



THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH CENTRE

“Ageing in rural South Africa: facing colliding epidemics”

Professor Margaret THOROGOOD

University of Warwick, United Kingdom

University of the Witwatersrand, Republic of South Africa

Date: August 13, 2015 (Thursday)
Time: 12:30 – 14:00 (*sandwich lunch from 12:30 – 12:45; seminar begins at 12:45*)
Venue: Seminar Room 3, G/F, Laboratory Block, LKS Faculty of Medicine Building, 21 Sassoon Road, Pokfulam, Hong Kong

Abstract:

Most low and middle income countries are experiencing an epidemiologic transition as the economy grows and the population ages. As infectious diseases recede, the main burden of chronic disease in the world is borne by these countries. In post-apartheid South Africa, this usual pattern has been disrupted by a huge HIV epidemic. The Agincourt Health and Demographic Surveillance System is based in one of the most disadvantaged areas of South Africa and has been following a population of around 70,000 people for nearly twenty years. Both non-communicable disease, in particular hypertension, and HIV have high prevalence. Primary care services struggle to cope and the increasing numbers of older people face multiple health challenges.

Bio-sketch:

Margaret Thorogood is a semi-retired Professor of Epidemiology from the University of Warwick. She has 40 years' experience in epidemiological research, including many intervention studies. For the last 16 years she has been carrying out research in South Africa, in conjunction with colleagues from Wits University, where she holds an Honorary Chair in the School of Public Health. Her special interest is in the health of the older population, and, in particular, the epidemiology and management of hypertension and other cardiovascular risk factors. She is currently principal Investigator of the Nkateko Trial, funded by the UK MRC, testing whether the provision of local, minimally trained, support staff can improve chronic disease management.