

**DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF SOCIAL  
SCIENCES, *honoris causa***

Dr Ko Wing-man, GBS, JP



Mr Pro-Chancellor,

“Service above self, not about self.” When it comes to a devoted and distinct leader in public health services in Hong Kong, Dr Ko Wing-man is the first person who I came up with. Born in 1957, Dr Ko is a native of Guangdong Chaozhou. By manifesting the spirit of Chao, Dr Ko embraces traditional family values and is inspired by his father’s behavioral ethics: go all out in work, give regardless of return, stay together and united.

Dr Ko graduated from Queen’s College and obtained the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degree from The University of Hong Kong in 1981. As an experienced specialist in Orthopaedic surgery, he was elected Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, the United Kingdom in 1986 and Fellow of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine in the specialty of Orthopaedic Surgery in 1993. After the completion of Master of Health Administration from the University of New South Wales, Australia in 1993, he received another Fellowship from the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine in the specialty of Community Medicine in Administrative Medicine and the Faculty of Public Health Medicine of the Royal Colleges of Physicians, the United Kingdom in 2000 and 2002 respectively.

Dr Ko’s public service began in the 1990s. As the Secretary for Food and Health of the Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region from July 2012 to June 2017, he played a major role in protecting and promoting the health of Hong Kong citizens, and enhancing the environmental hygiene and food safety. An example that demonstrates his visionary leadership was the initiative of the Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme. Aiming at enhancing the protection level of hospital insurance products, providing the public with an additional choice of using private healthcare services through hospital insurance, and relieving the pressure on the public healthcare system in the long run. The scheme was

finally launched in 2019, and today, more than five hundred thousand policies have been purchased which reflects the well on progress in achieving the goal of one million policies within two years. Though experiencing numerous sweat and tears, Dr Ko firmly believes the change can benefit Hong Kong citizens, and it ultimately comes to reward.

By ranking the highest in popularity among all Principal Officials in recent years in the Public Opinion Programme carried out by the University of Hong Kong, it is believed that Dr Ko has gained tremendous respect and support in public health management. Apart from the reconstruction efforts in 2008 Sichuan Earthquake, his remarkable endeavor in resolving the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003 has shown his spirit of perseverance and persistence. Dr Ko was informed and appointed as the Acting Chief Executive of the Hospital Authority due to SARS infection of the then Chief Executive of the HA, and he was buried by the trepidation and restless enquiries from the media, the public and the Government day by day. With his confidence and decisive leadership over a year, the society finally combated this outbreak together.

During the recent COVID-19 pandemic, Dr Ko is also pleasant to share his valuable experience and insights with the Government Expert Advisory Group member Dr Yuen Kwok-yung, who once sat next to Dr Ko in secondary school. Crossing between health management and clinical work over the past 40 years, Dr Ko also participates in the Universal Community Testing Programme recently. While Secretary for the Civil Service Mr Patrick Nip Tak-kuen made an inspection to the centres in early September 2020, he accidentally encountered Dr Ko who voluntarily helps in collecting specimens in a Community Testing Centre. He demonstrates his professional skills and attitude by gowning up with a face shield, mask, gloves and personal protective equipment, followed by detailed explanations and skillful gesture, which received a positive appraisal from Mr Nip. Here we see an exemplary role model both in the management aspect and clinical area.

Besides his dedication in public health services, Dr Ko also understands the significance of manpower development, including nurses and allied health professions, in private sectors. In November 2000, Dr Ko, representing Hospital Authority, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Professor Tam Sheung-wai, the then President of The Open University of Hong Kong (OUHK), beginning and supporting the presentation of Higher Diploma in Nursing Programme (an EN-RN conversion programme). This conversion programme carries a professional and academic qualification at the same time and was the first of its kind in nursing education in Hong Kong. Since then, similar programmes are developed. Dr Ko

understands the importance of nurturing professional nurses by providing continuous education and development, in order to provide quality care and services in Hong Kong. His vision and support enables the development of nursing education in Hong Kong.

The Medical Council of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Anti-Cancer Society, the Hong Kong Red Cross and the Chinese Medicine Development Committee were among the many public service organizations he served with distinction in the past years. His accomplishments, however, are not limited to his success as a member of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. Dr Ko's contributions to Hong Kong have been officially recognized by the appointment of Justice of the Peace in 2001, and was awarded the Bronze Bauhinia Star in 2008, followed by the Gold Bauhinia Star by the Hong Kong SAR in 2017.

While tea preparation approaches originated in Chaozhou, Dr Ko once referred his life with Kung Fu Tea ceremony that both have to be “小杯小壺”, so as to taste and savour each and every essence and good moments. He demonstrates moderation in clinical and management, and strives to achieve maximum impact for the betterment of the society.

Mr Pro-Chancellor, in recognition of Dr Ko's continuous public service, tremendous dedication to the public health, and his outstanding leadership, may I invite our President to present Dr Ko Wing-man for conferment of the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*.

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*Citation written and to be delivered by Professor Linda Lee Yin-king*



## 榮譽社會科學博士

### 高永文醫生

副校監先生：

「非關自我、超越自我」乃為無私的服務。談到為香港公共衛生盡心服務、勞苦功高的領袖，我總是第一時間想起高永文醫生。高醫生出生於 1957 年，祖籍廣東潮州。高醫生受到父親的道德觀念和言行所啟發，所以他的人生哲學亦以潮州人精神為本，秉承傳統家庭價值觀，凡事全力以赴，不計回報，時刻與大眾團結同心。

高醫生早年於皇仁書院畢業，1981 年獲香港大學頒授醫學學士學位和外科學士學位。他身為經驗豐富的骨外科專家，於 1986 年獲選為英國愛丁堡皇家外科醫學院院士，並於 1993 年成為香港醫學專科學院骨外科專科院士。同年獲澳洲新南威爾士大學頒授衛生管理碩士學位，再於 2000 年獲香港醫學專科學院頒授行政及社會醫學專科院士榮銜，2002 年亦獲委任為英國皇家內科醫師學會公眾衛生醫學系會員。

高醫生早於 1990 年代已熱心於公共服務，2012 年 7 月至 2017 年 6 月出任香港特別行政區食物及衛生局局長，致力保障、促進香港市民的健康，在改善環境衛生及食物安全方面亦貢獻殊偉。高醫生不但領導才能出眾，而且睿見明察，從他倡議的自願醫保計劃當中，可見一斑。計劃旨在提升醫療保險產品的保障水平，並讓公眾可選擇以醫療保險支付私營醫療服務費用，長遠而言有助減輕公營醫療系統所承受的壓力。該計劃於 2019 年正式啟動，至今已售出保單超過 50 萬份，反應極為理想，更有望於兩年內達到 100 萬份保單的目標。自願醫保計劃雖然曾讓高醫生「汗淚交疊」，但他堅信計劃能讓廣大市民受益，最終為社會將帶來可觀回報。

根據香港大學民意研究調查所得，高醫生是近年所有香港主要官員之中民望最高的一位，在公共衛生管理方面深受各方人士的支持和推崇。他除了 2008 年四川汶川地震後協調重建工作表現出色外，於 2003 年「沙士」(SARS) 爆發期間更臨危受命，以非凡

毅力果斷指揮抗疫戰線。當時醫管局行政總裁感染沙士，高醫生即獲任為代理行政總裁。當時坊間瀰漫著極度不安與恐慌，高醫生須每天面對媒體、公眾和政府的查詢，疲於奔命。在高醫生自信和英明的領導下，社會上下經過一年多的努力，終於戰勝疫情。

最近「新冠肺炎」疫情期間，高醫生也樂於與政府專家諮詢小組成員袁國勇博士分享寶貴經驗和見地，而且袁博士在中學時代更曾與同班同學高醫生相鄰而坐。過去 40 年來，高醫生在衛生管理和臨床醫學兩方面的經驗均非常豐富，最近更參與普及社區檢測計劃的工作。在 2020 年 9 月初，公務員事務局局長聶德權先生到社區檢測中心視察時，偶然遇見高醫生正於中心內自願協助取樣：他身穿長袍，戴上面罩、口罩、手套和個人防護裝備，解釋詳細、手法熟練，專業技巧和嚴謹態度表露無遺，讓聶先生讚口不絕。無疑在衛生管理和臨床醫學兩方面，公眾均把高醫生奉為楷模。

高醫生除了致力於公共衛生外，亦深明開發人力資源的重要性，包括私營機構的護士和專職醫療人員等。2000 年 11 月，高醫生代表醫管局與時任香港公開大學校長譚尚渭教授簽署諒解備忘錄，正式啟動並以行動支持香港公開大學開辦護理學高級文憑課程。此課程讓登記護士轉制為註冊護士，同時具有專業和學術資格，屬香港護理教育中首創，自此亦啟發其他院校提供類似課程。高醫生深明持續教育發展是培育專業護理人員的命脈，也是提供優質護理服務的關鍵。全賴高醫生的卓識遠見與鼎力支持，香港的護理教育方得以持續發展。

在過去幾年，高醫生曾擔任不少公職，成就彪炳，不僅獲委任為第十三屆中國人民政治協商會議全國委員會成員，更服務不同機構，諸如香港醫務委員會、香港防癌會、香港紅十字會、中醫中藥發展委員會等。為表揚高醫生對香港的偉大貢獻，他於 2001 年獲委任為太平紳士，2008 年獲香港特別行政區政府授予銅紫荊星章，2017 年更獲授金紫荊星章。

功夫茶文化源自潮州，高醫生亦曾以功夫茶哲學形容人生：功夫茶必須使用小杯小壺泡沏品嚐，才可細味箇中醇厚茶韻；就如人生中每個美好時刻，均值得小口小口細味欣賞。因此，高醫生在臨床醫學和衛生管理方面均採取克制中庸態度，平衡各方因素和利益，致力以最大力度改善社會，力求進步。

副校監先生，為表彰高醫生一向服務公共的滿腔熱忱、對公共衛生的重大貢獻，以及在管理方面的傑出領導，本人在此恭請校長引介高永文醫生接受本校的榮譽社會科學博士學位。

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英文贊辭由李燕瓊教授撰寫及宣讀