



Community Engagement

HKU Faculty of Dentistry promotes oral health in 10 local primary schools

13 March – 28 June 2012

An outreach team from the HKU Faculty of Dentistry has been promoting oral health at 10 primary schools. The team gave oral health and hygiene talks to a total of 3341 senior primary children spanning Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, and the New Territories, and provided free dental screening for 2034 of them.



“The World Health Organization has officially stated that oral health is an important part of general health,” says team leader, Dr Chun-hung Chu (Clinical Associate Professor in Community and Family Dentistry). “So, we wanted to enhance P4 to P6 students' knowledge of oral health and self-care, as well as check their current oral health status, in the hope that they maintain long-term oral health and also general health.”

All students attending the oral health education talk received a souvenir consisting of a dental health education booklet and a pack of sugar-free gum. Children who received a dental check-up were given an individual dental examination report. The project, approved by a local ethics board and after parental consent, also provided the opportunity for the team to gather and analyse oral health data from a random sample of 500 primary school children aged 12 years. According to children's and teachers' feedback, the educational and clinical outreach visits were well-received.

The other team members were dentists Dr Irene Lau (assistant team leader), Dr Alex Chau, and Dr Jasmine Yeung, as well as dental hygienist Ms Carole Lew, certificated dental surgery assistant Ms Yuki Cheng, and research assistant Ms Carol Tse.

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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

