

## Panel 4

# Child Development from Different Perspectives

### Dr. Chun Bong CHOW



Dr. Chun Bong CHOW is Honorary Clinical Professor of the Department of Paediatrics, The University of Hong Kong and Adjunct Associate Professor of the Department of Paediatrics, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. He is also Honorary Consultant of the Hospital Authority Infectious Disease Centre (HAIDC) at Princess Margaret Hospital and Honorary Consultant Paediatrician at Princess Margaret Hospital. He is the Founding President of The Hong Kong Society of Neonatal Medicine and Inborn Error of Metabolism. He also pioneered the Comprehensive Child Development Service for high risk pregnancies in Kowloon West Cluster and started a QK Blog project for high risk secondary school students and a GIS injury surveillance system at Kwai Tsing District.

Dr Chow has authored over 150 original articles, abstracts and chapters in books on paediatrics and infectious diseases. He has actively promoted various research works including childhood injury surveillance and intervention, adolescent health, early child development and child abuse, obesity and physical activity; intra-uterine growth in Chinese infants, physical health status of new immigrant children from mainland China, growth parameters in Down Syndrome children; safe community and healthy city, child policy and play.

#### **Title**

*Child Care – Another Perspective on Looked After Children*

#### **Abstract**

Studies of child development confirm that experiences and relationship with people mold an infant's development and personality. Caregiving is, therefore, central to development, whether the caregiver is a parent, a grandmother, or a teacher in a child care center. Responsive caregivers who surround children with language, warmth and chances to learn are the key to good outcomes.

Looked after children often come from dysfunctional families and are exposed to considerable health risks and adverse life events. Studies in Wales have found that looked after children between the age of 5 and 7, about half have a mental health disorder and two thirds have at least one physical complaint. The outcomes of looked after children are much worse compared with their other counterparts.

The health needs of looked after children are diverse and should be a corporate responsibility, which requires a multi-agency approach involving social, education and health agencies. Healthcare professionals have an important role to play in enabling looked after children to overcome disadvantages and to reach their full potential. Evidence highlights that where looked after children have access to specialist health practitioners their health outcomes improved. It is therefore crucial for all healthcare staff who come into contact with children that are looked after and their carers to have the right knowledge, skills, attitudes and values, with those in specific roles having the skills and competences to undertake health assessments, contribute to healthcare planning, ensure clinical governance arrangements to assure the quality of services for looked after children, and coordinate care for each young person.

The guidelines from UK Intercollegiate role framework on looked after children as well as other recommendations will be discussed.