

Editorial

Dissemination reports are concise informative reports of health-related research supported by the Health and Medical Research Fund (and its predecessor funds) administered by the Food and Health Bureau. In this edition, we present 13 dissemination reports of projects related to respiratory infectious diseases, vaccination, and infection control. In particular, three projects are highlighted for their potentially significant findings, impact on healthcare delivery and practice, and/or contribution to health policy formulation in Hong Kong.

The nasopharynx of children is a natural microbial reservoir where pneumococcal colonisation can give rise to invasive pneumococcal disease. Introduction of pneumococcal conjugate vaccines (PCV7, PCV10, and PCV13) in Hong Kong children was expected to substantially reduce invasive pneumococcal disease in them. Serotype replacement, where increasing proportions of invasive pneumococcal disease are caused by non-vaccine serotypes, was also expected. Chan et al¹ conducted a study to assess nasopharyngeal pneumococcal carriage rates, serotypes, and antimicrobial resistance patterns in over 1500 Hong Kong children younger than 2 years. They found that serotype replacement by non-vaccine serotypes in circulating pneumococci among healthy young children in Hong Kong was evident after introduction of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine into the childhood immunisation programme, with the predominant carriage serotypes being serogroup/type 15 and 6C.

Decision to vaccinate children against human papillomavirus (HPV) can be difficult. Fielding et al² conducted a study to identify the underlying barriers

and facilitators about HPV vaccination of adolescent daughters in 35 local Chinese families. They found that social influences significantly affect the decision-making process of parents and adolescent girls about HPV vaccination. Important facilitators favouring decisions to vaccinate included governmental involvement and recommendations from trusted healthcare professionals. Doubts about the necessity, safety, efficacy, and particularly the high cost of vaccination are major barriers to HPV vaccination.

The increasing occurrence of multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) in hospitals is of great concern. MDROs can survive for prolonged periods on hospital furnishings and medical items, and are associated with an increased risk of transmission and infection. Regular cleaning and disinfection is important for breaking the chain of infection. Leung et al³ developed a multilevel antimicrobial disinfectant coating that synergistically combines 'release-killing', 'contact-killing', and 'anti-adhesion' properties to enable long-lasting disinfection of surfaces. They found that in a hospital ward setting the coating achieved consistently low bacterial load in the ward environment independent of the cleaning regimen and could be effective in reducing environmental occurrence of MDROs.

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 (<https://rfs2.fhb.gov.hk/>). 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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