



## FOREWORD

Following the global call to create cancer registries advocated by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) at the World Cancer Congress in 2006, the Hong Kong Breast Cancer Foundation established the Hong Kong Breast Cancer Registry (HKBCR) in the subsequent year. With comprehensive data of local breast cancer cases being accumulated, we are able to conduct various in-depth research, eventually providing local evidence to support decision making on breast cancer prevention and control. Over the past few years, multiple research papers were published in local and international medical journals. The cost-minimisation analysis of the implementation of mammography (MMG) screening published in *BMJ Public Health* in May this year is the first local study of its kind. In addition, our findings from the HKBCR regarding prevention and early detection strategies for breast cancer control have been accepted for a poster presentation at the World Cancer Congress this year.

With more long-term follow-up data, we examined the clinical benefits of MMG screening again, but more thoroughly, ranging from patient characteristics and clinicopathological features to treatment use and survival outcomes. We compared the screen-detected group (asymptomatic patients who detected cancer primarily through MMG screening) with the symptom-detected group (patients who detected cancer based on symptoms) to identify their differences. It was found that our local data confirmed the well-established clinical benefits of MMG screening. Details of the study findings are set out in the accompanying theme paper (HKBCR Bulletin Issue 17).

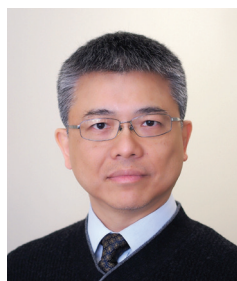
Our achievement would not be possible without the dedication and foresight of the HKBCR Steering Committee, the efforts of our research team, the generosity of our sponsors and supporters and, most importantly, the trust of Hong Kong breast cancer patients and survivors. Future patients will benefit 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 general public, to advocate and design plans for more effective cancer control. We will continue to study data and 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 continuous support and contribution.



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