Obituary of Dr. CO Pun

Patrick Tak-Him Ko
Dr. Chiu On Pun, affectionately called C.O. by his close friends, was an eminent cardiologist, a kind and considerate doctor, and, above all, a very nice man.

Born in Hong Kong on 6 November 1950 at the former Alice Ho Mui Ling Nethersole Hospital at the junction of Bonham Road and Breezy Path, the young C.O. received kindergarten and primary education at St. Mary’s Church Primary School and Kindergarten, and graduated from King’s College in 1968. During secondary school at King’s, he actively participated in extra-curricular activities, including serving as a scout patrol leader, and this might explain how he developed himself to be a successful professional with principles and self discipline.

After matriculation at Raimondi College, he entered the University of Hong Kong where he graduated M.B.B.S. from the Faculty of Medicine in 1975. He then served as Medical Officer at the Accident & Emergency Department, Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) before his training in Internal Medical and Cardiology at the same hospital.
In 1980, Dr. Pun obtained his M.R.C.P and went for oversea training at Gardiner Institute, University of Glasgow on a government overseas training scholarship. In 1984, he was promoted to the position of Senior Medical Officer, Prince of Wales Hospital (PWH) cum Honorary Clinical Lecturer in Medicine at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Department of Medicine. In 1985-1986, he worked as Visiting Cardiology Associate at the Department of Cardiology, the Royal Melbourne Hospital, Melbourne, Australia where he learned advanced electrophysiology and pacing techniques from leading cardiologists like Dr. Harry Mond. In 1987, he obtained TESTAMUR NASPExAM (Special Competency in Cardiac Pacing), North American Society of Pacing and Clinical Electrophysiology. From 1987, he obtained fellowship from various colleges including FHKCP, FRCP (Glasgow), FRCP (Edinburg) and in 1993 he became founding Fellow of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, FHKAM (Med).

During his tenure as Medical Officer at Q.E.H. and later Senior Medical Officer at P.W.H., Dr. Pun was well-known as a hard-working doctor, dedicated to his work, kind and gentle to junior colleagues as well as all his patients. He was most willing to teach, and indeed he spent a lot of time teaching young doctors and nurses. His work ethics, his passion for teaching younger cardiologists and his kindness to people are simply exemplary. Yet, it is equally remarkable Dr. Pun always managed to keep a low profile. He left the public hospital and went into private practice in 1996, and continued to serve his patients who had nothing but praise and respect for him.

Dr. Pun had served as council member of the Hong Kong College of Cardiology since 1992, and as President from 2007 to 2009. He had been a director of the Hong Kong Heart Foundation for the past sixteen years. He played a major role in promoting activities of the College, and the Foundation in all aspects: training young cardiologists and allied health, organizing scientific and CME meetings, heart health education for the public and up-holding the medical professionalism and the high standard of cardiology in Hong Kong. He certainly had won the respect and admiration by his colleagues and all those who knew him.

We are all saddened by the news that Dr. Pun Chiu On passed away so suddenly, at the pinnacle of his illustrious career, on February 15, 2015. His passing away is a big loss to all for us. May C.O. rest in peace, and no doubt his sprits will remain in our hearts for years to come!

Dr. KO Tak Him, Patrick
Past President
On behalf of the Council of Hong Kong College of Cardiology