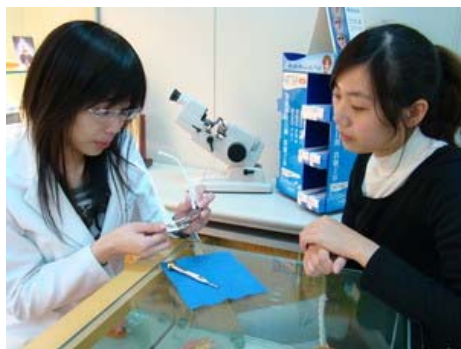


Subject The Latest News in CSMU Optometry

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The year 2009 marks a highly anticipated era for the Department of Optometry at Chung Shan Medical University . The reasons are many, and we are happy to share them with you here.

Formosa Optical Clinical Training Store

At the end of 2008, we opened a Formosa Optical (寶島眼鏡公司) sponsored clinical training store on the premises of Da-Cing campus (Figures 1, 2). The establishment offers optometric services from our 3rd and 4th year student interns to any and all passers-by, and we have been successful in providing clients the full-range of core optometric services such as visual acuity measurement, binocular-vision assessment, keratometry, contact lens assessment, refraction, intraocular pressure measurement, corneal topography, and spectacle adjustment.

The facility has been an extremely positive endeavor for both our students, who obtain practical hands-on clinical experience helping clients with their optical problems, and for the patients they serve, as they get convenient and best of all, free access to the professional optometric services we provide.

As for objective measures of success, in the first month of opening the facility, our students were able to provide services for over 250 individuals. In terms of diagnostic outcomes, in addition to the typical refractive findings such as myopia, hyperopia, and astigmatism, we discovered some previously-undiagnosed ocular pathologies such as strabismus, amblyopia, and even keratoconus.

The clinical training store is open 5-days a week, and is entirely free. If you haven' t had a chance to try some of our services yet, we warmly invite you to come by and see what we have to offer.

The Arrival of Professor Cheng

We are pleased to announce that next month, Dr. Hong-Ming Cheng, OD, PhD, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at Harvard University , will be joining our department. An author of over one hundred scientific articles in the peer-reviewed literature, he brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to not only our school, but to the field of ophthalmology and vision science in Taiwan .

Dr. Cheng' s current research interests are broad, and include a variety of subjects such as ocular disease, genetic analysis, and myopia. He will also take a leading role in helping us to establish the soon-to-be established CSMU Optometric Clinic.

The department feels very fortunate to have someone of Dr Cheng' s stature join our department, and optimistically anticipate his arrival.

MOE Department Evaluation

This April, our department will again undergo a Ministry of Education evaluation. This process occurs as a follow-up to the first evaluation we had in May 2007, where we were assessed as having a "probational" status. Since then, our department has improved in many measures, due to multiple faculty hires, new equipment purchases, and more established research projects. Impressively, our faculty currently holds four National Science Council grants, and we are in the process of applying for more. Our current student-to-faculty ratio is also of note, coming under 18 students per full-time faculty member. We have also succeeded in obtaining external research funding, and have begun to make our mark in the scientific literature.

Our department has worked hard over the last two years at improving not only the quality of education we provide, but also the objective measures used to assess a successful department. It is our goal to be the optometry and vision science mecca of all of Asia .