

# Masterclasses

**M9.1****Advances in Colorectal Cancer Management****09:00 Room 221**

## Colorectal Cancer Screening in Hong Kong

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Colorectal cancer (CRC) has become the most common cancer in Hong Kong, and is also the second leading cause of cancer deaths. Many studies have proven that early screening can result in a remarkable reduction in CRC incidence and mortality. According to the Asia Pacific Consensus Recommendations on CRC Screening, subjects aged 50 to 75 years in both genders are the targets for CRC screening, and faecal occult blood tests (guaiac-based and immunochemical tests), as well as colonoscopy are the recommended screening tools. The Hong Kong SAR Government's Cancer Expert Working Group on Cancer Prevention and Screening also recommends that individuals aged 50 to 75 years should consider CRC screening by various modalities. Supported by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, The Chinese University of Hong Kong Jockey Club Bowel Cancer Education Centre launched a territory-wide CRC screening programme in May 2008. As of December 2012, the Centre had conducted CRC screenings (with faecal tests and/or colonoscopy) for over 10,000 eligible participants aged 50 to 70 without any symptoms of CRC. Among participants who had undergone colonoscopy, up to 30% were found to have pre-cancerous lesions or CRC in the large bowel. In September 2016, the Hong Kong SAR Government launched a three-year population-based CRC Screening Pilot Programme to subsidise individuals aged 61 to 70 to undergo CRC screening using faecal immunochemical test followed by colonoscopy. The aims of the pilot programme are (1) to determine the ability of the healthcare infrastructure in Hong Kong to handle the increasing demand for assessment and follow-up treatment of cancer and pre-cancerous conditions; (2) to assess public understanding, perception, and acceptance of CRC screening; and (3) to devise a screening algorithm with assured quality which is most suited to local needs and circumstances.