



HONG KONG PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION LIMITED

香港物理治療學會有限公司

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Dr. Eric Chu
Chairman, The Chiropractic Doctors' Association of Hong Kong
GPO Box 2188, Hong Kong

17 September 2021

Dear Dr. Chu,

Re: Response to inappropriate comments made by Rick Lau, Vice Chairman of the Chiropractic Doctors' Association of Hong Kong in TVB program broadcasted on 16 Sept 2021.

On behalf of the Hong Kong Physiotherapy Association (HKPA), I would like to express my utmost regret over the inappropriate, misleading and non-factual comments about the professional practice of physiotherapists made by Rick Lau (Vice-Chairman of the Chiropractic Doctors' Association of Hong Kong) featured in the TVB Programme "Scoop", which was broadcasted on the Jade Channel on 16 Sept 2021. When being asked about the use of manual therapy in treating patients with back pain by the Chinese Medicine practitioners and physiotherapists, Rick Lau claimed that the Chinese Medicine practitioners use acupuncture and tui na, while the physiotherapists apply stretching and strengthening exercise, muscle stimulation, and these practices were considered to be "superficial" by Rick Lau. It was claimed by Rick Lau that only chiropractors will focus on the patient's history and "bony structure" with detailed analysis; otherwise there will be injury to the muscles, joints and even the nerves. These statements, complemented with the TV host's remarks, are irresponsible in that they imply that manual therapy is only provided by the chiropractors and that only chiropractors know how to perform appropriate patient assessment and treatments. However, it cannot be further from the truth. In fact, one of the core skills of physiotherapists is manual therapy. All physiotherapists are well trained to perform appropriate assessment and then decide what treatments will be most beneficial to each individual patient. The selection of the use of manual therapy will depend on the patient's condition based on the physiotherapy assessment findings.

The Hong Kong Physiotherapy Association (HKPA) strongly condemns the inappropriate, misleading and non-factual comments made by the chiropractor, Rick Lau during the interview.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Marco Pang (President, HKPA)
On behalf of the Hong Kong Physiotherapy Association