



GAINING LEVERAGE IN TIMELY MANAGEMENT OF DEMENTIA

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION AND LABOR ORGANIZATION

Pey-chyou Pan ^{1,3}, David Dai ², Jimmy Wu ², Jess Leung ^{1,2}

¹ Department of Psychiatry, United Christian Hospital, ² Hong Kong Alzheimer's Disease Association, ³ Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions

BACKGROUND

Problems of under-diagnosis and delayed access to treatment for patients with dementia are widespread. The major barrier preventing effective delivery of care is the service gap between various interfaces of dementia care (Figure 1).

EARLY DETECTION PROGRAM FOR DEMENTIA (EDP)

The EDP involves a strong partnership between the Hong Kong Alzheimer's Disease Association (HKADA) and the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions Workers' Medical Clinics (FTUMC). FTUMC is run by the largest local labor organization and is a major primary healthcare service provider of both western medicine and traditional Chinese medicine (TCM).



Figure 1. Interfaces of Dementia Care

OBJECTIVES

To bridge the interfaces of dementia care by:

- 1 Promotion of understanding of current trends in dementia management among primary care physicians and TCM practitioners;
- 2 Increasing doctors' and patients' awareness about community resources;
- 3 Empowerment of family caregivers in the process of self-management;
- 4 Encouraging collaboration between medical doctors and TCM practitioners.

CONTENT

EDP is composed of 4 phases:

- 1 Ten-hour training to FTUMC's doctors by HKADA healthcare professionals;
- 2 Standardization of the clinical assessment and investigation process for dementia in a user-friendly format, so to aid the early detection by primary physicians;
- 3 Educational talks to community to promote public's awareness about the importance of early dementia detection;
- 4 Training programs by HKADA to family caregivers, with the goal of delaying institutionalization of patients and minimizing caregivers' stress.

CONCLUSION

EDS is a pioneering project and it amply illustrates a way by which synergies derived from concerted effort and expertise of various health service providers can be leveraged for improved patient access and utilization of dementia care.

