



Community Engagement

HKU Faculty of Dentistry shares oral health know-how with non-clinicians

25 February 2013

Dr Chun-hung Chu (Clinical Associate Professor in Community and Family Dentistry, and Deputy Director of the Faculty's Knowledge Exchange Unit) has been promoting oral health knowledge exchange in non-clinical settings and beyond Hong Kong.

On 25 February 2013, Dr Chu was invited to share his expertise in the visual detection of dental caries (tooth decay) in young children during an HKU workshop attended by non-clinicians and government officials from the Asia-Pacific region.



The workshop was part of a 3-day event organised by the Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood and the HKU Faculty of Education's Early Childhood Development, Education and Policy Group, with the support of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Open Society Foundations. All four bodies were represented at the event, in addition to government officers and academics from eight countries.

Under good lighting, the front upper teeth of children can be assessed routinely for the presence or absence of caries, Dr Chu said. But examiners need to distinguish other conditions, too, such as double (fused) teeth, small extra (supernumerary) teeth, and discolouration from staining. The video is archived online at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lajAtEqQsdY>.

The detection of caries by non-clinicians is an optional assessment item in the East Asia-Pacific Early Child Development Scales (EAP-ECDS), which the HKU Faculty of Education's Early Childhood Development, Education and Policy Group has formulated as a standard way of monitoring growth and development of 3- to 5-year-olds in the region. "The EAP-ECDS project team appreciates Dr Chu's sharing of knowledge and experience, and looks forward to future collaborations with him and the HKU Faculty of Dentistry," says Ms Diana Lee, Project Manager of the EAP-ECDS project team.

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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

