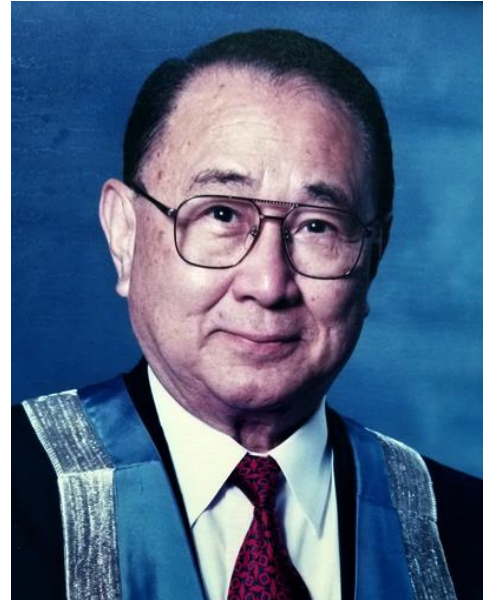


## **Professor Sir Harry Fang Sin-yang**

### **Honorary Fellow of HKCOS 2005**

Professor Sir Harry Fang is not just a distinguished orthopaedic surgeon, he is the first president of this very College, the Hong Kong College of Orthopaedic Surgeons first established in 1989 even before the establishment of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, thanks to the vision of Professor Sir Harry. He is the giant in the field of rehabilitation for the handicapped people for many decades. He not only dedicated his energy to the medical fraternity beyond orthopaedic surgery and rehabilitation but he also played a very active leading role in advancement of the society and community.



After graduation from medical school in 1947 in Shanghai and obtained his medical degree from the University of Hong Kong in 1949, he soon became the first assistant to Dr. Arthur Hodgson in 1951 and quickly became outstanding and won the first Sino-British Scholarship in 1952 to advance his skill and knowledge in orthopaedic surgery in United Kingdom and obtained master degree in Orthopaedics from Liverpool University. He obtained his FRCS Eng shortly afterwards. Returning to Hong Kong, he was appointed the first Orthopaedic Specialist to the HK Government in 1958. His leadership and unflinching devotion to orthopaedic surgery led him to establish 4 departments of orthopaedic surgery in Grantham Hospital, Tung Wah Hospital, Kowloon Hospital and Ruttonjee Hospital in a matter of two years in 1957 to 1958. His original and master piece contribution to orthopaedic surgery in 1962, together with Professor GB Ong and Professor Hodgson was the transoral approach to the upper cervical spine, a paper – Direct anterior approach to the upper cervical spine published in the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery in 1962. In the 1950s and 60s, tuberculosis infection among the population was prevalent and his paper on the anterior spinal fusion: The operative approach and pathological findings in 412 patients with Pott's disease of the spine was published even earlier in 1960 in the British Journal of Surgery. The following two

decades we witness his continuous effort to publish and contribute to the orthopaedic literature in the 70s and 80s.

It was during the Second World War, a turbulent time that the then young Professor Sir Harry, when fleeing from the Japanese, had to earn his keep by carrying an old lady on his back which inspired his intense devotion to rehabilitation and the care of elderly. As the title of his book, *Rehabilitation, a Life's Work*, Professor Sir Harry's devotion to this was enormous and fruitful locally, mainland and over the world. He founded and built Children's Convalescence Hospital, now Duchess of Kent Children's Hospital; John F. Kennedy Centre, Margaret Trench Medical Rehabilitation Centre, MacLehose Medical Rehabilitation Centre, HK Sports Associations for the Physically Handicapped, Mentally Handicapped, HK PHAB Association. Through his compassion and conviction, he is the person who put HK on the map of world rehabilitation. He introduced Conductive Education, one of the most innovative tools for the disabled people whether physical or mental to HK, not only benefiting a lot of people but also himself when he fell ill. With his conviction and effort, resources became available to send many local rehabilitation workers to further their studies and trainings.

Professor Sir Harry took an active leading role in developing and establishing international bodies for rehabilitation, actualizing his philosophy of equal opportunities and full community participation for the disabled. He was President of the Rehabilitation International from 1981 to 1984 and is Chairman of the Honour Council of the Rehabilitation International. He was appointed Director of United Nations WHO HK Collaborating Centre in Rehabilitation, an extraordinary achievement. Professor Sir Harry introduced and helped to build up its modern rehabilitation service basically from scratch throughout Mainland China, benefiting millions of handicapped and elderly. He organized the Abilympic International. He founded the FESPIC Game Federation in 1974 and hosted the third FESPIC games in Hong Kong and brought the Abilympics to HK in 1991. He is editor to many rehabilitation journals. He received many distinguish awards for his contribution to rehabilitation internationally including the USA and United Nations.

He did not leave the medical fraternity behind, and despite his busy commitment to rehabilitation and orthopaedics, Professor Sir Harry served the HK Medical Council, Dental Council, Nursing Council, School Medical Service, and the Provisional Council of the HK

Academy of Medicine and assumed the leading role of Medical Development Advisory Committee of the HKG and many other medical institutes and organizations.

One is amazed by his boundless energy. Professor Sir Harry served the Legislative Council, the Executive Council, the Community Chest, Courts of Universities, Hong Kong Jockey Club and many other bodies both in HK, Mainland and international. From his devotion to humanity as a whole one truly sees the spirit of rehabilitation, his love of mankind and indeed as Sir T. L. Yang in the forward of his book, put it rightly, he is a citizen of the world.

Undoubtedly with all these distinguished services he has won respect and recognition both locally and abroad. He was awarded with honours and distinctions, which is well aware of that there is no need to mention here again. The Hong Kong College of Orthopaedic Surgeons, feels that it cannot be more appropriate other than honouring Professor Sir Harry, first President of this College, the highest honour that this College can confer to an individual, the First Honorary Fellowship of Hong Kong College of Orthopaedic Surgeon. Mr. President, I now invite Dr. Daniel Fang, representing Professor Sir Harry, witnessed by our honoured guests and this audience, in the gracious presence of Lady Laura Fang, to receive this Honorary fellowship. Let him be gowned. Thank you.