

RESEARCH PROFILE

5TH EDITION



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



The Nethersole School of Nursing
Faculty of Medicine
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
香港中文大學醫學院那打素護理學院



Prof. CHIEN Wai Tong

Director and Professor
The Nethersole School of Nursing
Faculty of Medicine
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

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Building on the momentum of 2022, The Nethersole School of Nursing has continued to make significant strides in research throughout 2023. Our world-class research capacity has been reaffirmed by international rankings, underscoring our excellence in driving innovative and impactful research. This profile offers an insightful glimpse into our key research initiatives and achievements in the past year. It is hoped that this overview will further fuel our dedication to elevate our research excellence to the next level, thereby making even greater contributions to healthcare locally, regionally, and globally!

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Prof. CHAIR Sek Ying

Vice-Director of Research / Professor
The Nethersole School of Nursing
Faculty of Medicine
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

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CUHK Nursing has been going from strength to strength, consistently positioning itself at the forefront of innovative, translational and collaborative research. Our research impacts have continued to gain global recognition, marking strong performance and significant milestones in 2023. This overview serves as a testament to our unwavering commitment to expanding the breadth and depth of our world-class research. Moving forward, the School will continue to lead the way in shaping the healthcare landscape through our relentless pursuit of excellence.

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The Nethersole School of Nursing cultivates a supportive environment conducive to innovative discoveries and cutting-edge research, generating new knowledge and quality evidence to inform best nursing practices and healthcare outcomes for a better and healthier tomorrow.

We adopt a **3-tier system** to foster innovation & research excellence!



INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION — WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH CAPACITY

QS

WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS
BY SUBJECT — NURSING

2024

8th
IN THE WORLD

1st IN HONG KONG & ASIA

(2016–2024)

(2020–2024)

SHANGHAI
RANKING

GLOBAL RANKING OF ACADEMIC
SUBJECTS (GRAS) — NURSING

2023

2nd
IN THE WORLD

1st IN HONG KONG & ASIA



RECORD HIGH

- 1 After holding the 16th spot for two years (2022–2023), our School rocketed to the 8th spot in the **2024 QS rankings!** This marks our **first entry into the WORLD'S TOP 10**, making us **the first & currently the only nursing school in Asia to achieve this remarkable feat!**
- 2 Our School also achieved our highest-ever position in the **2023 GRAS!** We are currently **the only nursing school in Asia to be ranked among the WORLD'S TOP 5!**

SCORES WELL IN RESEARCH INDICATORS

2024 QS

CITATIONS PER PAPER: **1st** in Asia & **4th** in the World
Remains 1st in Asia in 2020–2024 & the World's TOP 10 in 2023–2024

H-INDEX CITATIONS: **2nd** in Asia
Remains Asia's TOP 3 in 2020–2024

2023 GRAS

RESEARCH QUALITY: **2nd** in the World

RESEARCH INFLUENCE: **11th** in the World

9

of our
researchers ranked

**WORLD'S TOP 2%
SCIENTISTS**
for 2022

by Stanford University

9

FELLOWS

of the

**AMERICAN
ACADEMY
OF NURSING**

23

local & international

**RESEARCH-RELATED
AWARDS**

garnered by
our staff & postgraduates
in 2023

(as announced in October 2023)

RESEARCH FUNDING

In the capacity of principal investigator (PI) or co-investigator (Co-I)



FUNDED VISITS OF INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS

Distinguished Visiting Professor Scheme



Visited in July 2023
Prof. Linda JOHNSTON

Professor
Lawrence Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing
University of Toronto
Canada

Visiting Fellowship Scheme



Visited in September 2023
Prof. Michael BROWN

Professor
School of Nursing and Midwifery
Queen's University Belfast
United Kingdom

9 Internal Competitive Grants

24 External Competitive Grants

Research Grants Council (RGC) /
University Grants Committee (UGC)

- General Research Fund
- National Natural Science Foundation of China / RGC Joint Research Scheme

Government Departments & Agencies

- Mental Health Initiatives Funding Scheme
- Health and Medical Research Fund
- Quality Education Fund

Charitable, Industry & Others

- Nethersole Institute of Continuing Holistic Health Education
- Hong Kong Applied Science & Technology Research Institute
- ★ The Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) Charities Trust

... & more!!



RESEARCHER SPOTLIGHT

Prof. Helen CHAN

Prof. Helen Chan's pioneering research has consistently secured **SUBSTANTIAL PHILANTHROPIC FUNDING SUPPORT FROM THE HKJC CHARITIES TRUST**. Notably, she received over HK\$9 million for a dementia care project in 2023, and another HK\$36 million for a project on palliative and end-of-life care in early 2024.

With her research achievements and significant contributions to the field of nursing, Prof. Chan has made a remarkable impact on the international stage. Her recent induction into the **2024 INTERNATIONAL NURSE RESEARCHER HALL OF FAME BY SIGMA NURSING** serves as a testament to her globally recognised research excellence.

2023 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS — A STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

PUBLICATIONS

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



134 papers (77% of all outputs) published in high impact journals

IMPACT FACTOR (IF) ≥ 2.5

- Lancet
- Kidney International
- JAMA Network Open
- Globalization and Health
- Asian Journal of Psychiatry
- JMIR Public Health and Surveillance
- Stroke



- International Journal of Nursing Studies
- International Journal of Social Psychiatry
- Journal of Global Health

... & more!

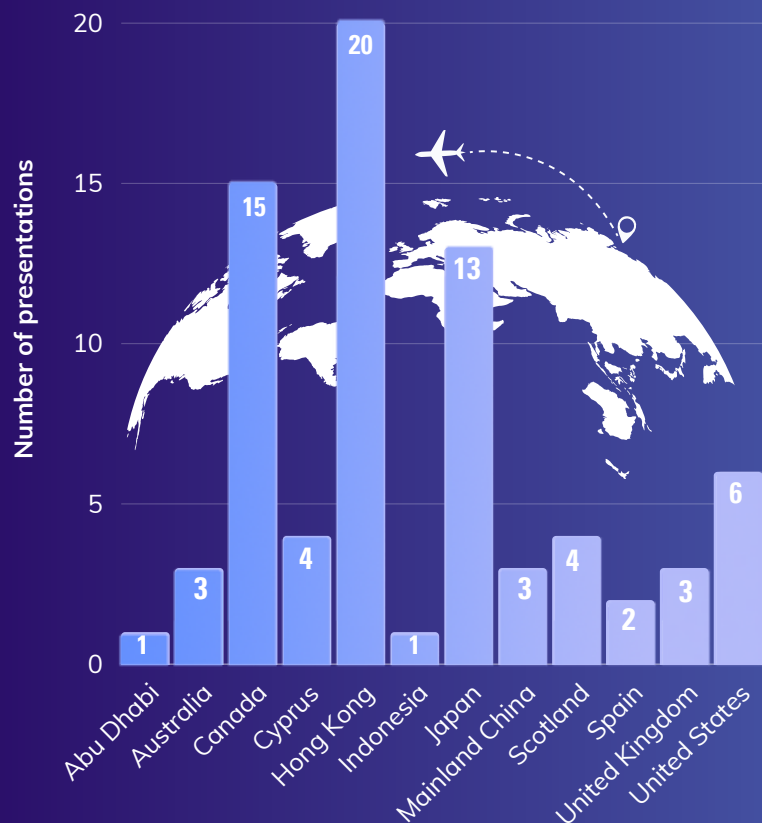


HIGH QUALITY

A strong track record with **OVER 70%** of papers published in **high impact journals (IF ≥ 2.5)** for 2021–2023!

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Attended in person or virtually



75 presentations in total delivered at local and international conferences

- International Stroke Conference 2023
- 26th East Asian Forum of Nursing Scholars
- 18th World Congress of the European Association for Palliative Care
- 17th International Congress of Behavioural Medicine
- MASCC/JASCC/ISOO 2023 Annual Meeting



... & more!

22 keynote/invited presentations



Health Professional- and Volunteer-partnered Self-management Support (COMBO-KEY) to Promote Self-efficacy and Self-management Behaviours in People with Stroke

The **Coaching Ongoing Momentum Building On strokE rEcovery journeY programme ('COMBO-KEY')** is an enhanced community-based stroke self-management programme aimed at improving stroke survivors' self-management behaviours.

This project is led by **Prof. Suzanne LO** with **Prof. Janita CHAU** and **Dr. CHOI Kai Chow**. It is a collaborative project with the Community Rehabilitation Network that received support from the Health Care and Promotion Scheme.

This project engaged a total of 134 participants [mean age: 64.1 years, standard deviation (SD) = 12.7]. Over 80% of the participants were recovering from their first-ever stroke [mean years after first stroke: 4.2(SD = 5.1)].

After taking part in this rehabilitation programme, the participants showed significant improvements in self-efficacy, satisfaction with their performance of self-management behaviours, health-related quality of life, and community reintegration. This programme also provided mutual benefits to the stroke survivors and the peers supporting the programme, particularly increasing confidence in post-stroke recovery and satisfaction with abilities to contribute to society.



Explaining self-management to a survivor and her caregiver



Showing a survivor the 'COMBO-KEY' website and videos

Healthcare professionals and trained volunteers providing guidance



Workbook

克服心魔 隨機應變



Videos of peer survivors' survival experience

LEARN MORE:

www.combogreenangels.com/combo



Harnessing artificial intelligence for personalised Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for family caregivers of children with special educational needs

Pai.ACT™, an innovative mental healthcare app developed by **Prof. Connie CHONG** (Lead Inventor), **Prof. CHIEN Wai Tong** (Co-Inventor) and their research team, uses a deep learning-enhanced chatbot to deliver personalised psychotherapy for Cantonese-speaking parents of children with special educational needs (SEN). The app leverages a therapy session text database and the Chinese RoBERTa model, along with OpenAI's technology to simulate Focused Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (FACT) sessions.

Pai.ACT™ is both user-centric and culturally relevant, specifically adapted to address unique SEN parenting challenges in the Hong Kong context. It analyses texts in real-time to identify psychological inflexibility, delivers matched digital ACT modules, and flags cases requiring further professional mental health support.

The app's development and implementation received funding support from the Innovation and Technology Commission, the Nethersole Evidence-based Nursing Practice Unit, The Lions Club of Hong Kong Sun, and the CUHK IdeaBooster Fund.

The project benefits from collaboration with key SEN community stakeholders. The expertise of Prof. Kenneth FUNG (University of Toronto's Department of Psychiatry) and Dr. Tim LI (CUHK's Department of Psychiatry), both experts in applying ACT and AI in psychological therapies, has also been instrumental to the project's advancement.

From April 2022 to August 2023, a cohort of 317 paraprofessionals received ACT training during Pai.ACT™'s developmental phase, with 71 of them qualified as ACT interventionists. They are capable of providing in-person FACT for caregivers of SEN children, utilising Pai.ACT™ as a supporting tool.



At the press conference unveiling Pai.ACT™

A FACT trial involving 210 parents demonstrated the effectiveness of video-conferencing FACT sessions in improving mental health outcomes. Since its official launch in November 2023, Pai.ACT™ has serviced over 810 SEN parents, receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback.

Pai.ACT™ has secured non-provisional patents in both the US and mainland China, and has filed a Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) application. It has also been in the media spotlight, with over 18 reports across various outlets. On top of that, it has been garnering international recognition. Notably, it was awarded the Gold Medal at the 49th International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva (IEIG) 2024, and the Silver Medal at the Silicon Valley International Invention Festival (SVIIF) 2024.



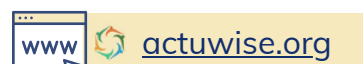
Pai.ACT™ receiving the Gold Medal at the 49th IEIG



DOWNLOAD PAI.ACT™ NOW:



LEARN MORE:





The IMPACT (Integrative Multicomponent Programme for promoting south Asians' Cancer screening upTake) programme

Cancer screening can be effective in reducing cancer burden. However, ethnic minorities are typically less likely to access such preventive services.

The **IMPACT (Integrative Multicomponent Programme for promoting south Asians' Cancer screening upTake)** project team, led by **Prof. Winnie SO**, **Prof. Dorothy CHAN** and **Prof. Jojo WONG**, has identified and addressed barriers encountered by South Asians - the largest ethnic minority group in Hong Kong - in accessing cancer screening services. The team has also translated their research findings into various evidence-based interventions to facilitate decision-making among South Asians to undergo cancer screening, improve their access to screening services, and implement a training programme that empowers community health workers to facilitate South Asians to take various cancer screening tests.

All of these interventions have successfully empowered local South Asians and community partners to engage in healthy behaviours. The research team's ongoing efforts include a scale-up programme to train more South Asian community health workers and expand their outreach efforts, reaching more South Asians women and encouraging them to undergo cervical cancer screening tests.

Since 2014, the research team has developed a community health worker training programme and several multicomponent interventions for improving the uptake of breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screenings. The health booklet has been translated into Urdu, Nepali and Punjabi languages.

The scale-up programme successfully trained more than 50 South Asian women as community health workers and reached out to over 1,000 of their peers. This programme significantly boosted cervical cancer screening uptake among the outreached South Asian women to more than 75%.



Appreciation ceremony celebrating the interim success of the training programme

This IMPACT programme has been disseminated through various invited presentations and publications. The project team was invited to serve as one of the panellists on a National Comprehensive Cancer Network webinar to share their experience and suggest strategies to ensure cancer screening tools are utilised at the international level.

The IMPACT programme was recognised by the World Health Organization's (WHO) Western Pacific Innovative Challenges as an innovative solution for various health challenges in the Western Pacific Region.



Events Promoting Cochrane Evidence & Evidence-based Healthcare

2023

JAN



3rd Beijing Forum of Evidence-based Medicine & 2nd Cochrane China Network Symposium

Co-organiser

MAR



Knowledge Translation Awards 2022 Presentation Ceremony

Organiser

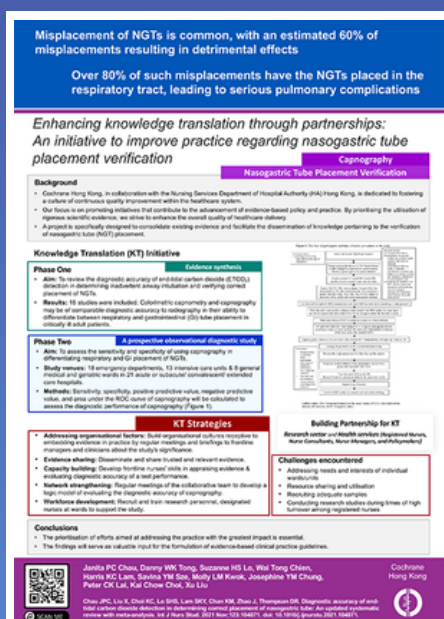
AUG



The Third Competition for Evidence-based Medicine Translation and Dissemination

Co-organiser

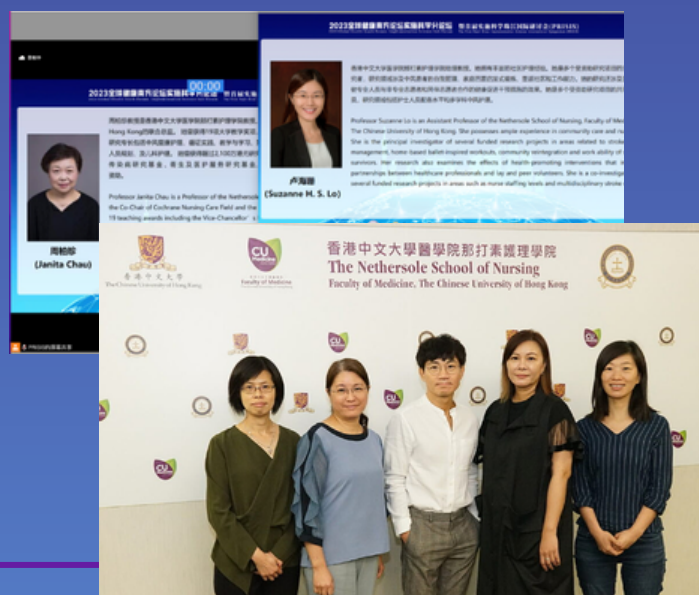
SEP



Cochrane Colloquium in London

Poster Presenter

OCT



2023 Global Health South Forum: Implementation Science Sub-Forum & The First Pearl River Implementation Science International Symposium (PRISIS)

Co-organiser

ASIA-PACIFIC GENOMIC AND GENETIC NURSING CENTRE


apg2nc.nur.cuhk.edu.hk


Research Studies in 2023

ONGOING


A collaborative study with The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) on brain-age models for predicting Alzheimer's disease


Conducting genetic analyses on brain MRI and saliva samples collected from 111 participants



Findings presented at the PolyU Academy for Interdisciplinary Research (PAIR) conference (May 2023)



ONGOING


A study exploring the genetic variants in autism patients


Conducting genetic analyses on blood samples collected from 26 participants



Conducting a literature search to review existing evidence on known genetic variations



COMPLETED


A study on decision aids to facilitate genetic counselling


Findings published in the *Journal of Clinical Nursing* :
<https://doi.org/10.1111/jocn.16768>



COMPLETED


A cross-sectional survey study examining the knowledge of genetics and genomics among nursing students and practising nurses in Hong Kong


Findings published in *Nurse Education Today* :
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nedt.2023.105773>



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