Pathology Genes Run in

A Pioneering Pathologist

Professor Hou Pao-chang 侯寶璋 was Chair of Pathology at HKU between 1948 and 1960.

His principal research interest lay in the area of hepatobiliary diseases and he was well known for his work on the relationship between the Chinese liver fluke, Clonorchis sinensis and cancer of the bile ducts.

As The University of Hong Kong struggled to rehabilitate itself after the second world war, Hou took up the responsibility of guiding the Department of Pathology into the modern era of scientific investigation. During his headship, a new pathology building was constructed at Queen Mary Hospital in 1958, integrating teaching, research and clinical services.

Hou was a disciplinarian. He was deeply concerned about the learning attitude of students and believed strongly that a good pathologist has to be inquisitive and thorough, even to the degree of being obsessive.

After retiring from HKU, Hou was invited to be Vice-President of the Chinese Medical College 中國醫科大學, a post he held until his passing in 1967.

“The family is so multi-talented, and they have excelled not only in Pathology but in the arts, in history…”

Professor Lee Sum-ping 李心平 (MBBS 1970; MD 1982)
Dean, Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine

Hou Pao-chang's family.

Professor Hou Pao-chang and staff members of the Department of Pathology.
Hou Pao-chang’s Family

A True Patriot

Professor Hou Jiancun, the second son of Hou Pao-chang, studied at HKU medical school in 1949 and became a demonstrator in the Department of Pathology. In 1952, he returned to China as a researcher at the Central Institute of Health, the predecessor of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, and became Chair of Pathology at Peking Union Medical College in 1985.

He has dedicated his life’s work to the greater good of China by fostering the development of medical science and building bridges between Western science and Chinese traditions.

He is also one of the founders of the HKU Alumni Association of Chinese Mainland.

A Passionate Son

The pathology gene also runs in Professor Hou’s fourth son, Professor Laurence Hou Lee-tsun (MBBS 1956). Laurence received his PhD from the University of Leeds in 1965 and was conferred the Honorary Degree of LLD by the University of Aberdeen in 1997. He is now the Regius Permanent Lecturer at the University of Aberdeen, the Head of Histopathology and Cytology Division at the Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital, and Honorary Professor of the Department of Pathology at HKU.

In 2007, forty years after his father’s passing, Laurence launched the “Hou Pao-Chang Medical Memorial Fund” to support teaching and research in the Department of Pathology, HKU.