



Community Engagement

Update on HKU Faculty of Dentistry's special community clinic projects

1 December 2009

The **Implant Project**, set up in 2007 with support from the Azalea (1972) Endowment Fund, aims to help toothless elderly people who would otherwise not be able to afford treatment. "The Implant Project is going strong," says Prof Tak-wah Chow, who is involved in running the programme along with Dr Frederick Chu. "It's very satisfying to help senior members of our community, so that they can smile and eat properly. In fact, four past implant patients came for tea and cakes at the Faculty Lounge recently to show their teeth in action and to personally thank one of the Azalea (1972) Endowment Fund benefactors, Mr Lawrence Fung."



Prof ECM Lo, Dr JE Dyson, and Dr CH Chu organise a **Dental Outreach Unit** to provide community dental services for various disadvantaged groups in Hong Kong, with the support of the SK Yee Medical Foundation. Established in 2009, the Dental Outreach Unit consists of dental surgeons and dental surgery assistants whose services include oral examination, oral health education, tooth cleaning, fillings, simple extractions, and denture repair. "Our team members have already visited several residential homes for the aged and we've provided treatment for a few hundred elders," reports Prof Lo.

Dr CH Chu and Prof ECM Lo run an **Outreach Programme for Preventive Dental Care** for kindergarten children in Hong Kong, with the support of the HKSAR Health Care and Promotion Fund. "From March to June 2009, our mobile clinic team together with undergraduate and postgraduate students from the Faculty visited more than 20 kindergartens in different districts of Hong Kong and saw a total of over 3000 children," says Dr Chu. "We performed oral examinations, gave advice on oral health and hygiene and healthy eating, and administered topical fluoride treatment to prevent tooth decay."



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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