香港中文大學
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

香港中文大學醫學院
Faculty of Medicine
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

香港中文大學那打素護理學院
The Nethersole School of Nursing
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

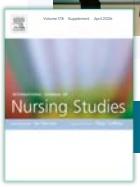
The Nethersole School of Nursing

Nurturing with Excellence
Caring with Compassion

Research & Innovation – Transformative Impact

Cultivating a Global Research & Innovation Hub

The Nethersole School of Nursing has solidified its position at the forefront of scientific nursing research and innovation, driven by a dynamic academic environment rich in resources and opportunities. To advance our research mission, the School regularly hosts premier events to showcase impactful findings and share best practices. Ranging from flagship conferences and symposia to forums and seminars, these events bring together scholars and experts from around the world for high-level scholarly exchange. Highlights in recent years include:



View Special Supplement:
International Journal of Nursing Studies (Vol. 178)

8th Pan-Pacific Nursing Conference cum 2nd Cochrane Hong Kong Symposium (Mar 2026)

As part of our School's 35th anniversary, this event fostered fruitful international dialogue on leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) and other frontiers in evidence-based health care to drive innovation and impact.

- **1,200+** participants worldwide
- **30+** renowned speakers
- **760+** abstracts received

Conference Website: 8thpanpacificconf.nur.cuhk.edu.hk

Inaugural Acceptance & Commitment Therapy (ACT) Forum (Jun 2025)

As the first ACT forum in Hong Kong, it engaged leaders within the Association for Contextual Behavioral Science (ACBS) to share insights on integrating ACT theories into research, practice, and innovation.

- **200+** participants worldwide
- **4** renowned speakers

9th Nursing Symposium on Cancer Care cum 1st Genomic & Genetic Nursing Forum (May 2024)

This event marked our School's first major in-person international oncology nursing symposium since the COVID-19 pandemic subsided and featured our inaugural Genomic & Genetic Nursing Forum.

- **260+** participants worldwide
- **20+** renowned speakers
- **335+** abstracts received

Symposium Website: cancersym9.nur.cuhk.edu.hk

Our School addresses complex healthcare challenges and critical scientific inquiries by integrating expertise across three core research theme groups. Through a well-coordinated three-tiered system, our researchers drive transformative research with clear strategic directions in delivering sustainable, impact-oriented outcomes and advancing innovative research globally.

Research Committee

3 Research Theme Groups

- Cancer & Palliative Care
- Cardiovascular, Metabolic & Stroke Care
- Ageing, Behavioural & Mental Wellness

5 Research & Evidence-based Practice Centres

- Cochrane Hong Kong
- Asia-Pacific Genomic & Genetic Nursing Centre
- Croucher Laboratory for Human Genomics
- The Nethersole Evidence-based Nursing Practice Unit (NENPU)
- Y. K. Pao Foundation Centre for Nursing Excellence in Chronic Illness Care (CIC Centre)

Internal Research Resources & Support

School Funding: Seeding Money, Publication Reward Scheme for 3- and 4-Star Papers, Open Access Publication Scheme, Research Start-up Fund, Visiting Fellowship Scheme, funding schemes of NENPU and CIC Centre (supported by the Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Charity Foundation and the Y. K. Pao Foundation).

Capacity Building: In addition to annual strategic research workshops for academic staff, our School regularly hosts visiting international scholars to deliver research seminars, workshops, and open lectures, as well as to provide targeted consultations on grant writing and the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). Since resuming in-person visits in 2022, we have welcomed scholars from Australia, Canada, Singapore, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom:

Distinguished Visiting Professor Scheme
Prof. Linda JOHNSTON
University of Toronto
Canada
(Visited in July 2023 & 2024)

Visiting Fellowship Scheme
Prof. Michael BROWN
Queen's University Belfast
United Kingdom
(Visited in September 2023)

Engagement of experts/consultants to deliver seminars/workshops
Prof. Sandie MCCARTHY
Griffith University
Australia
(Visited in June 2024)

International Recognitions

(Figures as of 30 June 2026)

QS Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings by Subject – Nursing 2026

Global Rank	Regional Rank	Citations Per Paper	H-Index Citations
#6 globally	#1 in Asia	#2 globally & in Asia	#5 in Asia

Proven track record in QS Rankings and key research indicators since 2023:

Subject Rankings	Advanced from World's #16 to #6; consistently maintained #1 position in Asia
Citations Per Paper	Advanced from World's #7 to #2; consistently ranked among Asia's TOP 2
H-Index Citations	Consistently ranked among Asia's TOP 5

14 of our researchers are among World's **TOP 2%** Scientists

2025 single-year impact list compiled by Stanford University

(including two Emeritus Professors)

Top performance in citation metrics:

The total number of our world's top 2% highly cited nurse scientists has doubled from 7 to 14 since 2021.

13 of our researchers are **FELLOWS** of the **American Academy of Nursing**

(including two Emeritus Professors)

2 new inductees in the 2026 Class

Leading presence in FAAN inductions among Hong Kong nurse scholars:

Our elite faculty has achieved regular FAAN inductions since 2021 and consistently accounts for over 50% of the total number of FAAN in Hong Kong.

Total No. of Research-related Accolades *in recent 5 years*

(Figures as of 30 June 2026)

197 **fellowships, scholarships, and awards**

received by professorial staff (n=107) and postgraduate research students (n=90)

Notable Mentions

Prestigious Titles Awarded by Sigma Nursing

International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame Honourees
Prof. Helen CHAN (2024) and Prof. Wai Tong CHIEN (2025)

Rising Star (of Research)
PhD in Nursing student Ms. Myrian FAN (2026)

Abstract & Presentation Awards

at international and regional conferences

Top Scoring Scientific Abstract Award
2026 Conference on the Science of Tai Chi & Qigong as Whole Person Health
Prof. Sek Ying CHAIR (2026)

Best Oral Presentation Award
29th East Asian Forum of Nursing Scholars
Prof. Laurie HO (2026)

APASL Young Investigator Award
Asian Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver (APASL) Annual Meeting
Doctor of Nursing student Ms. Angel MA (2025)

... & more!

Major Innovation Awards

As of 30 June 2026, the School's **ACTuWISE team**, led by Prof. Connie CHONG and Prof. Wai Tong CHIEN, has garnered **seven awards for their innovative mental health solutions integrating AI with Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT)**. Their most notable international accolades include:

Gold Medal with Congratulations of the Jury
51st International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva (2026)

Silver Medal
Silicon Valley International Invention Festival (2024)

Gold Medal
49th International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva (2024)

Total No. of Research Publications *in recent 5 years*

in the capacity of first author / corresponding author / co-author

(Figures as of 30 June 2026)

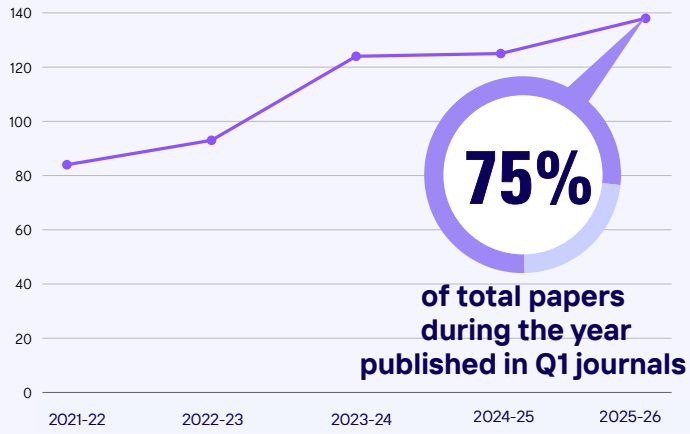
860+ papers

Annual outputs ranged from 150 to 190 papers

Collaborated with scholars from

90+ countries

Steady Growth in the No. of Q1 Publications



Notable increase in productivity & quality

Our researchers consistently publish over 150 papers per year, while the proportion of publications in Q1 journals has increased from 60% to 75% since 2021-22.

Broader international & interdisciplinary impacts

International and interdisciplinary collaborations have consistently accounted for more than half of our research outputs each year, ranging from 53% to 71% of total publications since 2021-22.

Published in Q1 journals & with Impact Factor (IF) ≥4 (2025 JCR® SCIE): Aiming for High-Quality Research Evidence

Nursing journals

- *International Journal of Nursing Studies (IF: 8.7)*
- *European Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing (IF: 5.4)*
- *Worldviews on Evidence-Based Nursing (IF: 5.3)*
- *BMC Nursing (IF: 5.2)*
- *International Journal of Nursing Studies Advances (IF: 5.2)*
- *Intensive and Critical Care Nursing (IF: 5.1)*
- *International Nursing Review (IF: 4.8)*
- *Nurse Education Today (IF: 4.7)*
- *Nurse Education in Practice (IF: 4.5)*
- *International Journal of Nursing Sciences (IF: 4.4)*

Medical & interdisciplinary flagships

- *The Lancet (IF: 109.0)*
- *Nature Medicine (IF: 52.5)*
- *The Lancet Respiratory Medicine (IF: 34.7)*
- *The Lancet Infectious Diseases (IF: 29.4)*
- *Gut (IF: 24.6)*
- *Kidney International (IF: 21.8)*
- *Nature Communications (IF: 18.1)*
- *npj Digital Medicine (IF: 18.0)*
- *JAMA Pediatrics (IF: 17.1)*
- *Alzheimer's & Dementia (IF: 12.8)*

Learn more: nur.cuhk.edu.hk/research/publications

Total No. of Conference Presentations *in recent 5 years*

(Figures as of 30 June 2026)

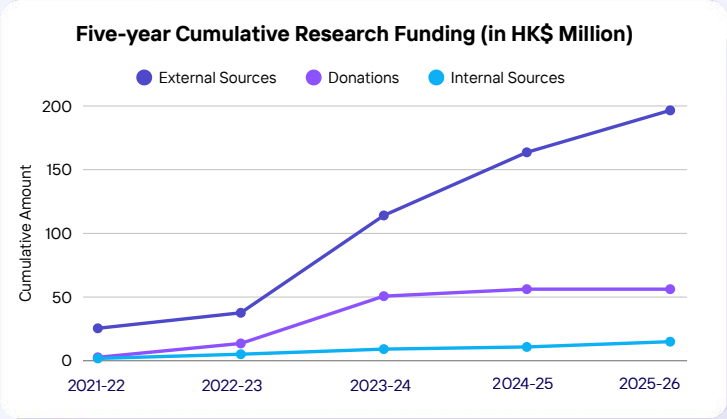
380 Oral/Poster/ePoster Presentations

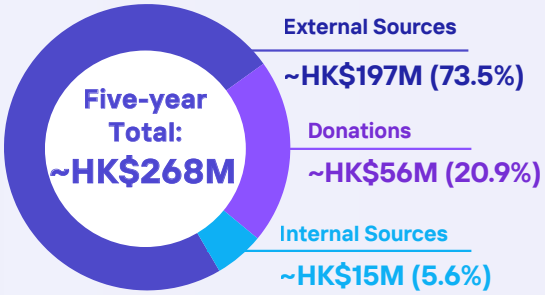
20+ Countries Worldwide

Total Competitive Grants & Donations *in recent 5 years*

In the capacity of Principal Investigator (PI) or Co-PI

(Figures as of 30 June 2026)





All funding categories demonstrated sustained cumulative growth, highlighted by a significant surge in external competitive grants in 2023-24.

Learn more: nur.cuhk.edu.hk/research/grants

Three Pioneering RGC-Funded Projects Leveraging AI & Robotics to Drive Societal Breakthroughs

Our success in obtaining competitive funding from the Research Grants Council (RGC) of the University Grants Committee (UGC)—the benchmark of research excellence for local higher education institutions—accounts for about half of our total funding. Notably, across the three most recent RGC funding cycles, our nursing professors secured more substantial amounts of research funding as PIs or Co-PIs, particularly for the three unprecedented projects below. This success underscores our leadership in driving large-scale, interdisciplinary innovation and cutting-edge models of care driven or supported by AI.

PI: Prof. Helen CHAN

Total Funding: HK$21.4M

Building an Artificial Intelligence-Enhanced Platform for One-Stop Advance Care Planning Model

RGC Strategic Topics Grant 2026/27

This project brings together collaborators in health tech, aged care, and public policy to co-design a pioneering AIxACP portal. It aims to improve ACP access, documentation, and frontline support, making end-of-life care more person-centred.

Co-PI: Prof. Sek Ying CHAIR

Total Funding: HK$40.89M

Social Robots with Embedded Large Language Models Releasing Stress among the Hong Kong Population

RGC Theme-based Research Scheme (TRS) 2024/25

This interinstitutional project harnesses AI-LLM-trained, human-like social robots to provide localised and personalised mental health support to address the unique societal stressors in Hong Kong.

Co-PI: Prof. Jojo WONG

Total Funding: HK$31.5M

Embracing Artificial Intelligence-Assisted Upper and Lower Urinary Tract Assessment in Primary Care and Nurse Clinic Settings

RGC Strategic Topics Grant 2025/26

This international multidisciplinary project develops an AI-enhanced urinary catheter with a built-in camera to streamline frontline urology care triaging and facilitate rapid, accurate point-of-care assessments.

Informing Clinical Practice & Education through Academia-Industry Collaborations

Meeting between our three research theme groups and three affiliated hospitals at CUHK (2024)

Optimising Effective Nasogastric Tube (NGT) Placement Verification

Between 2023 and 2025, **Cochrane Hong Kong, in collaboration with the Hospital Authority of Hong Kong**, successfully completed two landmark multi-centre diagnostic studies. The findings provided robust evidence that point-of-care ultrasonography (POCUS) and capnography are reliable, real-time bedside alternatives for verifying NGT placement, offering valuable insights to support safer, more cost-effective, and time-efficient clinical practice. The findings of the capnography study have been published in the *Critical Care* journal (IF: 11.4; DOI: 10.1186/s13054-026-06246-9).

Dr. Brian CHUNG (4th from left), Interim CEO and Chief Medical & Scientific Officer of HKGI, was one of the guest speakers at the Genetic & Genomic Symposium held during the 8th Pan-Pacific Nursing Conference (2026)

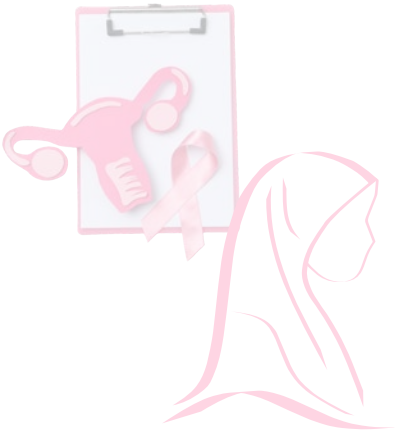
Enhancing Quality of Clinical Practice

The **NENPU Fund for Evidence-based Practice Improvement** was launched in 2023 with the generous support of the Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Charity Foundation (the Foundation). It aims to bridge nursing research and patient care through collaborative clinical research conducted with three Nethersole Group Hospitals. Between 2023 and 2025, the scheme funded eight projects that focused on improving patient outcomes through the integration of AI and other cutting-edge technologies, safer practices and optimised workflows. The findings from one pilot study on multimedia pre-test genetic counselling for breast cancer patients have been published in the *Annals of Oncology* journal as part of the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) Congress 2024 abstract book (IF: 80.4; DOI: 10.1016/j.annonc.2024.08.404).

Meeting with collaborators to share research findings of the POCUS study at the Hospital Authority Head Office (2026)

Advancing the Development of Genomic Nursing

Supported by the Foundation, the **Asia-Pacific Genomic and Genetic Nursing Centre** and the **Croucher Laboratory for Human Genomics** are working synergistically to scale two key projects: (1) expanding the study of structural variants in larger autism spectrum disorder (ASD) cohorts—building on their findings published in the *Computational and Structural Biotechnology Journal* (IF: 4.8; DOI: 10.1016/j.csbj.2025.05.043) in 2025—and (2) developing a nursing genomic literacy scale to accurately measure nurses' knowledge. The School is also actively integrating genomics into undergraduate and postgraduate nursing curricula, fostering academic and research collaborations with the **Clinical Genetics Service Unit of the Hong Kong Children's Hospital** and the **Hong Kong Genome Institute (HKGI)**—an organisation dedicated to integrating genomics into mainstream health care.



Boosting Cervical Cancer Screening Uptake among South Asian Women in Hong Kong

South Asian populations face severe access gaps, unique cultural barriers, and high rates of late-stage diagnosis in cancer care. To address these challenges, the **IMPACT (Integrative Multicomponent Programme for promoting South Asians' Cancer screening upTake)** initiative led by Prof. Winnie SO was launched in 2014.

In 2022, IMPACT gained international recognition as one of the winners of the World Health Organization (WHO) Western Pacific Region Innovation Challenge. After scaling up its community health worker training that same year, IMPACT attained interim success in 2024 by partnering with over 40 local non-governmental organisations and community centres and reaching 1,016 South Asian women. Through an effective train-the-trainer model, 52 local South Asian women were empowered as health ambassadors to educate their peers. By delivering this culturally tailored, accessible health information, IMPACT achieved a measurable breakthrough, boosting cervical screening uptake by over 75% among target participants.

Advancing Holistic Palliative and End-of-Life Care in Collaboration with the Hong Kong Jockey Club

Prof. Helen CHAN has been a driving force in advancing end-of-life care for vulnerable groups in Hong Kong. Between 2023 and 2025, she successfully secured over HK$48M from **The Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) Charities Trust** for three projects as PI. She also serves as Co-PI for the JCECC: Unison project launched in 2025, which builds on the foundations of the Jockey Club End-of-Life Community Care Project (JCECC) launched in 2016.

Her current collaborative projects with HKJC aim to close critical service gaps by expanding community palliative care beyond older demographics. This expanded scope now includes persons with physical and intellectual disabilities, individuals in mental recovery, and their carers, ensuring equitable access to specialised care management, advance care planning and end-of-life care.

Innovation in Action: Four Pioneering Nurse-led Ventures

With funding and incubation support from the CUHK Knowledge Transfer Office (KTO), three of our researchers successfully established four pioneering ventures—including three enterprises and one non-governmental organisation—between 2024 and 2025. Beyond their entrepreneurial pursuits, they actively advance KTO's knowledge transfer initiatives by collaborating with healthcare organisations and community centres to deliver professional seminars and public education activities. They also regularly represent CUHK at prominent local and international exhibitions and industry summits (e.g., International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva, Golden Age Expo and Summit). By leveraging these platforms to showcase evidence-based innovations and foster strategic partnerships, they are driving scalable and sustainable healthcare impacts within the community and beyond.

Established in 2025 by Prof. Helen CHAN

Hong Kong Society of Advance Care Planning

Nature: Non-profit organisation
Website: hksacp.org
Facebook： facebook.com/hksacp

Care Coach 1314*

Nature: Social enterprise
Funding received: CUHK Knowledge Transfer Venture Impact Fund (KT-VIF)
Facebook page: facebook.com/carecoach1314

**1314 is a Chinese homophone meaning "for a lifetime"*

Hong Kong Society of Advance Care Planning (HKSACP) and **Care Coach 1314** are **two pioneering nurse-led organisations functioning synergistically to promote advance care planning (ACP) implementation in Hong Kong**. Building on Prof. Helen CHAN's research since the 2000s, both organisations are well positioned to bridge ACP service gaps following the enactment of the city's legislation on Advance Medical Directives in July 2026:

- **HKSACP (macro level):** Drives systemic change through public education, capacity building, and policy advocacy (e.g., enhancing ACP staff competence via the *Certified Advance Care Planner for Chinese Communities*™ course).
- **Care Coach 1314 (micro level):** Delivers comprehensive, nurse-guided ACP services to support personalised and proactive end-of-life care planning (e.g., partnering with CUHK Medical Centre for "Care Club" tea sessions to normalise ACP communication).

喜令護手 HAYLEY HAND CARE

Nature: Stroke rehabilitation social enterprise

Founder: Prof. Suzanne LO (launched in 2024)

Funding received: CUHK S-KPF and the Social Innovation & Entrepreneurship Development Fund

Website: hayleyhandcare.com

Hayley Hand Care is the **first nurse-led social enterprise dedicated to providing tailored post-stroke hand care and self-management support for individuals experiencing hand spasticity in Hong Kong**. It adopts a unique service model to recruit and train golden-aged women to assist in service delivery via the "Caring Hand Spa" programme, under the guidance of registered nurses. This approach builds community capacity to empower stroke survivors—ultimately promoting their employability, productivity, and social inclusion.

12 golden-agers trained
as certified hand care facilitators

68 people with hand spasticity
received care via over 520 service sessions

79% reduction in muscle pain
in the affected upper limb as reported by users

(Figures as of 30 June 2026)

ACTUWISE
Embrace | Transform | Thrive

Nature: AI-driven mental health-tech spin-off startup

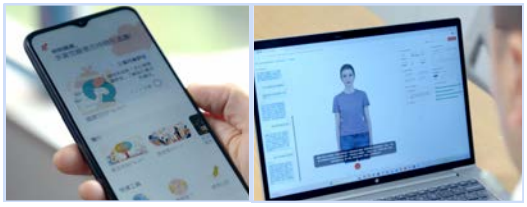
Founders: Prof. Connie CHONG and Prof. Wai Tong CHIEN (launched in 2024)

Funding received: Over HK$12.5M from various sources, such as the CUHK S-KPF and the HKSTP Incubation Programme

Intellectual property portfolio: 4 patents (international, US, Chinese mainland & HK)

Website: actuwise.org

ACTuWISE is the **first nurse-led, technology- and social impact-driven startup to integrate AI with Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) for scalable, personalised mental health services and training**. The company's core offerings are powered by a patented, award-winning ACT-LLM. Originally dedicated to supporting parents of children with special educational needs (SEN) and chronic conditions, ACTuWISE is now expanding its reach to empower a more diverse range of family caregivers.



ACTuWISE delivers impact through two innovative solutions:

- **Pai.ACT® App:** Personalised AI-powered mental health support and triage
- **AIxACT Platform:** Simulation-based training featuring virtual clients with diverse psychological profiles

3,000+ Pai.ACT® users
supported via its triage system & counselling service

30% reduction in anxiety & depression levels
among identified high-risk cases triaged to human counsellors

~870 paraprofessionals & SEN caregivers
received training via ACT seminars & workshops

(Figures as of 30 June 2026)

The Journey Continues
Be Part of Our Amazing Future

This overview is merely a fraction of our collective achievements. As we release the next chapters of our 35th anniversary series throughout 2026, we invite you to be part of the celebration and walk this path with us.