



MAY ISSUE 2021

We are CMEL! Welcome to the fifty-first issue of the CMEL Newsletter! This publication aims to update you on the latest news and information in the biomedical world. We will also share information about upcoming events, so stay tuned! Find out more about [CMEL](#). We also have a [Twitter account](#) and a [Facebook page](#).

Top story in this newsletter

Editorial:



Farewell and welcome

On behalf of CMEL and its Board of Directors, we would like to thank Dr [Harry Yi-Jui Wu](#) for his many years of service as a member of CMEL's Board, and we wish him success in his future endeavours.

We would also like to welcome Professor [Vivian Lin](#), who succeeds Dr Wu as a member of CMEL's Board. Professor Lin is Executive Associate Dean and Professor of Public Health Practice of the LKS Faculty of Medicine at HKU, and has more than 30 years of experience in public health. Both Professor Lin and CMEL's Co-Director Dr [Calvin W. L. Ho](#) are currently collaborators on a research project funded by the World Health Organization on the Design, Reform and Implementation of Health Practitioner Regulation across ten countries.

Additionally, we are delighted to welcome Dr [Minsung Kim](#), who has joined the Department of Law of HKU as Post-doctoral Fellow in Reproductive Medicine and related technologies. Dr Kim completed his PhD / SJD at Indiana University Maurer School of Law, for which he received the Best Dissertation Defense Award.

In this month's newsletter, we are pleased to present new publications and media interviews by our core faculty members, and to share updates on a local court case and the proposed scheme for non-locally trained doctors to practise in Hong Kong.

[吳易叡](#)助理教授擔任本中心董事會成員多年，本中心及本中心董事會向吳教授衷心致謝，並祝願他今後一切順利。

本中心歡迎[林光汶](#)教授接任吳教授成為本中心董事會成員。林教授為港大李嘉誠醫學院行政副院長及公共衛生實務教授，她有超過 30 年的公共衛生界經驗。林教授及本中心總監[何維倫](#)副教授目前一同參與由世界衛生組織資助的一項有關十個國家的醫療人員規例的設計、改革及實行的研究項目。

此外，本中心歡迎[金玟成](#)博士加入港大法律系，擔任博士後研究員(生殖醫學及相關技術)。金博士在印第安納大學摩利爾法律學院完成博士學位/司法學博士學位，並就此獲得最佳論文答辯獎。

本月通訊介紹了本中心核心教職人員的最新作品和媒體採訪，並分享了關於近期一宗香港法庭案件以及讓非本地培訓醫生在香港執業的建議安排的新資訊。



Dr Harry Yi-Jui Wu (Left) and
Dr Calvin W. L. Ho (Right)

吳易叡助理教授(左)及
何維倫副教授(右)

Latest CMEL research:



Recent publications

Please click on the links to read the publications.

[RESEARCH ARTICLES]

- **"Law, Virtue, and Public Health Powers"**

By [Eric C. Ip](#)

In *Public Health Ethics* (OUP) (2021)

Abstract [Open Access]: <https://doi.org/10.1093/phe/phab014>

Full article accessible on Oxford Journals [HKU members please log in [here](#)]

- **"Ethical and policy considerations for COVID-19 vaccination modalities: delayed second dose, fractional dose, mixed vaccines"** [Open Access]

By Jonathan Wolff, Caesar Atuire, Anant Bhan, Ezekiel Emanuel, Ruth Faden, Prakash Ghimire, Dirceu Greco, [Calvin W. L. Ho](#), Sonali Kochhar, Surie Moon, Owen G. Schaefer, Ehsan Shamsi-Gooshki, Jerome Amir Singh, Maxwell J. Smith, Beatriz Thomé, Aissatou Touré, Ross Upshar

In *BMJ Global Health* (2021) 6:5

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2021-005912>

請按以下連結閱讀近期本中心成員的文章。

[研究論文]

- 《法律、德行與公共衛生權力》

作者: [葉子暘](#) 副教授

刊登於牛津大學出版社期刊《公共衛生倫理學》(2021)

摘要 [免費閱覽]: <https://doi.org/10.1093/phe/phab014>

全文在牛津期刊數據庫供閱覽 [港大成員[按此](#)登入]

- 《2019 冠狀病毒病疫苗接種方式的倫理和政策考慮：延遲第二針、零碎劑量及混合疫苗》 [免費閱覽]

作者: Jonathan Wolff, Caesar Atuire, Anant Bhan, Ezekiel Emanuel, Ruth Faden, Prakash Ghimire, Dirceu Greco, [何維倫](#) 副教授, Sonali Kochhar, Surie Moon, Owen G. Schaefer, Ehsan Shamsi-Gooshki, Jerome Amir Singh, Maxwell J. Smith, Beatriz Thomé, Aissatou Touré, Ross Upshar

刊登於《BMJ 全球衛生》(2021) 6:5

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2021-005912>

Knowledge Exchange:



Impact of "vaccine bubble" on unvaccinated employees

In an interview with the *South China Morning Post*, our Dr [Calvin W. L. Ho](#) commented on Hong Kong's "vaccine bubble", which has sparked concerns about the impact on unvaccinated employees. He observed that while the "vaccine bubble" policy itself is ethically justified and reasonable, there still may be implementation gaps, which would then require adequate safeguards to protect individuals, particularly vulnerable employees.

Click [here](#) for the article.

輿論關注香港的「疫苗氣泡」措施對不接種疫苗的僱員的影響，本中心[何維倫](#)副教授接受《南華早報》訪問，分享他的見解。何教授認為，香港的「疫苗氣泡」政策本身在倫理上是有正當理由和合理的，但實行時可能出現缺口，當缺口出現時需要有充足保障措施保障個人，尤其是易受影響的僱員。[按此](#)閱讀報道。

Incentivising vaccination and the Hong Kong – Singapore Travel Bubble

In a radio programme on Radio Television Hong Kong, our Dr [Calvin W. L. Ho](#) shared his views on incentivising vaccination and the Hong Kong – Singapore travel bubble.

Click [here](#) for the recording and transcript [in Chinese only].

本中心[何維倫](#)副教授在香港電台節目中，分享他對鼓勵接種疫苗及「香港新加坡旅遊氣泡」的想法，[按此](#)聆聽錄音及閱讀內容文本。

Transparency in COVID-19 vaccine indemnity fund applications

In an interview with Now News, our Dr [Calvin W. L. Ho](#) suggested that the application process of Hong Kong's COVID-19 vaccine indemnity fund should be more transparent.

Click [here](#) for the clip and transcript [in Chinese only].

在「Now 新聞台」的訪問中，本中心[何維倫](#)副教授指出香港 2019 冠狀病毒病疫苗保障基金的申請程序應有更大透明度，[按此](#)觀看報道片段及閱讀內容文本。

Current Affairs: Doctors acquitted of charges arising from referral of patients to private clinic



Three former public eye doctors were charged with conspiracy to commit misconduct in public office and have recently been acquitted. One of the defendants, a public hospital doctor at the material time, allegedly referred his patients at the public hospital to a private eye clinic operated by the other two defendants. Read more [here](#) [article in Chinese only].

三名前公立眼科醫生被控串謀犯公職人員行為失當罪，三人最近被裁定罪名不成立。案發時其中一名被告擔任公立醫院眼科醫生，他涉嫌轉介他的公立醫院病人到另外兩名被告開設的私家眼科診所，[按此](#)閱讀更多。

Government unveils proposed scheme to create a new pathway for non-locally trained doctors to practise in Hong Kong

The Hong Kong government will introduce the Medical Registration (Amendment) Bill 2021 into the Legislative Council in June this year to create a new pathway for

eligible non-locally trained doctors who are Hong Kong permanent residents to practise in Hong Kong. Read more [here](#).

香港政府將在今年 6 月向立法會提交《2021 年醫生註冊（修訂）條例草案》，以提供新途徑，讓合資格且為香港永久性居民的非本地培訓醫生在香港執業，[按此](#)閱讀更多。

Events:



Past Event: Seminar on genomics for health (in English only)

Our Dr [Calvin W. L. Ho](#) was involved as a commentator in a seminar on "**Genomics for Health – Addressing Ethical and Social Concerns**" organised by the Chinese University of Hong Kong on 11 May 2021. The video is available [here](#).

Upcoming Event (also in English only)

We are pleased to announce that Dr [Calvin W. L. Ho](#) will be giving the following talk (via Zoom). Anyone interested to attend may email Ms Faridah Binte Saadon <paefs@nus.edu.sg> or Mr Mohammad Firdaus Bin Mohammad Shariff <fir.s@nus.edu.sg> for the Zoom link. Attendance of this event is free of charge.

Title of talk: **Parental Rights, Best Interests and Significant Harms in Medical Decision-Making on Behalf of Children**

Organiser: Department of Paediatrics of National University Hospital in Singapore

Date: 9 June 2021 (Wed) | Time 8:00 am (Hong Kong & Singapore Time)

Registration: Please email paefs@nus.edu.sg or fir.s@nus.edu.sg for the Zoom link

Abstract: A number of high profile cases in the United Kingdom (UK) concerning the withholding and/or withdrawal of medical (and in one case, experimental) interventions for infants occurred in close succession. These legal tussles have not escaped public attention in Singapore or Hong Kong. In the main English language newspaper in Singapore for instance, a journalist observed that Singapore has yet to have a test case of desperate parents fighting healthcare professionals in court to prolong treatment for their children, even though legal requirements are broadly similar in both countries. When parents (or guardians) and healthcare professionals disagree, English law is clear that doctors cannot be forced to treat nor can paediatric patients (through their parents or guardians) compel treatments. Although there is no explicit legal or judicial pronouncement in Singapore or Hong Kong, the position that is generally endorsed in professional regulations is effectively similar to that in English law. If an agreement cannot ultimately be reached between parents (or guardians) and healthcare professionals, the dispute may be taken to court, as in the UK. The absence of case law in Singapore or Hong Kong creates an opportunity to examine possible differences in the legal construction and application of best interests and other principles or requirements. In this presentation, I consider the following questions in the context of Singapore (and, to a more limited extent, Hong Kong): (1) What is the appropriate threshold for judicial intervention and its values? (2) What values and considerations do and should inform judicial decisions? Additionally, I broadly consider the extent that judicial responses to these questions are likely to be influenced by social forces and public perception.