

The Chairman,
The Committee of Subspecialty Boards of the Hong Kong College of Paediatrics

19th January 2020

Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: support for an accredited subspecialty training programme in Paediatric Haematology and Oncology (PHO) in Hong Kong.

I am writing to confirm my strong support and recommendation for the development of Paediatric Haematology and Oncology (PHO) as an accredited subspecialty training programme within the Hong Kong College of Paediatrics. PHO is recognised globally as an important area of complex clinical practice that requires significant subspecialist training of dedicated practitioners. Development of a specific subspecialist training curriculum with oversight and examination through the College will ensure a well-defined set of standards for recognition and practice in PHO in Hong Kong and for international influence and collaboration.

I have reviewed the proposed training curriculum which appears excellent and encompasses all aspects of theoretical learning, clinical practice and exposure to research experience in PHO. This is a 3 year subspecialist training programme, with entry requirements of satisfactory completion of 3 yrs basic training in general paediatrics and success in the College's membership exam. The trainee will spend 2 years rotating in 3-6 month clinical placements through all aspects of PHO and then have a further 12 months as an elective module, where they may choose to have an attachment in an overseas recognised PHO tertiary care centre with a recognised program subjected to the approval by the Training Director, or they may choose to have more exposure and training in specific areas in Hong Kong. The emphasis is on multi-disciplinary practice, lifelong learning and excellent communication skills with parents and survivors, all essential in this field of paediatrics.

All trainees are expected to undertake at least one basic or clinical research project developed during their PHO subspecialty training period. Obtaining a postgraduate diploma or degree (e.g. MSc, MPhil, PhD or MD) related to PHO may be recognized as completion of training for up to 6 months subject to approval by the Training Director.

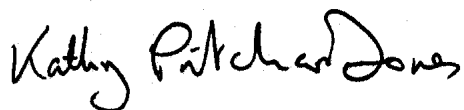
The proposed curriculum is very similar in structure to that undertaken in the UK, where it is accredited as a subspecialist training programme by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. The only difference is in the inclusion of laboratory training in haematology, an area that is separate to oncology in the UK (but not the rest of the world). I view the proposed Hong Kong curriculum as a better integrated approach.

The training programme has been developed by nine esteemed PHO practitioners from across Hong Kong's clinical and academic institutions. They and colleagues in the field have already worked together

as the Hong Kong Paediatric Haematology & Oncology Study Group, in existence for the past 28 years. This proposal to formalise the training curriculum coincides with the opening of the Hong Kong Children's Hospital in July 2019. The new hospital brings together many smaller centres in PHO, thus allowing it provide exposure to all aspects of PHO in a single clinical centre. Hence, the new children's hospital is proposed to serve as the major hub for the Paediatric Haematology & Oncology Training Centre.

I am convinced that a decision to proceed with developing a subspecialist PHO programme in Hong Kong is both timely and of great benefit to the medical community and, most importantly, the children with cancer and serious haematological disorders in Hong Kong. As the current President of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP), I can assure the College that this training programme would have the strong support of the international community to provide the overseas experience included in the proposed curriculum. I wish the College and the leaders of this initiative well in this important endeavour.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Pritchard-Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Professor Kathy Pritchard-Jones

Professor of Paediatric Oncology, University College London
Honorary consultant oncologist, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children
President of SIOP (Société Internationale d'Oncologie Pédiatrique), the global society of childhood cancer professionals.