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1 Schiff T et al Am J Dent 2009; 22 (Spec Iss A): 8A-15A
Sustaining excellence
By Lakshman Samaranayake, Dean

This issue of Expressions, which focuses on the Discipline of Oral Radiology, marks a new design, a new decade, and the HKU Faculty of Dentistry’s renewed commitment to excellence in learning, discovery, patient care, and engagement. This coming decade will see the University’s centenary in 2011, the Faculty’s 30th anniversary celebrations in 2012, and the new 6-year BDS curriculum, also in 2012. The following are some nearer-term milestones, linked to our knowledge exchange activities:

♦ Centre for Advanced Dental Care (CADC)—I am delighted to report that the newly established CADC on the 6/F of the Prince Philip Dental Hospital is now open, with an official opening scheduled for late spring. The CADC was established through the generous support from alumni, various foundations, and businesses (see page 18), and is the Faculty’s advanced training centre for undergraduate, postgraduate, and continuing education; a treatment centre for patients requiring complex and cross-disciplinary management; and a platform for collaboration and the sharing of ideas, knowledge, and advanced dental skills between academic scholars and dental practitioners within and outside the Faculty.

♦ Professional bonds—Starting in March, a monthly educational series for dental professionals, called Breakfast and Learning Sessions, will be held in the CADC (see page 5).

♦ Enlightening the public—At a recent HKU Dedication Ceremony (see page 18), I was appointed as the holder of the Faculty’s inaugural Endowed Professorship: the Tam Wah-Ching Professorship in Dental Science. Dr Tam launched his lighting business in the 1950s and holds a strong belief in giving back to the community. The formal ceremony will take place in April, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Tam and HKU, and everyone in the Faculty for their support. The professorship comes at a time when the Faculty is redoubling efforts in community engagement and public education. To see some examples, visit the Community Page of the Faculty’s website, at <http://facdent.hku.hk>. Happy reading!

Expressions is published three times a year by the Faculty of Dentistry, The University of Hong Kong, for its faculty, staff, students, alumni, affiliates, and friends. News items, announcements, details of meetings, congress coverage, articles, comments, and feedback are welcome. Please e-mail <info@hku.hk>. Inclusion is not guaranteed and submissions may be edited.

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**Spreading understanding**

Dean Samaranayake recently signed Memoranda of Understanding with the following overseas university faculties during their visits to Hong Kong:

1. **School of Dentistry, University of California, Los Angeles, USA, 1 November 2009**
   - **First photo:** [L to R] Prof NH Park (Dean, UCLA School of Dentistry) and Dean Samaranayake.

2. **Faculty of Dentistry, University of British Columbia, Canada, 1 November 2009**
   - **Second photo:** [L to R, front] Prof C Shuler (Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, University of British Columbia), Dean Samaranayake; [back] Prof TW Chow, Prof U Hägg, Prof LJ Jin, and Prof WK Leung.

3. **Faculty of Medicine, University of Zurich, Switzerland, 9 December 2009**
   - **Third photo:** [L to R, front] Prof K Grätz (Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Zurich), Dean Samaranayake; [back] Dr R Zwahlen, Prof N Samman, Prof LK Cheung, Prof U Hägg, and Prof N Lang.

“We have enjoyed close ties with all three institutions in the past,” says Prof Samaranayake. “The signing of these Memoranda of Understanding cements our bonds and represents a step in the right direction in these new times of international collaboration and knowledge exchange.”

**21st-century dentistry**

Dental schools from the Universitas 21 (U21) international network of research-intensive universities met at the HKU Faculty of Dentistry on 16 November 2009. Among items discussed were U21 collaborative ventures including the International Dental Student Peer Review Audit Project and Forensic Odontology E-learning Project.

L to R: Prof Colman McGrath (HKU), Dr Matt Hopcraft (University of Melbourne), Dr Michael McCullough (University of Melbourne), Dr Karen Gardner (University of British Columbia), Dr Ana Cecilia Treviño Flores (Dean of Dentistry, Tecnológico de Monterrey), Prof Lakshman Samaranayake (Dean of Dentistry, HKU), Dr Susan Bridges (HKU), Prof Edwin Yen (University of British Columbia), Dr Philip Newsome (HKU), and Dr Chun-hung Chu (HKU)

Faculty of Dentistry, University of British Columbia), Dean Samaranayake; (back) Prof TW Chow, Prof U Hägg, Prof LJ Jin, and Prof WK Leung.

**New graduate programme launched**

A 1-year full-time degree leading to the Master of Science in General Dentistry (MSc[General Dent]) has been approved by the HKU Senate. The course offers dental practitioners the opportunity of higher training in clinical skills required for general dental practice. The Programme Admissions Advisor is Prof TW Chow, <twchow@hku.hk>.

**Breakfast at the Faculty**

The soon-to-be-opened Centre for Advanced Dental Care at the HKU Faculty of Dentistry will host four monthly Breakfast and Learning Sessions starting on 24 March 2010, from 8:00 am to 10:00 am. Each session will consist of a case presentation and discussion on the treatment planning of a complex case. The event is organised by the Discipline of Comprehensive Dental Care and co-ordinated by Prof N Lang (contact, Ms Clara Choy, <cchoy@hkucc.hku.hk>).

For more details on these items and for other news and events, visit the Faculty website at <http://facdent.hku.hk>.
Many congratulations to BDS Class of 2009, who graduated on 10 December 2009!

A total of 57 BDS graduands were formally admitted to the HKU Faculty of Dentistry during the 2009 Graduation and Awards Ceremony, held at the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine. A record number, a lucky 13, achieved BDS with Honours.

After the address was given by Guest-of-Honour, Dr Philip KH Wong (Chairman of the HKU Foundation), the class received their degrees as well as framed copies of the Hippocratic Oath for Dentistry, which they also pledged on-stage. The Oath, which is available on the Faculty website and is based on the one graduating medics have used for decades, had been adapted for Dentistry by Faculty Dean, Prof Lakshman Samaranayake. Although the Oath has been printed in the ceremony programme since 2006, this was the first time it was actually taken by graduands in front of the audience as part of the Faculty’s Graduation and Awards Ceremony.

"Having just entered clinical practice, I am deeply grateful for all the knowledge and skills the Faculty has given me,” says Class Valedictorian, Dr Polly PL Fung. "Taking the Hippocratic Oath showed our families and mentors our sincere commitment to serve the community in a way that would make them proud.”

Later in the ceremony, postgraduate degrees and qualifications were conferred on taught and research postgraduates (18 Advanced Diplomas, 43 Masters, 1 Postgraduate Diploma, 8 PhD, 1 MPhil). Prizes and awards were also presented to staff and students for academic excellence, including the 2009 Research Output Prize to Prof Lakshman Samaranayake, the 2008 Outstanding Teacher Award to Prof Colman McGrath, and 13 Long Service Awards to full-time, part-time, and honorary Faculty academic staff (see pages 11-12).

**Final words**

Dentistry, Dent-is-try! We learnt from PBL; we learnt from trying....We are now trying to be great dentists. —Dr WM Law

I am so thankful for all the teaching and guidance by the tutors. —Dr YH Lam

I wish everyone a successful and meaningful future. —Dr CH Luk

Thanks to my buddies for making BDS life so unforgettable. —Dr ST Fong

I love Dentistry. I would like to see people with big smiles. —Dr Sandy WS Wu

I would like to wish all my class every success in their dental and non-dental lives and look forward to seeing you in the future. Here’s to Life-Long Learning! —Dr Luke PS Chow

Be proud of our profession. Congratulations to Class of 2009! —Dr Ronnie LY Mak
Saliva decontamination

The presence of saliva reduces the strength of bonding between certain dental adhesives (resin luting cements) and dentine, and requires special removal, a team including Faculty researchers has found in in-vitro experiments.

Microtensile bond strength testing showed that the bond quality of RelyX ARC cement (3M ESPE) was reduced when saliva on acid-etched dentine was simply blot-dried. The effect was reversed by rinsing off the saliva contamination with water and then blot-drying, but without re-etching.

Likewise, bond quality was reduced for Panavia F 2.0 cement (Kuraray Medical Inc) when saliva was air-dried (1) before or (2) after the primer application step. The effect was reversed by rinsing in water, air-drying, and (1) applying or (2) re-applying the primer.


Hand-neck connection

X-ray examinations of the neck can guide the timing of orthodontic (tooth-straightening) treatment in adolescents, a research group including Faculty orthodontists has reported.

Orthodontic treatment that aims to induce changes in jawbone growth is usually best started during the growth spurt of puberty, but the use of hand and wrist X-rays to assess the stage of puberty increases adolescents’ exposure to radiation. When researchers studied neck and hand X-rays of 200 boys and 200 girls around the age of puberty, they found that shape characteristics of the neck bones (vertebrae C2-C4) were related to bone development in the second joint of the middle finger and in the wrist (Spearman rank correlation coefficient, 0.95 for boys and 0.94 for girls).

The researchers also identified a stage of neck bone development that signified the peak of the growth spurt, “when growth modification treatment by dentofacial orthopedic appliances can start”. Because neck measurements could be performed on routine X-ray photographs, the method “can be used to replace hand-wrist radiographs for determining the skeletal maturity” of southern Chinese adolescents, the authors conclude.


Radiation dose in implant imaging

A joint project between HKU and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University has revealed that among several X-ray methods tested, spiral computed tomography (CT) delivers the highest radiation dose during implant imaging.

In test simulations, a patient-dummy was fitted with dosimeters at the eye lenses, salivary glands, and thyroid gland. Overall, spiral CT delivered the highest absorbed doses (0.66-25.26 mGy), especially in the salivary glands, whereas cone-beam CT delivered the lowest (0.05-1.73 mGy). Conventional spiral tomography at the front part of the mouth led to the lowest absorbed doses of radiation among the three methods tested (0.03-0.55 mGy).

[Surgical advances

Two methods of advancing the lower jaw in cases of underdevelopment (mandibular hypoplasia)—namely, bilateral sagittal split osteotomy (BSSO) and mandibular distraction osteogenesis (MDO)—show similar relapse rates, two Faculty researchers in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery have reported.

After reviewing the literature in the Medline database from 1957 to 2007, the researchers found that 6- to 12-month relapse rates for advancements or lengthening of 6 to 10 mm were 15.0% for BSSO and 17.1% for MDO. The risk factors for skeletal relapse were also similar for the two methods.

As for complications, BSSO had a higher incidence of persistent neurosensory disturbance and condylar bone resorption than MDO (27.8% vs 2.9% and 6.1% vs 1.4%, respectively). Nevertheless, the analysts note that a proper comparison is needed and that “randomized controlled trials of these two techniques are still lacking”.


Saliva decontamination

The presence of saliva reduces the strength of bonding between certain dental adhesives (resin luting cements) and dentine, and requires special removal, a team including Faculty researchers has found in in-vitro experiments.

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For more information, visit our website at <http://facdent.hku.hk/learning> or e-mail Ms Betty Lo at <bshlo@hkucc.hku.hk>.

Congratulations to Class of 2009!
Your new journey has just begun, so let the HKU Faculty of Dentistry and the HKU Dental Alumni Association be your life-long travel companions. We are here to support you throughout your new career and help you stay in touch with your alma mater, give you practical advice, provide continuing education and networking opportunities, and offer discounts for Faculty events.

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Improving dentists' X-ray vision

By Anson Chau

The HKU Faculty of Dentistry was one of the first dental faculties in the world to own a computed tomography (CT) machine in the 1990s. A lot has happened since then at the Faculty’s Oral Radiology Unit (ORU).

The ORU, located on the first floor of the Prince Philip Dental Hospital, provides research, teaching, and dental radiology services to the Faculty and Hospital. Each year, the unit handles the diagnostic radiology needs of about 20,000 patients.

Routine and advanced imaging
The ORU’s radiographic machines use X-rays to image the jaws’ underlying structures for clinical diagnosis, treatment planning, and outcome assessment. Four intraoral X-ray tubes and two panoramic machines are used for general screening and follow-up. Undergraduate students are trained in these 2D techniques during their studies.

CT and recently purchased cone-beam CT and Scanora CT machines are used to produce multiplanar X-ray images and 3D models for advanced clinical conditions. Multiplanar imaging has become a compulsory examination in advanced implant and surgical cases. Accordingly, taught postgraduate students in various specialties are now given training in these modalities.

Research and development
ORU research projects are inter-disciplinary collaborations with many Faculty Disciplines, including Implant Dentistry, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Orthodontics, and Endodontics. Among topics of projects done or underway are bone graft assessment, 3D nerve imaging, and lower-molar morphology mapping. We have also collaborated with the Hong Kong Polytechnic University in some dosimetry research projects to investigate patient and staff exposure to X-rays in the clinic.

Our experience with multiplanar imaging is generating a huge database for research and is also helping to develop methodological knowledge in 3D imaging in dentistry. We are currently establishing a 3D cephalometric (head structure) database and exploring the application of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) in general dentistry to complement X-ray technology.

The operation of the ORU will be digitised very soon. This development is part of the ongoing upgrade of the Salud patient-records system and environmental campaign at the Hospital, which aims to make its clinics completely filmless within this decade.

Miss Anson CM Chau, <ansomc@hkucc.hku.hk>, is Assistant Professor in Oral Radiography at the HKU Faculty of Dentistry.
Images of Oral Radiology

By MF Cheung

Having recently celebrated my 25th anniversary of working at the Oral Radiology Unit (ORU) at the HKU Faculty of Dentistry, I was invited to share some reminiscences about the unit and Discipline.

The ORU has undergone several reincarnations since its establishment in 1981 as a teaching unit within the Faculty’s then Department of Oral Surgery and Oral Medicine. The original establishment had one lecturer as the unit’s head, one tutor, and three instructors, growing to four when I joined in 1983.

The early days

The top-right photograph was taken in 1987. The lecturer was Dr Laetitia Brocklebank, the tutor was Mr Dennis Brown, and the instructors were Mr Douglas Mills, Mrs Ann McKenzie, Miss Valerie Keown, and myself. The tutor and instructors in radiography were responsible for the teaching of radiographic techniques, while the lecturers were responsible for the teaching of radiographic interpretation. Teaching was also supported by three part-time lecturers who were dentists interested in radiology: Dr Pactricia Hancock, Dr Dominic Yan, and Dr Thomas Li.

I have fond memories of the early days. The first unit head, Dr Laetitia Brocklebank, was meticulous in the preparation of teaching materials and documents necessary for the setting up of a new teaching unit. The second, Dr David MacDonald, was extremely hard-working and had a fantastic memory.

Post-Handover

The Faculty was restructured in 1997, coinciding with Hong Kong’s Handover year. The ORU was initially part of the Discipline of Conservative Dentistry, and then Oral Diagnosis, and now Comprehensive Dental Care, led by Prof Niklaus Lang. Dr Thomas Li, who started as a part-time lecturer in 1986, became the unit head in 1993 and resigned in 2007. He impressed everyone with his keen sense of humour. He also had the insight to acquire the unit’s spiral and cone-beam computed tomography machines, which have proven to be very useful tools for diagnosis and research.

The second photograph was taken on 23 June 2009 at the HKU Long Service Award presentation ceremony, where I received an award “in appreciation of over 25 years of loyal service”. I am grateful to Prof Tak-wah Chow, Associate Dean (External Relations), who accompanied me to the ceremony. Today, ORU remains a compact and strong unit, consisting of two university staff and four hospital staff (third photograph). I am fortunate to have the opportunity to work at this Faculty. I have come to realise I thoroughly enjoy teaching radiographic techniques to Faculty dental students, student dental hygienists, and student dental surgery assistants. ■

Mr MF Cheung, <mfcheung@hkucc.hku.hk>, is Tutor in Oral Radiology at the HKU Faculty of Dentistry.
Dean receives Research Output Prize

Prof Lakshman Samaranayake was awarded a 2009 HKU Research Output Prize for the research article “Candida albicans biofilm formation is associated with increased anti-oxidative capacities”, published in the peer-reviewed journal Proteomics.

His co-authors from the Faculty Discipline of Oral Biosciences were Dr CJ Seneviratne, Prof LJ Jin, and Dr Yu Wang. The research describes, for the first time, a novel molecular mechanism that is likely to mediate higher antifungal resistance in Candida biofilms (attached communities), in contrast to their planktonic (suspended phase) counterparts. State-of-the-art molecular tools including proteomics, genomics, and bioinformatics were used to unravel the mechanism.

“The fact that the paper is cited in the Candida Genome Database is a testament to the international peer recognition of the finding,” says Prof Samaranayake. “This work is expected to benefit future researchers embarking on the study of emerging microbial drug resistance in general, and antifungal resistance in particular.”

[Link to Medline abstract]

Book report

—Dr Li-wu Zheng (Research Assistant Professor in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery) and Prof Lim K Cheung (Chair Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery) have authored the chapter “Stem cells in Dentistry” in the book Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine (Bentham e-Books, <www.bentham.org/ebooks>; ISBN 978-1-60805-008-6).

—Dr Ricky WK Wong (Associate Professor in Orthodontics) guest-edited a special issue of the Open Anthropology Journal on the theme of “Dental anthropology in Chinese”, published in January 2010 (<www.bentham.org/open/toanthj/openaccess2.htm>; ISSN 1874-9127).

For Faculty staff’s latest research publications, visit the Research Publications webpage of <http://facdent.hku.hk>

Winning team: Prof LP Samaranayake (3rd from L) with his Faculty co-authors of the winning 2008 research article: Prof LJ Jin, Dr CJ Seneviratne, and Dr Yu Wang.

Staff moves

Congratulations to the following (re-)appointees:

Associate Deans:
• Prof TW Chow (External Relations)
• Prof EUO Hägg (Postgraduate & Continuing Education)
• Prof LJ Jin (Mainland & Global Affairs)
• Prof WK Leung (Research & Discovery)
• Dr CKY Yiu (Undergraduate Education)

Assistant Deans:
• Prof C McGrath (Postgraduate & Continuing Education)
• Dr CH Chu (Global Affairs)
• Dr CF Zhang (Mainland Affairs)
• Dr R Zwahlen (Research & Discovery)
• Dr MG Botelho (Undergraduate Education)
Student recognition

—Dr Chen Kun (PhD student) was awarded the prize for “GSK Best Oral and Poster Presentation” at the HKU Faculty of Dentistry and Peking University School of Stomatology Conjoint Scientific Session, Hong Kong, in November 2009, for the oral presentation titled “LEPR is a predisposing factor of mandibular retrognathism: an SNP association and animal study”, co-authored with his supervisors Dr Ricky WK Wong and Prof Bakr Rabie.

—Dr Ke Jin (PhD student, left in photo) won the Poster Award and Travel Award at the 3rd Hiroshima Conference on Education and Science in Dentistry, 7-8 November 2009, for his presentation titled “BMP2 gene transfer through rAAV2 enhances osteogenic activity of BMSCs”, co-authored with his supervisors Prof Lim K Cheung and Dr Li-wu Zheng (centre and right in photo).

—A research article in the Hong Kong Dental Journal written by HKU Faculty of Dentistry staff and students has won the journal’s Best Original Article Award 2008. The article was based on the 2008 BDS IV Community Health Project titled “Health care vouchers for the elderly and utilization of dental services”, supervised by Dr May Wong. (Cheung HHK, Fong STS, Lau DMC, Mak RLY, Man GWC, So KMK, Ta MTC, Yee SYY, Yuen CHC, Wong MCM. Health Care Voucher Scheme and willingness to spend on dental care among Hong Kong elders. Hong Kong Dental Journal 2008;5:84-92.)

—Ms Connie Ling (BDS V student, pictured right, with award), representing her BDS group, won the Silver Prize in the Project-based Category of the 2009 South-East Asia Association for Dental Education (SEAADE)-GC Dental Asia Student Prevention Table Clinician Programme at the 20th SEADE Annual Scientific Meeting on 23-24 November 2009, Chiang Mai, Thailand. Her presentation was based on the 2009 BDS IV Community Health Project titled “Oral health education for Parkinson’s disease patients”, supervised by Prof Colman McGrath and Dr May Wong.

Success story

Dr CJ Seneviratne (Postdoctoral Fellow in Oral Biosciences) was awarded the HKU Outstanding Research Postgraduate Student Award (2007-2008) on 26 November 2009 at the HKU Graduate School Award Presentation Ceremony.

As my primary supervisor Prof Samaranayake once told me, “Luck favours those who work hard”. On another occasion, he mentioned “Work hard and play hard”. My journey in pursuing a PhD at the HKU Faculty of Dentistry has not been without challenges, but all the hard work has been worthwhile.

The first year was the most memorable, as I didn’t get any good results; yet, I learnt from the countless mistakes I made, and things got better and better. By the end of two and a half years I achieved a few international awards, including the Hiroshima University Award, and IADR Colgate and Hatton Travel Awards. During my PhD, I contributed to many papers, including a landmark paper in Proteomics, which won a 2009 HKU Research Output Prize.

I also managed to squeeze in some social service work as a leader of “Project SEE” and an ambassador at the HKU Global Lounge. I am delighted to be honoured as an Outstanding Research Postgraduate Student, and the award added a grand endnote to my PhD at the Faculty. I thank my supervisors and all those who helped me in difficult moments by encouraging me to pursue great depths in science. To my junior colleagues, my advice is “Repeat the experiment three times, but not the same mistake!”

Special mention

The HKU Faculty of Dentistry is indebted to the following Faculty staff members for their unfailing loyalty and commitment to the dental profession; they were presented with Long Service Awards at the 2009 Graduation and Awards Ceremony:

• Mr Sydney F Leung (Honorary Instructor in Dental Technology), 29 years
• Dr Franklin FY Chan (Part-time Clinical Lecturer in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery), 27 years
• Mr MF Cheung (Tutor in Dental Radiography), 26 years
• Dr David YW Sun (Part-time Clinical Lecturer in Comprehensive Dental Care), 21 years
• Dr Eddie CK Yau (Part-time Clinical Lecturer in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery), 21 years
• Dr Siu-fai Leung (Part-time Clinical Lecturer in Comprehensive Dental Care), 19 years
• Dr Alexander YH Leung (Part-time Clinical Lecturer in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery), 19 years
• Dr Carl HP Wu (Part-time Clinical Lecturer in Comprehensive Dental Care), 18 years
• Dr Anthony SK Yse (Part-time Clinical Lecturer in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery), 17 years
• Dr Daniel TS Fang (Honorary Clinical Associate Professor in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery), 11 years
• Dr Edward KW Hui (Honorary Clinical Associate Professor in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery), 11 years
• Dr James KP Chow (Honorary Clinical Associate Professor in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery), 10 years
6th International Conference on PBL in Dentistry

13-15 November 2009

Dr Che-hung Leong, Chairman of the Council of The University of Hong Kong, was the Guest-of-Honour at the Opening Ceremony of the 6th International Conference on PBL in Dentistry. Delegates to the conference and special PBL workshops included many well-known experts and international speakers in dental and medical education.

HKU-PKU Conjoint Scientific Session

16-17 November 2009

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China, the Faculty held this year’s annual scientific meeting with the Peking University School of Stomatology. About 100 delegates from Peking University joined the Faculty at the event. Guest speakers included Dean No-Hee Park and Prof Cun-yu Wang from the School of Dentistry at the University of California, Los Angeles, USA.

Visit to SAHK Apleichau Pre-school Centre

4 December 2009

Dr Cynthia Yiu, Ms Cordelia Chan, and two dental hygienists paid an educational visit to the SAHK (formerly known as the Spastics Association of Hong Kong) Apleichau Pre-school Centre. Ms Connie Wong, Superintendent of the centre, said, “The parents found the presentation on childhood oral care clear and straightforward, and the group discussion was very useful in helping parents to solve problems in cleaning their children’s teeth and maintaining their oral health.”

HKU Vice-Chancellor’s visit to the Faculty

17 December 2009

Prof Lap-chee Tsui delivered an address to Faculty staff and students, after which he visited the PBL Suite, newly renovated Postgraduate Habitat, and the Knowledge Transfer Unit. He also took part in a round-table discussion with staff, undergraduates, and postgraduates.

1st Symposium on Evidence-based Integrative Dentistry

11 December 2009

Dr Wah-ching Tam of the Wah Ching Chinese Medicine Foundation was the Guest-of-Honour at this first meeting for knowledge exchange in the integration of Traditional Chinese Medicine with Dentistry, hosted by the Faculty. Co-organisers were the HKU School of Chinese Medicine, Macau University of Science and Technology Faculty of Chinese Medicine, and the journal Chinese Medicine.
Rising to the challenge

Dr Polly PL Fung (BDS 2009) must be one of the Faculty’s “winningest” BDS graduates, most recently winning the Bronze Award in the 11th Challenge Cup, held from 28 October to 1 November 2009 at the Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

The Challenge Cup is a national academic competition organised by the Ministry of Education of the Central People’s Government, the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League of China, the China Association for Science and Technology, and the All-China Students’ Federation. This year, more than 400 universities throughout China took part in the event and more than 1000 projects were entered. Overall, the HKU team ranked third among the 15 teams from Hong Kong and Macau.

As part of the HKU entry, Dr Fung presented findings from her undergraduate research project comparing different technologies for detecting tooth demineralisation, which was supervised by Prof Edward Lo and Dr Thomas Li. The project had also won her the National Youth Science and Technology Innovation Award earlier in the year.

On completing her BDS at the HKU Faculty of Dentistry in 2009, Dr Fung was awarded the Sir Edward Youde Memorial Scholarship, HSBC Hong Kong Scholarship, HKU Foundation Scholarship, Mary Sun Medical Scholarship, Chan Kai Ming Prize, Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons Prize, Hong Kong Dental Association Prize, Hong Kong Society of Family Dentistry Prize, University of Hong Kong Dental Alumni Association Prize in General Dentistry, Dental ’85 Prize in Elective Studies, Ho Ping Kwan Prize in Oral Rehabilitation, and Consulate General of Sweden Book Prize.

During her early BDS years, she also won places on a global citizenship programme in New York and a leadership training conference in Washington DC, USA. “There were all these opportunities and I just kept applying for them. There were also a lot of cases where I put in the effort but failed,” she says. “I just kept up my spirits and kept trying.”

Dr Fung, <fpoklam@yahoo.com>, is currently Junior Hospital Dental Officer in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the Prince Philip Dental Hospital.

Mental floss

By Dr Philip KM Lee (BDS 1986, MDS(OMFS) 2000), Specialist in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

A 60-year-old Chinese woman presented with a persistent asymptomatic swelling in her left palate (Fig 1). The maxillary left second molar was slightly mobile. A general dentist extracted the second molar and drained the swelling, which yielded a yellowish fluid. The swelling persisted without resolution and patient was referred to a specialist in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, who requested computed tomography scans (Figs. 2-4).

1. What are the differential diagnoses and how would you confirm your diagnosis?
2. What treatment approach should be recommended to the patient?
Gold standard

Dr Kyoko Hibino (MOrth 2009) was awarded full marks and the Gold Medal for Best Performance in the Membership Examination in Orthodontics of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, held in Hong Kong in November 2009.

Not only was she the first student from Hong Kong to get full marks, but also the first student in the history of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh to do so.

“I had a great time in the 3 years of studying at the HKU Faculty of Dentistry,” says Dr Hibino (pictured left). “My sincerest thanks go to everyone who helped me in the Faculty.”

Dr Hibino obtained her BDS degree from the University of Liverpool, UK, and then worked in Australia as a general dentist. “I always wanted to become an orthodontist,” she says. “Naturally, The University of Hong Kong was my top choice because of its outstanding reputation in teaching and research, as well as the Faculty of Dentistry’s unique international and multicultural atmosphere.” Dr Hibino is now working in a dental centre in Singapore.

Double happiness

Dr Derek Baram (BDS 2005) was awarded the Royal College of Surgeons of England JK Williams Gold Medal for attaining the highest mark in the Membership Examination in Orthodontics of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, held last year.

“I flew to England in November 2009 with my parents and fiancée for the presentation ceremony,” says Dr Baram. “It was a great honour for me, because this is a very prestigious award, and I was called up on stage with esteemed company including past presidents and professors who had also attained distinguished awards.” Afterwards, he used the opportunity to take pre-wedding photographs around London with his fiancée, Rosanne Wong, whom he married in December 2009 in Singapore.

Dr Baram worked after BDS graduation as a Junior Hospital Dental Officer in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the Prince Philip Dental Hospital. After graduating from the 3-year Master’s course in Orthodontics at The Eastman Dental Institute, London, UK, he returned to Hong Kong at the end of 2009 to work in private clinics and to pursue the part-time Advanced Diploma in Orthodontics course at the HKU Faculty of Dentistry.

Calling all alumni: Do please send your news, announcements, and updates to us for inclusion in future issues of Expressions and on the website of the HKU Dental Alumni Association, <http://facdent.hku.hk/hkudaa>, as well as any changes in your contact details, by e-mailing dentktu@hku.hk.

Update on BDS Alumni Class of 2008

Despite the global recession, BDS Class of 2008 enjoyed a 97.5% employment rate and relatively high monthly income, second only to Medicine graduates, according to the latest HKU Graduate Employment Survey (webpage: <www.hku.hk/cepc/leaflet2008/bachelor2008.html>). Figures in brackets are from the 2007 survey.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BDS Graduates</th>
<th>All HKU Graduates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Working by end of 2008</td>
<td>97.5% (100%)</td>
<td>80% (81%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not seeking full-time job</td>
<td>2.5% (0%)</td>
<td>1.3% (1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further studies</td>
<td>0% (0%)</td>
<td>18% (18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median basic monthly salary</td>
<td>HK$27,750 ($25,000)</td>
<td>HK$14,000 ($12,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median gross monthly salary</td>
<td>HK$29,000 ($25,000)</td>
<td>HK$14,583 ($13,000)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Students of promise

By Carrie Tse

The Class of 2013 Clinical Pledging Ceremony took place on 15 January 2010 with great excitement.

The ceremony, witnessed by families and friends of BDS Year 2, marked the commencement of the stage in the curriculum where students begin to provide care to public patients under the supervision of clinical tutors. The ceremony made us aware of the necessity to rise to the expectations of the Faculty and the dental profession in taking on the responsibilities of providing oral health care to patients.

Our new journey
The Dean of Dentistry, Prof Lakshman Samaranyake, began the ceremony by explaining the importance of the pledge, and the honour, responsibility, and incredible journey that lies ahead. The Guest of Honour, Dr TC Wong, Past President of the Hong Kong Dental Association and Treasurer of the World Dental Federation (FDI), emphasised that no matter where our paths lead, if we only look back to this pledge, we will be able to consistently reaffirm our purpose. We then took the pledge on stage and each received a clinical name badge as a souvenir of the occasion to wear with the official clinical uniform of the Prince Philip Dental Hospital.

BDS Clinical Induction Programme
Before the ceremony, our cohort took part in workshops that developed our skills in effective communication, professionalism, and ethical practices, and our ability to perform suitable patient management. Our Clinical Induction Programme solidified our ideas about the objectives of a competent dental practitioner. We thank the workshop organisers and speakers: Dr Zenobia Chan, Dr Cynthia Yiu, Prof WK Leung, Prof C McGrath, and Dr Susan Bridges.

Remembering our pledge
As BDS II students of the HKU Faculty of Dentistry, we appreciate that the Faculty and Hospital provide a very special opportunity as a learning centre for our future profession. This opportunity includes not only being a student, but also being a professional health care provider with the great responsibility of providing the highest quality care. Our pledge will remind us of our duty to treat our patients with compassion, confidentiality, and respect, and to help the community, while continually striving to further our knowledge in dentistry.

The Clinical Induction Programme and Clinical Pledging Ceremony were filled with great memories...

The Clinical Induction Programme and Clinical Pledging Ceremony were filled with great memories and important knowledge we will not forget. On behalf of the Class of 2013, I would like to thank all the participating BDS I, II, and V students, Faculty members, and administrative staff in the Organising Committee, chaired by Dr Bridges, for conducting and facilitating such a beneficial programme and meaningful ceremony.

Carrie Tse, <ctse01@hku.hk>, is a second-year BDS student at the HKU Faculty of Dentistry and is the Class of 2013 Class Representative.
Asia-Pacific comes to Hong Kong

By Jack Chao

About 50 dental students from the Asia-Pacific region squeezed into the HKU Faculty of Dentistry Board Room on 28 November 2009.

The occasion? We were eagerly awaiting the official Welcoming Speech to the Asia-Pacific Dental Students Association Mid-Year Meeting by the Dean of Dentistry, Prof Lakshman Samaranayake. Participants came from Malaysia, Taiwan, Indonesia, Japan, Thailand, Singapore, Korea, and Cambodia. We were also joined by the President of the International Association of Dental Students, Tomaz Spindler.

In fact, when the time came, the Welcoming Speech was very entertaining and seemed more like a problem-based learning (PBL) tutorial, with the Dean letting us all introduce ourselves first. I suddenly felt that my draft speech was poor. The Dean’s interaction was an ideal example to show our guests how PBL is conducted, and a real education for all present into how our Faculty runs its dental education. Everyone commented later that the welcome and introduction session was humorous and extremely enjoyable, and was the perfect start to the 3-day meeting.

Many thanks to the Dean: for the time donated, continuous support for student activities, and permission to use the Board Room. We apologise for making such a mess!

Team spirit in Tianjin

By Ian Anderson

In October 2009, the rowing crew of The University of Hong Kong left for Tianjin, China, to represent Hong Kong in an open rowing competition, following their selection after a race in Shatin.

Sponsored jointly by the Tianjin local government and The University of Hong Kong, and after months of training, our crew flew out with excitement pulsing through our veins.

We were eager to compete on the Mainland, especially as the regatta would be broadcast live on CCTV in China, and teams from China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan would be competing in the 1000-metre race. It had also been reported for a while that the crews representing Beijing would partly consist of Olympic athletes; and so the stage was set and the race was on! Our objective was simply to represent the HKU Faculty of Dentistry (as two of the eight HKU rowers were from the Faculty), as well as HKU, and of course Hong Kong, to the best of our ability.

The whole experience was like a dream. Some scenes I remember are a beautiful Tianjin airport, an excellent reception from the people of Tianjin, delicious food throughout our stay, and great crowds watching the race on the banks of the river.

Although we didn’t win the race as hoped, the experience was an eye-opener and it was a real pleasure to have had the opportunity to participate. I couldn’t have imagined that my short 3 years of study in Orthodontics would bring me the greatest professional fulfilment of my career, and let me row for the University in a national race (with Olympians). These memories will live with me forever. Thank you, HKU!

Dr Ian Anderson (top photo, 1st on L), is a third-year MOrth student and Chris YH Chan (bottom photo, 1st on L), is a fourth-year BDS student, both at the HKU Faculty of Dentistry.
Faculty’s first Endowed Professorship

The University of Hong Kong formally created and named the Tam Wah-Ching Professorship in Dental Science at a historical HKU Dedication Ceremony held in the Vice-Chancellor’s Lodge on 10 February 2010.

“We are very grateful to Dr Tam for establishing this Endowed Professorship, a first for our Faculty,” said Prof Lakshman Samaranayake. “I am deeply humbled to be the incumbent of the inaugural Endowed Professorship in Dental Science. It will enable the Faculty to conduct innovative research, training, and public education that will help elevate the state of dental health in Hong Kong and on the Mainland.”

Dr Tam is a well-known industrialist and philanthropist. “It gives me great pleasure to establish the Endowed Professorship at the Faculty of Dentistry,” he said. “It is my hope that this Professorship will further add to the strengths of the Faculty, and will train skilled, knowledgeable, and compassionate dental practitioners who will make valuable contributions to the community.”

Donors of HKU Faculty of Dentistry Prizes 2009:
- Oral-B Prize in Periodontology
- Oral-B Prize in Community Oral Health
- Hong Kong Dental Association Prize & Scholarships
- HKU Dental Alumni Association Prize
- HKU Dental Alumni Association Prize in General Dentistry
- HKU Dental Alumni Association Prize in Community Oral Health
- PPDH Board of Governors Prize
- Chan Kai Ming Prize
- Dr Wong Min Sam Prize in Paediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics
- Dental 85 Prize in Elective Studies
- Hong Kong Society for Sedation and Anaesthesia in Dentistry Prize
- Frank White Memorial Prize in Anatomy
- Ho Ping Kwan Prize in Oral Rehabilitation
- GlaxoSmithKline Prize in Periodontology
- GlaxoSmithKline Postgraduate Prize in Periodontology
- Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons Prize
- Ho Fook Prize
- Sports Scholarship
- Li Po Chun Scholarships
- John Swire Donor Scholarships
- Chater Memorial Scholarships
- To Wai-Ting Scholarship
- Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons Prize
- Ho Fook Prize
- Sports Scholarship
- Li Po Chun Scholarships
- John Swire Donor Scholarships
- Chater Memorial Scholarships
- To Wai-Ting Scholarship
- HSBC Scholarship for Mainland Students
- HSBC Hong Kong Scholarship
- Mary Sun Medical Scholarships
- Sir Edward Youde Memorial Scholarship
- HKU Foundation Entrance Scholarship
- HKU Foundation Scholarship for Outstanding Mainland Students
- HKU Foundation Scholarship
- Fearnhead Prize

Special Thanks
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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of these lists. We apologize for any errors or omissions.

Please continue to support Excellence at the HKU Faculty of Dentistry by giving generously at <www.hku.hk/giving>
Guide to wisdom teeth

♦ What are wisdom teeth?
♦ What wisdom tooth problems are there?
♦ How can wisdom tooth problems be treated?

What are wisdom teeth?
Wisdom teeth, or third molars, are the last teeth to appear, typically between the ages of 17 and 25 years. They are located at the two far ends of the upper and lower sets of teeth, making a total of four; one or more wisdom teeth are commonly missing.

Wisdom teeth sometimes do not emerge normally and instead grow slanted or horizontally (top photo), and they may only partially erupt or even remain buried, especially when there is not enough space in the mouth. They are then said to be impacted (trapped) and may cause further problems.

What wisdom tooth problems are there?
The following are some problems caused by impacted wisdom teeth:

- **Gum disease**: inflammation and infection when food particles and bacteria get trapped between the partially erupted wisdom tooth and the gum
- **Caries**: decay of the wisdom tooth or adjacent tooth, because it is difficult to clean between them to remove dental plaque; this may lead to cavities
- **Crowding**: adjacent teeth are pushed out of position by the wisdom tooth
- **Root resorption**: gradual disappearance of the root of the adjacent tooth owing to pressure from the wisdom tooth and inflammation in the surrounding tissue in response to dental plaque
- **Cyst**: region of fluid or soft matter, usually lined by a cell layer, around the impacted wisdom tooth (bottom photo); this may damage the jawbone

How can wisdom tooth problems be treated?
Visit your dentist regularly, and especially if you have any of the signs in the Box above. In general, your dentist will take an X-ray picture of your mouth to assess the problem and decide treatment options. Antibiotics may be prescribed for an infection. The wisdom tooth may need to be removed (extraction), under local or general anaesthesia.

Recent studies have investigated an alternative method to extraction, known as coronectomy, in which only the top part (crown) of the wisdom tooth is removed. This method leaves the root behind and significantly reduces the risk of nerve damage, but long-term follow-up studies are needed to see what happens to the remaining root.


Written by Trevor Lane, DPhil; edited by Lim K Cheung, PhD, FHKAM. This Patient Page is for general informational use and is not a substitute for diagnosis; for specific advice, please consult a dentist.
Real Science.  
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Worldwide Recognition.

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52% greater plaque reduction  
(versus brushing and flossing alone*)

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*Listerine 2004 JADA 155(19):1568-1573 (Compared to brushing and flossing with a non-fluoridated rinse)