



**“Fighting Ebola in Sierra Leone – from a scientist's perspective”**

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**Date** : May 13, 2016 (Friday)  
**Time** : 12:30 – 14:00 (*sandwich lunch from 12:30 to 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, Pokfulam, Hong Kong

**Abstract:**

Sierra Leone was the hardest-hit country during the recent outbreak of Ebola in West Africa. After gaining independence in 1961 from Great Britain, the two countries retain strong social and economic ties. Hundreds of UK scientists as well as NHS medical staff have been deployed to Sierra Leone since 2014, as part of a concerted international effort to fight the recent Ebola epidemic and to prevent future outbreaks.

This presentation is the narrative of a diagnostic scientist during the last 6 months of the outbreak, and his experience of doing microbiology in the field.

**Bio-sketch:**

Dr Choi was born in Hong Kong and moved to the UK during high school. In 1999, He graduated from the University of Oxford with a Biochemistry degree and later received a doctorate degree in HIV Immunology from the Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine. For post-doctoral training, he joined the lab of Nobel laureate Prof Stanley Prusiner at the University of California, San Francisco and studied blood-borne infectivity of prion diseases. He returned to the UK in 2014 and soon after, he was deployed to Sierra Leone as a Public Health England volunteer to diagnose Ebola virus at 3 different Ebola Treatment Centres.

By the time he left West Africa in April 2016, he became a team leader, set up a legacy lab at the Makeni Government Hospital to build local capacity, as well as initiated the National Semen Testing Programme to monitor viral persistence in Ebola survivors.