The Second Chinese Orthodontic Collaboration Meeting was recently organised and chaired by Dr Ricky WK Wong (Clinical Associate Professor in Orthodontics) and Prof Urban Hägg (former Chair Professor of Orthodontics). This high-level strategic meeting took place at the China National Convention Center, Beijing, on the afternoon of 21 September 2012, during the XIV International Symposium on Dentofacial Development & Function and the 11th National Congress on Orthodontics of China (19-23 September 2012).

The meeting provided a forum for orthodontics representatives of seven major universities in China to discuss ways of strengthening academic exchange and communication between member institutions and to put into reality some of the plans discussed at the First Chinese Orthodontic Collaboration Meeting, which was held in Shenzhen on 26 June 2011.

Besides Dr Ricky Wong, Prof Urban Hägg, and Dr Yanqi Yang, who represented HKU, the other attendees were Prof Juxiang Lin and Prof Yanheng Zhou from Peking University, Prof Zhihe Zhao from Sichuan University, Prof Gang Shen from Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Prof Yin Ding from The Fourth Military Medical University, Prof Hong He from Wuhan University, and Prof Jianguo Wang from Nankai University.

The afternoon’s highlight was a demonstration of Internet-based systems for information- and file-sharing and for video-conferencing in distance seminars and joint clinic meetings among the seven orthodontic training centres. Strategies for increasing multicentre research collaborations and student/staff exchanges were also discussed, together with cross-appointments of external examiners and expert speakers. Projects planned for the near future include a cross-institution mini-residency programme, an Internet-based “Tip-edge appliance course” to be led by Prof Hägg, and a joint-university students’ orthodontic symposium.

“I’m very happy our collaboration meeting went well and we were able to map out concrete plans to promote quality and collaborative orthodontics training and research among our universities,” says Dr Wong. “In addition, all attendees agreed to stay in regular online contact and to hold the Third Chinese Orthodontic Collaboration Meeting during the 2013 National Congress on Orthodontics of China.”

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Media contacts:
Dr Ricky WK Wong, Clinical Associate Professor in Orthodontics, HKU Faculty of Dentistry; Tel: 2859 0554; E-mail: fyoung@hkucc.hku.hk
Ms Sau-wan Cheng, Knowledge Exchange Officer, HKU Faculty of Dentistry; Tel: 2859 0410; E-mail: dentke@hku.hk

Prepared by Dr Trevor Lane, Knowledge Exchange Unit, HKU Faculty of Dentistry. Although every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the contents of this news release, they do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Faculty or University and are intended for informational or educational use only; the copyright owner accepts no responsibility for errors or omissions.

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