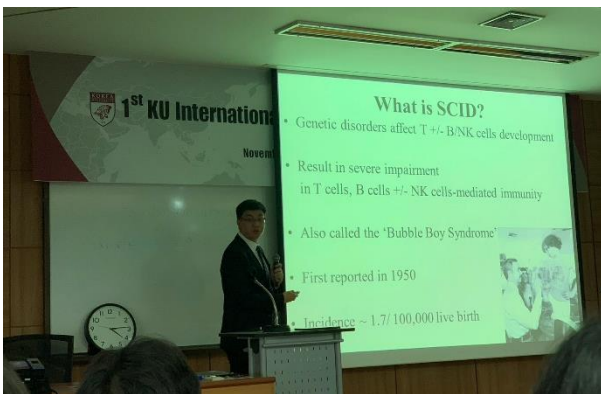


Doctor Finds Way to Make an Earlier SCID Diagnosis



Many are frightened at the prospect of presenting in front of a class, and many more dread at the prospect of writing a lengthy essay at the end of the semester. But no, not for Luk Dik Wai, Anderson, a postgraduate medicine student, who won the 3rd Place Best Presentation Award at the Korea University International Medical Student Research Conference in November, 2018.



Anderson researched on severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID), a kind of primary immunodeficiency (PID) that weaken or nullify one's immune system. In his research, he found out the presence of family history of early infant death helps in making an earlier diagnosis of SCID. In addition, the presence of any one of the 4 features listed should raise

suspicion on underlying SCID: positive family history, persistent candidiasis, BCG infection or low lymphocyte count. These findings hopefully can raise clinicians' awareness of SCID and promote earlier diagnosis for SCID patients. But to enhance the survival of SCID patients, a population newborn screening for SCID using TREC is needed as demonstrated in the US for the last decade. Anderson is helping his supervisors, Prof Yu-Lung Lau and Dr Pamela Pui-Wah Lee, in initiating a pilot study on SCID newborn screening in Hong Kong.



Anderson was proud to represent HKU to participate in this conference and was pleasantly surprised to win the 3rd Prize among all the competing teams. He is grateful for his supervisors who supervised and provided guidance on his research. He also recalled the fond memories of the conference where he discussed research projects with talented medical students international wide. He was thankful for the experience to exchange ideas with medical students and learnt more about clinical reasoning in this clinical research journey.

Student Journalist: Kwan Ching Man, Sally (Arts, Year 2)