**HKU President’s Forum – Science and Society**

**Professor Dame Carol M Black**

**Topic: How can science and social science influence society?**

Abstract:

Dame Carol will draw upon her long career to give examples of how evidence and science can influence government policy for societal good.

Systemic sclerosis is a complex chronic disease with the highest mortality of any rheumatic condition, with an enormous clinical burden. Based on scientific progress it is now envisioned as a disorder of dysregulated connective tissue and vascular repair in response to sustained injury - and mortality and morbidity have been much reduced in recent decades.

A different but equally challenging problem is the health of Britain's population of working age. Three independent evidence-based reviews for the UK Government, on the inter-relationship of work, health and productivity, have had a major effect on government policy, creating a compelling case for decisive action to deliver improved prosperity to individuals, employers and the nation.

Finally, a fourth independent review for the Government, this one on illicit drugs (demand, supply, treatment and recovery) has gathered evidence that led the government to allocate almost £800 million over three years to implement a new 10-year strategy to bring about a whole-system cross-government change towards collaborative working, with clear potential for a safer society, fewer homicides, reduction in serious acquisitive crime, and fewer drug-dependent people in prison.

**香港大學校長論壇 – 科學與社會**

**Carol M Black女爵教授**

**演題：科學和社會科學可如何影響社會**

硬皮症是一種複雜的慢性疾病，於風濕性疾病中死亡率最高，也造成巨大的醫療負擔。隨著科學進步，這種疾病現在被視為一種因持續損傷而導致的結締組織和血管修復失調的疾病，最近幾十年死亡率和發病率已大幅降低。而一個同樣具挑戰性的問題，是英國勞動人口的健康。三篇為英國政府進行的獨立檢討報告，對勞動生產力和國家政策發揮了關鍵作用，讓工人、僱主以至國家等都有所裨益，證明了果斷行動的重要。第四次的獨立檢討，内容涵蓋非法毒品的供需、治療、康復和預防，促成了一項為期十年的全新禁毒策略，英國政府在三年間投放了近八億英鎊的資金，用於成癮戒斷與康復治療，配合員工的工作積極性提升和政府部門間相互協作下，期望達至一個更安全的社會，減少殺人和嚴重侵犯財產罪行，並降低獄中的成癮者人數。