



Community Engagement

HKU Faculty of Dentistry helps public brush up on oral hygiene on *World Oral Health Day*

20 March 2013

The HKU Faculty of Dentistry's "Oral Health Info Desk", stationed at the Prince Philip Dental Hospital on 20 March 2013 to mark *World Oral Health Day*, attracted 200 members of the public to its poster boards, information tables, quizzes, demonstrations, and individualised consultations.



Taking part in the all-day oral health campaign was the Faculty's Knowledge Exchange Unit, representatives of the Dental Public Health Committee of the student Dental Society, and members of the Faculty's Student Knowledge Exchange Team for Baby Oral Health (mentored by **Dr Yanqi Yang**, Clinical Assistant Professor in Orthodontics). The Opening Ceremony (pictured above) was attended by Dr Yang and **Dr Dominic KL Ho** (Clinical Assistant Professor in Periodontology), who were on hand throughout the day to answer public queries.

"Our oral health is closely linked to our general health, but many people are not brushing their teeth for the recommended 2 times a day for 2 minutes each time, and flossing once a day," said Dr Yang at the Opening Ceremony. "We hope this new Faculty event can help members of the public increase the effectiveness of their home oral care routine until the next *World Oral Health Day* on 20 March 2014". Of the 38 people who gave feedback forms, all rated the "Oral Health Info Desk" as Good or Very Good, and most would attend future similar events. For more coverage of this Faculty event, please see <http://tiny.cc/30jerw>.

World Oral Health Day is promoted each year by the FDI World Dental Federation, and this year's theme was "Healthy Teeth for a Healthy Life". The three key messages of the campaign were (1) **Healthy eating**, (2) **Effective home oral care**, and (3) **Regular dental visits**. This year, events were held worldwide to raise awareness of maintaining oral health throughout life, and its relation to quality of life and healthy living. According to the campaign website (www.fdiworlddental.org), the overall aim of *World Oral Health Day* is to "encourage individuals, families, communities, and governments to take action to reduce the global burden of oral disease".

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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 dentke@hku.hk

