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The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Department of Psychiatry
Schedule for April, 2024

Date	Time	Activity	Speaker(s)
Apr4		Public Holiday	
Apr11	14:30-16:00	Psychotherapy Case Conference *# *Balint group supervision*	Dr. Cheris WONG
	16:00-17:00	Psychotherapy Supervision *#	
Apr18	14:30-16:30	Quality Assurance Meeting (TPH)#	
Apr25	14:30-16:00	Academic Lecture (MUL)* *Autism Spectrum Disorder: Unraveling Genetic Contributions and Sex Differences* Registration: https://bit.ly/3vcIcKS	Dr. Benjamin Hon Kei YIP Associate Professor School of Public Health and Primary Care The Chinese University of Hong Kong
	16:00-17:30	Quality Assurance Meeting (SH)#	

Venue:	*Live video	#Closed meeting	@Non-CME Event	MUL	TPH	SH	1AL
				Seminar Room, Multi-centre, Tai Po Hospital, Tai Po, N.T.	Conference Room 1 G/F, Wing D Tai Po Hospital Tai Po, N.T.	Dining Room Ward 7AB Dept. of Psychiatry 7/F, Shatin Hospital Shatin, N.T.	Rm. 1005, Dining Room Ward 1AL, 1/F Tai Po Hospital Tai Po, N.T.

Please contact 2607-6025 two days before hand to arrange presentation equipment.

http://www.psychiatry.cuhk.edu.hk

ACADEMIC LECTURE

Dr. Benjamin Hon Kei YIP

Associate Professor
School of Public Health and Primary Care
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

25 Apr 2024 (THU)

14:30 - 16:00

Seminar Room, Multicentre, TPH & Zoom

Topic: Autism Spectrum Disorder: Unraveling Genetic Contributions and Sex Differences

Abstract:

This seminar will unveil a narrative of discovery in the genetic foundations of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), emphasizing heritability's role across various countries and between sexes. The journey begins with the revelation that genetic factors contribute to approximately 80% of ASD variance, with minimal maternal influence. This finding sets the stage for a critical examination of the female protective effect hypothesis, which suggests that familial ASD liability could be subclinically present in the sisters of affected individuals, potentially leading to increased ASD rates in their progeny. Contrary to this hypothesis, the research indicates that this is not the primary factor behind the male predominance in ASD diagnoses. The narrative progresses by introducing and validating a new theory: the variance in genetic liability to ASD is distinct between males and females. This hypothesis was substantiated by the discovery of a significant heritability difference—87.0% for males and 75.7% for females—hinting that the genetic underpinnings of ASD may diverge based on sex. These collective results will highlight how sex-specific genetic differences, rather than a female protective effect, may explain the skewed sex ratio in ASD prevalence, impacting diagnosis and treatment.

Biography:

Dr. Yip has pioneered the development and application of genetic epidemiological models to disentangle the genetic and environmental underpinnings of various diseases. His early works resolved a longstanding debate in psychiatry by demonstrating substantial genetic etiological overlap between schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Building on this foundation, Dr. Yip led heritability estimations for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) across five nations, affirming the high heritability of ASD. In recent years, he joins the SFARI Sex Differences Collaborations Project, aiming to unravel the reasons behind the higher incidence of ASD in males compared to females. He has critically examined the widely accepted female protective effect hypothesis and proposed an alternative genetic epidemiological model to account for the observed sex disparities in ASD prevalence. Dr. Yip's contributions have been recognized through publication in prestigious journals, including The Lancet, JAMA Psychiatry, Biological Psychiatry, and Molecular Psychiatry, among others. His secondary research focus lies in clinical epidemiology, where he actively engages in cross-disciplinary collaborations in clinical trials. As the principal biostatistician of 21 trials, he has directed trial designs, developed analytical plans, and executed effectiveness and cost-effectiveness analyses. Dr. Yip has a h-index of 31 (Mar 2024) and the Principal Investigator (PI) or Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) on 37 competitive grants, amassing a total of HK$120 million in research funding.

Registration is required. For enquiries, please contact pci-event-app@cuhk.edu.hk or 26076025.
Please display the registration name for joining the Zoom lecture.

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