

More letters

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Help us raise awareness of epilepsy

I write on behalf of Enlighten-Action for Epilepsy, a Hong Kong charity that raises epilepsy awareness here and helps those affected by epilepsy.

We read with interest the article on research by the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology ("Study could shed light on causes of epilepsy", January 12).

The study found that a lack of a particular protein in early brain development might be the root cause of epilepsy.

It is sad that though there are between 40,000 and 70,000 people in Hong Kong with the condition, we rarely hear about them. Most people with epilepsy prefer to live in silence for fear of discrimination, due to the stigma that surrounds it. I would like to draw readers' attention to our new campaign: "Helping Other People with Epilepsy" (HOPE). It draws on experiences of people living with epilepsy to bring about a positive change in the Hong Kong community.

The participants of this project will be identified through a "Stand Up and Be Counted" campaign (supported by Operation Santa Claus), in which we make a call for action from people living with epilepsy. They will be given training so they can share their experiences with the public towards the end of the campaign.

Claudia Schlesinger, CEO, Enlighten-Action for Epilepsy