

We are delighted to bring you another series of dissemination reports of research projects supported by the *Health Services Research Fund (HSRF)** and the *Health Care and Promotion Fund (HCPF)*. This edition features projects related to air pollution, cardiovascular diseases, health care delivery and management, and mental health. Several projects are highlighted due to their significant findings, impacts on health care delivery and practice, and/or contributions to health policy formulation in Hong Kong.

How much is your life worth? According to McGhee et al,¹ it should be worth not less than \$10 million based on 2001 values. This finding came from a willingness-to-pay study that asked respondents to consider whether air pollution was affecting their health and how much they were willing to pay to avoid respiratory symptoms and more serious illness. Given the public concern over air pollution in Hong Kong, this study comes as a timely addition to the debate. Local businesses and employers should also take note, as poor staff health contributes to lost productivity and the perception of high levels of pollution in Hong Kong may result in lost business opportunities.

Impaired glucose tolerance (IGT) can now be added to the list of risk factors for type 2 diabetes and hypertension in ethnic Chinese population following a 5-year prospective study conducted by Wat et al.² Almost one fifth of 271 subjects with IGT converted to type 2 diabetes over a period of 5 years, which was 8-fold the figure for sex- and age-matched normal controls. The implications for service providers in coping with the inexorable increase in diabetic patients and the need for regular IGT monitoring are considerable. Monitoring IGT might allow early intervention into the disease process and so reduce the incidence of diabetes and hypertension in the Hong Kong Chinese population.

The deinstitutionalisation of mentally ill persons has been increasing in recent decades. Lee et al³ evaluated, using a randomised controlled trial design, the effects of a Pre-discharge Rehabilitation Education Programme over and above those achieved by a standard Case Management Model of care. After 2 years of treatment, the authors concluded that a case management approach is an effective and cost-saving means of discharging chronic psychiatric patients into community case management and should be an important element in the rehabilitation of long-stay psychiatric in-patients.

With this supplement we bring to an end publication of dissemination reports from the HSRF and the HCPF. To celebrate this achievement we include a short paper reviewing the objectives and performance of the funds. Publication of the supplements will continue focusing on the outputs from the *Health and Health Services Research Fund (HHSRF)* and the *Research Fund for the Control of Infectious Diseases (RFCID)*.

We hope you find this selection of dissemination reports informative and enjoyable. These dissemination reports and the full reports of these projects may be downloaded individually from the Research Fund Secretariat website (<http://www.fhb.gov.hk/grants>), where more information about the funds, including application procedures are available.

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* The HSRF was succeeded by the *Health and Health Services Research Fund (HHSRF)* in 2002.