What can a doctor do when facing a new disease?

Dr. Wing-Lok Lo, JP

- (1) Doctors are privileged, receiving good training and high salary and society has expectation on them.
- (2) When facing a pandemic, should doctors/healthcare workers take up more responsibility? Would this include the possibility of giving up life?
- (3) In case of a pandemic, this should be a security issue and not just a healthcare issue.
- (4) Hong Kong is quite vulnerable to a pandemic, since the territory is open to people from different nearby countries without much restriction.
- (5) Should Hong Kong set up a paramilitary medical team, like the one in CDC and this team will be called up in emergency? Under this situation, other doctors/healthcare workers can become auxiliary.
- (6) To prepare for a pandemic, increased resources should be allocated for strengthening the capacity of the healthcare system. Coordination between different sectors, e.g. Health Authority and security forces is needed. An unambiguous channel of communication and a strong leadership in case of a pandemic are needed.