Communication Disorders
Speech and Hearing Sciences

October 2010

Supported by the Knowledge Exchange (KE) Fund - awarded by the Faculty of Education and University Grants Committee UGC.
Who are we?

The Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences at the University of Hong Kong is a truly exciting and productive learning and research environment and we would like to tell you all about our achievements:

Since 2008 we have:

Produced more than 80 internationally refereed publications.

Won national and international research grants totaling $16 million.

Made exciting discoveries about disorders of voice, motor speech, language and speech development, neuropsychology and hearing.

Raised the impact of communication disorders and communication science in Chinese speakers in Hong Kong, China and internationally.

Expanded our clinics and research laboratories into Kennedy Town and HKU main campus servicing the Western and Central Districts.
Did you hear?

Dr Lena Wong is our new Head of Division. Lena has been with us for sixteen years and is well equipped to mentor us all as we move upward to new success.

Congratulations to Lena!

Did you know?

We have published several new books:

1. [Book Image]
2. [Book Image]
3. [Book Image]
Did you know?

Our new Chair Professor is Dr Brendan Weekes. Professor Weekes joins us from the University of Sussex. Professor Weekes was trained as a clinical and experimental neuropsychologist in the UK, US and Australia. He is the Director of our Communication Science and Disorders Laboratory opening in 2011.

Brief Bio of Brendan

Professor Weekes investigates cognitive mechanisms used for normal and impaired language processing. He adopts an experimental approach to study cognitive processing by using behavioral, brain imaging and cross-linguistic methods and he always tries to connect basic research with clinical practice. Professor Weekes is a clinical psychologist and he carries out research with adults and children who have communication disorders caused by dementia, dyslexia and poor reading comprehension. His work focuses on cognitive aspects of disorders and how to improve cognition using behavioral and imaging methods. Professor Weekes is Director of the Communication Science and Disorders Laboratory, housing both Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) and EEG available for collaborative research and clinical use.

Welcome Brendan!

Did you see?

Professor Tara Whitehill published a new paper in the *International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery* with colleagues from the Faculty of Dentistry. The paper was selected as the *Leading Clinical Paper*.

Bravo, Tara!

Dr Steve Xue published a new paper in the *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*. JASA is top rated internationally as an A* journal - what an achievement!
Dr Sam Po Law received a research grant from the NIH (US) together with our alumni Anthony Pak Hin Kong (University of Central Florida) and Alice Lee (University of Cork).

Dr Man Tak Leung made an impact in the community with his successful Hong Kong Graded Naming Test.

Dr Karen Chan was awarded a competitive grant from the NIH (US) together with Professor Edwin Yiu. Their project is a prospective study on the prevention and treatment of voice problems in teachers. This is a fantastic achievement and puts us ahead in the world league of research.

Dr Estella Ma was awarded a prestigious grant from the Research Grants Council of Hong Kong to develop and validate a voice assessment protocol for Cantonese children. Well done Estella!
Did you see?

Dr Anita Wong was awarded another grant from the Research Grants Council of Hong Kong to explore the reading disabilities and SLI - specific language impairment in Hong Kong children.

Dr Carol To was also awarded a new grant from the Research Grants Council of Hong Kong to evaluate the treatment efficacy of novel syntactic procedures for children with SLI.

Did you hear?

Dr Lydia So developed an innovative programme to deliver problem based learning (PBL) using Skype - teleteaching is the way of the future!

Dr Lawrence Ng received a grant from the Research Grants Council of Hong Kong with Professor Lee Tan from The Chinese University of Hong Kong to develop a new electrolarynx of natural sound in Chinese for laryngectomees.
The Centre for Communication Disorders (CCD) was first established in 2005 at HKU. The CCD is dedicated to basic and clinical multidisciplinary research focused on the needs of people in East Asia who have hearing, voice, speech, language and disorders. Our goal is to promote healthy communication for all.

CCD tries to overcome linguistic, social, health and economic barriers that may prevent effective treatment of speech, language and hearing disorders in East Asia. Our clinical and research work has an impact on the lives of thousands of Chinese speaking people in Hong Kong, China and throughout the world.

http://www.hku.hk/ccdhku/

The Division has acquired ERP and TMS facilities for cognitive neuroscience studies with children and adults who have hearing, voice, speech and language disorders - contact us for information on clinical use!

Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) can be used to improve quality of life for patients who have speech, language and voice disorders.
Update

Excellence in learning - it’s what we do

We are very proud of all our students. Our undergraduate, post-graduate and graduated alumni are all bright and talented scientist-practitioners making a real contribution to people’s lives all over the world every day of the week. We celebrated these achievements by asking our final year students to present their research work at the Hong Kong Speech and Hearing Symposium held at the Prince of Wales Hospital together with our colleagues from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, on May 8th, 2010. Our students taught us how to apply communication science to solving real life problems in communication disorders. It was such a success we will do it again on May 7th 2011 at the University of Hong Kong.

Watch out for further information about Summerfest 2011.

Emerging Strategic Research at HKU

Our Division is at the cutting edge of research in communication science and communication disorders in East Asia. So, we have begun a series of research seminars to showcase the achievements of our Division. Together with CCD -Centre for Communication Disorders we will host a series of Winter Institutes and Summerfests in 2010, 2011 and 2012. The speakers at these events will present research findings in communication science from within our Division, the University of Hong Kong and Research Institutes from around the globe.

Our first Winter Institute will be Promoting Healthy Communication Across the Lifespan and is free to all alumni. This event will held at the University of Hong Kong on Saturday December 4th 2010 so please mark it in your diaries.

We will also hold a regular Brown Bag meeting every month on Wednesdays. The seminar will showcase the research of our pre and post-doctoral students.

We will also continue to host International Invited Speakers in the evenings.

For information please contact Professor Brendan Weekes weekes@hku.hk
Research from 2009


Research from 2009


Research from 2009


Upcoming events

Winter Institute

We will hold our first Winter Institute on Saturday December 4th 2010. This will be a one day event with international speakers from Australia, Germany, Italy, UK & US, as well as invited presenters from HKU Human Performance, Linguistics, Medicine, Psychology and our junior faculty (Chan, Ma, Ng, To).

Summerfest

Saturday May 7th 2011. Summerfest will feature oral and poster presentations from final year undergraduate students and colleagues at Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Brown Bag meetings

Our “Brown Bag” series features research work of our current graduate and post-doctoral students. Brown Bags are held every third Wednesday at noon in Seminar Room 518, 5th Floor of Prince Phillip Hospital with an informal lunch for visitors.

Problem Based Learning in Speech and Hearing Science

December 1-3, 2011 Following the 1st PBL/SLP conference held in Sweden in 2006 and the 2nd conference in Australia in 2008, we are delighted to announce that the 3rd PBL/SLP conference will be held in Hong Kong in early December 2011.

For all information please contact Professor Brendan Weekes at weekes@hku.hk