

Dissemination reports are concise informative reports of health-related research supported by funds administered by the Food and Health Bureau, namely the *Research Fund for the Control of Infectious Diseases* (RFCID) and the *Health and Health Services Research Fund* (HHSRF). In this edition, 11 dissemination reports of projects related to tuberculosis, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and Epstein-Barr virus are presented. In particular, three projects are highlighted due to their potentially significant findings, impact on healthcare delivery and practice, and/or contribution to health policy formulation in Hong Kong.

Mycobacterium tuberculosis (MTB) affects one third of the world's population and causes 1 to 2 million deaths annually. The emerging Beijing/W strain of MTB is causing worldwide alarm due to its increased transmissibility and tendency to develop multidrug resistance compared with other strains of mycobacteria. Tsui et al¹ conducted genome analysis of drug-resistant and drug-sensitive isolates of Beijing/W MTB from Hong Kong. The authors were able to identify novel genetic factors associated with the drug-resistance phenotype. This study had impact beyond the publication of results in peer-reviewed journals. Project team members and research staff gained additional postgraduate qualifications and career advancement after participating in this study. The study also led to additional research grants being awarded in related areas.

Coinfection of HIV-1 and MTB is important in AIDS pathogenesis. Both HIV-1 and MTB have efficient immune evasion mechanisms to subvert immunity, and both microbes and their encoded proteins act in concert to cripple cellular antimicrobial responses and enhance each other's survival and replication. Li et al² found that cytokines such as interferon-gamma may have a role in suppressing the action of HIV-1 in its enhancement of mycobacterial growth in human phagocytes. This may provide a scientific rationale for the use of interferon-gamma and related cytokines in AIDS patients with aggressive mycobacterial infections. Apart from peer-reviewed publications, this study also led to project team members and research staff gaining postgraduate qualifications, career advancement, and additional research funding.

Nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC) is prevalent in southern China. Epstein-Barr virus (EBV), also known as human herpesvirus 4, and EBV-encoded microRNAs (miRNAs) have been implicated in NPC carcinogenesis. Lung et al³ identified two novel miRNAs and found that one of them could modulate LMP2A—an important oncogenic and immunogenic EBV gene. Knowledge of how miRNAs function in the establishment and/or maintenance of latent infections and pathogenesis in NPC cells may improve the treatment of NPC in future.

The Research Office of the Food and Health Bureau would like to take this opportunity to pay our respects to the late Prof Allan Sik-yin Lau, co-author of two reports in this supplement, who passed away earlier this year.

We hope you will enjoy this selection of research dissemination reports. Electronic copies of these dissemination reports and the corresponding full reports can be downloaded individually from the Research Fund Secretariat website (<http://www.fhb.gov.hk/grants>). Researchers interested in the funds administered by the Food and Health Bureau also may visit the website for detailed information about application procedures.

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