

Editorial

Dissemination reports are concise informative reports of health-related research supported by funds administered by the Food and Health Bureau, for example the *Health and Health Services Research Fund* (which was consolidated into the *Health and Medical Research Fund* in December 2011). In this edition, ten dissemination reports of projects related to health economics, cardiovascular diseases, mental health, and paediatrics 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.

Screening to detect early colorectal neoplasms can significantly reduce the incidence and mortality of colorectal cancers, but there is no agreed policy on colorectal cancer screening for Chinese populations in Hong Kong. Lam et al.¹ evaluated, inter alia, the health-related quality of life (HRQOL) of patients with different stages of colorectal neoplasms and the cost-effectiveness of colorectal cancer screening strategies from the healthcare service provider perspective in Hong Kong. They found that Chinese patients with colorectal neoplasms reported worse physical HRQOL but better mental HRQOL compared to the Hong Kong general population. In terms of screening options, immunochemical faecal occult blood testing every 2 years was the most cost-effective colorectal cancer screening strategy at an incremental cost-effectiveness ratio of HK\$43 660 per quality-adjusted life-year gain.

Perioperative myocardial ischaemia is a common complication after non-cardiac surgery and is associated with serious morbidity and mortality. Endothelial dysfunction may play an important role in perioperative myocardial injury, and its rapid assessment could represent a novel method for cardiac risk stratification prior to surgery. Chan and Gin² evaluated the performance of preoperative endothelial function testing to predict perioperative ischaemia and 30-day cardiac complications in

600 intermediate-to-high risk patients undergoing non-cardiac surgery. Non-invasive assessment of endothelial function provided additional predictive value, beyond clinical variables, for preoperative risk stratification of postoperative myocardial ischaemia and major cardiac complications.

In people with severe mental illness, health needs assessment is essential in identifying unmet health needs and psychosocial influences that may impact their health. Mak et al.³ conducted the first systematic examination of the health needs and lifestyle practices of 600 people with severe mental illness in Hong Kong, and determined how the psychosocial determinants of these health issues and practices relate to quality of life. In general, people with severe mental illness had poor health profiles and lower quality of life compared to the general population with moderate levels of unmet needs. To promote overall recovery and maximise the quality of life of people with severe mental illness, service providers should increase awareness of people with severe mental illness about their health needs and encourage practice of more health-promoting behaviour and preventive health care.

A research impact evaluation was conducted 2 years after the project end date for all of the studies reported in this supplement. Impact was reported through knowledge generation, capacity building, and influence on health policy and health care practices through changes in behaviour of health care professionals and/or other decision makers.

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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3. Mak WW, Mo PK, Lau JT, Wong SY. Physical health needs, lifestyle choices, and quality of life among people with mental illness in the community. *Hong Kong Med J* 2015;21(Suppl 6):S29-33.