

## FOREWORD

Two years on, the Hong Kong Breast Cancer Registry (BCR) is proud to release its second annual report, the Breast Cancer Facts Report No.2. The data in the Report provides an overall picture of how breast cancer is affecting people in Hong Kong. The data is not just for better understanding, but also for backing up our efforts to advocate behavioral and policy changes which are conducive to reducing the risk and burden of breast cancer in our community.

The BCR is a system that collects and analyses information about each breast cancer case. As the most comprehensive and representative registry of breast cancer in Hong Kong, some 4,000 patients participate in the Registry for in-depth studying of the disease. We aim to track data on every patient treated or diagnosed at the medical facilities in the territory. We share the breast cancer facts to the public through annual reporting and report in-depth analysis bi-annually through the BCR Bulletin to all healthcare professionals and facilities.

This report is marked by several notable enrichments, compared with the previous one.

First, this Report covered breast cancer cases diagnosed or/and treated at public and at private healthcare facilities respectively. The comparative analysis allows us to see the disparity of diagnosis and treatment options between patients at public and private hospitals. The insight is expected to induce further investigation into health care policy.

Secondly, the Report looks into the psychosocial impact and physical distress of breast cancer, its treatments and side effects. We anticipate this information to inspire medical and nursing professionals to move towards a holistic approach to breast cancer treatment and care.

Thirdly, we start to look into breast cancer characteristics by age and by cancer stage. In the long run, this supplementary analysis will be useful for those involved in planning of breast cancer management services, identification of risk factors, development of screening and prevention programmes as well as diagnostic and treatment services. It is also our intention to present the data in a manner that is more easily understood and appreciated by all readers.

The BCR is a source of data for researchers who are conducting their own studies into the causes and/or treatment of specific types of cancers.

The BCR had its humble beginning in the year 2008. This was a result of joint efforts together with the support from members of a multi-disciplinary Steering Committee. Together with staff from HKBCF, we have been able to get the BCR running despite many challenges encountered.

We welcome and encourage comments and suggestions that will help us improve in future. Thank you for taking time to learn about us and about our role in the fight against breast cancer.



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