

FOREWORD

After three years of the pandemic, we are excited to restart, despite that more efforts are required to recover from the impact of COVID-19. On-site patient recruitment at public hospitals is gradually resumed in the post-COVID era, though the suspension of physical interaction with patients during the pandemic made the public-private distribution of participants become skewed. While the Hong Kong Breast Cancer Registry (HKBCR) strived to update the database with data from all accessible HKBCR participating centres, we are mindful that the skewed distribution might adversely affect the capture of the local facts of breast cancer. To partial out the impact of COVID-19, separate analyses on those breast cancer patients diagnosed in or after 2019 were done and set out in Chapter 4.

In response to the importance of early detection highlighted in the survival analysis last year and knowing that mammography is the standard method to detect breast cancer early, this year we compared the tumour characteristics and treatment cost between self-detected and mammogram-detected cases in Hong Kong. As expected, mammogram-detected cases had lower stage disease and better survival than self-detected cases. It was also found that mammogram-detected cases entailed lower treatment cost, which demonstrated how screening would affect the medical system economically. Details of the study findings are set out in the accompanying Bulletin No. 14.

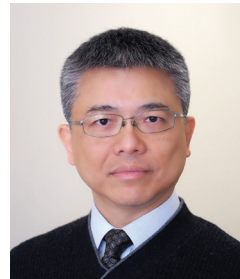
Our achievement would not be possible without the dedication and foresight of the HKBCR Steering Committee, the efforts of our research team, the generosity of our sponsors and supporters and, most importantly, the trust of Hong Kong breast cancer patients and survivors. Future patients would be benefited from the participation of Hong Kong breast cancer patients and survivors who entrusted us with their medical information for aggregate analysis. We extend our heartfelt thanks to each of them.

The publication of the HKBCR report and bulletin provides insights and evidence for stakeholders, including doctors, patients, policymakers and the wider public, to advocate and design plans for more effective cancer control. We will continue to study information from the HKBCR and conduct research for better breast health and cancer care to benefit the community of Hong Kong.

Thank you for your commitment and contribution.



Dr. Polly Cheung
Co-chairman, Hong Kong Breast Cancer Registry
Steering Committee
Founder, Hong Kong Breast Cancer Foundation



Dr. Chun-chung Yau
Co-chairman, Hong Kong Breast Cancer Registry
Steering Committee
Vice Chairman, Management Committee,
Hong Kong Breast Cancer Foundation