

# Webinar

## The Covid-19 Vaccines and the “New Normal”

27 March 2021

11am-12:30pm

Language: English & Cantonese

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The vaccination process has just started in Hong Kong, but the public still has many questions concerning the vaccines. What are the differences between the different types of vaccines? How do these vaccines work and how effective are they? How is the effectiveness of vaccines evaluated by the World Health Organization? How can we reach “herd immunity”? Will everything go back to normal as before Covid-19 or will there be a “New Normal” even after vaccinations? In this seminar, experts in bioengineering and public health, Prof. Benjamin Cowling (HKU), Prof. Leo Poon (HKU) and Prof. Angela Wu (HKUST) will answer these questions.

Speakers :



**Prof. Leo Poon**

Professor  
School of Public Health  
Faculty of Medicine  
The University of Hong Kong  
YASHK Founding member



**Prof. Benjamin Cowling**

Professor  
School of Public Health  
Faculty of Medicine  
The University of Hong Kong  
YASHK Founding member



**Prof. Angela Wu**

Assistant Professor  
Division of Life Science  
Department of Chemical and  
Biological Engineering  
Hong Kong University of  
Science and Technology

**Zoom (view and ask questions)**

**YouTube Live (view only)**

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More details about  
the Webinar

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### 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.

### Professor Angela WU

Angela Ruohao WU is an assistant professor in the Division of Life Science and the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Angela obtained her B.S. in Bioengineering from the University of California, Berkeley, then moved to Stanford University for her M.S., Ph.D., and postdoctoral training in Bioengineering. At Stanford, Angela co-founded Agenovir Corporation, a genome editing-based antiviral therapeutics company that was acquired by Vir Biotechnologies in 2018. Angela is passionate about developing new interdisciplinary technologies to investigate basic biology and human diseases. As recognition of her achievements in technology and innovation, Angela was named one of MIT Technology Review Innovators under 35 Asia in 2017, and a World Economic Forum Young Scientist in 2018. Her research group recently used a novel technology called MINERVA to study COVID-19 patient samples, revealing that patients' microbial compositions are greatly disrupted and closely linked to patients' disease severity, as well as potential co-infections that could impact patient care in the clinic.