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# *State of Hong Kong Children*

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## **Proceedings of 2nd Hong Kong Medical Genetics Conference, Hong Kong Society of Medical Genetics (Selected Abstracts)**

**15-17 October, 1999**

### **1. World Health Organization "Proposed International Guidelines on Ethical Issues in Medical Genetics and Genetics Services, 1998"**

DC WERTZ

### **2. Human Genome Project: Progress and Prospect**

EY CHEN

### **3. Recent Advances in Cytogenetics**

XY GUAN

### **4. Down Syndrome and Human Dignity - Rights and Opportunities**

CB CHOW, E YAU, S LEE

### **5. Genetics in the Community**

KP TSANG

### **6. Molecular Genetics of Eye Diseases**

CCP PANG, L BAUM, DSC LAM

### **7. Gene Therapy**

HYS NGAN

### **8. The Goals of Medicine:- and Role of Medical Genetics**

STS LAM

## **World Health Organization "Proposed International Guidelines on Ethical Issues in Medical Genetics and Genetics Services, 1998"**

DC WERTZ

The Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center for Mental Retardation, Waltham, MA, USA

In December 1997, 16 WHO expert advisors from 15 nations in all WHO regions met in Geneva and developed a new 16-page document with 10 easily readable tables, covering all aspects of medical genetics. The document urges that services be available and affordable to all who need them, that services be voluntary, not mandatory (except for newborn screening), and that counseling should be nondirective and sympathetic. The woman should be an important decision maker. The document recommends disclosure of genetic information to an individual's relatives at high risk of serious genetic harm, in some cases even against the individual's wishes. It also emphasizes privacy from employers, insurers, and government. It condemns sex selection, testing of children for adult onset disorders, and all forms of coercion. It urges caution, but not a permanent ban, on human cloning and germline gene therapy. The document can be assessed at <http://www.who.int/ncd/hgn/hgnethic.htm>.