

Dr Julie CHEN Yun**陳芸博士**

Department of Family Medicine and Primary Care 家庭醫學及基層醫療學系

Bau Institute of Medical and Health Sciences Education 鮑氏醫學及衛生教育研究所

Humanism and professionalism. As a teacher of MBBS students, these are the attributes beyond clinical competence which are integral to good doctoring and which I would like to see nurtured in our future doctors. As such, these are the concepts which underpin and inspire my approach to teaching and interaction with students, the areas of the curriculum which I have chosen to develop and the focus of my scholarship and research in teaching and learning.

As a teacher, I strongly believe in taking a humanistic and student-centred role in the learning process, as a coach and collaborator who facilitates reflective student learning through the creation of an engaging and supportive learning environment. I make a sincere effort to get to know my students as individuals, recognising their unique strengths and abilities, which can be harnessed to positively contribute to their own learning. This individual attention and respect builds trust, which encourages the open discussion, critical questions and constructive feedback necessary for effective learning and models the attributes I hope students will eventually bring to their professional lives. Importantly, it also allows the learning to extend beyond the classroom and the formal curriculum and enables me to be a mentor to students on life, career and personal growth.

As a teacher, I envision my role as a curriculum innovator and advocate who can bring humanism and professionalism to life in a pedagogically sound and sustainable manner. I recognise teaching and curriculum development as an iterative and reflective process and I rely heavily on the collective wisdom of the group, whether through discussions with students, colleagues, or educators, or the pursuit new evidence and best practice through educational research with local and overseas colleagues. Quite commonly it is through making and reflecting on mistakes and using them as opportunities to initiate change.



STUDENTS' WORDS OF APPRECIATION

Over the past two years, I have had the pleasure and privilege of being taught by Dr Julie Chen in the Medical Humanities programme. I have also benefited from the many other modules that she has led, such as Professionalism in Practice. Outside of the formal curriculum, Dr Chen has been very generous with her time and has shown genuine interest in my personal growth.

As a teacher of Medical Humanities, Dr Chen presented controversies such as euthanasia with clarity, balance, and grace. She elucidated complex issues without resorting to over-simplification. For our Medicine and Literature seminar, she selected a seminal essay on doctors making mistakes and challenged me to reflect critically on my own attitudes towards death and dignity. Her teaching style was Socratic and yet embracing of different values; I remember her seminar as one of the best discussions I have had at HKU.

Dr Chen has also been a tireless advocate for Family Medicine through the Professionalism in Practice (PiP) programme. This structured shadowing experience was thoughtfully designed and opened my eyes to the practice of primary care. Dr Chen has also been incredibly generous with her time and energy. She met with me personally on multiple occasions to listen to my concerns and to share her thoughts on elective options, medical specialties, and the practice of medicine in Hong Kong and abroad.

As a postgraduate student, I have had the privilege of learning from many distinguished teachers both at Stanford University and HKU. Among the many professors I have interacted with, Dr Chen stands out as one of the most thoughtful and inspiring.

Ian LEUNG Hin Sing
MBBS, current student

OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD

I first approached Dr Julie Chen when I started my first year of medical studies, as I was hoping to organise a series of Inter-Professional Education (IPE) luncheons that could bridge communication between students and staff members from both disciplines of modern Western medicine and traditional Chinese medicine. Her warm smile has always put me at ease. Dr Chen was very supportive and extremely patient in guiding my team and me in writing a multidisciplinary PBL case; chairing as one of our PBL case tutors; and also supporting our luncheons with the aid of the Bau Institute of Medical and Health Sciences Education. I am truly grateful to have had Dr Chen's kind assistance throughout, as IPE has definitely helped me grow as a medical student, and she has also empowered me to pursue and initiate projects with new ideas that are worth sharing.

Besides IPE, Dr Chen would lend me a helping hand whenever I needed it. She kindly supported me for my other self-initiated project, a TEDxHKU conference; and also as my special study module tutor as I joined the Systems Biology and Bioinformatics Group at HKU to learn more about gut microbiota a year ago. I have also had Dr Chen for formal teachings during my Family Medicine Specialty Clerkship, she could explain concepts and ideas very clearly through interactive tutorials; and she was always very approachable, and keen for feedbacks for any potential improvements on the new course.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Julie Chen for all the patience, support and care in the past few years, medical education at HKU would certainly not be the same without her continuous effort and hard work!

Vivien LI Wai Yin

MBBS, current student

Both inside and outside of the classroom setting, I have been continually impressed by Dr Chen's determination to provide us with real opportunities to grow as empathetic and compassionate individuals. In fact, feeling that I could benefit greatly from her wisdom and experience, I reached out to Dr Chen and asked her to supervise my 'Special Study Module' – which I conducted overseas in Toronto this past June to July. This coming November, we will collaborate again to host a class discussion in the Medical Humanities programme centred on palliative care, in a talk-show format.

Throughout these three years, I, along with my fellow colleagues have benefited greatly from her warmth, compassion, and eagerness to prioritise our learning. Dr Chen is truly a dedicated professor, who teaches by example, and is one of the greatest assets to our faculty. She is a great example of someone who is always willing to do whatever it takes for her students, and in my opinion, should be recognised for her excellence in teaching.

Claudia TSUI Ka Yan

MBBS, current student