



Community Engagement

HKU Faculty of Dentistry adds zest to the Hong Kong Science Museum

8 September 2006 – 31 March 2007

Two orthodontists from the HKU Faculty of Dentistry have been invited by the Hong Kong Science Museum to take part in a series of events to inform the local public about their recent discovery that bone formation can be triggered in the laboratory by naringin—the substance that gives grapefruits their distinctive bitter taste.

The ground-breaking research, conducted by Dr Ricky WK Wong and Prof Bakr Rabie (top photo, L to R), was chosen through a public voting system from among 16 projects submitted by local universities in a

competition held last year by the museum. The two researchers found that collagen plus naringin stimulated more bone production in rabbit skull-bone lesions than did either bone grafts or collagen alone. Naringin was also more effective than the anticholesterol drug 'statin' at inducing bone formation, even though both affect the same metabolic pathway. (*Biomaterials* 2006;27:1824-31.)

The museum exhibition *Grapefruit Forms Bone?* takes place from 8 September 2006 to 31 March 2007. Prof Rabie and Dr Wong will also deliver a public lecture at the museum on 2 December 2006.

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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

