

Ho Keung Ng (H K) was born in Hong Kong, the youngest of three siblings. He grew up in grassroot circumstances, having lived in shanty rooftop squatters as well as 劏房 (room for one family without window or toilet). His family fortunes changed when they moved into the cheap public housing at Choi Hung Estate (彩虹邨) in 1962. The family settled down, prospered and the kids did well at school. A familiar story for thousands of families who benefited from the excellent public housing policy of Hong Kong. H K's parents were wonderful folks who never interfered once in his life from very young. They always allowed him to make his own decisions.

H K attended Good Hope Primary School in Clearwater Bay Road, then not yet a full fledged girls' school. The school was run by French Canadian nuns. In his same class in the primary school were the future Dr Cindy Lai, previous Deputy Director of Health of Hong Kong Government and Bernadette Tsui (徐詠璇), now Associate Vice President for Development, Hong Kong University.

He studied for secondary school at Wah Yan College Kowloon (WYK) at Waterloo Road from 1971 to 1977, to Upper Six. WYK was a boys' school run by Irish Jesuit priests. So H K retained great respect for the Catholic Church but was only baptised when a mature adult.

It was the golden age for WYK. H K's contemporaries at WYK among others included Allan Leung (梁家杰) (barrister and QC and leader of 公民黨), Peter Lai (黎永良), prominent broker and honoured alumnus of Faculty of Science, Hong Kong University and Ambrose Ho (何佩谦), past chair of Consumer Council, Professor Kwong Yuk Lam, eminent professor of internal medicine and haematology at Hong Kong University, Bernard Lim (林雲峰), prominent architect and one-time CUHK Professor, and John Lee (李家超), Secretary for Security, Hong Kong Government. H K was the Top Student of the whole of Hong Kong in the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE) in 1975 scoring an unprecedented nine distinctions and making history for that examination then. WYK had an excellent tradition of making their students study both arts and science subjects for HKCEE exam so H K took history, Chinese history and bible studies as well as the standard science subjects, achieving distinctions in all three arts subjects. That tradition gave all WYK boys at that time a very broad education.

As a teenager, H K was involved in social work in Tsimshatsui and Kwun Tong under the mentorship of Yeung Sum, Johnson (楊森), the future leader of the Democratic Party (民主黨).

Yeung Sum was at that time a young social worker based at Kwun Tong. The involvement ended when both Johnson and H K left for UK for studies in 1977.

H K 's siblings and extended family all had a tradition of going overseas for university. His elder brother went to McGill University and his elder sister attended University of Texas. So H K chose Edinburgh University's medical school for university in 1977.

H K attended Edinburgh University between 1977 and 1982. He stayed on in the UK afterwards for internship for one year. H K was only a slightly above average medical student, but he managed to get distinctions in professional examinations in pathology and microbiology.

He was a houseman in 1982-1983 at Western General Hospital, Crewe Road, Edinburgh under Dr N C Allan (hematology) and Dr John Anderton (nephrology), and at Hull Royal Infirmary at Anlaby Road, Hull under Mr Gordon Brocklehurst (neurosurgery). The latter experience gave him an early interest in neural diseases and explained his interest in neuropathology later on.

The Edinburgh years were his formative years and H K retained a huge fondness for Scotland always half-jokingly saying he was one sixth Scottish by culture. H K became a British citizen later on in life.

At that juncture the Medical School of Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) was just starting and after he had spoken to Professor Joseph Lee (李川军), the foundation chairman of pathology and later Dean of the medical School while on holiday, H K decided to return to Hong Kong to do pathology. He started off at CUHK as a Lecturer cum Resident of the Department in 1983 and has the proud record of having taught all MBChB graduates ever graduated by CUHK. H K spent his entire career at CUHK (at the time of writing, 37 years).

H K passed MRCPATH and FRCPA exams in 1988. He was subsequently given FCAP and FFPATHRCPI without examination.

H K went in 1986 for overseas training in neuropathology, first under the late Robin O Barnard at Maida Vale Hospital, Institute of Neurology, London and later with the late F. Stephen Vogel and Peter Burger at Duke University, USA. At Duke, his co-Fellows in neuropathology were

Doug Anthony (now chair of Pathology, Brown University) and Roger McLendon (Duke University). His co-Fellow at Maida Vale was Tomas Revesz, later Professor of Neuropathology at the Institute of Neurology.

H K was married to Fanny Ng who worked for the HKCAA before retiring. They have one son. David Ng at the time of writing is a trainee solicitor of an in-house legal team at a finance company.

Other than neuro-oncology, H K is a keen and consummate student of history and geopolitics. He is well known among friends for his expertise in these areas.

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