



THE HONG KONG NEURO-ONCOLOGY SOCIETY



*Dear* Members of the Hong Kong Neuro-oncology Society ("HKNOS"),

As we step into the new year of 2021, I wish you and your family good health!

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll on us all and I salute you for the sacrifices you have made for our brain tumor patients. As a token of appreciation and to commemorate the **10th anniversary of the establishment of the Society in 2011**, I hope you received through the mail our HKNOS and grey ribbon lapel pins. If not, please contact our Society Membership Services Team at [hknos2011@gmail.com](mailto:hknos2011@gmail.com) to receive them for free!



I would like to take the opportunity to inform you of the progress made by the efforts of the HKNOS council in the last few months in a simple "State of the Society" address.

### (A) PATIENT EDUCATION

(i) An **HKNOS brain tumor education booklet** is available at the society website [www.hknos.org.hk](http://www.hknos.org.hk). Alternatively, one may scan the QR code that will forward you to the link (enclosed in this email). The booklet contains information regarding brain tumors in general alongside original illustrations. Areas also covered include an overview of management, acceptance of illness and local patient testimonials. The booklet is available in traditional Chinese and a simplified Chinese version was just edited. Members are encouraged to refer patients or their caregivers to this booklet and hopefully will relieve some of the burden of your busy daily clinical practice.



(ii) **HKNOS posters and handbills** (right) have been printed describing our Society's mission as well as the aforementioned educational booklet QR code. They will be distributed to the patient education centers of HA hospitals shortly. Should members wish to obtain copies for display at your ward or clinic, please feel free to inform the Society Membership Services Team.





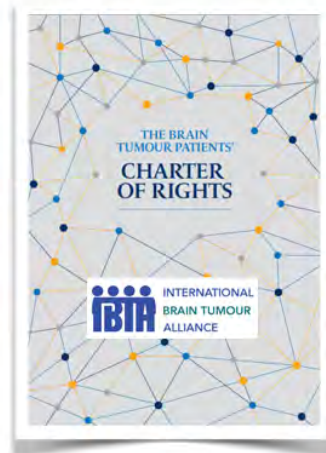
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(iii) In collaboration with Drs. Mitch Berger and Susan Chang, **University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)**, the Chinese translations of two more booklets have also been produced for Hong Kong brain tumor patients. **"Orientation to Caregiving"** and **"Palliative & Hospice Care"** are in-depth valuable resources for Chinese-speaking readers rarely found in the literature. Alongside the original English versions, they will also be made available at our website. I personally want to thank **Dr. Jason Ho (TMH Neurosurgery)** for being instrumental in seeing this project through.

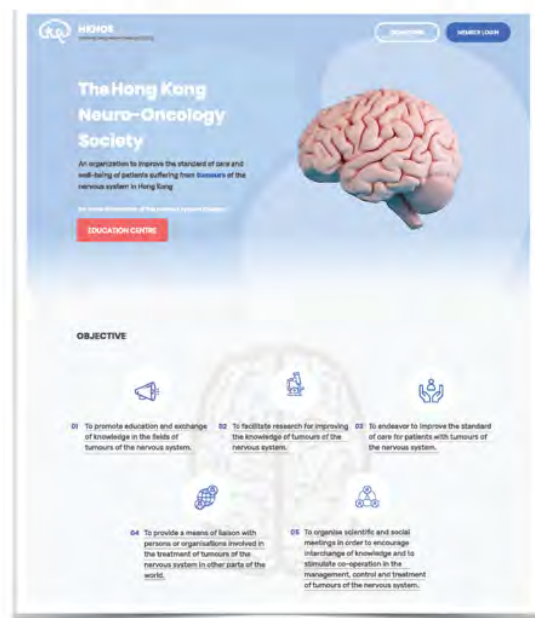


(iv) Upon invitation from the **International Brain Tumour Alliance (IBTA)** ([www.theibta.org](http://www.theibta.org)), the HKNOS recently became a co-signee of the **The Brain Tumor Patients' Charter of Rights** along with our sister organisations across the globe. The charter represents an aspirational ideal against which quality standards, policies and practices are developed for the best possible health as well as quality of life outcomes for brain tumor patients. Enclosed is a copy for your reference



## (B) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

(i) The HKNOS is currently in the process of revamping its website. The site will include a Members Area for **announcements of important conferences, impactful clinical research findings and papers published by our local neuro-oncology community.** The site can also be a platform for the sharing of local clinical trial information to aid with subject recruitment. Members can choose to subscribe to automatic email notifications in the future.





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(ii) The Society has sponsored several members to participate in the recently held 20<sup>th</sup> International Symposium of Pediatric Neuro-oncology (ISPNO) last month and the feedback was extremely positive. In the future, we intend to continue to financially support members to attend such educational events.

(iii) **The new WHO 2021 Classification of CNS Tumors** is just around the corner. There will be interesting developments on how we define WHO IV gliomas taking into account important molecular biomarkers such as TERT promoter, EGFR amplification status. A special talk from our neuropathologist experts will be arranged in due course.



### (C) CLINICAL RESEARCH

(i) In August and December 2020 two meetings with representatives of the **HK Cancer Registry** were held with the aim to create a comprehensive registry for CNS tumors. Under the leadership of **Drs. KH Wong and Ken Cheung (QEH Clinical Oncology)** the latest capture rate of brain tumor patients for both the public and private sectors is an impressionable  $\geq 95\%$ . This important database will provide insights on epidemiological trends in our locality.



(ii) **The Glioblastoma Patient Registry** now has 1 150 patients collected from 2005-2019. Data entry will be completed soon. This repository contains conventional survival predictors. An in-depth analysis will be performed and you will be the first to know.



(iii) **The HA Tumor-Treating Fields (TTF) Study** led by **Prof. TC Lam (QMH Clinical Oncology)** is currently underway. A total of 40 patients in Hong Kong have either tried or are currently on TTF. Of which, 20 patients have been recruited in the study. An interim analysis of 3-month quality of life / caregiver stress revealed encouraging results. TTF did not have a detrimental effect on either endpoint. These findings were shared at the 28<sup>th</sup> ASM of the Hong Kong College of Radiologists and the 27<sup>th</sup> ASM Hong Kong Neuro-surgical Society held last year.

### FORWARD INTO 2021

As you can see, the COVID-19 pandemic has not stopped the continued development of the HKNOS. If you would like to propose ideas or to assist in current projects, please feel free to contact us at [hknos2011@gmail.com](mailto:hknos2011@gmail.com).

Keep in touch and stay safe!

Yours,

Peter YM Woo  
President, HKNOS