



Community Engagement

HKU Faculty of Dentistry holds oral health campaign for preschoolers and parents

9, 23 & 26 May 2012

The HKU Faculty of Dentistry collaborated with the Hong Kong Christian Service (HKCS) this spring to offer a free oral health service for needy preschool children and their parents. A special feature of the campaign was that it used evidence-based methods of tooth decay prevention for the children and delivery of health education for their parents.



A total of 139 preschool children and their parents took part in three oral health workshops offered at the HKCS Parent Education Centre and Health Clinic, Kowloon. The team organising the health promotion project was Dr Chun-hung Chu (Clinical Associate Professor in Community and Family Dentistry) and Prof Edward CM Lo (Clinical Professor in Dental Public Health) from the HKU Faculty of Dentistry, together with Ms Chun-wing Ng (Medical and Dental Clinic In-Charge) and Ms Gloria Liu (Parent Education Centre In-Charge) from the HKCS.

During oral check-ups for the children, the team treated any early tooth decay by applying fluoride varnish, which has been shown in past studies to be effective and safe. The team also guided the parents in brushing their children's teeth and interviewed the parents individually using a technique that has been shown to motivate behaviour change.

An HKCS survey the found that all the parents who attended the educational workshops were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the health programme. "We used this oral health project to demonstrate to the HKCS how to plan, implement, and evaluate a non-governmental community programme that combined clinical consultation with individual parental oral health education," says team leader Dr CH Chu. "We will be assisting the HKCS to hopefully sustain this service in the future to enhance oral health and control tooth decay among preschool children."

Titled *Oral Health Promotion Program in Young Children Through an Evidence-based Primary Prevention Approach*, this Knowledge Exchange Impact Project was supported by the HKU Knowledge Exchange Fund 2011-12, granted by the HKSAR University Grants Committee to HKU.

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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

