

Charting the Course of Pharmacy in Hong Kong



In this issue of the Hong Kong Pharmaceutical Journal, we explore several key facets of contemporary pharmacy practice, highlighting both the rich history of the profession and its dynamic evolution in response to emerging healthcare needs.

We are privileged to feature an insightful interview with Professor Joan Zuo, a distinguished figure in the field. With over 25 years of experience in biopharmaceutics and pharmacokinetics, Professor Zuo has made significant contributions to the integration of Western and Traditional Chinese Medicine. In this candid conversation, she shares her career journey, research interests and her vision for the future of pharmacy education and practice in Hong Kong. Her insights underscore the importance of innovation and collaboration in advancing the profession.

Shifting our focus to a critical aspect of everyday health, our next article delves into the often-underappreciated importance of maintaining healthy gum conditions. The concept of “free gingivae” and its implications for overall oral function and systemic well-being are thoroughly explored. This article underscores the significant role of preventative measures, such as proper toothbrushing techniques and the use of fluoride-containing products, in safeguarding oral health and potentially mitigating the risk of associated systemic diseases. The authors also advocate for a more active role for pharmacists in primary oral healthcare, highlighting an area ripe for expanded professional contribution.

Furthermore, we examine the complexities of managing Parkinson’s disease, a prevalent neurodegenerative disorder. The article outlines the underlying pathophysiology of this common condition, the challenges associated with current dopamine replacement therapies and the role of adjunctive treatments. Emphasizing a patient-centered approach and the crucial involvement of pharmacists and other healthcare providers, this piece underscores the ongoing need for research and multidisciplinary collaboration to improve the quality of life for individuals living with Parkinson’s disease.

Finally, this issue examines the transformative changes underway in Hong Kong’s healthcare system, particularly the shift towards a more community-based and preventive model under the Primary Healthcare Blueprint. The article highlights the significant work of the Jockey Club PHARM+ Community Medication Service Network Project, spearheaded by the Department of Pharmacology and Pharmacy at The University of Hong Kong. The summary of the Roundtable Meeting on the Scope of Community Pharmacy Services provides key insights into the future role of community pharmacists. Discussions around standardizing service delivery, advocating for policy recognition, promoting interprofessional collaboration, and encouraging continuous service innovation underscore the pivotal role community pharmacists are poised to play in chronic disease prevention and management within the evolving primary healthcare landscape.

The articles in this issue collectively illustrate the multifaceted nature of pharmacy in Hong Kong. From pioneering research to innovative healthcare models, these contributions underscore the critical role pharmacists play in enhancing public health and patient care. We trust that this issue will provide valuable insights for our readers and stimulate further discussion within the profession. Thank you for your continued support of the Hong Kong Pharmaceutical Journal. Your feedback is invaluable as we strive to create a publication that meets the needs of our readers. Please share your ideas and suggestions for improving the Journal. Together, we can continue to advance the field of pharmacy and improve health outcomes for our community.

May P S Lam
Editor-in-Chief
7 May 2025