HKU Faculty of Dentistry student wins Fulbright scholarship

Dr Nalaka YS Jayaratne, a PhD student at the HKU Faculty of Dentistry, has won a 2010-2011 Fulbright Hong Kong Junior Scholar Award, which will allow him to conduct part of his PhD studies in the United States.

Dr Jayaratne, a dentist from Sri Lanka who is currently in the third year of his PhD studies at HKU, will use his scholarship to travel to and study at the Harvard Medical School for 9 months this year. The topic of his research is 3-D imaging of jaw and facial deformities before and after surgery.

“While in the US, I hope to get some further research experience on the use of computers in 3-D modelling to help with jawbone surgery,” says Dr Jayaratne, who is the first student from the HKU Faculty of Dentistry to win a junior Fulbright award. His PhD is supervised by Dr Roger Zwillen, Associate Professor in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, and Professor Lim K Cheung, Chair Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

Jointly sponsored by the Hong Kong Research Grants Council and the Fulbright Program of the United States, the Fulbright Hong Kong Junior Scholar Award enables experienced Hong Kong postgraduates to spend up to 10 months as visiting scholars at major American universities. The award, along with awards in other categories, is administered by the Hong Kong-America Center (website, <www.cuhk.edu.hk/hkac/mainframe.html>), which aims to promote understanding between Hong Kong and American societies through educational and cultural exchanges.

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Since its inauguration in the late 1940s, the US Fulbright Program has been an integral part of US foreign relations. The Fulbright Program has a presence in many countries worldwide and represents a partnership of government agencies, private organizations, academic institutions, grantees, alumni, and volunteers.

For more information about the Fulbright Program, visit <http://fulbright.state.gov/>.

For more information about the HKU Faculty of Dentistry, visit <http://facdent.hku.hk>.

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