



## Sciences Talk

# Science that Saved Countless Number of Human Lives - Drug Discovery and Organic Synthesis

**Speaker: Dr. Kendrew Kin-Wah MAK - Senior Instructor in the Department of Chemistry of the Chinese University of Hong Kong**

The availability of potent and selective medicines is one of the most important developments in modern society. With the advancements of medical sciences, biochemistry and organic synthesis, now we can fight against diseases and infections, improve our health, and condition our mental state with the right choice of medicines. Many well-known drugs that are widely used today are the precious products originated from the fusion of the traditional wisdom of ancient people and the smart ideas of the modern scientists. Organic synthesis, on the other hand, provides the essential tool to combine these smart ideas and raw chemical materials into useful drugs.

This talk will introduce why some chemical substances possess medicinal properties, and the relations between chemical structure of a compound and its drug actions. After summarising how drugs work, the talk will introduce the key steps in the process of modern drug discovery. Finally, the talk will explain how organic synthesis turns a scientific idea into a clinical practice that can save millions of human lives.



### Introduction of Kendrew Kin-Wah MAK

Dr. Mak is a Senior Instructor in the Department of Chemistry of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, responsible for designing and teaching laboratory courses on organic chemistry.

Dr. Mak is also the Associate Director of the Centre for Promoting Science Education of CUHK. He has been involved in the development of several gifted education programmes in science, such as *A Science Enrichment Programme for Secondary 3-4 Students* and *Hong Kong Training Programme for International Junior Science Olympiad*.

## Talk Details

**Date : 3 March 2011 (Thu)**

**Time : 6:45pm - 8:15pm**

**\* Please arrive 15 mins in advance for registration.**

**Venue : Lecture Theatre, West Block, Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre  
19 Suffolk Rd., Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong**

**Language : Cantonese supplemented with English glossary**

**Target : 100 Student Members**

**Registration : Please apply through online registration -**

**[http://hkage.org.hk/en/sz\\_programmes.html?tab1=1](http://hkage.org.hk/en/sz_programmes.html?tab1=1)**

**Enrollment is based on a first-come-first-served basis.**

**Application Deadline: 24 Feb 2011 (Thu)**

**For enquiries, please contact Mr Ng at 3698 3498 or Mr Kwong at 3698 3494**