

# First HKU Faculty of Dentistry *Knowledge Exchange Award* goes to preschool-project team

A kindergarten outreach-clinic team led by [Dr Chun-hung Chu](#), Associate Professor in Family Dentistry, has been named the recipient of the first HKU Faculty of Dentistry *Knowledge Exchange Award*.

The team's winning knowledge exchange project is a series of annual outreach clinics that provide dental check-ups for children, and oral health education for their teachers and parents, in kindergartens in Hong Kong.

Dr Chu started the roving clinic service in 2009 after successfully applying for a grant from the government's Health Care and Promotion Fund. "Preschool children have no government dental health service and cannot brush their own teeth, so preschool age is an opportune time for care-givers to start good oral hygiene habits for their children," says Dr Chu. "The 2009 grant from the Health Care and Promotion Fund allowed us to collaborate with the Hong Kong Christian Service and the Hong Kong Alliance Church to reach 3000 children in 14 kindergartens, together with their parents and teachers."

Following the success of that pilot project, the team reached more than 10,000 children in 100 kindergartens of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals and the Hong Kong Baptist Church in 2010-11. This time, the project was sponsored by the SK Yee Medical Foundation and a "Bright Smiles, Bright Futures" oral health promotion grant from Colgate-Palmolive, Hong Kong. In addition, train-the-trainers courses were conducted to ensure that the kindergarten teachers continued delivering oral health education.

In conjunction with the clinic service, Dr Chu and his colleagues have also gathered key data to understand the oral health of kindergarten children, with financial support from the government's Health & Health Services Research Fund and Research Grants Council General Research Fund. "We are very grateful to all our supporters, including kindergartens, non-governmental organisations, charities, industry, government, and last, but not least, the HKU Faculty of Dentistry," adds Dr Chu. The other members of his outreach-clinic team are Professor Edward Lo, Dr Xiao-li Gao, Dr Alex Chau, Dr Ivy Wu, Dr Emily Jiang, and Dr Marcus Fung.

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