

Mental Health & Faith Track – 9:40-12:40

Global Pandemic: Mental Health Crisis and the Human Condition

Keynote – Prof Michael TH Wong

Response – Dr Ronald Chen

The COVID-19 pandemic has precipitated a global mental health crisis, reminding us of the reality of the human condition and bringing us into close encounters with fundamental issues such as life and death, pain and suffering. This pandemic challenges the values and beliefs held in this secular age of science and technology about health, happiness, and meaning. The Christian narrative about who we are helps us go beyond the biopsychosocial discourse of humanity and provides a whole-person understanding of health and wellbeing.

Professor Michael TH Wong is Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry, School of Clinical Medicine, LKS Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong, and Head & Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist, Neuropsychiatry Program, Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong.

Professor Wong is trained in neuropsychiatry, philosophy and theology. He is Chair, Section of Philosophy & Humanities in Psychiatry, World Psychiatric Association and Senior Editor of the journal *Philosophy, Psychiatry & Psychology*. His current research focuses on Youth Neuropsychiatry, values-based practice, and person-centred medicine.

Professor Wong is author of *Ricoeur and the Third Discourse of the Person: From Philosophy and Neuroscience to Psychiatry and Theology* (Lexington Books, 2018) and co-editor of *International Perspectives in Values-Based Mental Health Practice: Case Studies & Commentaries* (Springer Nature, 2021).

Dr Ronald Chen is a psychiatrist in private practice – BSc (Biomed Sc); MBBS(HK); MRCPsych(UK); FHKCPsych; FHKAM (Psych); MCS (Spirituality).

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

Keynote – Prof George Hsu

PTSD is a disorder best understood from a holistic viewpoint including biological, psychological and spiritual perspectives. The talk will discuss each perspective briefly and encourage Christians to equip themselves with a holistic viewpoint so they can rise to the challenge of caring for those with PTSD.

George Hsu, MD, FRCPsych. Dr Hsu was born in Hong Kong and became a born-again Christian in 1960. Almost immediately afterwards he was expelled from his high school because of his evangelistic activities which the high school authorities deemed contrary to their liberal beliefs at that time. In 1968 he graduated MBBS from the Hong Kong University Faculty of Medicine. Having become convinced that he must put his faith into practice, he entered the field of academic psychiatry where no Chinese Christian had ever previously ventured. He completed his residency training in London, and for his research in Anorexia Nervosa he was awarded an MD in 1979. While in London he benefited deeply from the mentoring of the late Rev. John Stott as he struggled to integrate his faith with academic psychiatry. In 1980 he went to the University of Pittsburgh and in 1993 he moved to Boston to become Professor of Psychiatry at Tufts University School of Medicine, a position he has since held. Dr Hsu has published over 130 academic articles and book chapters and is the author or co-author of 4 textbooks. He has received several U.S. federal grants for research into the eating and weight disorders. He has also served on many research-grant review panels at the National Institutes of Health. He has been Visiting Professor at Hong Kong University, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Tongii Medical College in Wuhan, and Huaxi Medical College in Chengdu. In 1993 he was elected one of 300 Best Psychiatrists in the USA by Good Housekeeping LIF0200 Magazine. In 1997, he was elected Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists of the United Kingdom. Dr Hsu is an Elder at the Chinese Gospel Church (CGCM) in Southborough, Massachusetts.