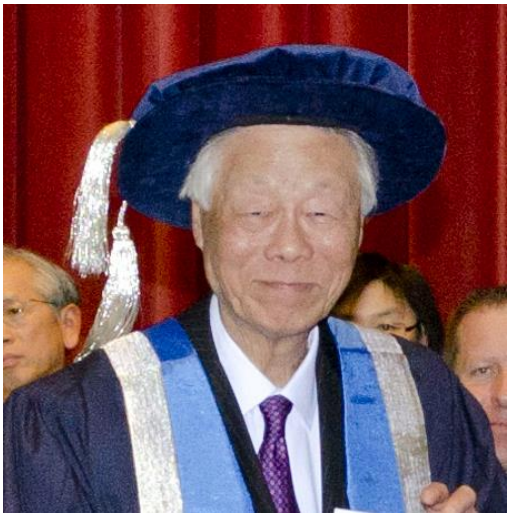
Mr. Lee Man-ban

Ad **Hominem Fellowship of HKCOS 2013**



There may be aspects of Mr. LEE Man Ban that you may already know if you have attended the many MB Lee Visiting Professorship lectures at the Queen Mary Hospital, in the University of Hong Kong. But there may be other aspects you may not be aware of. Tonight, I believe it is only fitting that I give you a comprehensive account of how Mr. Lee has contributed tremendously to our orthopaedic community, and also toward our society.

Mr. Lee is a successful businessman with an illustrious career in accounting. In the 1950s, the Hong Kong government supported economic development and through the Colombo Plan the Australian government extended their accountancy recognition to Hong Kong. But, it was entirely left to the candidates to prepare for the examinations by themselves. Through much hardship, not the least contributed by a persistent back pain of unknown cause at the time, Mr. Lee successfully qualified as a Certified Public Accountant in 1959. After working in the Hong Kong Inland Revenue Department for a short time, he established his own practice, M.B. Lee & Co., Certified Public Accountants on Jan. 1st 1962, later converted to a corporate practice in 1997. And as is often fondly remembered by him, this was only a few months after Professor Sir Harry Fang started his private orthopaedic practice. The company has served as honorary auditor for the Hong Kong College of Orthopaedic Surgeons and the Hong Kong Orthopaedic Association for many years. Though he has stopped participating in the day-to-day management of his company, he continues to provide advice and consultations whenever it's needed in his capacity as the Governing Director.

The friendship between Mr. Lee and the late Sir Harry blossomed from the fateful consultation in 1961, when Mr. Lee wanted to learn about the enigmatic cause of his persistent back pain. This, as some of you may have already guessed, was later confirmed to be ankylosing spondylitis. In fact, it was Sir Harry who suggested Mr. Lee volunteer services for the disabled. Working closely with Sir Harry they laid down the foundations for this area, and together

they developed rehabilitation services, not only in Hong Kong, but also in China, Asia and the Pacific Region.

Mr. Lee joined the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation in 1967. He oversaw one of the biggest projects in the 1980s, the development of the MacLehose Medical Rehabilitation Centre, and chaired the Planning Committee. He subsequently chaired the Governing Committee that looked after its operation till the Hospital Authority took over in 1991. Other committees that he chaired at different times included the Rehabus and the Elderly Service Steering. Currently, Mr. Lee is the President for the Society, which he has held since 2010. He was the Chairman from 1980 to 2010.

Mr. Lee has also had a long history with the University of Hong Kong Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology. This started with Sir Harry's strong encouragement to establish the M.B. Lee Visiting Professorship. The professorship started under Professor A.R. Hodgson in 1973, and has brought about visits from 35 distinguished pioneers in the field of orthopaedics, thus creating a dialogue and fostering exchange of ideas for our local orthopaedic community.

Mr. Lee's expertise had been tapped by various statutory and government organizations. He was chairman of the Queen Elizabeth Foundation for the Mentally Handicapped (1988-2003), and member of the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee (1986-1991), the Mental Health Review Tribunal (1990-1991), the Town Planning Appeal Board (1991-1993), the Equal Opportunities Commission (1996-2002), and the Consumer Legal Action Fund (1994-1998).

The Hong Kong Government also recognized his contributions. He was appointed Justice of Peace (JP) in 1982, and received Governor's Commendation for Community Service in 1988. In 1990, he was bestowed Member of the British Empire (MBE). His tireless dedication over the years earned him a Silver Bauhinia Star (SBS) in 2001. And in 2010, the University of Hong Kong awarded him an Honorary Fellowship.

Mr. President, in honour of his contributions to the Hong Kong College of Orthopaedic Surgeons and the Hong Kong Orthopaedic Association as well as his long term commitment to orthopaedic training and rehabilitation, it gives me tremendous pleasure and honour to present to you Mr. Lee Man Ban to be the Ad Hominem Fellow of the Hong Kong College of Orthopaedic Surgeons.