Professor Arthur K.C. Li

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Secretary for Education and Manpower Professor of Surgery, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Professor Li graduated from Cambridge and Middlesex Hospital Medical School. After rotational surgical training at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge and St. Mary's Hospital, London, he was first appointed Senior Registrar and subsequently Consultant/Senior Lecturer at the Royal Free Hospital, London. Professor Li also spent over two years at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. In 1982, Professor Li returned to Hong Kong to take up the Departmental Chairmanship and Foundation Chair of Surgery at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. In 1992 and 1995, he was elected Dean of the Medicine Faculty and was appointed Vice-Chancellor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1996. On 1 August 2002, Professor Arthur K C Li assumed office as Secretary for Education and Manpower.

Professor Li is happiest in situations where he can achieve excellence through service to others, whether they be patients, doctors, researchers, students, or the community at large.

Having run a department of surgery, a faculty of medicine, both teaching and non-teaching hospitals, and a comprehensive university, Professor Li has had extensive experience in managing large and complex organizations, which include non-academic institutions.

Professor Li was elected in 1983 as President of the Hong Kong Surgical Society, which subsequently became the College of Surgeons of Hong Kong under his direction. He was President of that College when it became the body responsible for setting surgical standards in Hong Kong under law.

In 1996, Professor Li was presented the President's Gold Medal of The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in recognition of his outstanding achievements and service in surgery. This award is made only exceptionally by the Royal College and then to surgeons of international distinction.

Between 1997 and 2000, Professor Li was awarded Honorary Fellowships of The Royal Society of Medicine, The Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland, the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain & Ireland, and the American College of Surgeons. He was granted an Honorary Doctorate of Science by The University of Hull, an Honorary Doctorate of Letters by The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and an Honorary Doctorate by Soka University in Tokyo. He has also been invited to deliver numerous eponymous lectures at prestigious universities across the world and keynote addresses at international congresses.

Meantime research on hepatobiliary and upper gastrointestinal subjects continues, and Professor Li has published to date over 300 original articles in international peer-reviewed journals, numerous book chapters and abstracts.

In recognition of his significant contribution to tertiary education and the medical sector, Professor Li was awarded the Gold Bauhinia Star in 2000 by The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.