

## **Professor York CHOW**

### **Honorary Fellow of HKCOS 2010**

Professor York YN Chow graduated from the University of Hong Kong in 1971. He started his orthopaedic career at QEH in 1972. His clinical practice was transcended since he took up the responsibilities of the Hospital Chief Executive of Queen Elizabeth Hospital in 1992. During the 20 years as a clinician, Professor Chow has rendered his healing hands on numerous patients at QEH, PMH, CMC, UCH and TSKH while moving up from medical officer to



senior medical officer, to visiting orthopaedic consultant, to acting orthopaedic consultant, and finally Orthopaedic Consultant. Professor Chow is an all rounded orthopaedic surgeon. He was one of the first to receive the AO baptism on fracture management. Before he took up an AO International Fellowship for training at Tubingen, Germany, Professor Chow spent two years learning German with the goal of maximizing his training exposure. This was shortly followed by training at the Princess Margaret Rose Hospital in Edinburgh and the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in London. Apart from preaching the AO doctrine for fracture management, Professor Chow was also expert at arthroscopic surgery, musculoskeletal tumour surgery, paediatric orthopaedic surgery and spine surgery. In his capacity as Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon QEH, he pioneered limb-salvage surgery and transoral C1/2 surgery.

From an early stage of his medical career, Professor Chow has been an active participant in the field of rehabilitation (not least to say that he is happily married to Shelley a

rehabilitation specialist). Moreover, he has always been a keen and accomplished sportsman since his school days. These two qualities entwined and led him into two decades of serious voluntary work with the Hong Kong Sports Development Board, the Hong Kong Association of Rehabilitation Medicine, Paralympics, and further into the Olympic arenas. He was responsible for bringing Hong Kong into the lime light of the Paralympics. He also played a key role as a special adviser to the Bidding Committee for the 2008 Beijing Olympic.

Since putting aside scalpel and screw driver, Professor Chow moved swiftly from HCE of Queen Elizabeth Hospital (1992) to HCE of Queen Mary Hospital (2001), to Cluster Chief Executive of Hong Kong West Cluster (2002), to Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (2004) to Secretary for Health and Food (2007). In his recent political appointments, he is best known for his role in bringing about the much-welcomed territory-wide smoking ban (2007), the first-ever quarantine in a local hotel for the Swine Flu that won many applause from locals and tourists alike (2009), and the rapid legislative response following the detection of melamine in milk (2009).

Professor Chow has served the Hong Kong orthopaedic community extensively. He was Secretary (1979-1980, 1983-1984) and President (1985-1986) of the Hong Kong Orthopaedic Association, Vice-President (1988-1991) and President (1991-1993) of the Association of Sports Medicine and Sport Science, Secretary (1987-1995) and Vice-President (1995-1996) of this College, and was elected Council Member (1999) of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine. Professor Chow was the founding father who put the HKOA Annual Congress on the academic calendar - he was Chairman of Organising Committee for the first four Annual Congresses. He is currently an Honorary Professor of the University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

Mr. President, I present Professor the Honourable York Chow Yat-Ngok, GBS, SBS, MBE, JP, Secretary for Food and Health, Founding Fellow of the College, Honorary Doctor of Social Science, Honorary Professor at two universities, and above all, one who excelled

within this very fraternity and one who was instrumental in bringing this College into existence, for admission as Honorary Fellow of our College.