

Dr the Hon LAM Ching-Choi, BBS, JP

Dr LAM Ching-Choi is chairman of both the Elderly Commission and the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund, and an unofficial member of the Executive Council. He is also the chief executive officer of Haven of Hope Christian Service and was a member of Lingnan University's Council from 2004 to 2010. Dr Lam's many public engagements and distinguished career in social service are rooted in his down-to-earth and humanistic worldview. As a child, Dr Lam grew up in abject poverty, where even basic necessities like food and shelter could not be taken for granted. Through academic achievement he was able to move up the social ladder and enter the medical profession, but his childhood experience has stayed with him and has shaped his dedication to public service.

Dr Lam has a unique sensitivity to how material conditions such as poverty and poor health affect not only people's physical condition but also their emotional and spiritual well-being. It is his calling to "go deep" into what causes pain and suffering that makes for his humanistic approach to social services. Dr Lam's early professional experience laid the foundations for his desire to be close to the community. As part of his training, Dr Lam worked in a large public hospital's neonatal intensive-care unit. There he saw how social problems such as teenage pregnancy, alcoholism and drug use could lead to premature births, with neonatal complications that often carried over into childhood and beyond. He wished for a longer-term relationship with his patients, and for this reason after completing his professional training he chose to work in the small, private non-profit Evangel Hospital in To Kwa Wan. There, he was able to get to know the patients under his care, and began to sense how he might make a lasting difference by engaging closely with the needs of community members. Dr Lam later became medical director of Evangel Hospital, where he worked to expand its presence in local neighbourhoods by establishing clinics in housing estates.

Dr Lam's service to his community attracted the attention of Haven of Hope Christian Service, which invited him to become the chairman of their Community Health Committee. Dr Lam accepted the invitation, later rising to become their chief executive officer, a position he holds to this day. What motivated the founders of Haven of Hope in their work was a mission to secure resources in order to provide important services, which might otherwise not be available to community members. Under Dr Lam's leadership, Haven of Hope pioneered community outreach programmes that became the model for others to follow. He sees his role as being that of a connector, and a problem solver. While some organisations may choose to prioritise advocacy before service, Dr Lam believes that the best advocacy is when one can demonstrate that an idea or a model can deliver results. Through his solid track record and his unique ability to make the needs of the grassroots comprehensible to policymakers, he is able to make valuable contributions to various consultative committees.

For Dr Lam, genuine community engagement encompasses much more than delivering things that are "nice to have". In his view, the problem of poverty is not just about money; it is also about self-confidence and self-respect. How can we make a real difference if we cannot see past the surface? Dr Lam understands that spiritual pain can hurt just as much as physical pain. How can we ease the suffering of a cancer patient if we ignore their emotional pain? Dr Lam believes in taking a holistic approach to social services. To do so, he is mindful to maintain meaningful contacts with his community. He encourages those around him to look for linkages between daily life and wider social issues. For instance, as an avid cyclist, Dr Lam does not think of cycling as simply a hobby or a form of exercise. As he rides, he asks questions about road design and usage, the feasibility of bicycles as a form of transport, and how more people might be encouraged to take up cycling for exercise. Dr Lam believes that all everyday experiences can be related to some forms of community service or societal improvement.

As the chairman of the Elderly Commission, Dr Lam is aware of the immense challenges an aging population brings. In line with his philosophy of service, he believes that population aging requires the whole community, and not just the government, to take responsibility. His goal is to raise awareness about population aging in mainstream public discourse, so that the broader Hong Kong society, including families and the business sector, might face it together by making necessary changes. Dr Lam is also a firm believer in the value of social capital, of which relationships and trust are the building blocks. Social capital can bridge the service gaps that governmental organisations and policies cannot adequately address. His leadership of the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund has played a crucial role in filling these gaps.

Mr Chairman, in recognition of his distinguished service to the medical and social-welfare sector, as well as his contributions to bettering Hong Kong society, may I present Dr LAM Ching-Choi to you for the conferment of an honorary fellowship.

Citation written and delivered by Professor Annie CHAN

林正財醫生, *BBS, JP*

林正財醫生現任安老事務委員會主席、社區投資共享基金委員會主席及行政會議非官守議員，亦為基督教靈實協會(靈實)行政總裁。2004至2010年間曾任嶺大校董會成員。林醫生活躍於社會公共事務，成就卓著。他的成功源自他務實的人文處世哲學。林醫生來自貧苦家庭，孩提時代三餐不繼，居住也成問題；憑藉優異的學業成績，他在社會階梯拾級而上，終能投身醫學界。然而，林醫生未有忘記童年的窮困經歷，而這些經歷更造就了他對公共服務的奉獻精神。

林醫生獨具人文關懷的情操，深明貧病交迫不僅影響身體，亦會打擊情緒和心靈健康。他立志要深入了解痛楚與苦難的緣由，促使他奉行人性化的社會服務方式；而在早期的職業生涯中，已播下他盼望走進人群的種子。在實習時期，林醫生任職於大型公立醫院的初生嬰兒深切治療部，眼見未成年女性懷孕、酗酒及濫藥等社會問題，引致早產甚至初生嬰兒併發症，進而影響其童年及往後的發展。為了與病人建立更長遠的關係，他取得專業資格後，選擇投身小型私營非牟利醫院——位於土瓜灣的播道醫院。那時候，他得以對病人加深了解，更開始思索與市民關係變得更為親厚，從而帶來實質改變的可能。及後，林醫生出任播道醫院醫務總監一職，於屋邨設立診所，致力擴展社區服務。

熱心社區發展的基督教靈實協會，注意到林醫生的成就，遂邀請他加盟。林醫生應邀擔任該會的社區健康委員會主席，其後升任行政總裁，一直服務至今。靈實的創辦人以確保社區人士獲得重要服務為己任，積極尋求足夠資源支持服務。在林醫生的領導下，靈實開創社區外展計劃先河，成為後來者的楷模。他認為，自己擔當的是連繫各方與解難的角色。有些機構或會重理念而輕服務，但林醫生深信，通過服務社群而彰顯理念或點子的成效，便是對有關理念最有力的佐證。林醫生成就卓越，能力非凡，他竭力令制定政策者理解草根階層的需要，這足以證明他在各個諮詢委員會所作出的貢獻。

林醫生認為真正的人文關懷不應流於錦上添花。他指出貧窮不僅僅是金錢的問題，與自信和自尊亦息息相關。未能透視問題的深度，又何以實現真正的改變呢？他明白心靈之痛堪比肉身之痛；若忽視癌症病人情緒上的痛，又如何減輕他們肉體上的痛？林醫生認為，社會服務必須「深入透徹」，並為此著意維繫與社區的親厚關係。他鼓勵身邊的朋友把自己的日常生活與外在的社會問題連繫，兩者不是分割的。林醫生熱愛單車運動，對他來說，單車不只是愛好、形式或運動。騎單車的時候，他會思考有關道路設計和使用規則、單車作為公共交通工具的可行性，以及如何鼓勵更多人參與單車運動等問題。他相信，日常生活的一切經歷，均可與社區服務或更廣泛的社會問題連結起來。

身為安老事務委員會主席，林醫生深明人口老化所帶來的重大挑戰；而他對服務的理念始終如一，認為應對人口老化的問題，並非單靠政府，而是人人有責。透過提升大眾對人口老化的關注，他希望社會上大多數人都能了解這議題，從家庭到企業，以至整個社會一起作出改變，合力解決問題。與此同時，林醫生亦堅信社會資本的價值；要建立社會資本，關係與信任缺一不可。就社會服務而言，政府、各大機構和政策各有覆蓋，社會資本可作為連接服務範疇斷層的橋樑，而林醫生所帶領的社區投資共享基金的工作，正正旨在推動資本填補斷層問題。

主席先生，為表揚林正財醫生對醫學及社福界的卓越服務，以及對社群的貢獻，本人謹恭請閣下頒授榮譽院士銜予林正財醫生。

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