in Cering



LOVE・PEACE・HARMONY 仁愛・平安・和睦

Professor Lam Wah Kit 林華杰教授

28 December 1947 - 24 January 2022

Lam Wah Kit was born in a modest family, the youngest of five boys, of parents who came to Hong Kong in 1945. He received primary schooling at Tung Wah and Sun Hui Commercial primary schools and entered, on scholarships, for secondary education at Queen's College and medical studies at the University of Hong Kong. Continuing his previous scholarship trail, he garnered many honours during medical studies, and graduated in 1972 with the Anderson Memorial Medal (for the top two students with highest aggregate marks throughout the 5 years of medical studies), and the Hong Kong University Alumni Prize for Outstanding graduate of the Year. He also met his life partner at medical school, Leung Sau Chee, Gloria, who was his classmate.

After a short detour as medical officer mostly in medicine at the United Christian Hospital, the young Dr. Lam returned to his alma mater as a lecturer in the Department of Medicine (then known as University Medical Unit) at Queen Mary Hospital in 1975, where subspecialty development was just beginning to take shape. He soon joined the respiratory team led by Dr. Donald Yu. In 1978 - 1980, he



went to the Brompton Hospital, London, UK, for special training on a British Commonwealth Scholarship. He was clinical assistant to Professor Jack Pepys, and honourary research fellow in the respirology oncology team under Dr. S Spiro, Dr. M Hodson and Dr. DM Geddes. Many years later when he became professor in medicine, he revealed that his dedication to research in lung cancer especially in non-smokers, was inspired by the demise of his father from this disease.

He became "Reader" at the University of Hong Kong in 1989, with the nomenclature changing to Professor in 1996, and he was further appointed as Chair professor in respiratory medicine in 1997. He led development of respiratory services as Chief of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine at Queen Mary Hospital (QMH) from 1989 till his retirement in 2008. As Chief of Service to the University Medical Unit at The Grantham Hospital in 1993-1997, he gave pivotal support for the establishment of the programmes in lung transplant and in pulmonary rehabilitation, himself having trained in 1987 at the Webb-Waring Lung Institute in Denver, USA chaired by Professor Thomas Petty who was a pioneer of pulmonary rehabilitation. He was Head of the Department of Medicine at HKU/QMH in 2003-2006, and chaired the Department Board till 2019.

1

Professor Lam was an astute clinician, and an eminent teacher. While he was of a serious personality, he was also friendly and kind, with a fine sense of humour. Some of his patients remained his loyal friends for life. He was able to explain difficult concepts in an easily understood way, and was very well liked by medical students and trainees for his clear and effective teaching. At a bedside visit to him in early 2021, when he had been in and out of the Intensive Care Unit a few times and even talking was a chore for him - he only talked about one subject in the 20 minutes of our conversation, when he reiterated on the importance of setting the MB examination questions well .

Professor Lam has devoted much of his time and energy to the conception, birth and nurture of local respiratory societies. In the early 1980s, he was one of the leaders in the Hong Kong and Macau Chapter of the American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP), which was at the time the only professional group for general pulmonologists in Hong Kong. In 1986, he was a core member of the small group of pulmonologists who had the foresight to establish the Hong Kong Thoracic Society (HKTS), and he was the first Honourary secretary and editor of its newsletter. With peer support, he went on to lead the establishment of the Hong Kong Lung Foundation (HKLF) and was its Founding Chairman in 1996. These societies have since then remained instrumental in the advocacy for continuing education and professional development in respiratory medicine, providing a focal point for solidarity and camaraderie to healthcare workers in the respiratory discipline in Hong Kong. He was President of the Asia Pacific Society of Respirology (APSR) in 2002-2004. He was also active in professional links with the Mainland, and advocated for support of young scholars to participate in scientific meetings in respiratory medicine in Hong Kong, and regularly received trainees at HKU/QMH.

At the same time, he was heavily involved in the Hong Kong College of Physicians (HKCP), especially in the aspects of training and accreditation. He was the Chairman of its Examination Committee in 1992-2004, responsible for the introduction of the new PACES section at MRCP(UK) examination in Hong Kong, and became Vice President in External Affairs in 2004. He also sat on international advisory committees of Colleges in UK and Australia. With his engagement in HKCP, he was a pioneering force in territory-wide subspecialty training standards in respiratory medicine in Hong Kong.

His commitment to the development of respiratory medicine was recognised internationally and locally. He has received the ACCP Manuel Albertal Award, APSR Medal, and honourary fellowships from the Colleges in UK and HK respectively, and from the Hong Kong Lung Foundation.

Given the array of career accomplishments, it would be surprising to those who were not in his immediate circle to know that these were achieved while he battled major illnesses and prevailing compromised health. To those of us who work with him constantly, it is an even more amazing and inspirational demonstration of resilience against personal adversities. He has fought three tumours for which he underwent major surgeries and he received medical treatment of one kind or another almost continuously over the past 35 years. He has always been positive and seldom referred to his personal health when he was at work, nor complained much even when he was acutely unwell.

In spite of his many accolades, Prof Lam has remained one of the most modest and hard-working person I have known. On his official retirement in 2008, probably a bit prematurely due to his compromised health status, he became honourary and Emeritus Professor of the University. He continued many of his professional activities and remained an avid teacher of medical students up to the time when he was taken ill to the hospital in November 2020.

In the last phase of his life journey, while he had no children, Professor Lam was looked after continuously by his team-mates, many of whom were his mentees. The Department was even able to hold a birthday party for him at around Christmas time in 2020. He was cheered by the loving care of our respiratory nurses when the Covid pandemic made visitations difficult. He had tele-communications with his family members in Hong Kong or overseas, and was able to every now and then visit his beloved wife in the hospital, or vice versa, despite the need of many protective measures against cross infections. He passed away peacefully on 24 January 2022, surrounded by family and close colleagues, to re-unite with Gloria.

Professor WK Lam will be deeply missed and fondly remembered. He has given us a rich legacy with his mentorship and professional leadership - a solid foundation of the respiratory subspecialty in Hong Kong and a bright torch in respiratory medicine to carry forth .

Prof Mary Ip Sau-man

HKTS President 1995-99, ACCP (HK & Macau Chapter) Governor 2001-05, Regent 2005-11, HKLF Chairman 2001-03



Professor WK Lam celebrated his 73rd birthday in 2020, joined by his relatives, team members and colleagues in the Department of Medicine, HKU.

I have been acquainted with Prof. Lam for half a century. I have been immensely impressed that he possessed the rare combination of being a distinguished clinician, academician, teacher and administrator at the same time. Had significantly assisted and contributed to the evolution of the HK Lung Foundation, HK Thoracic Society, ACCP (HK & Macau Chapter), the Respiratory Medicine in University of Hong Kong, the Department of Medicine HKU, the HK College of Physicians and UK Royal Colleges examinations. Despite being handicapped by a malignant ailment, he had never failed to discharge his commitments to the previously mentioned institutions. I am therefore extremely sad to have lost such a distinguished pupil, colleague and friend.

Prof Donald Yu Yu-chiu

Past HKTS Council Member, HKLF Executive Board Member





Professor LamWah Kit — A Doyen of the Respiratory Community

Professor Lam Wah Kit was one of the most respected and admired physicians not only in the respiratory community but also in other medical sectors. He had trained generations of respirologists in Hong Kong. Under his capable leadership, the Hong Kong Thoracic Society and the Lung foundation grew over the years to serve the local community. His contributions to the development of academic and clinical respiratory medicine in Hong Kong have yet to be surpassed. Thus, he was conferred a Fellow of the Hong Kong Thoracic Society.

As Head of the Department of Medicine between 2001 and 2004, Wah Kit demonstrated his skill in administration by reorganizing the Department in this short period of time. He established smaller, more efficient committees to deal with specific tasks such as undergraduate committee, postgraduate education research and accommodation committee, human resource committee, continuous professional education committee, and others. He also reduced the numbers of departmental meetings by combining all these meetings into one—the Department Board Meeting, which was initially held monthly, but eventually was changed to quarterly. The time spent on departmental meetings decreased dramatically. However, Wah Kit's lasting influence was to ensure the administration of the Department to be conducted in a more democratic, open, and transparent manner which was lacking previously. Even after he stepped down as Head, the Department invited him to continue to chair the Department Board Meetings until his health failed him showing how members of the Department held his opinion with high esteem.



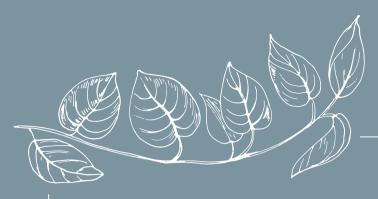
There is one photo that was taken in 1987, during the centenary celebration of Hong Kong Medical school when I visited Hong Kong. It was taken near HKU Library in the main campus. I am sure you can recognize most characters in the photo. We were all so young then.

As a colleague, Wah Kit was always kind, generous and courteous. He had the misfortune of having a number of medical problems which he bore with great fortitude. In 2000, I visited him at the Grantham Hospital when he had lung surgery. Even though he was in obvious pain and discomfort, when he saw me, he put on a smile as a gracious host and motioned me to sit down. He told me between breaths that he had two chest tubes, but did not complain. Over the last two decades, he had investigations and hospitalizations. He talked about his multiple medical problems freely but dispassionately as a clinician discussing a case with colleagues and never about his pain and suffering. Despite his ill health, his strength of will led him to continue teaching students and to take on some administrative duties even after his retirement in 2008. His courage, his patience and his serenity in struggling against his disease left me with awe.

Professor LAM Wah Kit was an astute clinician, a dedicated teacher and researcher, and a caring mentor, but above all, he was a real gentleman. He left behind him the abiding memory of a life of selfless devotion to his family, his university and Hong Kong, his place of birth.

Prof Moira Chan-Yeung

Past HKLF Executive Board Member



The whole medical fraternity, loses a great physician. I personally lose a great colleague and a very good friend. W K had been a great help to me through the years we worked in Queen Mary Hospital and Grantham Hospital.

He helped me organizing the VII Asia Pacific Congress on Diseases of the Chest held in Hong Kong in November 1981, which was the largest Congress or Conference held in Hong Kong till then; it had been a very successful Congress attended by a large number of delegates from around the world. We had a healthy surplus. That fund helped us to establish the Hong Kong Lung Foundation.

He also helped me publishing the Proceedings of the Congress, a large book with all the scientific papers presented during the Congress. We co-authored the publication.

I will treasure our good friendship.

Dr Nandi Pannalal

ACCP (HK & Macau Chapter) Regent 1993-2001

林華傑教授千古

華胄數英才,一代胸科稱俊傑;

哲人登壽鶴,滿門桃李憶良師。

梁兆文敬輓

It seemed like yesterday when I received a personal call from Professor WK Lam one afternoon in 1987.

"John, I have a surprise for you. We are going to form a Hong Kong Thoracic Society and would like to invite you to join us."

"Thank you, that's very kind of you. And I also have a surprise for you. Ten years ago, a grateful patient wrote me a check of \$10,000.00 which I refused to accept as a Government employee and University staff. So, we put it in the bank under the name of Hong Kong Thoracic Fund. Now, we can officially transfer the amount into the society with the same name. You see, I have been waiting for ten years to off-load this responsibility."

And so our friendship, which began in the University and Queen Mary Hospital was renewed with vigor.

After listening to his inauguration lecture upon taking up the Chair of Respiratory Medicine, I went up to congratulate Professor Lam on his eloquent dissertation of the molecular aspects of lung cancer, and he said to me, "Nowadays we must talk about molecular medicine. If you don't you have nothing (of comparable impact magnitude) to talk about." His words became prophetic over subsequent years.

I had never stopped marveling at Professor Lam's wisdom, knowledge and foresight, always adding a touch of wit and humor in the many clinical meetings that he chaired or lectured. As a surgeon, I do not pretend I could understand everything he said, but I could always have a good laugh when he cracked a joke.

As a sincere friend, WK will long live in our memory. As a great respiratory physician, Professor Lam has left an indelible impact on the medical profession.

Dr John Leung Siu-man





These photos were taken when we attended a conference on Lung Cancer in the 80s and enjoyed a trip to the snow mountain in Switzerland.

Professor Lam, I call him Wah-kit, is a real gentlemen. He was always frank, kind, professional and friendly. At the same time he is a very strong man, and had overcome a few episodes of illness and operations which did not affect his determination, his vision and mission. His devotion, production, mentorship and leadership in the field of respiratory medicine were unremarkable. Now he left us peacefully and joined his, beloved in heaven. However he will be remembered by us always and for long.

Dr Chan Shiu-lun

HKTS President 1987-89, ACCP (HK & Macau Chapter) Governor 1993-97



This photo was taken in 1987, and I have the privilege to accompany the big shots of the University of Hong Kong







"Prof W K Lam not only had great academic achievements; he was very courageous and resilient in battling his own numerous tumours for over 30 years. Any of these adversities could have defeated a lesser mortal. He was truly a superman."

Prof So Shan-yang



"I am deeply saddened by the passing of Professor Lam Wah-Kit.

Professor Lam was one year senior to me in HKU Medical School,
and was one of the invaluable mentors of mine when I developed
respiratory medicine service in UCH in the 1980s. He is fondly
remembered as a most knowledgeable academic, an empathetic
clinician, a caring mentor, and a well respected gentleman."

Dr Tse Chun-yan

ACCP (HK & Macau Chapter) President 1991-93

Professor WK Lam

Professor Lam Wah-kit was a pillar of the Respiratory Medicine community.

Wah-kit (to his contemporaries) was my senior in class and in the University Department of Medicine, where we worked together for two years. From the first day I knew him he has been courteous and gentlemanly, kind to his patients and always ready to lend a helping hand to whoever in need. Wah-kit was a great teacher, he loved to teach and share, as everyone knows. He even recruited several seniors to organise a mock examination for several candidates (including myself) in his London hostel before our MRCP examination, when he was on sabbatical in Brompton Hospital on a Commonwealth Scholarship.

We already know very well Wah-kit's countless initiatives and contributions to the Respiratory Medicine specialty. I also had the privilege of witnessing his wisdom and dedication to physician training in the Hong Kong College of Physicians (HKCP). For 20 years and more, Wah-kit had been consecutively Council Member and Vice-President (External Affairs), chaired the Examination Committee to oversee the implementation of the Joint HKCP Intermediate Examination- MRCP Examination; and as International Advisor to the UK Physician Colleges, advocated for our College Fellows in their nomination for Fellowship of the UK Colleges. Wah-kit led the development of the training guidelines in Respiratory Medicine and was, rightly, the first chairman of the Specialty Board in Respiratory Medicine. At the same time, he also actively contributed to the Scientific Committee and the Membership Committee. Everything Wah-kit did had an impact on the lives and development of physicians locally.

Throughout these years, Wah-kit remained active and productive in teaching and research while overcoming

indeed exemplary.

We mourn the passing of a wise man, a great doctor, a dedicated teacher, and a caring elder brother to his junior colleagues. May Wah-kit rest in peace!

major challenges to his health. His courage and his tenacity were

Dr Loretta Yam Yin-chun

HKTS Vice-President 1997-99, HKLF Chairman 2005-07



Professor Lam celebrated HKTS/HKLF Anniversaries with APSR Colleagues.





"Your superb academic achievement and great mentorship will always be in our cherished memories."

Dr Yew Wing-wai

HKTS Vice-President 1991-93, ACCP (HK & Macau Chapter) Governor 2005-07

In Memoriam: Professor Lam Wah-kit

"Chest physicians get on with one another better than any other specialty"

These are not Wah-kit's exact words, but he had said something like this to me more than once. A united specialty and harmony within its membership are a source of great pride for him and in my mind one of his greatest achievements.

I first met Wah-kit and So Shun Yang in 1978, appropriately enough, at the Brompton Hospital. It was unusual for two lecturers in the same specialty to be on study leave away from Queen Mary at the same time. This was fortunate, for we became acquainted, and it made re-acquaintance much easier when I started working at the new Faculty of Medicine at the Chinese University in 1984. Instead of regarding CUHK as an upstart, Wah-kit welcomed our participation in the activities of our budding specialty, initially under the Hong Kong and Macau Chapter of the American College of Chest Physicians (now truncated to Chest Delegation). Establishment of our own Hong Kong Thoracic Society and Hong Kong Lung foundation



followed, with Wah-kit playing a key role. Throughout this crucial phase of development, maintaining a united and harmonious specialty had always been his aim. In this he was remarkably successful, and for this we can be most grateful.

My last "business" meeting with Wah-kit was on 10th Nov. 2019 when we were both judges at the eponymous Professor Wah-kit Lam Young Investigator Awards. (See photo). True to form, our unified decision was reached harmoniously.

RIP, Wah-kit, you were the benign gel that melded Respiratory Medicine together for over three decades. We shall miss you, your leadership, and your devotion to our specialty.

Dr Joseph Pang Che-kong

HKTS Vice-President 1989-91





In memory of Professor Lam Wah Kit

Professor Lam was a mentor, supporter, and friend to me. As a young paediatric trainee wanting to learn more about respiratory medicine, my only chance then was to be attached to the "Big Brothers", the colleagues in adult medicine, and to participate in clinical meetings of the Hong Kong Thoracic Society. I must confess I felt intimidated attending the respiratory rounds and X-ray meetings. But Professor Lam, then still a lecturer, was very welcoming and gave me lots of encouragement. He was very supportive of my developing a career in respiratory paediatrics and gave me very sound advice. Later I had the privilege to serve with him in the Council of the HK Thoracic Society and the founding of the Hong Kong Asthma Society. He was a wise and gentle leader with clear principles and vision. He was my model of an academic clinician with exceptional achievements, high ethical standards and yet great modesty. His teachings will always be my motto.

Dr Alfred Tam Yat-cheung

Past HKTS Council Member









Prof. Lam Wah Kit, a role model for us all

I had the privilege to have been Wah Kit's student, intern and colleague over the course of more than four decades. What made him such a great leader was that he always treated everyone, including his juniors and students, with respect. He inspired rather than directed, listened rather than dictated, and sought consensus rather than confrontation. Under his leadership, our specialty has flourished in the last few decades, and his influence was pivotal in enabling Hong Kong to develop talented doctors who deliver world class care in Respiratory medicine. The respiratory fraternity has sadly lost a pillar but I am sure his legacy will live on to inspire future generations to reach greater heights.

Prof Christopher Lai Kei-wai

HKTS President 1993-95

世界關懷「慢阻肺病」日

World COPD Day 2002



HKLF 10th Anniversary

In remembrance of Professor Lam Wah-Kit

I dearly missed Professor Lam Wah-kit for his teaching & his role model as a leader within the professional field. Though I had never been taught by Prof Lam during my medical student days, his talk on "Asbestosis disease of the lung" presented in one of the Saturday medical grand rounds of University Medical Unit of QMH before my final MB examination in 1981 was vividly recalled for its clarity & succinctness, so won a great applause from the floor.

I had a golden opportunity of serving ACCP (HK & Macau chapter) as Honorary Secretary & Chairman during the early 2000s, under his leadership as Regent. I admire his humbleness, gentleness, balance of different views but willing to commit when we were facing different decisions in our respiratory societies. Professor Lam was always supportive by his physical presence in various respiratory public activities like World COPD Day despite he was so busy as the head of Department of Medicine of QMH. I also had the experience of partnering him as examiner in the exit examination of Respiratory Medicine, which was a treasurable memory.

Professor Lam, thank you for all you had done for us!

Dr Chan Kin-sang

ACCP (HK & Macau Chapter) President 2003-05, ACCP (HK & Macau Chapter) Governor 2009-15, HKLF Chairman 2009-11



林華杰教授... 是人中的王者

他所得的榮耀,遠低於他所應得的。

林教授為人低調,但蓋不住他的鋒芒,對晚輩的關切和提攜,不需用言語來表達。他人生中的貢獻,尤其在呼吸專科和有關的學術、專業、社會政策以致公共教育,都是不可言論。林教授是領導者的領導者,眼光高遠, 胸襟也廣闊,可以平視強者,也俯就和教導在成長中的晚輩。作為他的學生,以及基金會/學會團隊裡的一員,是一種榮幸。

他的離去,除了傷痛婉惜,還是傷痛婉惜。説話文字都不容易表達。

願林教授安息,他的精神常在我們中間。

譚卓賢醫生

香港胸肺學會2009-11,香港胸肺基金會主席 2015-17



Dear Prof WK Lam,

I am writing to pay tribute to the immense contribution you have made to the medical community, especially to the chest community, to the HK College of Physicians, to the Faculty of Medicine, the University of Hong Kong, and to the Department of Medicine at Queen Mary Hospital.

The words that came to my mind which would describe you and your work succinctly include the following:

A deep and systematic thinker

A hard-working block-builder quietly working behind the scenes

A team player who generously let others share in the glory of the product

An amazing leader with a clear vision and at the same time with open-mindedness to accept new ideas

You were all of the above during your tenure as one of the top leaders of the chest community and of the Hong Kong College of Physicians, as well as during your tenure as the Head of the Division of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine and as the Head of the Department of Medicine.

I would also like to add two more descriptions that rightfully define who you were:

1. An effective and impressive clinical teacher

You are not just a great teacher: you are the greatest teacher I have ever encountered in my medical career. When I was a respiratory trainee at the University Medical Unit (UMU), the highlight of the week was always the Respiratory Grand Round on Wednesday mornings. Such Grand Rounds in those early days were led by you. You would listen to the clinical story of each patient, and would then ask the trainees in the group to answer some very basic yet highly pertinent questions. Following the response, you would summarise the appropriate answer in point form. In this way, the message is made simple and easy to absorb. One could see not only how well organised your medical knowledge was, but also how well distilled and thoroughly cataloged the body of medical knowledge was in your intellectual mind.

2. A visionary pioneer ahead of his times

Your vision in building the respiratory societies, and in building the Hong Kong Lung Foundation was pivotal in the realisation of these entities, which in turn have glued the respiratory community together working in harmonious and collaborative manner.

Long before the era of targeted therapy, you had been working fiercely on the search for genetic markers for lung cancer, collaborating closely with colleagues at the Department of Clinical Pathology. Those were times



before the advent of molecular biology, and the tools were rudimentary. Hence, although your contribution to the science of lung cancer might have appeared limited in the international scene, you were a pioneering researcher in the search for genetic markers for lung cancer.

I will always remember your highly professional demeanors towards your colleagues and students, your refusal to badmouth anyone, your patience to work with and guide learners of all levels. You have a big heart for all comers and you are ready to forgive anyone who might have hurt you.

I whole-heartedly thank you for accepting me to be a trainee in Respiratory Medicine, for introducing me to the Hong Kong-Stanford Training Fellowship, for tolerating my leave of absence from the frontline for two plus years so that I could finish my fellowship training in the US, for equipping me with the necessary resources (money and research manpower) to establish my first benchwork laboratory in Hong Kong, and for being understanding and all-embracing when I decided to leave the academia to pursue my newly found interest in Critical Care Medicine.

Thank you Prof WK Lam for who you are to me and to numerous mentees who grew up under your kind generous guidance.

Richard and I will sorely miss you! May you Rest In Peace!!!

Dr Jane Chan Chun-kwong

ACCP (HK & Macau Chapter) President 1995-97, Governor 2001-7, Regent 2011-13, Global Governor 2013-



I am saddened to hear of the death of Professor WK Lam and it is a great loss to many, including colleagues in the field of Respiratory Medicine.

I first came across Professor Lam when I was a medical student. During his teachings, I was much impressed by his thorough thinking together with clear presentations that made complex matter simple. That certainly made life a bit easier for his students including myself.

Professor Lam always strive for excellence and thus with no surprise, he attained much achievement in the field and became a worldrenounced expert over the years.

Though not working in his department, I was privileged to have a bit of research experience under his leadership and guidance. Subsequently, I was grateful to serve in the local respiratory society and learn even more from him. I knew him further that though he is always serious-looking, he is also humorous, and injecting fun to make people relaxed, yet keeping his cool.

I would like to thank Professor Lam for being a great model in the field and his caring to his juniors, from my personal experience.

May he rest in peace!

Dr Lau Kam-shing

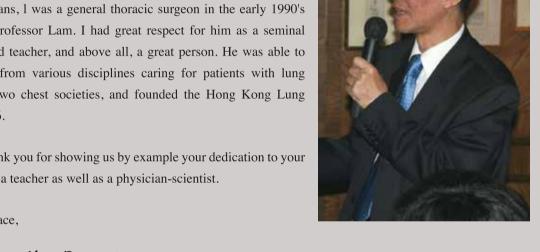
Past CHEST Delegation HK & Macau Executive Committee Member

I was humbled to be asked to write this tribute to the late Professor Lam who passed away at the end of January 24, 2022 at the age of seventy four.

Unlike most contributors to this memorial album who are prominent respiratory physicians, I was a general thoracic surgeon in the early 1990's when I first met Professor Lam. I had great respect for him as a seminal scholar, a dedicated teacher, and above all, a great person. He was able to attract physicians from various disciplines caring for patients with lung diseases into the two chest societies, and founded the Hong Kong Lung Foundation in 1996.

Professor Lam, thank you for showing us by example your dedication to your profession, both as a teacher as well as a physician-scientist.

May you rest in peace,







今日送君須盡醉 明朝相憶路漫漫 死別吞聲懷舊情 胸肺泰斗華杰兄

辛丑年梁宗存記

梁宗存醫生

美國胸肺學院(港澳分會)主席 1997-99

A star is gone. I think I know Professor Lam well. I love him as you all do. Please remember his good deeds, optimism, kindness, intelligence with utmost modesty, and his forever gentlemanism. A star is gone. Salute to my great mentor, my godfather, my friend.

Prof Kenneth Tsang Wah-tak

HKTS President 2001-03, HKLF Chairman 2007-09



Prof Lam, you will always be dearly missed by the respiratory physicians in Hong Kong and in the world. May you rest in peace.



Hong Kong Shanghai Respiratory Physicains Exchange Programme in 1997

Prof Lam, we all miss you

Prof Lam had been a fatherly figure and mentor to many respiratory physicians in Hong Kong. I was fortunate enough to be one of these during my specialist training in QMH. I could still fondly remember his patience in listening to our case presentations and the sharpness in decision making during the respiratory grand rounds. He wrote the reference to my fellowship for overseas training back in 1992. I was then privileged to be a member of the organizing committee, under the leadership of Prof Lam, the President of the 13th Asia Pacific Congress on Diseases of the Chest in 1994, hosting one of the earliest international conferences in the field of Respiratory Medicine in the history of Hong Kong.

Most of us would remember Prof Lam's humour during his chairing of "The challenging cases" sessions in our AGM or ARS. But, I guess few of us had the experience of hearing Prof Lam giving a talk on "Update on Lung Cancers in HK" in Mandarin. I was a delegate of the Hong Kong-Shanghai Respiratory Physicians Exchange Programme visiting Shanghai before the return of sovereignty of Hong Kong in 1997. As always, Prof Lam was very professional in his slides presentations together with the Chinese translations on the screen. He took the courage to finish the whole 15-minute talk without the need to speak in English.

I dare to say most of the HK delegates were laughing or had difficulty controlling our breathing with Prof Lam's accent.

Prof Lam, you will always be dearly missed by the respiratory physicians in Hong Kong and in the world. May you rest in peace.

Dr Clarence Lee Chi-hang

Past HKTS Council Member

In Loving Memory of Professor Lam Wah Kit

While we mourn over the loss of our highly esteemed leader, Professor Lam, I also have fond memories of the past to share.

My first encounter with Professor Lam was during my MRCP examination; although he had displayed the typical stern looking face as other examiners, I did not find him particularly intimidating. As a junior doctor before my MRCP at the Kwong Wah hospital, I had learned from my senior whom had worked at Queen Mary hospital that Professor Lam was a gentleman of integrity upholding morality and impartiality.

I had opportunities of meeting with him on various occasions after becoming a respiratory specialist in 1995, joining the Hong Kong Thoracic Society in 2007 and subsequently, the Hong Kong Lung Foundation in 2015. As a seasoned leader in our respiratory community, his words of wisdom had always impressed us as insightful and inspiring. At the APSR congress held at the National Taipei University in 2002 when he was president elect of APSR, I had an opportunity of chatting with him during coffee break. He was remarkably amicable and easy to talk to, despite his fame and position. In succession, APSR congress was successfully held in Hong Kong in 2004 under his superb leadership.

Although he had retired from the Hong Kong University in 2008, his enthusiasm in teaching medical students had continued at Queen Mary hospital as an emeritus professor. His lifelong dedication in teaching was highly admirable.

In recent years, I had some personal interaction with him because of student matters. I was deeply impressed by his sincere and affectionate attitude in offering practical assistance in times of trouble. In our chat, I was not surprised to discover that his leadership potential had begun to emerge in his teenager years, when he was elected by his classmates as class prefect in the matriculation years at Queen's College. His potential in social skills as a leadership quality had continued to unleash at his university years, when he had endeavored to talk to virtually everyone he met during his residence at the Ricci hall. In retrospect, I could readily realize why I had found him so easy to talk to at the APSR congress in 2002. In his leisure, he had enjoyed yum cha with family and old friends at Causeway Bay restaurants. He had felt regretful to hear news of serious illness of his old friends in recent years, which was mostly inevitable as an aging process.

Although Professor Lam has left us, I am sure that he will be very well remembered by the respiratory community and beyond for a very long time.

Dr Wong Kam-cheung

Past HKTS Council Member, HKLF Executive Board Member

Photo with Prof WK Lam taken at Raffles Hotel, Singapore in 1996

Memories of Prof WK Lam

It is always an honor to me that I might call myself a student of Prof Lam. Besides his well-known contributions to Respiratory Medicine, he also pioneered the setting up of the prototype Intensive Care Unit (ICU) in Queen Mary Hospital. I still remember the day when I knocked at his door saying that I wanted to start my Physician training in Critical Care. He nodded and smiled. Instead of showing me high-tech advances, he asked me to read again the basic textbooks by JB West on Respiratory Physiology and Pathophysiology. I was stunned. He always believed that basic clinical skills are important. It turned out that, during his clinical rounds in the ICU then, he often asked me to appreciate the difference between pulmonary oedema and Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome. Looking back today, his vision to link up clinical features, radiology and pathophysiology of respiratory failure is still valuable today, and portrait the role of physicians in managing these complicated patients.

His clinical teachings are brief, thoughts stimulating and often contain a human touch with gems of wisdom.

"Just doing clinical service is service, but if you count carefully while you serve, you are already doing research".

Under his guidance, my early small project on the use of Doxycycline for pleurodesis and case series of a small cohort of patients with generalized tetanus were enlightening to me. The philosophy to integrate site-specific clinical research back into clinical service persisted till now have a profound impact in the practice of Critical Care Medicine in the Adult ICU today.

Prof Lam will be deeply missed.

Dr Chan Wai-ming

HKTS President 2007-09, HKLF Chairman 2013-15





Professor WK Lam: Always In Our Thoughts, Forever in Our Hearts

I was deeply saddened to learn of the loss of our Respiratory Giant, Professor Lam: a kind teacher and role model for respiratory physicians.

Professor Lam has played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Division of Respiratory Medicine of KWH in the 1990s. He had provided tremendous support and guidance in turning KWH into a fully accredited respiratory centre. The training of many specialists in the Respiratory field would not have been made possible if not for his unselfish and insightful efforts.

Professor Lam was highly respected by colleagues and students with his selfless services, professional attitudes, academic passions and dedicated contributions to the respiratory societies that will continue to be an inspiration to us all.

The success of our respiratory societies owes a lot to Professor Lam's leadership. His teachings, contributions to the respiratory community and Hong Kong as a whole shall always be remembered by us!

Dr Wilson Yee Kwok-sang

HKTS President 2017-19





Memorial Message to the late Professor WK Lam

It should have been during my third year of Medical School when I first knew and met Professor Lam. Never being a brilliant and hardworking student myself, Professor Lam's lectures were definitely those I had attended with clockwork punctuality and utmost attention. He was such a kind and gentle teacher that even mediocre students like me would not fear the inability of answering simple questions, or alternatively asking silly questions during the interactive teaching sessions. It was indeed the seeds of enthusiasm sowed in Respiratory Medicine during my student days that had guided my choice of subspecialty training years afterwards.

I had the great fortune of being guided by him again afterwards when I joined the respiratory professional societies. His advice and guidance to us during meetings had always been so insightful, inspirational and supportive, which had been so invaluable during the occasional difficult moments. Being deeply respected by local and international pulmonologists, he is not just a role model for pulmonologists, but to all doctors and mankind.

Professor Lam will always be remembered. May he rest in peace.

Dr Tohnny Chan Wai-man

ACCP (HK & Macau Chapter) President 2011-13, HKLF Chairman 2019-21

My first encounter with Prof WK Lam after medical school graduation was in 1992 when I was a houseman in UMU and he was the ward physician-in-charge. It was a time when camp beds were all over and laboratory diagnostics were comparatively rudimentary. Despite all the hardship and difficulties, Prof Lam, always appearing gentlemanly calm and analytical, I clearly remember, asked to look meticulously for rose spots in a suspected Salmonella infection, and set up mosquito net for another malarial infection. Prof Lam was kind to patients, interns and externs.

In clinical meetings, even being a giant in our field, he was never confrontational or condescending, and his remarks were clearly logical and friendly convincing. While I was President of the ACCP (HK & Macau Chapter), Prof Lam had also given me invaluable advice. His guidance to our Societies is the key to our success.

While I felt a knowledgeable and solemn professor would never be fun except in his work and specialty, he delighted me so much with his witty jokes when we were together in a business trip to Kyoto. His smile and laughs on the backdrop of a whole forest of red and yellow Japanese maple leaves are forever vivid in my mind.

I will remember you, Prof Lam, my great teacher!

Dr Arthur Lau Chun-wing

ACCP (HK & Macau Chapter) President 2013-15

In memory of Prof Wah-kit Lam

The respiratory community in Hong Kong was deeply saddened by the news of the passing of Prof Wah-kit Lam on 24 Jan 2022.

Prof Lam is our prestigious leader in respiratory medicine in Hong Kong. He was a warm and inspiring professor. Loved by all, he was truly dedicated to his profession and the development of respiratory medicine and his juniors.



The photo was taken at Prof Lam's retirement dinner in 2008

I still remember when Dr Johnny Chan and I worked together as the chief editors of the Bulletin celebrating the 10th Anniversary of Hong Kong Lung

Foundation and the 20th Anniversary of the Hong Kong Thoracic Society, Prof Lam gave a lot of guidance to us so that a memorable bulletin was published. He was always kind to us and gave us words of wisdom.

When I took up the position as the President of the Hong Kong Thoracic Society in 2013, he gave me encouragement, guidance and support. I am so thankful for that. His example in leadership and academic work in respiratory medicine had inspired us all and this also boosted his juniors and students' determination to contribute to the field of medicine.

I still vividly remember when I was having my exit examination in Respiratory Medicine years ago, Prof Lam was one of the examiners. Thank you for nurturing future generations of respiratory fellows, and thank you for contributing so much to the respiratory community.

Though Prof Lam may have left this world, his legacies and contributions to respiratory medicine will live forever.

Dr Fanny Ko Wai-san

HKTS President 2013-15, HKLF Vice chairman 2021-



HKU/QMH Team photo in 2007



Professor Lam has been pointing the correct paths to me not only once, within my Respiratory Team, in my Department of Medicine in HKU/QMH, in my Faculty of Medicine for teaching Respiratory Medicine, and also in the Hong Kong Thoracic Society and in the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology.

Not only once, Professor Lam have shown me the appropriate ways to work with colleagues in HKTS and ACCP (HK & Macau Chapter), APSR and how to steer the societies towards the benefit of members and the societies.

With his life-long commitment in Respiratory Medicine, teaching, and research, I'm only one of his thousands of medical students who have benefited from his teachings and I'm probably his last postgraduate research student.

I was also deeply impressed with Professor Lam's toughness over his days in hospital and over the last year while in ward he has accepted Christian faith. May the Lord rest Professor Lam in His Almighty Palms.

It's difficult and sad for me to say goodbye to Professor Lam, but my heartfelt thanks to him for his teaching and care, and wish him a re-union with his wife Dr Leung.

Dr David Lam Chi-leung

HKTS President 2019-21, CHEST Delegation HK & Macau President 2015-17



"My deepest respect to the Father of Chest Medicine of our time."

Dr Alan Kwok Yuk-lung

Past HKTS Council Member

"Dear Professor Lam, Thank you to be our teacher. You are always the physician titan in our hearts."

Dr Lo Yi-tat

Past HKTS Council Member



Division dinner, 滿福樓-灣仔港灣道1號港萬海景酒店3樓, on 18th July 2018



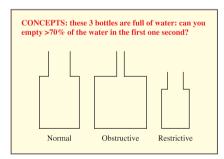
Dinner gathering, Fortune Room, Hong Kong Jockey Club, Happy Valley, on 1st May 2009

A much-loved teacher and mentor, Professor WK Lam

With deep sorrow, I have to come to terms with the tragic loss of my beloved teacher and mentor, Professor WK Lam. Since the undergraduate years, the lectures and teaching by Professor Lam were most inspiring and enjoyable. Being formidable externally, he was always considerate and kind to his students. No matter how difficult or complicated the concepts were, Professor Lam tailored the teaching in a way that was interesting and easy-to-understand for the students. He had paved the way for young clinicians to join and prosper in the specialty. With a heavy heart, his inspiring lectures, professionalism and humanity will be in fondly remembered.

Dr Macy Lui Mei-sze

HKTS Honorary Treasurer 2021-



MBBS Year 4 Specialty Clerkship, teaching clinic by Professor Lam, 2002



Professor Lam was eager to promote Hong Kong. Photo taken at the APSR Congress 2004, Hong Kong.

As a medical student studying at the University of Hong Kong, Professor Lam had always been the figurehead of Respiratory Medicine since the first day this specialty came to my consciousness. As a student, I looked up to him as a righteous and sacrosanct authoritative figure who gave lectures and led rounds with the utmost confidence and clarity that left no doubts. As a trainee of respiratory medicine, I continued to look up to him when he appeared on the stage in the many academic conferences that the three Hong Kong chest societies organized which opened our minds to a wide world of evidence, innovations, and possibilities. As a specialist in respiratory medicine, I am forever grateful for his thoughtfulness of the younger generation by encouraging research among the young investigators and taking the time to recommend us for international qualification. Now, as I recover from the sadness of knowing that he has passed us, and as I go through the many materials in preparation for this memorial book, I see him yet in another light: a dedicated and passionate leader well-respected by his friends and colleagues. How I wish I had the chance to get to know him better!

Professor Lam, your legend will live on, and you will forever hold a place in our hearts.

Dr Grace Lam Sin-man

HKTS President 2021-



Dinner gathering hosted by Dr Donald Yu in 2014

Memorial Message to the Late Professor Wah-Kit Lam

My first encounter with Professor Lam was in a tutorial session for candidates taking the MRCP (UK) part I examination when I was a first year doctor. I still recall vividly how Professor Lam asked each of us challenging questions, led the candidates stepwise and systematically to deduce the answer. His erudition, personal charisma, and the future of respiratory medicine he portrayed with his solid academic achievements had consolidated me, and many of us, the determination to become a respiratory physician.

Professor Lam shall live forever in the memories of those who had mentored and inspired by him. May he rest in peace.

One of his many students,

Dr Lam Wai-kei

CHEST Delegation HK & Macau President 2021-

Retirement dinner in HKJC in 2008



Dinner with Prof. LAM and others in 2019



Retirement dinner with Prof. LAM in 2008

In memory of Professor LAM Wah-kit

It has been 30 years since I first met Professor LAM when I was a medical student in clinical year. Professor LAM has always been one of the *most* respected teachers among my peer classmates. His characteristic clear and succinct presentation would allow students to grasp the key concepts in a simple manner. My close interaction with Professor LAM began when I decided to join the respiratory team in 1997. I still vividly recall the morning when I knocked on the door of his office, expressing my wish to join the respiratory team and follow his footpath on lung cancer research. It was a short encounter with his usual succinct conversation, but I succeeded in having his blessing. Unexpectedly, I received his call shortly in the afternoon to meet in his office again. To my surprise, he gave me a thick pile of printed papers on various topics in lung cancer, with a short written welcome note and his signature on the front page. Professor LAM was truly a scholar with warmth in his heart! In the subsequent years as his trainee and teammate under his leadership, Professor LAM always demonstrated his capability in clear and logical decision-making especially at times when there were divided opinions among the team. Professor LAM was a great leader with professional and personal integrity! In the past 13 years, Professor LAM entrusted me to take care of his cancer treatment, which allowed me to witness the other facets of his personality. Despite having a thick pile of medical records of his various medical conditions, Professor LAM was always a *great fighter* in his cancer journey with positive attitude. Last but not least, Professor LAM could be a good friend with sense of humour!

We are all saddened with the loss of Professor LAM. Rest in peace.



HKTS/ACCP NEWSLETTER



A Tri-monthly joint communique

of

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and

American College of Chest Physicians Hong Kong and Macau Chapter



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I. Editorial

ON SUBSPECIALTY TRAINING IN RESPIRATORY MEDICINE

Dr. W.K. Lam

Reader in Medicine, University of Hong Kong; Queen Mary Hospital.

The inauguration of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (HKAM) in December 1993 marked a new epoch in postgraduate medical training in Hong Kong. The Hong Kong College of Physicians (HKCP), an Academy College, is empowered to set standards and accredit training posts and trainees in internal medicine. A Joint Committee on Internal Medicine Training (JCIMT), (joint HKCP and Hospital Authority) chaired by Prof. T.K. Chan, was formed earlier in January 1993, and its recommendations relevant to the training of chest physicians are summarised as follows:





香港胸肺基金會 Hong Kong Lung Foundation



美國胸肺學院(港澳分會) CHEST Delegation Hong Kong and Macau



Life-time achievements in Respiratory Medicine

Asian Pacific Society of Respirology Medal 2018

Honorary Fellow of the Hong Kong Lung Foundation 2009

Honorary Fellow of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow 2008

Emeritus Professor in Medicine, University of Hong Kong 2007

President, Asian Pacific Society of Respirology 2003

Head, Department of Medicine, 2001 - 2004

Regent, American College of Chest Physician (Hong Kong and Macau Chapter) 2001 - 2005

Chair Professorship in Respiratory Medicine, University of Hong Kong 1997

Governor, American College of Chest Physician (Hong Kong and Macau Chapter) 1997 - 2001

Founding Chairman, Hong Kong Lung Foundation 1996

President, Hong Kong Thoracic Society 1989 - 1991

Founding Honorary Secretary, Hong Kong Thoracic Society 1987

Founding Secretary, American College of Chest Physician (Hong Kong and Macau Chapter) 1986

