

# REPORT OF 15TH WORLD CONGRESS ON PAIN IN BUENOS AIRES

## HONG KONG PAIN SOCIETY CONFERENCE GRANT

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The IASP 15<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Pain was held from 6<sup>th</sup> October to 11<sup>th</sup> October 2014 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. I was very lucky that I received the grant kindly supported by the Hong Kong Pain Society and became one of the two Hongkongers among thousands of participants (>7,800 in 14<sup>th</sup> World Congress). There were several hundreds of refresher courses, plenary sessions, distinguished lectures, topical & trainee workshop, and approximately 2,000 posters presented.



As a pain researcher, I took this great opportunity to attend topics which I seldom have a chance to learn in Hong Kong, e.g., pain genetic; pain and affect (the power of happiness); clinical management of torture survivors etc. I am surprised by the huge amount of genetic information related to pain and how the scientist tackle the problem by setting up the human pain genetic database, for example, the two websites (<http://diatchenko.lab.mcgill.ca/hpgdb/>) by Diatchenko and (<http://www.jblsdesign.com/jmogil/enter.html>) by Mogil. Both websites are self-explanatory and free of charge.

Having received a research fund granted by the Nethersole Institute of Continuing Holistic Health Education (NICHE), our research team (Dr. Lam Chi Shan Geoffrey, Dr. Chen Phoon Ping, Dr. Wong Chi Ming Tony, Professor Kwan Sui Man Simon, Ms. Ma Lin Marlene, and Chaplain Hui Pui Ling Janet) started to investigate the motivation of change in chronic non-cancer pain patients. The preliminary result was presented as case studies in the poster session. Our finding included turning points were observed in Hong Kong Chinese chronic pain patients before attending a multidisciplinary pain management programme. Factors that led to the turning point included 'Family', 'Christianity/Religion', and 'Bravery/Character'.

You may view the abstract in the online abstract viewer & itinerary planner which is provided by the congress to facilitate participants to view abstracts and create personal schedule of sessions to attend at the Congress. Modern technology is widely used to facilitate communication. An App was also developed for mobile device by searching iTunes or Google Play Store for IASP 2014 or entering [m.core-apps.com/iasp2014](http://m.core-apps.com/iasp2014) in all other web-enabled devices. Headsets with instant multi-language translation were provided in the Spanish speaking session in which Latin American countries were sharing their experience in combating pain.

It was worth visiting the commercial booths which packed with new drug, monitor and interventional devices. There were also experimental devices displayed that would cause interests for pain researcher in laboratory setting. Of course, Tango – the Argentina culture was also great to see. Once again, I am grateful to the kind support of the Hong Kong Pain Society.