There’s no deeper clean than LISTERINE®
among daily-use mouthrinses for biofilm penetration.

Compared with selected daily-use mouthrinses in a single 30-second treatment.

* Graphic for illustration only APM2011-088
Sharing our successes

By Lakshman Samaranayake, Dean

As our Faculty approaches its 30th anniversary in 2012, we end our 29th year on a high, and report on some recent successes in this issue of Expressions.

Our Faculty saw record numbers of award winners at two annual regional conferences, with seven staff and students receiving research prizes in October 2011 from the International Association for Dental Research South East Asia Division and the South East Asia Association for Dental Education (see page 5).

Six academic staff (25% of 24 applicants) were awarded research grants from the 2011-12 General Research Fund of the Hong Kong Research Grants Council (see page 12), and 75% of eligible staff (25/33) submitted grant applications as principal investigators in the 2012-13 round. Both these are record highs for our Faculty and thanks go to staff for their hard work and dedication to furthering dental knowledge and discovery.

In the area of knowledge exchange (KE), two staff and two student teams (in collaboration with Faculty staff mentors and external KE partners) secured grants from the 2011 HKU KE funding exercise for community health education projects. Several staff also received external KE grants (see page 12).

I would also like to congratulate Prof Nabil Samman for being appointed the Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (see page 14).

These achievements, and others mentioned in this issue, demonstrate that our Faculty is maintaining a high reputation worldwide and is approaching its vision of being the pre-eminent dental school in Asia. In turn, we are keen to share our successes, and this issue highlights some activities in which we have shared our knowledge and best practices in education, research, and health care with groups outside HKU (see pages 9-11).

We strive to continue improving and are truly grateful to our collaborators, advisers, and supporters for their time, energy, and devotion. We invite readers to give us feedback, and to leave comments on our Facebook page, at <www.facebook.com/facdent>.

Happy New Year and happy reading!
Will your salivary research take you to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil?

2012 Salivary Research Award

Develop a salivary research abstract & WIN a trip to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to attend the 2012 International Association for Dental Research General Session & Exhibition!

Submission Deadline:
February 2012

For more details, please visit www.iadr.org/SRGResearchAward
Faculty scoops awards in Singapore

One of the Faculty’s missions is to attain excellence in discovery, and this dual thirst for quality and new knowledge drives the scientific process, improves quality of life, and justifies the existence of research-led universities like HKU.

Research rewarded
As a clear indicator of quality and research excellence, Faculty students and staff won the lion’s (or merlion’s) share of available research prizes on 28-30 October 2011 in Singapore, at the 25th Annual Scientific Meeting of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) South East Asia Division, held in conjunction with the 22nd Annual Meeting of the South East Asia Association for Dental Education (SEAADE). Congratulations go to the following winners, supervisors, and research collaborators:

Ms Thanuja Herath (PhD student in Periodontology) won an IADR/Unilever Hatton Award (Senior Category, South East Asia Division) for her project “Novel pathogenic mechanism of heterogeneous Pg-LPS structures in periodontal disease”. Her supervisors are Prof LJ Jin and Dr Y Wang (HKU Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine), and her collaborators are Dr CJ Seneviratne, Prof R Darveau (USA), and Prof CY Wang (USA).

Mr Nic CH Leung (BDS IV student) won a Joseph Lister Award in Oral Disease Prevention for his project “Host-pathogen attributes of oral candidiasis in nasopharyngeal carcinoma patients”. His supervisors were Prof LP Samaranayake and Dr CJ Seneviratne, and his collaborators were HF Lee and SSW Wong.

Dr DJ Epasinghe (PhD student in Paediatric Dentistry) won a Best Paper Award in Dental Materials for her project “Incorporation of proanthocyanidin into dental adhesive on resin dentine bonding”. Her supervisors are Dr CKY Yiu, Prof N King, Dr M Burrow, and Prof FR Tay (USA).

Dr Chun-hung Chu (Clinical Associate Professor) won a Best Paper Award in Cariology and Mineralized Tissues for his project “Silver diamine fluoride on dentine infected with Streptococcus mutans and Lactobacillus acidophilus”. His collaborators were Dr M Lei, Dr CJ Seneviratne, and Prof ECM Lo.

Mr Angus CH Ho (BDS V student) won a Best Paper Award in Behavioural and Health Service Research for his project “Understanding, promoting oral health of Indonesian domestic helpers in Hong Kong”. His supervisor was Dr XL Gao, and his collaborators were CW Chan, SCC Kot, LY Kwok, WH Kwong, SL Mak, Z Ng, WT Sze-To, and YT Yu.

Dr Gloria HM Wong (Clinical Assistant Professor in Paediatric Dentistry) won a SEAADE Best Poster Presentation Award for her project “Attitude changes in problem-based learning between 1st and 2nd academic year in dental students”. Her collaborators were Dr YQ Yang, TM Lee, and Dr S Bridges.

Dr Susan Bridges (Assistant Professor in Dental Education and E-Learning) won an SEAADE Best Oral Presentation Award for her presentation titled “Qualitative research in dental education: An application of stimulated recall in focus groups”. Her collaborators were Dr JJW Chang and Dr CH Chu.

Regional recognition
A recent independent audit showed that from 2000 to 2009, the number of academic journal articles published by the HKU Faculty of Dentistry approached the total number published by all 10 dental faculties in the countries of ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations).

The counts were 867 for the Faculty, as captured by the Institute of Scientific Information Web of Science database, compared with 1247 for all ASEAN dental schools (J Invest Clin Dent 2011;2:72-80).

“This performance indicator is a testament to the world-class researchers that we recruit and nurture with our vibrant spirit of innovation and collaboration,” says Dean Samaranayake. “Of course, as we enter our 30th Anniversary year in 2012, we will continue to ensure that quality matches quantity.”
Faculty summer school 2011

Organised by a team led by Dr Chun-hung Chu, the programme introduced the Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) degree and dental career paths to 120 potential dental students, a quarter of whom were from overseas. After a welcome from Dean Lakshman Samaranayake, the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, Dr Cynthia KY Yiu, presented an outline of problem-based learning (PBL) at the Faculty. Participants then experienced their first dental PBL tutorial, led by current BDS students. Throughout the week, tours of various Faculty facilities in the Prince Philip Dental Hospital were given. Activities included polishing teeth in the Simulation Laboratory, taking dental X-rays of a dummy in the Oral Radiology Unit, and making tooth models in the Dental Technology Unit. Participants learnt about oral hygiene in the clinics of Periodontology and Public Health, observed dentists treating patients in the Reception and Primary Care Unit, and performed computer-simulated treatment for a deformed face in the clinics of Orthodontics and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Social events organised by BDS student leaders also let participants make friends and explore HKU life.

First BDS industry intern shares her experience

Candy Ma (BDS IV) reported on her month-long industry internship at Colgate-Palmolive, at the Faculty’s inaugural Industry Internship Experience-Sharing Session on 8 November 2011.

As Colgate-Palmolive’s undergraduate Academic Affairs Trainee, Candy assisted the international oral health care products company to strengthen its academic partnerships within the Greater Asia Division.

“I learnt more about oral health care products and met many people with different backgrounds,” said Candy. “I took part in two special projects and had the chance to visit a toothpaste plant in Huangpu, China, the Colgate-Palmolive office in Guangzhou Province, and clinics in Hong Kong.”

One of the two projects during the August internship was to write a case report about the use of professional fluoride therapy for new decay. The other was to evaluate Colgate-Palmolive’s Life Partners Programme—an advisory service for BDS V students, on running a clinical practice—which required questionnaire design and statistical analysis skills.

“Although dental students only have 1-month summer holidays, the rewards of doing this internship made the sacrifice of vacation time well worth it,” Candy told the audience at the 2011 Internship Experience-Sharing Session. “An industry internship is an invaluable experience: not only does it broaden horizons, but it also helps in mastering interpersonal skills in a business environment. I recommend this opportunity to all BDS students.”
World of gum diseases

Noting that oral diseases vary in prevalence and severity worldwide and pose a major health burden, the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) launched an initiative in 2009 to address global inequalities related to oral health. In particular, six task groups were formed to identify relevant key areas of research. For example, there are still many fundamental gaps in knowledge and understanding about gum (periodontal) health and disease.

The six-member IADR Periodontal Disease Task Group, which includes Prof Li-jian Jin and Prof Niklaus Lang from the HKU Faculty of Dentistry, has now identified 12 key research topics that aim to fill knowledge gaps about gum diseases. The projects in the proposed “research agenda” cover basic, translational, and applied research. The task group calls for coordinated international research efforts to undertake its suggested projects, in the hope that the burden from gum diseases “could be relieved significantly in the near future through effective global teamwork.”

Grape aid

Resveratrol, a chemical present in foods such as certain berries and grapes, and in red wine, can kill two types of bacteria implicated in gum disease, researchers from the HKU Faculty of Dentistry’s Discipline of Orthodontics have shown in a laboratory study.

Commercially available resveratrol was tested for in vitro activity against 12 bacteria and three fungi found in the mouth. The compound inhibited liquid cultures of the bacteria Actinobacillus actinomycetemcomitans and Porphyromonas gingivalis (minimum inhibitory concentrations of 1.28 mg/ml and 0.08 mg/ml, respectively), and completely killed both by 6 hours. However, the other microorganisms were not affected. After future research has been done on the killing mechanism and on bacteria living in the mouth, resveratrol could be developed into an alternative to antibiotics for gum disease, the researchers suggest.

Focus on fluoride

Two reviews performed by a team including Dr May CM Wong, Prof Edward CM Lo, and Dr Boyd WK Tsang from the HKU Faculty of Dentistry present the latest evidence on the use of topical fluoride products in children.

The available evidence supports current international guidelines of using toothpaste with “1000 ppm fluoride for younger children and up to 1500 ppm for older children”. For children younger than 6 years, the benefit of toothpaste use for caries prevention needs to be weighed against the risk of dental fluorosis (a developmental enamel defect). Furthermore, there was “weak, unreliable evidence” that starting the use of fluoridated toothpastes before the age of 1 year is associated with an elevated risk of fluorosis. The analysts urge for more studies on children’s toothpastes and recommend that studies of topical fluoride products use prospective, controlled designs, with long follow-up times to detect any cases of fluorosis.

Fungi fight back

By performing detailed laboratory tests, researchers from the HKU Faculty of Dentistry’s Discipline of Oral Biosciences have uncovered some of the mechanisms used by a major fungal pathogen, Candida glabrata, to develop drug resistance.

When challenged by the drug fluconazole at gradually increasing concentrations during 55 days, the fungus became resistant not only to that drug, but also to three related drugs (ketoconazole, itraconazole, and voriconazole). Compared with untreated fungi, drug-resistant samples accumulated genetic changes; altered their gene expression, cell behaviour, and colony size; and showed differences in the amounts of 98 proteins.

Genetic and gene expression changes lasted for more than a year in one resistant sample, prompting the authors to conclude that prolonged drug exposure “initiates the chance evolution of a new colonizing population with specific virulence traits”.

Link to Medline abstract


Link to Journal site


Link to Medline abstract

[Link to Medline abstract]
Pearls of Wisdom

From dentists to students…

Hong Kong dentists and dental professionals are invited to share their pearls of wisdom with BDS students during the Pearl Jubilee of the HKU Faculty of Dentistry.

Share practical tips on setting up or working in a clinic, experiences of life after graduation, reminiscences of student days, words of advice, …

To share your pearl of wisdom, e-mail 50 to 100 words with your full name, position, 2 highest degrees with years/institutions, telephone number, and a high-resolution portrait to <dentktu@hku.hk>.

Entries will be awarded a Faculty souvenir and will be compiled into a careers/educational resource for students only.

Closing date: 31 January 2012

Entries may be edited before publication. E-mail addresses and telephone numbers will not be shown or shared. Please e-mail the Knowledge Transfer Unit for enquiries: <dentktu@hku.hk>.

http://facdent.hku.hk
Training the trainers

HKU Faculty of Dentistry staff have recently hosted four delegations of visitors from around Asia, to share best educational, research, and administrative practices.

1. Dean Lakshman Samaranayake, together with Prof W Keung Leung, Dr Cynthia KY Yiu (Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education), and Dr Susan Bridges (Assistant Dean for Curriculum Development) hosted 12 members of the Faculty of Dentistry, Trisakti University, Indonesia, on 28 June 2011. “The delegation learnt all about our BDS degree curriculum, as well as curriculum development, design, administration, and assessment,” says Dean Samaranayake. “We always welcome such opportunities to share our best practices with other schools, while also learning from them.”

2. Dr Li-wu Zheng (Assistant Dean for Greater China Affairs) hosted 20 students and four staff from the Faculty of Medicine, Jiaotong University, Shanghai, China, on 11 August 2011. “The guests sampled first-hand the Faculty’s problem-based learning (PBL) and clinical teaching,” says Dr Zheng. “They also discussed a wide range of topics related to running and studying for the Faculty’s undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.”

3. On 21 November 2011, Dr Cynthia KY Yiu, Dr Michael Botelho (Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Education), Dr Susan Bridges, Prof Edward CM Lo, Faculty part-time teachers, and BDS I student representatives welcomed a delegation of nine teachers from the School of Stomatology, Kunming Medical University, China, including the school’s Dean, Prof Zhong-juan Ding. The guests participated in a 2-day PBL training programme designed by the Faculty, which included sessions titled “Introduction to PBL Facilitation”, “Problem Writing Workshop”, and “PBL Assessment Workshop”.

4. A high-level team from the Institute of Medicine, Suranaree University of Technology, Thailand, together with the Vice-President of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Thailand, Dr Krassanai Wannangsiamkul, came to the Faculty on a study visit on 21-22 November 2011. “The delegation learnt about best practices in running a dental school and dental hospital, and will relay their findings to their relevant working committee,” says Dean Samaranayake. “They reported that their aim is to add a new dental school to the existing medical, nursing, and pharmacological science schools at the Suranaree University of Technology. We wish their university all the best with this endeavour and are ready to offer further help when needed.”
Although the secondary school curriculum already covers some oral health topics, little emphasis is placed on the scientific basis of common oral diseases. Moreover, science classes are traditionally taught in a teacher-fronted, unidirectional way. These teaching gaps spurred a team at the HKU Faculty of Dentistry—renowned for its undergraduate dental curriculum that integrates problem-based learning (PBL)—to develop an all-day teachers’ workshop titled “Using dental examples for teaching science”. The workshops, held on 25 June and 2 July 2011, were attended by a total of 40 school teachers, as well as Mr Raymond WH Fong from the Science Education Section of the Education Bureau of the HKSAR Government.

From university to school
The Faculty team (Prof Edward Lo, Prof Li-jian Jin, Prof Lakshman Samaranayake, Dr Jayampath Seneviratne, Dr Xiaoli Gao, and Dr Susan Bridges) used their expertise in PBL to illustrate how real-life dental problems could form the basis of interesting, interactive science lessons. Hands-on laboratory sessions introduced the concepts of tooth decay and acid erosion through the guided discovery of microbes in participants’ own dental plaque, and the acidity of popular drinks, respectively. Staff then discussed the scientific basis of the laboratory observations, relating them to the disease processes of dental decay and gum disease. At the end of the workshop, the teachers received teaching materials designed for use in their own classes. For example, the practicals were made suitable for schools by using a safe, simple technique of cell staining to make bacteria visible under microscopes available in school laboratories.

Knowledge exchange
Questionnaire feedback showed that the participants regarded the Faculty workshop as “very innovative and interesting”. They also suggested that the workshop be repeated and modified to include secondary school students, who would directly benefit by building their knowledge of science concepts behind oral disease, while providing additional teacher-training.

“This pilot project was a resounding success,” says Dr Jayampath Seneviratne. “Given the teacher feedback, our team now hopes to establish more science workshops in the future, for both school teachers and students.” This Knowledge Exchange Impact Project was supported by the HKU Knowledge Exchange Fund 2010-11, granted by the HKSAR University Grants Committee to HKU.
Preschool-project team wins first Faculty Knowledge Exchange Award

A team of dentists led by Dr Chun-hung Chu, Clinical Associate Professor (pictured, front row far right), has received the first HKU Faculty of Dentistry Knowledge Exchange Award for running annual outreach clinics that provide dental check-ups for kindergarten children and oral health education for their teachers and parents.

Dr Chu accepted the Knowledge Exchange Award on behalf of his team (Prof Edward CM Lo, Dr Xiao-li Gao, Dr Alex MH Chau, Dr Ivy D Wu, Dr Emily M Jiang, and Dr Marcus HT Fung) at an HKU award ceremony on 7 September 2011. Their winning knowledge exchange project was called “Promoting oral health of Hong Kong preschool children through educating their parents and kindergarten teachers”.

Preventing tooth decay early
The inspiration for the project, Dr Chu told Expressions, was the estimation that nearly one half of young children in Hong Kong have tooth decay (caries)—one of the highest rates in the world—despite the fact that caries is preventable. Preschool children are worst affected. “Preschool children have no government dental health service and cannot brush their own teeth, so when they reach school age the decayed teeth have to be removed,” he said. “Since preschool age is an opportune time for care-givers to start good oral hygiene habits for their children, we decided to visit local kindergartens to ensure that parents, guardians, and teachers learn about children’s oral health.”

Power of knowledge
Dr Chu started the kindergarten roving clinic service in 2009, after successfully applying for a grant from the government’s Health Care and Promotion Fund. His team collaborated with the Hong Kong Christian Service and the Hong Kong Alliance Church to reach 3000 children, and their parents and teachers, in 14 kindergartens. He also transferred his knowledge from his PhD degree by using an effective method of caries treatment (application of fluoride varnish) in at-risk children. The team has subsequently reached more than 10,000 children in 100 kindergartens of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals and the Hong Kong Baptist Church. In addition, train-the-trainers courses have ensured that the kindergarten teachers themselves continue delivering oral health education. The Faculty’s Knowledge Transfer Unit assisted the project team by preparing leaflets on oral hygiene and tooth brushing. The scaled-up projects were sponsored by the SK Yee Medical Foundation and a “Bright Smiles, Bright Futures” oral health promotion grant from Colgate-Palmolive.

Long-term solutions
Dr Chu and his colleagues have also been gathering key data to understand the oral health of kindergarten children, with financial support from the government’s Health and Health Services Research Fund and the Research Grants Council General Research Fund. “We are very grateful to all our supporters, including kindergartens, non-governmental organisations, charities, industry, government, and last, but not least, the HKU Faculty of Dentistry,” Dr Chu added.

Curbing caries in kids
Two researchers from the Faculty’s Discipline of Paediatric Dentistry have urged Hong Kong dentists to step up efforts to prevent tooth decay in children.

Noting persistently high rates of tooth decay in Hong Kong children, especially in those younger than 5 years, Dr Cynthia KY Yiu and Prof Nigel King reviewed the published evidence on the usefulness of available caries-preventive methods. They reported their findings in the Hong Kong Dental Journal earlier this year, and included a set of tables to summarise the effectiveness of various approaches according to caries risk levels for 0- to 5-year-olds and for 6- to 12-year-olds (Hong Kong Dent J 2011;8:29-39).

The two researchers found insufficient evidence for caries prevention among children by the professional application of chlorhexidine varnish. In contrast, fluoride varnish and fissure sealants are effective, and their frequency of use depends on caries risk. The most important approaches, the report concludes, are “daily use of fluoride toothpaste, proper dietary control, and regular professional care.”
Recent achievements

In addition to the other achievements mentioned in this issue of Expressions, the following staff and students have recently gained awards or distinctions (the complete, up-to-date record can be found at the webpage: http://facdent.hku.hk/newsevents/detail/award.html).

Dr Chun-hung Chu (Clinical Associate Professor) has been awarded an HKU Knowledge Exchange (KE) Impact Project grant of HK$100,000 to conduct the project "Oral health promotion program in young children through an evidence-based primary prevention approach”; a research grant of HK$838,392 from the Health and Health Services Research Fund of the Food and Health Bureau of the HKSAR Government, for the project "Effectiveness of silver diamine fluoride in arresting dental caries in preschool children: a randomized clinical trial with different periodicity and concentration”; as well as an "Extra Teeth Loving Day Action Grant" of HK$60,000 from Wrigley Co (HK) Ltd to promote oral health among primary school children. He has also been admitted as a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons in the Special Field of Dental Public Health (FRACDS(DPH)), as one of the three inaugural fellows in this new specialty stream.

Dr Yan-qi Yang (Clinical Assistant Professor in Orthodontics) has been awarded a grant of HK$300,000 from the Health Care and Promotion Fund of the HKSAR Government, for the KE project “Terminating poor oral habits of preschool-aged children”.

Miss Shirley CC Kot (Project Leader, BDS V), team members Mr Chao Ji (BDS V), Mr Chun-hung Leung (BDS IV), Faculty Mentor Dr Jayampath Seneviratne, and KE Partner HK Federation of Youth Groups have been awarded an HKU Knowledge Exchange (KE) Impact Project grant of HK$85,000 to conduct the project “Enhancing science knowledge and skill of secondary school students using ‘dental sciences’ examples”.

Miss Candy KN Ma (Project Leader, BDS IV), BDS IV team members Miss Stephanie YT So, Mr Yau-sing Wong, Mr Alex PC Lee, Miss Chao Zhong, Faculty Mentor Dr Yan-qi Yang, and KE Partner Tsan Yuk Hospital have been awarded an HKU Student KE Project Grant of HK$20,000 for the project “Promotion of children’s oral health through knowledge-building among ante-natal women”.

Ms Thanuja DK Herath (PhD student, Periodontology) won the Outstanding Poster Presentation Award for her project “Systems biology unravels a novel pathogenic mechanism of heterogeneous Pg LPS lipid A structures in chronic periodontitis” at the 4th Hiroshima Conference on Education and Science in Dentistry, Japan, October 2011.

Dr Li-wu Zheng (Clinical Assistant Professor in Oral Medicine) was appointed to the Editorial Board of the Annals of Plastic Surgery, for the "Research" section of the journal, in August 2011.

Prof Nikolaus Lang (Clinical Professor in Implant Dentistry) was named one of the "HKU Scholars in the Top 1% of the world’s researchers in October 2011, based on Essential Science Indicators, which uses research publication indicators compiled by the ISI Web of Knowledge.

Staff moves

The Faculty bids a warm welcome to:
- Dr Winnie WS Choi, Clinical Assistant Professor in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
- Dr Mike YY Leung, Clinical Assistant Professor in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
- Dr Otto I.T.Lam, Clinical Assistant Professor in Oral Rehabilitation
- Dr Yingkei Lung, Postdoctoral Fellow in Dental Materials Science
- Ms Bella KL Wu, Secretary II
- Ms Yue-ling Wong, Secretary II
- Ms Joann YJ Zhao, Clerk II
- Ms Olivia LL Yue, Office Attendant

...And congratulations to:
- Prof Roger Zwahlen, who has been promoted to Clinical Professor in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
- Ms Sau-wan Cheng, who has been promoted to Executive Officer
- Ms Idy Chan, who has been appointed as Executive Officer

...And a fond farewell to:
- Prof Nigel King, Professor in Paediatric Dentistry
- Dr Danny CT Low, Clinical Assistant Professor in Endodontics
- Dr Martina Lulic, Visiting Assistant Professor in Oral Rehabilitation
- Dr Zac Morse, Principal Clinical Dental Instructor
- Ms Sandy Li, Senior Secretary
- Ms Cori Leung, Executive Officer
- Ms Sybil Kwan, Secretary I
- Ms Pamela PK Ng, Secretary II
- Mr Ho-ying Chan, Assistant Technical Manager
- Mr Chi-wai Man, Office Attendant
- Ms Melody WC Tang, Communications & Development Officer
“The way forward”

Faculty academic staff shared ideas for the future at a 1-day retreat themed “The way forward” at the Hong Kong Parkview on 18 November 2011. Discussion topics included the 6-year BDS curriculum slated for 2012, postgraduate programmes, knowledge exchange activities, management, human resources, and staff development.

Information Day 2011

About 1400 visitors attended the HKU Faculty of Dentistry on 29 and 30 October 2011, during the HKU Information Day for Undergraduate Admissions 2011.

On both days, the new 2012 BDS curriculum was introduced in an Admission Talk that was given by Dr Cynthia KY Yiu, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education. Because the university phase of Hong Kong’s 3-3-4 Curriculum Reform starts in 2012, the BDS degree curriculum will last both 5 years (for HKALE applicants) and 6 years (for HKDSE applicants), and then 6 years after 2012.

Increasing understanding

On behalf of the HKU Faculty of Dentistry, Dean Lakshman Samaranayake (pictured, left) signed a 5-year Memorandum of Understanding with Prof Jin-cai Zhang, President of the Guangdong Provincial Stomatological Hospital, Southern Medical University, Guangdong, China. The signing ceremony took place on 28 June 2011 during an official visit to the Faculty made by Prof Zhang and three colleagues from the Guangdong Provincial Stomatological Hospital.

During a visit to India, Dean Samaranayake also signed a 2-year Agreement for Academic Exchange and Co-operation with Dr R Suresh, Dean of the Faculty of Dental Sciences, Sri Ramachandra University, Chennai, on 24 June 2011. In addition, the Faculty entered into an academic agreement with the Institute of Medicine, Suranaree University of Technology, Thailand, on 22 November 2011 (see page 9).

Bracing for orthodontic cooperation in China

The University of Hong Kong has been instrumental in organising the First Chinese Orthodontic Collaboration Meeting, which took place in Shenzhen, China, on 26 June 2011. The event was initiated by Prof Urban Hägg (former Chair Professor of Orthodontics) and Dr Ricky WK Wong (Clinical Associate Professor in Orthodontics) from the HKU Faculty of Dentistry, in collaboration with orthodontic department heads of six dental schools in mainland China.

The Chinese Orthodontic Collaboration aims to establish a framework for cooperation between the various Chinese orthodontic units, and to help Chinese orthodontists become well known internationally. The framework will provide opportunities in all academic areas, including research, publication, teaching, and administration. “We hope to exchange strategies and best practices in education, research, and knowledge exchange in orthodontics,” says Dr Wong.

The Chinese Orthodontic Collaboration plans to convene once a year—next at the Chinese Orthodontic Society’s annual meeting in Beijing in October 2012.

Mainland meeting: Participating in this year’s Chinese Orthodontic Collaboration Meeting with Dr Ricky WK Wong and Prof Urban Hägg from HKU [fourth and fifth from left, respectively] were Prof Min-kui Fu and Prof Yan-heng Zhou from Peking University, Prof Zhi-he Zhao from Sichuan University, Prof Gang Shen from Shanghai Jiaotong University, Prof Yin Ding from The Fourth Military Medical University, Prof Hong He from Wuhan University, and Prof Jian-guo Wang from Nankai University.
Prof Nabil Samman named Editor-in-Chief of major international surgical journal

Prof Nabil Samman (Clinical Professor in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery) has been appointed as the next Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery starting in 2012. Expressions asked him about his editorship of one of the world’s leading peer-reviewed journals in the research and clinical practice of mouth, jaw, and facial surgery.

Congratulations on the new editorship. How did you get appointed and what are your duties as the Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery?
The Editor-in-Chief is appointed following a competitive international recruitment exercise by the Executive Committee of the International Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, which owns the International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

The Editor-in-Chief remains responsible to the association through its Board of Directors. My responsibilities will be to oversee the peer review and timely production of each monthly issue of the journal and its dissemination to members and subscribers, through the publisher, Elsevier.

Where is peer-reviewed research publishing heading?
Research journal publishing is moving to an era of open access and free dissemination through multiple, and an ever-increasing range of, publishing media and platforms. This will have a positive effect on the spread of knowledge and access to the latest information by all those who are interested.

However, it will also multiply the volume of material published and put a strain on the peer review process, which may undermine quality. Already, we see signs of this strain in the excessive demands on reviewers, in terms of both the volume of work assigned and the speed of the review process that is expected.

As the new editor of the International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, I will be wary of balancing timeliness and accessibility with reviewer burden, while maintaining the highest quality of the contents.

What qualities will you look for in manuscripts?
Originality, relevant research questions, robust methodology, clarity of results, and appropriate conclusions.

Do you have any tips for potential authors of your journal?
Honesty and integrity of research is paramount. Do not compromise global principles in research and publishing ethics for short-term perceived gains.

You were previously the Editor-in-Chief of the Asian Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. What’s the difference between the two journals?
There’s a distinction between international, regional, and local journals in any clinical discipline. Each of these journal categories has a role in knowledge transfer and has a somewhat different target readership.

The Asian Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery is a regional journal, and it continues to perform well for its target readership by bringing together articles of regional relevance that might otherwise be of less interest to a wider, more international readership.

On the other hand, the International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery has as one of its mandates to elevate the specialty’s profile through the dissemination of scientific contributions of members of the International Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, about the health care and well-being of patients worldwide. Another mandate is to act as a platform for articles of any source that would benefit our patients either directly in the form of clinical research articles, or indirectly as basic or applied research articles.

Building strong networks

Chairperson, Ernest CL Tang (BDS I) told Expressions: “The name of our committee is ‘Plexus’ (縴), meaning an intricate and interwoven combination of elements in a coherent structure. As members of this year’s Dental Society Executive Committee, we appreciate how members of our society are closely linked together like an extensive network. We hope to maintain and improve this strong bonding throughout the year. We also strive to further reach out and form an extensive ‘plexus’ within the dental profession, both locally and internationally.”

Executive Committee 2011-2012

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Public works

By Chun-wai Mak

The Dental Public Health Committee (DPHC) of the Dental Society, HKUSU, Session 2010-2011 has had a busy year out and about in Hong Kong, ending with a public health exhibition at a shopping centre in Tseung Kwan O, Kowloon.

Our committee has enjoyed organising different visits and exhibitions (see Table). Through display boards, oral hygiene demonstrations, games, talks, booklets, and check-ups provided by local dentists, we hope our public events have contributed to improving the oral health of Hong Kong.

Chun-wai Mak (BDS III) was Chairperson of the DPHC, Dental Society, HKUSU, Session 2010-2011.

DPHC Community Projects 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 Feb</td>
<td>Po Leung Kuk Ting Mau Kindergarten</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Feb</td>
<td>Po Leung Kuk Mrs Fong Wong Kam Chuen Kindergarten</td>
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<td>7-8 Mar</td>
<td>“No Delusion, No Regret” campaign, University Oral Health Exhibition</td>
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<td>at the Chinese University of Hong Kong; repeated 9-11 March 2011 at</td>
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<td>the main campus of The University of Hong Kong</td>
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<td>2 April</td>
<td>Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council Tung Chung Integrated Services</td>
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<td>Centre (in collaboration with the Health Committee, Medical Society,</td>
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<td>HKUSU)</td>
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<td>6-7 April</td>
<td>Carmel Pak U Secondary School</td>
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<td>13 April</td>
<td>Nursing Society of the Open University of Hong Kong</td>
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<td>10-12 June</td>
<td>Hong Kong Health Expo (in collaboration with Metro Broadcast</td>
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<td>Corporation Ltd, Hong Kong Society of Periodontology and Implant</td>
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<td>Dentistry (HKSPID), and the Hong Kong Dental Hygienists’ Association)</td>
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Notes from the UK and India

Three alumni have sent in news from overseas: Dr Polly PL Fung (BDS 2009), who is now studying for a postgraduate degree at University College London (UCL) in the UK, and Dr Anand Sajnani (MDS[PaediatrDent] 2009) and Dr Dipti Sajnani, née Nihalani (MDS[Perio] 2010), who got married when they returned to India after studying at the Faculty.

Dr Polly PL Fung

With full sponsorship from the Drs Richard Charles and Esther Yewpick Lee Charitable Foundation, Dr Fung has gained her Master of Science degree, with Distinction, in Oral Medicine at the UCL Eastman Dental Institute, UK.

After securing a UCL Grand Challenge Studentship, Dr Fung is staying on to study for a PhD in jawbone cell death associated with the drug bisphosphonate, under Prof Stephen Porter, Institute Director and Head of Oral Medicine. Dr Fung reports that in the clinic, she has seen some cases of rare diseases. “Every clinical session ends with a tutorial discussion with Prof Porter, which is an experience I find hugely rewarding,” she says.

In May 2011, Dr Fung received a bursary from the British Society for Oral Medicine to attend the society’s Sheffield meeting, during which she presented a case on idiopathic dysgeusia (altered sense of taste with no obvious cause), under Prof Porter’s supervision. She was also one of 10 postgraduates selected to receive a bursary from the UCL Graduate School to attend the Cheltenham Science Festival in June 2011, where she met Prof Lord Robert Winston, a famous UK scientist and television personality, who was promoting science to children.

Studying aside, Dr Fung is the Central Wing Representative and Postgraduate Social Convenor at UCL International Hall, and has been elected as the Green Champion at Eastman to help improve the university’s commitment to environmental protection. With this strong record, she was nominated as a finalist for the London Student of the Year Award 2011.

Dr Fung is mindful of her head start in dentistry. “I wish to express my gratitude to the staff of the HKU Faculty of Dentistry, for their teaching and support over the years,” she says. “I hope to return to Hong Kong soon to contribute to the profession again.”
Drs Anand and Dipti Sajnani

Dr Anand Sajnani is currently a Consultant Paedodontist to various private clinics and municipal hospitals in Mumbai, India, and also serves as a Medical Manager at a dental stem-cell bank. Dr Dipti Sajnani is working full-time at a private clinic and is a Consultant Periodontist at several clinics and hospitals across Mumbai.

Drs Dipti and Anand Sajnani studied for a Master of Dental Surgery in Periodontology and a Master of Dental Surgery in Paediatric Dentistry, respectively. “Anand and I are proud and privileged to be alumni of the HKU Faculty of Dentistry,” says Dr Dipti Sajnani.

“We spent the two most memorable years of our lives in Hong Kong,” she adds. “We are privileged to have gained sound knowledge in our specialties from experienced professors, whom we whole-heartedly thank. Stimulating discussions with our teachers and enthusiastic support from the Faculty made a significant impact on our lives. It was a pleasure to work in the cheerful atmosphere in the clinics, and we would like to express our appreciation to all dental surgery assistants for their indispensable help.”

The Sajnanis look forward to visiting Hong Kong soon and send their well-wishes for the Pearl Jubilee: “We congratulate the Faculty on its 30th anniversary and hope it may witness many more glorious years to come!”

Celebrating in style: Dr Dipti Sajnani (L) and Dr Anand Sajnani at their wedding in December 2010.

Happy 20th Birthday, Class of 1991!

Dr Stephen Leung (BDS 1991) writes:

With an ever-lingering memory of our BDS graduation back in 1991, the 20th Anniversary of HKU Dental Class ‘91 was successfully held on 23 October 2011 at the Hong Kong Jockey Club Happy Valley Clubhouse. A total of 50 classmates attended this special reunion.

The whole evening was full of laughter, cheers, and fun. We all enjoyed the delicious dinner and treasured catching up with each other’s news since our 10th anniversary reunion in 2001. We made sure to take lots of photos as keepsakes until the next anniversary landmark.

We are already looking forward to our Silver Jubilee in 2016!
Dr Michael SF Mui (BDS 2003), President of the HKU Dental Alumni Association (HKUDAA), writes:

HKU Faculty of Dentistry alumni have great potential in shaping our future generations of dentists, by passing on knowledge, sharing our student and career experiences, giving practical advice, offering internship opportunities, and acting as mentors before and after students graduate.

**Alumni-Faculty engagement**

Remembering that we were all BDS students once, the HKUDAA gives back to the Faculty by supporting BDS students throughout their programme.

At this year’s Welcoming Day (4 August 2011) of the Dental Orientation Programme, the Dental Society of the HKU Students’ Union invited me to introduce the HKUDAA to new students, while fellow alumnus Dr Chi-wai Wong (BDS 1989), introduced the students to the Hong Kong Dental Association as its Vice-President.

Other official HKUDAA visits to the Faculty include a talk at end of the BDS programme, in the form of a careers evening, and, of course, attendance at the Graduation and Awards Ceremony, where students finally transition into fully fledged dentists. At the ceremony, the HKUDAA is proud to present our sponsored prizes to two final-year students for quality patient care and to the student group for the best fourth-year community health project.

**Personal touch**

Our alumni have been mentoring BDS II students via the joint HKUDAA-Faculty Mentorship Programme 2011. Many thanks go to the alumni volunteers who have participated in the 2011 scheme. My own pair of mentees have been enthusiastic, and I have personally enjoyed the year mentoring and offering the students a taste of clinic and professional life. Alumni are most welcome to volunteer in the Mentorship Programme 2012 by e-mailing dentktu@hku.hk before 12 February 2012.

**Pearl Jubilee messages**

To celebrate the Faculty’s Pearl Jubilee, dentists are invited to offer Pearls of Wisdom to students before 31 January 2012 (see page 8). Or e-mail the Faculty, via dentktu@hku.hk, a jubilee congratulatory message (please include degrees/graduation years). Finally, all alumni are encouraged to take part in the Pearl Jubilee Celebrations and World Dental Forum II, 2-3 June 2012, Grand Hyatt Hotel, Wanchai (see page 8). For this event, alumni have a special discount rate that includes the Jubilee Gala Dinner. Let’s make the dinner our Alumni Homecoming evening. See you there!
Surgical quiz
By Dr Philip KM Lee (BDS 1986, MDS[OMFS] 2000), Specialist in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

A 56-year-old Chinese man complained of a swelling that had been slowly growing for several months in his anterior mandible. The swelling was largely asymptomatic except for increasing mobility of the lower incisors.

Clinical examination showed both buccal and lingual expansion of the lower anterior alveolus, from tooth 34 to tooth 45. The swelling was firm and not ulcerated (Fig 1). The orthopantogram showed an osteolytic lesion extending from 35 to 43 (Fig 2).

1. What are the differential diagnoses?
2. How would you reach a definitive diagnosis?
3. What are the surgical options for this patient?

Write expressions

The saying “less is more” is never more relevant than in today’s world of short attention spans and microblogs. How could the following (fictitious) story be revised?

Last Halloween, on 31 October, Mrs Wong gave herself quite a nasty scare and eventually learnt the hard lesson that appearances can be quite deceiving.

She had booked an advance dental appointment for her two young children, both of whom were sons and 5 years old in age, to visit the family dentist together at 12 pm noon. The reason for this action was due to the fact that she had previously noticed earlier in the daytime that each individual son had odd-smelling exhaled breath and had quickly shown the development of a skin rash that lay in close proximity to either his top lip or his bottom lip. The skin rashes were blotchy in appearance and rough in texture, and, moreover, they were also red in colour and round in general, overall shape. Each skin rash had a sum total surface area of a circle, estimated to span about 2.0 cm from edge to edge at the widest region.

With very light pressure, Mrs Wong had carefully dabbed each facial skin rash with a face-cloth that had been previously briefly dipped in moderate-temperature water in which she had mixed a small squeezed-out quantity of children’s fruit-flavoured toothpaste. But it was nevertheless her own personal view, as already related by her in her telephone conversation with the dentist’s on-duty receptionist, that the physical dimensions of each skin rash were still continuing to increase in size in all directions at rather a rapid rate and pace.

However, unbeknownst to their poor, panicked mother and as later explained by the boys at the said appointment in the dentist’s clinic, the two brothers had in actuality mutually applied one temporary, artificial, toy tattoo that resembled the appearance of a raspberry, and which was gradually dissolving and spreading outwards as a direct consequence of Mrs Wong’s unwise, make-do, improvised home therapy.

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