the capacity is full, participants can visit the following link for viewing the talk through live broadcast at HKAGE YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheHKAGE>**



Biography of the speakers

Professor Leo POON

Professor POON received his doctoral training as a Croucher Scholar in the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology at the University of Oxford (1996–1999). He returned to Hong Kong in 1999 and joined the University of Hong Kong as a Research Assistant Professor in 2001. He currently serves as a Professor in the School of Public Health of HKU.

Professor POON is a molecular virologist and he studies viruses of global health concern. His research helps to reveal the biology of influenza viruses and coronaviruses and facilitates the development of control measures against these pathogens. He has published over 200 peer-reviewed articles. He has been ranked in the top 1% of the world's most-cited scientists each year since 2005 by Clarivate Analytics. He was awarded a Senior Research Fellowship by the Croucher Foundation in 2017. He was elected as Fellow in Faculty of Public Health (UK) in 2017 and as a Founding Member of the Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences in 2018.

Professor POON serves as an expert for several international organisations. He is a committee member in the Coronavirus Study Group under the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (since 2006) and he is also an expert in the Influenza Molecular Diagnosis Working Group of the World Health Organization (since 2009). He serves as an ad hoc consultant for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and for the World Organization for Animal Health for controlling MERS coronavirus.

Professor Benjamin COWLING

Professor COWLING joined the School of Public Health (SPH) at HKU in 2004 after completing a PhD in medical statistics at the University of Warwick (UK). He has been the Head of the Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the HKU School of Public Health since 2013. He has been doing research in infectious disease epidemiology. In recent years he has designed and implemented large field studies of influenza transmission in the community and the effectiveness and impact of control measures, including large vaccine trials. His latest research has focused on the modes of respiratory virus transmission, influenza vaccination effectiveness, and the link between individual immunity and population immunity to infections.

Professor COWLING is a fellow of the Royal Statistical Society and a Fellow of the UK Faculty of Public Health. He is the Editor-in-Chief of *Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses*, an Associate Editor of *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. He has more than 400 journal publications listed in Scopus and has received numerous awards including HKU Outstanding Young Researcher Award (2011), Croucher Senior Research Fellowship (2015), and HKU Outstanding Researcher Award (2017). He is a Founding Member of the Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences.