

# Editorial

Dissemination reports are concise informative reports of health-related research supported by the Health and Medical Research Fund administered by the Health Bureau. In this edition, we present 10 dissemination reports of projects related to non-communicable diseases and risk factors, cancer, neurology, health services, and infectious diseases. In particular, research findings of three projects may provide insights to enhance clinical practices and help inform health policy formulation in Hong Kong.

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the second commonest cancer in terms of the number of new cases and cancer deaths in 2020 in Hong Kong.<sup>1</sup> CRC is curable if diagnosed at an early stage of development. Therefore, screening is of paramount importance in early CRC detection. Foo et al<sup>2</sup> evaluated the accuracy of a non-invasive screening method using a panel of blood microRNA for identifying CRC patients, and compared the cost-effectiveness of microRNA against conventional CRC screening strategies. The resulting serum microRNA panel had a sensitivity of 85.8%, specificity of 80.95% with positive predictive value of 86.9% and negative predictive value of 79.4%. Combining serum microRNA test and colonoscopy is a more cost-effective method than colonoscopy alone.

Myopia is the most common eye condition in the world and the number of cases is projected to increase further. High myopia can cause severe visual impairment including myopic macular degeneration, retinal detachment, glaucoma, and cataract, leading to impaired quality of life and burden on the individual and healthcare system.

Various interventions have been developed to control the progression of myopia. Lian et al<sup>3</sup> evaluated the cost-effectiveness of Defocus Incorporated Multiple Segments (DIMS) spectacle lenses. They found that the concept of myopia control is value for money from the societal perspective, in preventing eye complications and severe visual impairment, and is cost-effective in terms of cost per quality adjusted life-year gained. A government-subsidised myopia control programme could be a cost-effective option to improve equity of access to treatment options.

Influenza vaccine efficacy varies widely depending on the degree of similarity between the vaccine haemagglutinin and that present on circulating virus strains. Some classes of antibodies can cross-react with seasonal, pandemic, and avian influenza viruses and may be able to protect against infection or severity of disease after infection. Valkenburg et al<sup>4</sup> utilised a biobank of immune serum from children vaccinated in 2008 with trivalent seasonal influenza vaccines and tracked them over the next 5 years to determine if the magnitude of their antibody-mediated responses is enhanced by vaccination resulting in reduced risk of influenza infection. They found that pandemic haemagglutinin IgG responses are boosted by recent seasonal vaccination but decline within 1 year to baseline by 5 years. Vaccination increased IgG1 responses to vaccine and a range of pandemic influenza virus proteins, compared with unvaccinated children. Seasonal influenza vaccination should be encouraged to protect against pandemic influenza viruses where the cross reactivity may provide some residual protection.

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## References

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