



Industry Engagement

HKU Faculty of Dentistry student exchanges knowledge with Colgate-Palmolive

August 2010

Dr Jessica JY Peng (PhD student) undertook an industry internship with Colgate-Palmolive this summer, as part of the Faculty's industry-related activities in knowledge exchange. Acting as an Academic Affairs Trainee, under the supervision of Ms Katty Leung and Mr Matthew Lui of Colgate-Palmolive's Professional Oral Care Team, Dr Peng (pictured, L, with Mr Matthew Lui) participated in a specially designed 1-month internship programme in Hong Kong and Guangzhou.



"When I received Dean Samaranayake's e-mail circular about the Faculty's knowledge exchange goals, such as the encouragement of combining research and learning with industry, I was very interested. When I saw the internship poster, <http://facdent.hku.hk/docs/internshipposter.pdf>, I jumped at the chance," says Dr Peng, a dentist from mainland China who is now in her second year of her PhD, supervised by Dr MG Botelho in Oral Rehabilitation and Dr JP Matinlinna in Dental Materials Science. "I've always been keen to understand how dentists take up new dental professional products and if laboratory testing justifies product claims. The internship provided valuable insight into how products reach clinicians and patients, and how business teams and international partnerships work."

The programme organiser plans to offer future internships to Faculty students. "We were very pleased with this pilot internship project involving a Faculty postgraduate and hope to offer more internships next summer for both postgraduates and undergraduates," says Ms Katty Leung, Assistant Manager of Colgate-Palmolive's Professional Oral Care.

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Knowledge exchange (KE) at the HKU Faculty of Dentistry (<http://facdent.hku.hk>) aims to maintain a two-way dialogue between the Faculty and all sectors of the community. The Faculty's KE strategy, public education, and community activities form part of the Faculty's fourth mission of "engagement". We will be pleased to consider any suggestions or comments, or community/school invitations; please e-mail dentktu@hku.hk