THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH CENTRE

"Air pollution, a novel risk factor for late life dementia?"

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Date: **November 4, 2015 (Wednesday)**
Time: **12:30 – 14:00** *(sandwich lunch from 12:30pm – 12:45; seminar begins at 12:45)*
Venue: **Mrs Chen Yang Foo Oi Telemedicine Centre (MTC), 2/F, William MW Mong Block, LKS Faculty of Medicine Building, 21 Sassoon Road, Hong Kong**

Abstract:

There are many established risk factors for dementia and cognitive decline with varying degrees of evidence base support. They can largely be grouped into two categories, lifestyle, and possibly resulting from lifestyle, clinical disease, particularly cardiovascular disease. Risk factors tend to cluster together, however they are for the most part modifiable at an individual level and public health campaigns are beginning to recognize this. A potentially more disturbing development has been the work on air pollution exposure and increased cardiovascular risk. This leads to the question of whether air pollution, a potentially more challenging risk factor to modify, is also a risk factor for dementia?

Bio-sketch:

Ruth Peters is interested in risk/protective factors for dementia and has published several systematic reviews and meta-analyses in this area. For more than 10 years and until 2010 she was involved with the Hypertension in the Very Elderly Trial [HYVET] and led the cognitive function aspects of this, specifically looking at the impact of blood pressure lowering on cognitive and dementia outcomes in those aged 80 and over. The HYVET trial published its main results and those for the cognitive function and dementia outcomes in 2008 and went on to change guidelines in the treatment of hypertension. She currently holds and NIHR fellowship and is based at Imperial College London within their clinical trial unit and continues to focus on ways to ameliorate risk of dementia.