



Press Release

For Immediate Release

HKSTP and CUHK open a new ATP GMP Centre to fast-track the cell and gene therapy (CGT) manufacturing industry in Hong Kong and the GBA

State-of-the-art facility accelerates clinical trials to commercialisation with international PIC/S GMP-compliant manufacturing processes

- The new ATP GMP Centre will forge a world-class CGT manufacturing industry in Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area.
- CUHK collaboration boosts HKSTP's mission to accelerate translation of scientific discoveries into life-saving biomedical innovations.
- The centre features a highly skilled workforce, cluster development and excellent logistics infrastructure, speeding up CGT development.

(Hong Kong, 15 June 2023) – Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTP) and The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) today formally opened the Advanced Therapy Products (ATP) Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) Centre located at the Hong Kong Institute of Biotechnology Limited (HKIB), adjoining the Science Park.

The brand-new centre provides a Pharmaceutical Inspection Co-operation Scheme (PIC/S) GMP-compliant facility that will produce clinical grade ATPs for approved clinical trials and treatment. GMP is a global system for ensuring that products are consistently produced and controlled according to quality standards. The centre will foster collaboration between government, academic institutions, and the industrial and commercial sectors with the goal of establishing a world-class cell and gene therapy (CGT) manufacturing industry in Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area.

The global CGT market is exploding. Technological development and unmet clinical needs have been accelerating the number of CGT products entering into clinical trials. China is feeling this urgency today, as it ranks second globally for total clinical trials. Worldwide, there are more than 60,000 patients currently participating in CGT clinical trials, yet the average waiting time is 18 months just to access a GMP clean room to produce CGT products.

The new ATP GMP Centre features six operationally segregated clean rooms, all PIC/S GMP-compliant and designed specifically for CGT product manufacturing and multiple ATP processes. This will accelerate the development of CGT treatments from the clinical trial stage to full commercial-scale production and dramatically improve time to market.

Mr Aldous Mak, CFO of HKSTP, said, "The opening of the CUHK ATP GMP Centre is a landmark moment in the vision to establish a world-class cell and gene therapy manufacturing industry in Hong Kong and the



香港中文大學
The Chinese University of Hong Kong



GBA. HKSTP is thrilled to be working with CUHK, our long-term partner, in bringing this critical addition to Hong Kong's fast-growing biotech infrastructure landscape to further accelerate the translation of scientific discoveries into life-saving biomedical innovations to benefit societies around the world. The collaboration not only accelerates R&D work in ATP, but also makes vital treatment and care more available for more patients."

Professor Rocky S. Tuan, Vice-Chancellor and President of CUHK, said, "The CUHK ATP GMP Centre represents a significant development in the innovation and research agenda of Hong Kong, and is also a realisation of the ambitions and aspirations of our former Vice-Chancellor, the late Professor Sir Charles Kao, who envisioned biotechnology as critical to the future prosperity of Hong Kong and established the Hong Kong Institute of Biotechnology at CUHK in 1988. The new Centre combines the proven capabilities of CUHK and the HKSTP to accelerate the development of life-saving cancer therapies, regenerative medicine, and related biomedical technologies, and enable the translation of scientific research into tangible benefits for patients in Hong Kong and beyond. It also creates a fertile breeding ground for talented researchers and practitioners who contribute to the sustainable future of Hong Kong."

The ATP GMP centre offers academic and non-academic collaborators flexible manufacturing solutions without the capital investment of building their own facilities. The centre features a highly skilled workforce, cluster development and excellent logistics infrastructure. Collaborators can access several segregated modules to manufacture their own products. The centre will also provide a unique ATP GMP key personnel training ground, promoting translation of academic research in response to changing and new industry demands.

More information on the HKIB ATP GMP Centre: <https://atp.hkib.org.hk/about/>



Photo 1: HKSTP and CUHK today formally opened the Advanced Therapy Products (ATP) Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) Centre located at the Hong Kong Institute of Biotechnology Limited (HKIB).



Photo 2: Mr Aldous Mak, CFO of HKSTP, said that the opening of the CUHK ATP GMP Centre is a landmark moment in the vision to establish a world-class cell and gene therapy manufacturing industry in Hong Kong and the GBA.



Photo 3: Professor Rocky S. Tuan, Vice-Chancellor and President of CUHK, said that the new Centre combines the proven capabilities of CUHK and the HKSTP to accelerate the development of life-saving cancer therapies, regenerative medicine, and related biomedical technologies.



Photos 4 to 7: Dr Libby Lee, JP, Under Secretary for Health and Ms Lillian Cheong, JP, Under Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry attended the opening ceremony as officiating guests, and visited the CUHK ATP GMP Centre to learn about its facilities and operations.

###



香港中文大學
The Chinese University of Hong Kong



About Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation

Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTP) has for over 20 years committed to building up Hong Kong as an international innovation and technology hub to propel success for local and global pioneers today and tomorrow. HKSTP has established a thriving I&T ecosystem that has supported 14 unicorns and Hong Kong's leading R&D hub, with over 13,000 research professionals and over 1,400 technology companies focused on healthtech, AI and robotics, fintech and smart city technologies.

Established in 2001, we attract and nurture talent, and accelerate and commercialise innovation and technology for entrepreneurs on their journey of growth in Hong Kong to the Greater Bay Area, Asia and beyond. Our growing innovation ecosystem is built around our key locations of Hong Kong Science Park in Shatin, InnoCentre in Kowloon Tong and three modern INNOPARKs in Tai Po, Tseung Kwan O and Yuen Long. The three INNOPARKs are realising a vision of new industrialisation for Hong Kong. The goal is to reimagine sectors like advanced manufacturing, electronics and biotechnology for a new generation of industry.

Through our infrastructure, services, expertise and network of partnerships, HKSTP will help establish innovation and technology as a pillar of growth for Hong Kong, while reinforcing Hong Kong's international I&T hub status as a launchpad for global growth at the heart of the GBA innovation powerhouse.

More information about HKSTP is available at www.hkstp.org.

About The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Founded in 1963, CUHK is a leading comprehensive research university with a global reputation and world-leading rankings. Located in the heart of Asia, CUHK has a vision and a mission to combine tradition with modernity, and to bring together China and the West. Under the University's unique collegiate system, the programmes and activities offered by its nine colleges complement the formal curricula by delivering whole-person education and pastoral care. The University has eight faculties: Arts, Business Administration, Education, Engineering, Law, Medicine, Science, and Social Science. Together with the Graduate School, the University offers over 300 undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. All faculties are actively engaged in research in a wide range of disciplines, with an array of research institutes and research centres specialising in interdisciplinary research of the highest quality.

CUHK focuses on four strategic areas of research: innovative biomedicine, information and automation technology, environment and sustainability, and China research. Seeking to optimise opportunities to generate more impactful outcomes, the University sets its aim in the five-year plan "CUHK 2025" to integrate research, innovation and enterprise into a dynamic and productive continuum, a superhighway along which research is translated into tangible benefits and innovation delivered to the world.



香港中文大學
The Chinese University of Hong Kong



Media Contact:

**Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks
Corporation**

Claire Ma

Tel: +852 2629 7032

Email: claire.ma@hkstp.org

Edelman Public Relations

Sonia Leung

Tel: +852 2837 4775

Email: Sonia.Leung@edelman.com/

Edelmanhkstppr@edelman.com

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Nancy Kuo

Tel: +852 3943 8501

Email: nancykuo@cuhk.edu.hk