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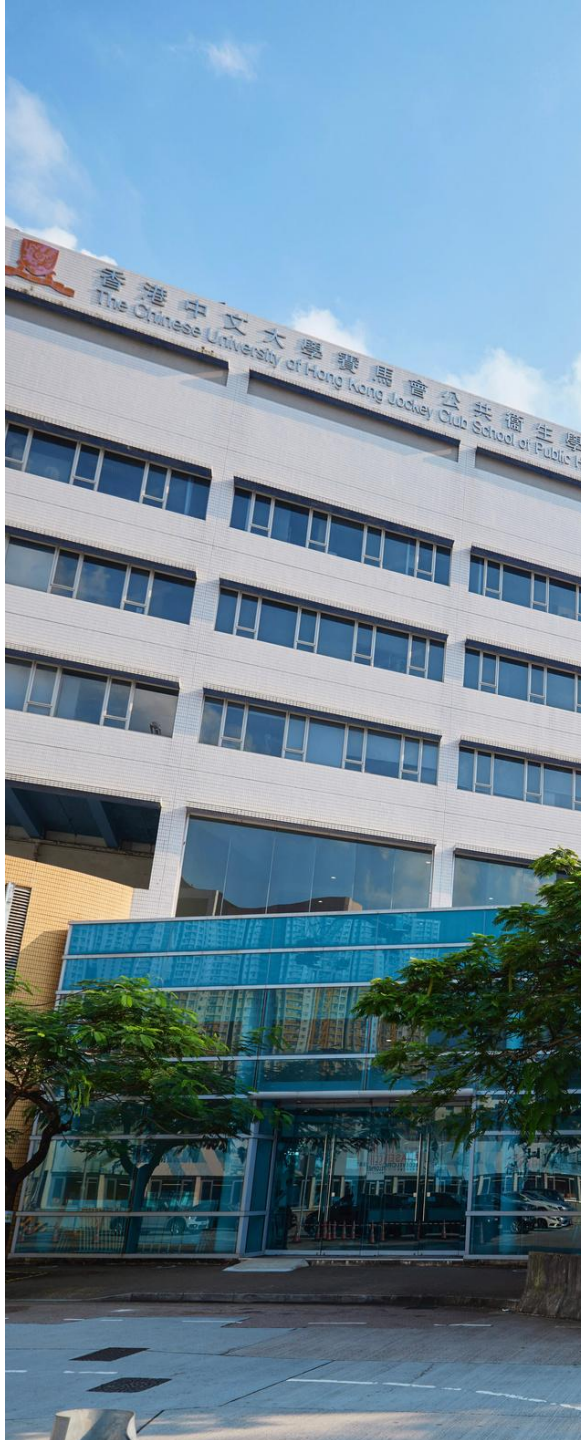

HMRF Research Fellowship Scheme – Experience Sharing

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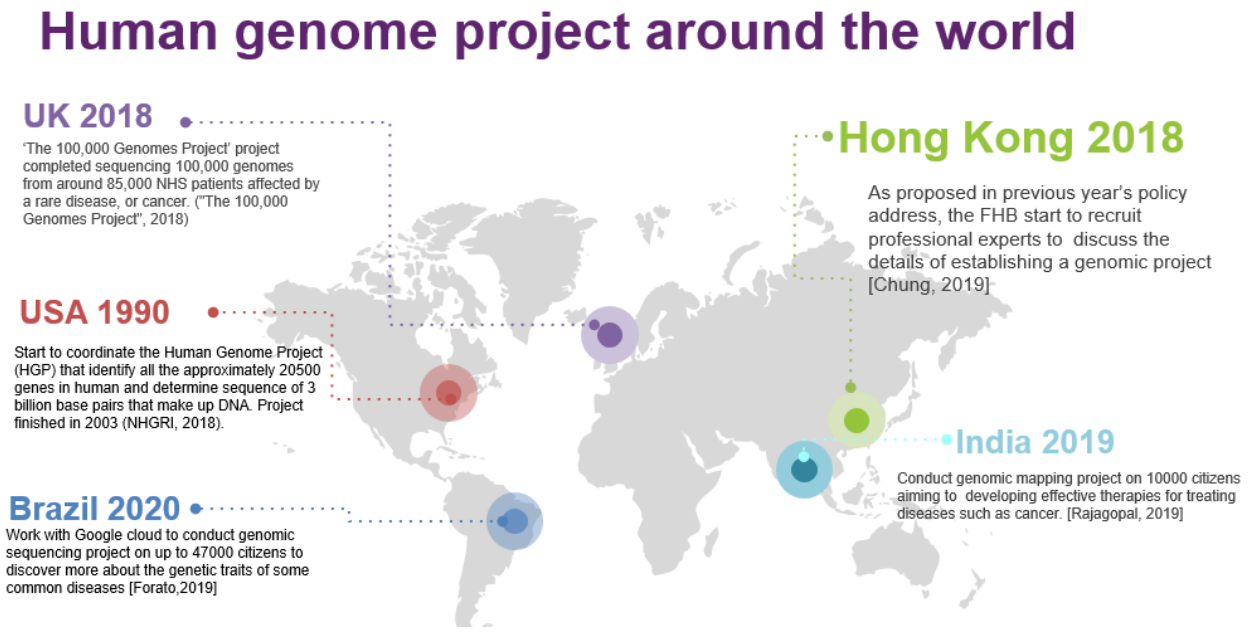
Outline

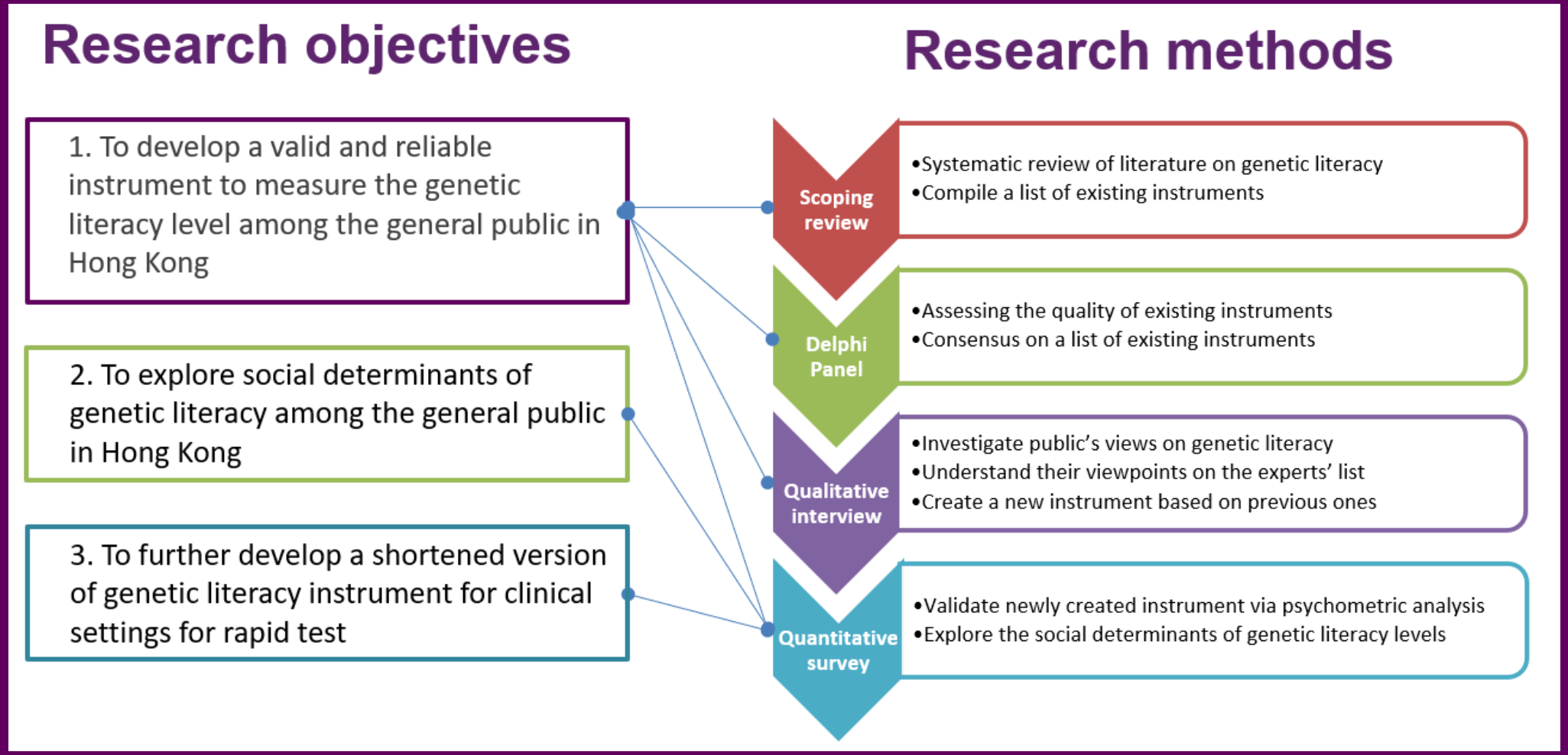
- Brief introduction of my HMRF Research Fellowship Project
- Proposal writing and interview
- Challenges during the implementation phase
- Take-home messages

Developing an Assessment Tool for Measuring Hong Kong Adults' Genetic Literacy in Clinical and Non-Clinical Settings

- What is genetic literacy?
  - "…sufficient knowledge and appreciation of genetics principles to allow informed decision-making for personal well-being and effective participation in social decisions on genetic issues" (Bowling et al, 2008)
- Why is it important?
  - HK Genome Project
  - Precision & personalized medicine
  - DTC genetic screening services
  - Informed decision making & other ethical concerns
  - …



Developing an Assessment Tool for Measuring Hong Kong Adults' Genetic Literacy in Clinical and Non-Clinical Settings



Proposal Writing and Interview

- Three main components of FA

1. A research project ✓
2. A mentorship program ✓
3. A training program outside Hong Kong ?

When?

- Three months of in-person training
- Online courses can also count toward the program.

Training

1. **Three online courses** related to genomics offered by the Mayo Clinic.
   a. Center for Individualized Medicine for Online Learning
   b. Pharmacogenomics for Your Practice
   c. Genomics and Oncology: Nursing Practices
2. **A three-month residential experience** at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, USA
   a. Dr. Megan A. Allyse, Associate Professor of Biomedical Ethics
   b. Dr. Carolyn Rohrer Vitek, Assistant Professor Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, Mayo Clinic; Operations Manager, Center for Individualized Medicine

To be hosted by:

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Mayo Clinic

Where?

- Training outside Hong Kong
  - Choose a place that offers meaningful learning opportunities
  - Ensure you feel safe and comfortable
  - Consider visa requirements
  - Other practical factors

Why the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota?

a. One of the most renowned medical institutions in the world (even for non-clinicians!)
b. Existing connection with a researcher there → Invited by her twice to speak on conference panels
c. Strong genetic counseling program and multidisciplinary environment
d. My PhD alma mater is the University of Minnesota → a touch of nostalgia
e. Quiet location away from big cities → fewer distractions
f. Already hold a 10-year U.S. visa

Who?

- Line manager
  - Has expertise in your chosen study area
  - Willing to provide guidance and support
  - Available during your project timeline
  - Other practical considerations (e.g., responds promptly to requests)

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What?

- Course contents
  - Easier to describe and showcase
  - Structural learning with clear outcomes
- Visiting experience
  - More difficult to present, especially before funding is confirmed
  - Focus on potential learning environments and mentors
  - Highlight networking and presentation opportunities

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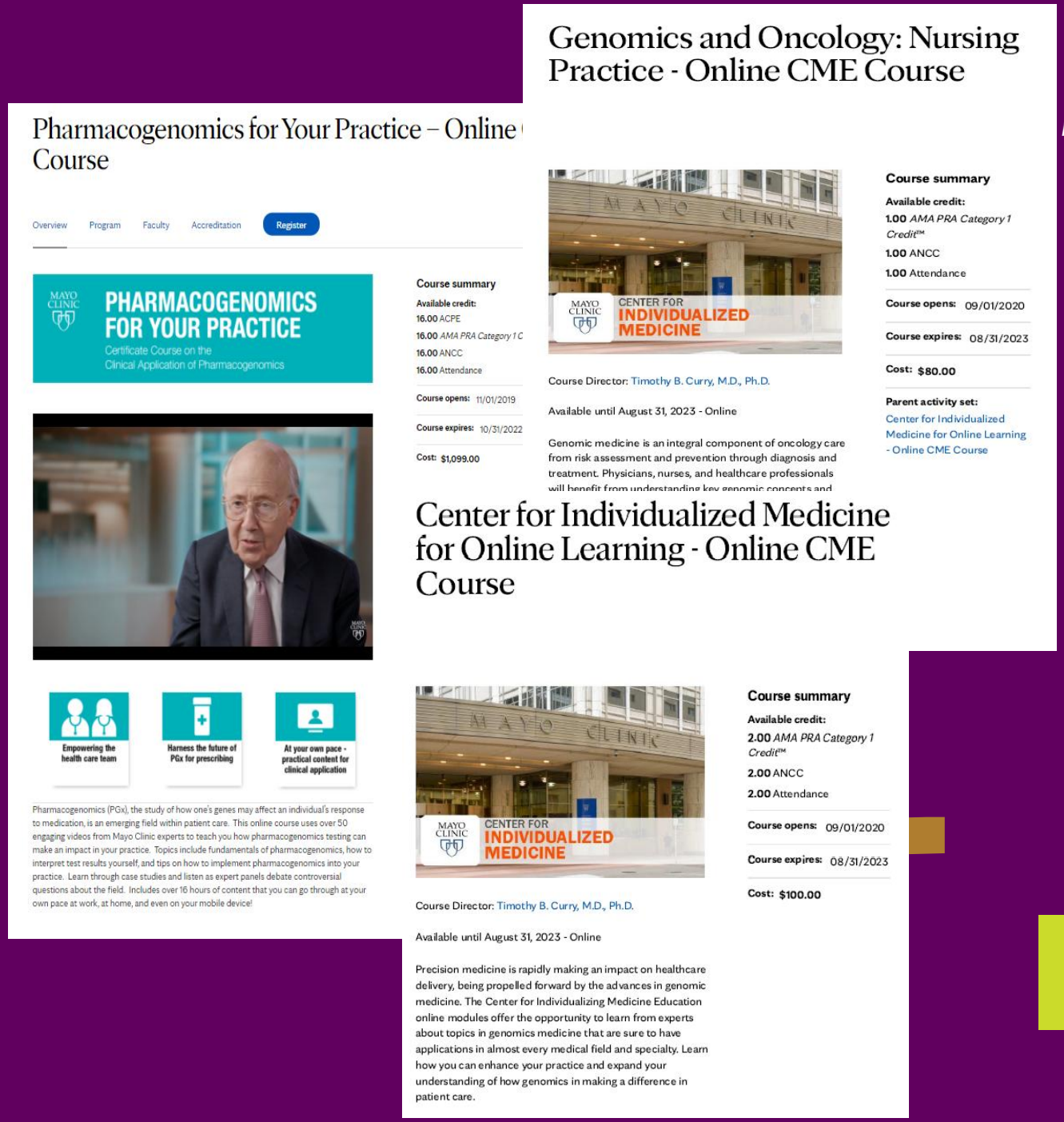
Why?

- Create an evidence-based link between your research project and the training program
- Clearly explain *why* training outside Hong Kong is essential for your project
- Provide convincing arguments for the unique skills and insights you will gain



How?

- Show evidence
- Show plan
- Show confidence

Timeline

24 Months	Research	Training
01/06/2021 – 31/12/2021	Scoping review (completed) Delphi panel	3 online training courses (completed)
01/01/2022 – 31/05/2022	Delphi panel (completed) Qualitative interviews (completed)	Preparation for the visit to Mayo Clinic
01/06/2022 – 31/08/2022	Survey questionnaire design	3-month residential experience at Mayo Clinic (completed)
01/09/2022 – 31/12/2022	Survey (completed)	Report on the training experience
01/01/2023 – 31/05/2023	Data analysis Manuscript writing and submission Final report	Final report

Interview

- 10 minutes total
  - 5 min presentation
  - 5 min Q&A
- The question I got was…
- Enjoyable social time while waiting for the interview…

Reality is often a hundred miles away from the plan…

In the summer of 2022, I departed for the US, knowing that I wouldn't be able to return anytime soon, and that the pandemic was not yet over…

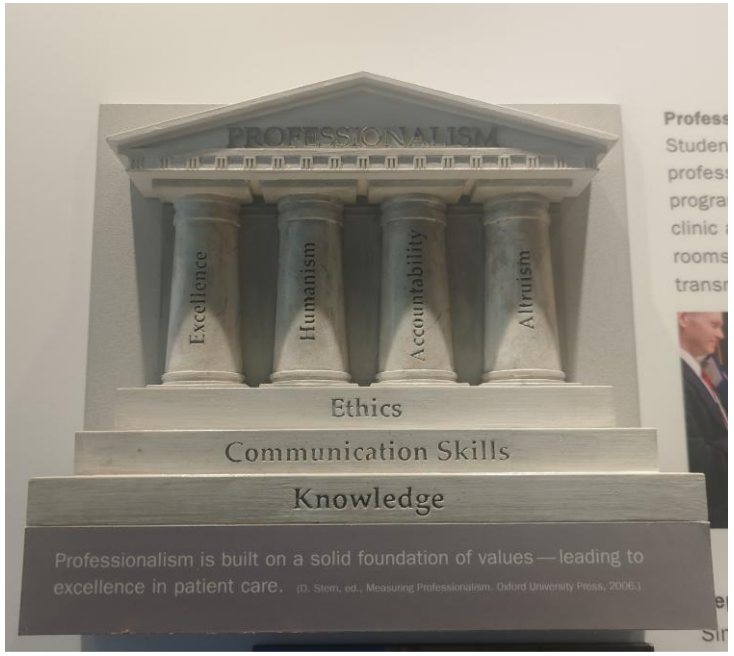
- Three online courses → only two were available…
- Two line mangers → One relocated to Mayo Clinic in Florida, the other on long vacation in Germany…
- In-person training → turned into "in-person remote" training
  - Mayo Clinic still in WFH mode, most faculty and non-clinical staff worked remotely
  - Fear of COVID-19 remained high, many preferred online meetings over in-person ones

But, every cloud has a silver lining…

- Three online courses → One new module + two original courses = six courses completed, no extra cost
- Two line managers → Replaced by two new line managers with similar expertise and more time for guidance.
- In-person training → Replaced by multiple one-on-one sessions →meaningful and in-depth discussion.
- Successfully completed both the training and research program on time.

Take-home messages

- **Plan early and strategically**: Identify potential non-local collaborators and align your training with your research goals.
- **Be adaptable:** Unexpected changes can still lead to valuable learning experiences
- **Seek guidance and stay connected**: Regularly communicate with your mentor and the Research Fund Secretariat to navigate challenges smoothly.
- **Embrace the journey**: Every setback can become an opportunity for growth and collaboration.
- *Last but not least…*
  - **Dress professionally and appropriately for the interview!**



Professionalism is built on a solid foundation of values – leading to excellence in patient care.

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- Co-A
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  - Prof HUNG Chi-tim
  - Prof SAHOTA Daljit Singh

Mayo Clinic

- Line managers
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  - Dr. Zhu Ye
- Experts
  - Dr. Richard Sharp
  - Dr. Gloria Petersen
  - Dr. Myra J. Wick,
  - Dr. Kathleen Yost
  - Dr. Karen M. Meagher
  - Dr. Minji Lee