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# FOREWORD

A major challenge when learning head and neck surgery is to master the detailed 3-dimensional anatomy of the head and neck and cranial base. This is very difficult to learn from textbooks and videos, and some trainee surgeons do not have adequate opportunity to master the surgical anatomy in the operating room during their training. Hence the importance of head and neck cadaver dissection courses.

I had the privilege of serving as faculty member on two head and neck dissection courses held at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. The Chinese University of Hong Kong head and neck dissection course is truly international, with delegates traveling from all over the world to attend. What impressed me was the excellent organisation of the course, the attention to detail, the incredible enthusiasm of the local faculty and their high level of surgical expertise.

The Head & Neck Dissection and Reconstruction Manual, compiled by the Chinese University of Hong Kong faculty contains the key information that dissectors require to be able to proceed through the surgical steps of common head and neck and reconstructive surgery operations, and will be an important companion in the dissection room. I am particularly pleased that it will be made available as an open access resource for others around the world to use when running or participating in such cadaver dissection courses.



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The successful publication of the “CUHK Head & Neck Dissection and Reconstruction Manual” represents a major achievement towards education and clinical training in the field of Head and Neck surgery, both regionally and internationally. The material reflects many hours of combined teamwork with our colleagues in the Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery facilitated by the contribution from our “Silent Teachers”, who have generously donated their bodies to the Faculty of Medicine, for education, training and research purposes.

Our Faculty launched the “Silent Teacher Body Donation Programme” in 2011. With intensive coordinated efforts of Faculty members together with organizations involved in life and death education and services, the body donation program has been well received by the Hong Kong community. Not only has the number of bodies received increased by more than 20 fold over the past 5 years, but the registration of donors has also grown exponentially. With the community engagement, it is clear the public is prepared and through this program, is actively participating in educating our future doctors. Our laboratory is thus enabled to engage with colleagues in clinical departments to offer advanced training and surgical skills development in diverse surgical specialties.

This superb publication pays tribute to our donors and their family members. We constantly appreciate and recognize their generosity. Our team members are clear on their caretaking role and are committed to work diligently with all colleagues in our faculty to provide the best education for tomorrow’s doctors, so that they may be knowledgeable, skilled and compassionate.



**Professor Hector Sun-On Chan**

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