
For Immediate Release

Hong Kong Genome Institute Welcomes 2022 Policy Address

(Hong Kong, 19 October 2022) The Hong Kong Genome Institute (HKGI) welcomes the 2022 Policy Address delivered today by the Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, which sets out a series of initiatives on a Healthy and Vibrant Hong Kong. Along this subject, the Policy Address also reaffirms HKGI's active role and effort in helping to address uncommon disorders.

Dr Lo Su-vui, Chief Executive Officer of HKGI, said, "HKGI launched the Hong Kong Genome Project (HKGP) in 2021. Being the first-of-its-kind initiative in the city, HKGP covers patients and their family members of **undiagnosed diseases, hereditary cancers, and diseases related to genomics and precision health**. By applying the whole genome sequencing technology, we are committed to helping participants look for the potential disease-causing genetic variants, bringing to them more precise diagnosis and personalised treatments with their consent. HKGP also contributes to the building of a genome database of the local population, testing infrastructure and talent pool, all of which will help strengthen disease surveillance and prevention, and advance the health of the general population in the long run."

Dr Lo added, "Given the uncommon nature of the disorders, international collaborations and experience sharing are of the utmost importance. At HKGI, we have been proactively establishing connections and exchange platforms with counterparts near and far, including cities in the Greater Bay Area. For instance, we have engaged with The University of Hong Kong-Shenzhen Hospital for case discussion and sharing of clinical experience on undiagnosed diseases as well as paediatric cancer genomics and multi-omics studies. With more cross-region collaborations in the pipeline, we are devoted to driving medical and scientific research, and accelerating the development of genomic medicine to benefit more patients."

With the unstinting support from the Hong Kong SAR Government, HKGI will continue to work in close partnership with the Hospital Authority, the medical schools of the two local universities and various stakeholders to accelerate the integration of genomics into medicine towards its vision "**to avail genomic medicine to all for better health and well-being**".

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About Hong Kong Genome Institute

The Hong Kong Genome Institute (HKGI), established and wholly owned by the Hong Kong SAR Government, commenced full operations in 2021. With the vision "to avail genomic medicine to all for better health and well-being" and supported by the Health Bureau, HKGI works in close collaboration with the Department of Health, Hospital Authority, medical schools of local universities and other stakeholders to accelerate the development of genomic medicine in Hong

Kong along four strategic foci: integrate genomics into medicine, advance research, nurture talents and enhance public genomic literacy.

As the first step towards achieving its vision, HKGI launched the Hong Kong Genome Project (HKGP) in 2021. As the city's first large-scale genome sequencing project, HKGP serves as a catalyst to benefit patients and their families with more precise diagnosis and personalised treatment through whole genome sequencing. It also aims to establish genome database of the local population, testing infrastructure and talent pool to address the healthcare needs of Hong Kong in the long run.

For more information, please visit www.hkgp.org/en.

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