

HKU's most impressive achievement in 2006 made by Faculty of Dentistry student

Dr Hai-ping Tan, a fourth-year PhD student from the HKU Faculty of Dentistry, has won HKU's Most Impressive Achievement Competition 2006 in recognition of her victory earlier this year in a major international contest in dental research.

Under the supervision of Prof Edward CM Lo and Dr John Dyson, Dr Tan had conducted a randomised controlled trial in the prevention of root caries among 227 people aged 60 to 89 years living in homes for the elderly in Hong Kong. Her study showed that individualised oral hygiene instructions on their own were not as effective as instructions plus one of three treatments—3-monthly sodium fluoride varnish, 3-monthly chlorhexidine varnish, or annual silver diamine fluoride application—in preventing new cases of root caries over 2 years.

This research work gained Dr Tan the 2006 International Association for Dental Research (IADR)/'Colgate Research in Prevention' Travel Award for the Asia region. Only six such prizes, each for a different world region, are awarded by the IADR each year to young researchers in the field of preventive dentistry. Dr Tan will receive her award this June at the IADR 2006 General Session in Brisbane, Australia, where she will also present her findings to conference delegates.

With this accomplishment, Dr Tan was judged to have made the most impressive achievement among *all* HKU students in the 2005-2006 academic year. The prize was bestowed by HKU Vice-Chancellor, Prof Lap-chee Tsui, at a special ceremony held in the HKU Rayson Huang Theatre on 29 April 2006 to celebrate the successes of more than 100 HKU students in external contests—local, regional, and international—during the past year.



Dr Hai-ping Tan (right) and HKU Vice-Chancellor, Prof Lap-chee Tsui



[Left to Right] Prof Edward Lo, Dr Hai-ping Tan, Prof Lap-chee Tsui, and Dr John Dyson