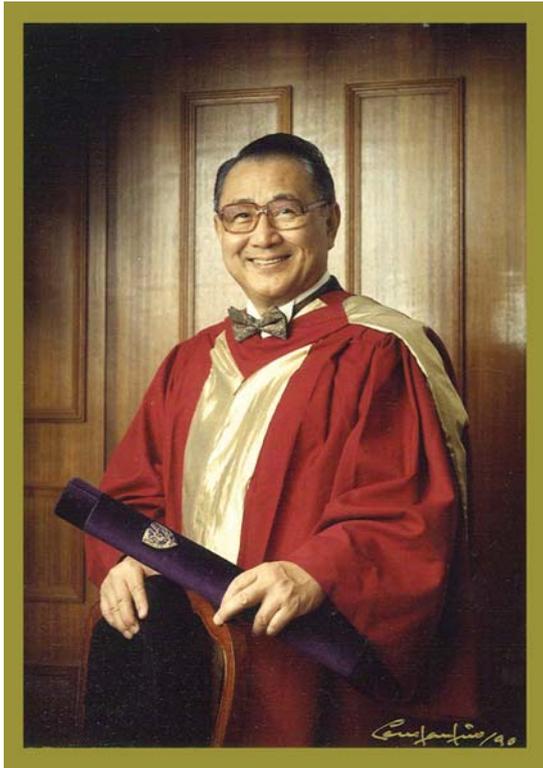




Our Fond Memory of The Late Professor Sir Harry Fang Sin-yang (1923-2009)

MBBS MD MCH Orth FRCS FACS FRACS FRCPE(E)

**Founding Vice President (1965-75)
and
President (1975-1979) of the Federation of Medical Societies of Hong Kong**



Professor Sir Harry Fang Sin-yang (1923-2009)

Professor Sir Harry Fang peacefully passed away on 24th August 2009 at the age of 86. He was the Founding Vice President of the Federation of Medical Societies of Hong Kong for ten years and the President of the Federation for four years. During his presidency, he contributed significantly to the medical and health professions as well as the community of Hong Kong. He will be greatly missed by all members of the professions and all citizens in the HKSAR.

Professor Fang received his secondary education at the Queen's College and medical education at the University of Hong Kong. He then specialised himself in Orthopaedics and dedicated himself to the teaching, clinical services, research and publication in the specialty of Orthopaedics and in the area of Rehabilitation: known to us as the Father of Rehabilitations both in Hong Kong and in the Asia-pacific Regions. He was instrumental in the developmental and nurturing of the art and science of orthopaedic surgery and devoted himself to the work and advocacy in the area of rehabilitation as exemplified by the legendary list of special schools, rehabilitation centres and vocational training centres for individuals with special needs. He was editors of many

reputable peer-reviewed journals, authors and editors of more than 100 papers and book chapters. He was instrumental to the inauguration of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine and was subsequently awarded with the Honorary Fellowship of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine and the Honorary Fellowship of the Hong Kong College of Orthopaedic Surgeons in recognition of his outstanding contributions.

During the period when he was the Medical Superintendent of St. Paul's Hospital, he has initiated a significant series of changes endeavouring to upgrade quality of services and standard of management at the private hospitals visionally preparing the private hospitals to promote the private-public interfacing within the medical professionals which both the HKSAR Government and the medical and health services strive to achieve in recent years.

As a gentleman of high virtue and integrity, he never forgot the good education he had received from his alma mater and contributed significantly to The University of Hong Kong serving in various capacities at the top management level bringing the University to the present state ranking as one of the top institutions in the world through his great leadership and dedicated hardwork. He was also heavily involved in the inauguration of plenty of other tertiary institutions such as The Chinese University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and many others.

In the late 1950's, Hong Kong was striving to regenerate the many community services which had either stood still or only slowly developed during the War. The medical and health services were the foremost with the return of many practitioners to resume their medical practice. Many others went for further studies and returned with specialist training and grouped together in their medical specialties. It was felt that the formation of a Federation of these groups would help them develop more properly and efficiently. The idea was first conceived by Sir Albert Rodrigues and Professor Sir Harry Fang and received enthusiastic support from the late Professor C Elaine Field, President of the Hong Kong Branch of the British Medical Association (BMA) and the late Professor G. B. Ong, President of the Hong Kong Chinese Medical Association (HKCMA) which later became our Hong Kong Medical Association (HKMA). The enthusiasm of these pioneers prevailed through the ranks of their members and the Federation of Medical Societies of Hong Kong was inaugurated on 18th February 1965 with Sir Albert and Professor Fang elected unanimously as the Founding President and



Founding Vice President of the Federation respectively. There were fourteen member societies present at the time of the First Annual General Meeting. Under their efforts throughout the first ten years, both Founding Presidents set up robust structure for the Federation and successfully published our First Issue of the Medical Directory of Hong Kong in December 1970 with Professor Sir Harry Fang as Editor-in-Chief. In order to have a visible icon for the Federation and to have a meeting place for professionals to interact, Professor Fang ably negotiated with the Hong Kong Government for land allocation and effectively raised funds for the building cost of the present Federation premises in Wanchai whereby we officially moved in by the year 1975. Through the good infrastructure built up by Professor Fang, the Federation continued to flourish to the present 127 member societies: a unique big family for all medical, dental, nursing and allied professionals in Hong Kong. This is the vision Professor Sir Harry Fang initiated and dedicated to promote. The present achievements of the Federation are fruits bearing witness to the success of his endeavours over the past four decades. Professor Fang continued to attend the Federation meetings and social functions after his Federation Presidency despite his busy commitments to both the profession and the community. He always participated at our Meetings of the Presidents, the Annual Social Dinners at the New Year Eves and the Annual Scientific Meetings during the 1991 to 2003 period and he was always popular amongst his younger colleagues by virtue of his good memory, quick wits, warm smiles, great sense of humour and visionary comments. The Federation Council and Executive Committees forever remember his innovative yet strategic advices on the policy issues and guiding directions of the Federation. His article on "Evolution of the Federation of Medical Societies of Hong Kong" published on the Monograph for the Celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Federation in 1995 remains one of the valuable archives for our beloved Federation.

Professor Fang's blessing to the medical profession did not stop at the Federation. He had been President of the British Medical Association, Hong Kong Branch (1964-1965), President of the Hong Kong Medical Association (1966-1968), President of the Hong Kong Orthopaedic Association (1969-1971), President of the Hong Kong College of Orthopaedic Surgeons (1987-1993), President of the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation (1989-2002) and many others. Under his leadership at these professional organisations, he established good infrastructures and excellent functioning policies to ensure effective running for them in subsequent years. Above all, he was also patrons of many medical and health services, and subspecialty societies whereby his patronage was not only limited in names but also with close attention to the daily activities. To all these societies, he is a man of words and actions and a great gentleman of wisdoms and advices.

Besides his contribution to the medical profession, Professor Fang was a prominent community leader in Hong Kong. He had been Member of the Legislative Council (1974-1985), Executive Council (1978-1983), Chairman of the Rehabilitation Development Coordinating Committee of the Hong Kong Government (1977) and many others. For all these

contributions, he had been awarded with a long list of honours and medals including the "Citizen of the Year Award of Hong Kong (1981)" and the "International Man of the Year Award (1981)" in recognition of his immense contributions to the Community.

We are all saddened that Professor Fang had left us. To the profession, we have lost a visionary pioneer, a respected senior, a powerful mentor, a close friend and a great multi-talented colleague. To the community of Hong Kong, we shall forever remember this great leader who had devoted his lifetime to the rights, welfare and health for the citizens in our community especially for those with special needs. He had established a strong infrastructure for his successors to promote and demonstrated clear directions for his colleagues to follow. He will be eternally remembered by us all.

Professor Sir Harry Fang is survived by his wife Lady Fang Ip Hung-cho, a son and four daughters. On behalf of the medical professionals may we offer our deepest condolences to his family!

Dr. Chok-wan CHAN
Federation President (1991-2003)