The SARS crisis put Hong Kong under siege for the past two months, disrupting our daily routines and paralyzing many of our activities. This special issue of the Convocation Newsletter reports on its impact on the University and how our many researchers and professionals rose to meet the challenge. Together the University community calmly braved the storm. Our research teams made a number of important breakthroughs, particularly in the biomedical field, thus helping to ease community anxiety and restore confidence. The value of good-quality research, especially interdisciplinary research, was clearly demonstrated.

I wish to thank our many colleagues for their leadership and achievements. This typical crisis has given HKU a much stronger sense of community – one that we should be all proud of.

Professor Lap-Chee Tsui
Vice-Chancellor