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Shaping Tomorrow's Dentistry

Leading Oral Healthcare through Innovation and Education

Right: Professor Lijian Jin leads the Faculty in advancing global oral health through innovation

The HKU Faculty of Dentistry is entering a new dynamic phase, marked by clearer strategic goals and focus, stronger team spirit and partnerships, and a broader global outlook and perspectives. It is a privilege to continue this exciting journey as the Dean after serving as Acting Dean since 1 July, 2024. The dedication of our staff, students, alumni, collaborators, partners, and friends has enabled the Faculty to secure once again second place globally in the latest QS World University Rankings by Subject (Dentistry), with a notable track record of rankings on the top 3 for ten years out of 12 years from 2015 to 2026. Yet, it strengthens our role as one of the global leaders in dental education, innovative research, knowledge exchange and professional service.

Currently, dentistry is being reshaped by artificial intelligence (AI), digital technologies, precision healthcare, and new service models and approaches. At HKU Faculty of Dentistry, we enthusiastically embrace these changes with a well-defined objective - to ensure that innovation and discovery lead to better, safer, and more equitable and cost-effective oral healthcare for the communities we serve.

Notably, our newly established Global Hub for Future Dentistry (GHFD) lays the cornerstone of our future development in innovative and translational research, and sets Faculty's long-term strategy and approaches to speeding up "bench-to-bedside" solutions for oral health, general wellbeing, better quality of life and

healthy aging. Launched at the Inauguration Ceremony of the Global University Innovation Network (GUIN) of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTP) in July 2025, and highlighted as one of the features of the HKU Innovation Week (Main Event) in October 2025; the GHFD was established in close partnership with HKSTP and the HKU Techno-Entrepreneurship Core (HKU-TEC). Designed as an innovative and multidisciplinary platform where scientific discovery, cutting-edge technology, and clinical needs converge, the GHFD aims to attract top talents, innovative teams and proactive companies from around the world to Hong Kong SAR, China.

The GHFD strengthens our research and innovation ecosystem and creates exciting opportunities for students, early-career researchers, and collaborators to participate in cutting-edge projects with promising potentials and real-world impacts. It represents a strategic and proactive investment in the future of the Faculty and the oral healthcare profession.

Innovation must be matched by education. As clinical practice evolves, oral healthcare professionals around the world require timely, high-quality and evidence-based learning and seek career advancement. To meet these increasing needs, we have also launched the Global Education Hub for Oral Healthcare Professionals (GEHOHP), another key focus of the Faculty's development.



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PROFESSOR LIJIAN JIN

DEAN'S MESSAGE



As clinical practice evolves, oral healthcare professionals around the world require timely, high-quality and evidence-based learning and seek career advancement. To meet these increasing needs, we have also launched the Global Education Hub for Oral Healthcare Professionals, another key focus of the Faculty's development.

PROFESSOR LIJIAN JIN

Above: GHFD aims to attract top talents, innovative teams and proactive companies from around the world to Hong Kong SAR, China

This GEHOHP serves as a central platform for delivering up-to-date scientific evidence, sharing the best practice and providing professional education to practitioners in Hong Kong and beyond. Building on this foundation, the Faculty significantly expands its Continuing Professional Development (CPD) offerings in the coming years. The close alignment between the GHFD and GEHOHP enables rapid translation of new knowledge and technologies into educational contents, while the valuable feedback from practitioners helps refine research directions and innovation priorities for the future.

Education remains the core of HKU Dentistry. Our Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) curriculum and postgraduate programmes are continually refined and updated to reflect and anticipate emerging trends in healthcare and society. A structured graduate internship programme and enhancements to the BDS curriculum reflect our strong commitment to nurturing future dentists who are clinically competent, ethically grounded, culturally sensitive, and system-aware with global perspectives and preventive healthcare mindset in line with WHO's action plan on oral health.

Our 6-year BDS curriculum emphasises leadership, critical and independent thinking, problem-solving skills, social responsibility and wellness. The extensive 4-year clinical exposure and hands-on practice, interprofessional teaching & learning, strong engagement with new technologies and international capstone experience (ICE) for all students will prepare our graduates to meet the demands of modern dentistry and contribute meaningfully and greatly to their communities.

As the only dental school in Hong Kong, the Faculty bears a unique responsibility for supporting oral health policy, professional standards, health promotion and community healthcare. Over the years, our links with the Health Bureau of the Hong Kong SAR Government, the Department of Health, Dental Council of Hong Kong, College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Dental Association, and the Prince Philip Dental Hospital have been further strengthened, and the collaborative teamwork is strongly committed to better serving our community and beyond.

Faculty representatives contribute actively to the Working Group on Oral Health and Dental Care, and the Oral Health Group established by the Hong Kong SAR Government Health Bureau, as well as the Special Care Dental Services Coordinating Committee established by the Department of Health, offering expert advice on long-term strategies, policies and priority areas. The Oral Health Survey 2021 highlights the persistent burden of dental caries (tooth decay) and periodontal (gum) diseases as well as the resultant socio-economic impacts, thereby reinforcing the great need for prevention-focused and community-wide proactive promotion and effective interventions.

Aligned with the WHO's global strategy and action plan on oral health, we strongly support preventive primary oral healthcare and recognition of the close link between oral and general health. Community outreach projects, charity-supported services, collaborations with non-governmental organisations, and targeted care for underprivileged and at-risk groups are integral to our mission and reflect our long-term

"Tomorrow's Dentistry Starts Today" is more than a motto; it is our guiding ethos. Through the GHFD, the GEHOHP, educational excellence, impactful research and innovation, and deep community engagement, HKU Faculty of Dentistry is laying the groundwork for the future in which good oral health is recognised as a fundamental part of overall well-being for all - "No Health Without Oral Health" (WHO 2024).

PROFESSOR LIJIAN JIN

commitment to equity and social responsibility. Recently, Faculty's community oral healthcare has been further strengthened via consolidating the staff team.

"Tomorrow's Dentistry Starts Today" is more than a motto; it is our guiding ethos. Through the GHFD, the GEHOHP, educational excellence, impactful research and innovation, and deep community engagement, HKU Faculty of Dentistry is laying the groundwork for the future in which good oral health is recognised as a fundamental part of overall well-being for all - "No Health Without Oral Health" (WHO 2024).

Together with our colleagues, students, alumni, partners, and friends around the world, we are shaping a brighter future for dentistry and oral healthcare professionals, and for the many lives at different ages they touch.

Professor Lijian Jin

Dean
Chair Professor of Periodontology
Modern Dental Group Professor in Clinical Dental Science
HKU Faculty of Dentistry



Cocreating the Future of Oral Health

HKU Dentistry Launches Global Hub for Future Dentistry

Global Hub for Future Dentistry is a flagship initiative that unites education, research, innovation and outreach under one forward looking vision



The Faculty of Dentistry launches the Global Hub for Future Dentistry, officiated by Mr Peter Wong (centre), Chairman of the HKU Council; Professor Xiang Zhang (fifth from right), President of HKU; and representatives of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation and HKU's Techno-Entrepreneurship Core

The Faculty of Dentistry at The University of Hong Kong has entered a new chapter with the launch of the Global Hub for Future Dentistry (GHFD), a flagship initiative that unites education, research, innovation and outreach under one forward looking vision. Building on the Faculty's longstanding position as one of the leading dental schools globally, the GHFD is designed to make HKU Dentistry a focal point where the future of oral healthcare is conceived, initiated, tested, and shared with the world.

"Dentistry is undergoing one of the most profound transformations in its history," said Dean of HKU Faculty of Dentistry, Professor Lijian Jin. "Digital technologies, artificial intelligence, data driven healthcare, demographic shifts and rising expectations for quality, equity and effectiveness are reshaping every aspect of what we do. The Global Hub for Future Dentistry is our strategic response. It is how we will organise our people and resources, ideas and partnerships to lead, rather than follow, these fundamental changes."

The GHFD is built around three interconnected pillars: future-ready education, future-shaping research and innovation, and future-global and community impacts. Rather than creating a separate unit, the Faculty has conceived the Hub as a crosscutting platform that infuses these themes into its existing strengths in education, research, knowledge exchange and clinical service. The GHFD supports the refined curricula and enhances students' learning experiences, catalyses interdisciplinary research, and fosters collaborations that extend from local communities to international networks.

Professor James Tsoi, Associate Professor in Dental Materials Science, serves as a Director of the GHFD, who has a longstanding interest in innovation and translation. For him, the term "hub" is no mere metaphor. "We deliberately chose the word 'hub' because we are not building another silo," he explained. "We are building an ecosystem. The GHFD is a place where clinicians, scientists, engineers, data specialists, public health experts, industry

We are building an ecosystem. The GHFD is a place where clinicians, scientists, engineers, data specialists, public health experts, industry partners and policymakers can meet around, share wisdoms and critical questions about the future of dentistry, and then work together to turn those questions into practical solutions.

PROFESSOR JAMES TSOI

partners and policymakers can meet around, share wisdoms and critical questions about the future of dentistry, and then work together to turn those questions into practical solutions."

A key purpose of the GHFD is to ensure that HKU's graduates are genuinely future ready. The Faculty recognises that tomorrow's oral health professionals must be more than technically competent; they must be comfortable with digital workflows, AI-assisted diagnostics and healthcare management, big data analytics, and interprofessional and individualised healthcare. Under the GHFD umbrella, the Faculty plans to embed these elements across undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. Students can encounter, for example, digital design and 3D printing, data supported decision-making, and

rising opportunities to take part in innovative projects, academic exchanges and global competitions that align with the Hub's themes.

"We want our students to feel that they are studying in the future, not merely catching up with it," said Professor Jin. "When they learn to use intraoral scanners and computer-aided workflows, when they reflect on the ethics of AI in diagnosis and healthcare management, when they work with peers from other disciplines on a community project, they are already living with the spirit of the GHFD. My expectation is that every student would be touched by this exciting transformation, regardless of the path they eventually take."

The GHFD is also a catalyst for research and innovation. HKU Dentistry has long enjoyed



1. Professor Dong Sun (third from right), the Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry of the HKSAR government, and Mr Albert Wong (third from left), former CEO of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation, and Professor Jin officiated at the Inauguration Ceremony of the Global University Innovation Network (GUIN) 2. Professor James Tsoi, Associate Professor in Dental Materials Science, is the Director of the GHFD

COVER STORY

Professor Jin meets with the working group of the GHFD



As one of the world-leading dental institutions, we are responsible to solutions that reach beyond our campus and the community beyond. Through the GHFD, we focus on how our work connects with global priorities and how we can serve as a strategic bridge between Hong Kong, China and the rest of the world.

PROFESSOR LIJIAN JIN

international recognition for its innovative work in areas such as oral microbiology, craniofacial biology, dental biomaterials, clinical sciences and global oral health. The Hub aims to amplify this impact by promoting more translational, cross disciplinary projects that move swiftly from laboratory discovery to clinical application and community benefit. Themes highlighted on the GHFD platform include smart and sustainable materials, minimally invasive and regenerative approaches, digital and AI-enhanced dentistry, and innovative models of care for ageing and vulnerable populations.

"The future of dental research is convergent," observed Professor Tsoi. "We will increasingly see dentists working hand in hand with doctors, engineers, computer scientists, data analysts and behavioural scientists. The GHFD provides a structure and culture that make this kind of collaborative teamwork more natural and effective. Success, for us, means not only high impact publications, but new clinical pathways, devices, digital tools and policy changes that improve people's lives."

Equally important is the GHFD's commitment to enhancing global and community impacts. HKU Dentistry has a strong tradition of community engagement and international collaboration, and the Hub is designed to connect these efforts more explicitly with global health agendas. By linking local initiatives with international partnerships of both dental and non-dental sectors, the GHFD aims to address pressing challenges such as oral health inequalities, the burden of noncommunicable diseases (MCDs), and the great need for resilient, sustainable healthcare systems.

"Oral health is a gateway to overall health and wellbeing," emphasised Professor Jin. "As one of the world-leading dental institutions, we are responsible to solutions that reach beyond our

campus and the community beyond. Through the GHFD, we focus on how our work connects with global priorities and how we can serve as a strategic bridge between Hong Kong, China and the rest of the world."

Looking ahead, the expectations riding on the GHFD are ambitious. Internally, Professor Jin hopes the Hub acts as a continuous driving force to encourage staff and students in revisiting their teaching and learning approaches, explore new research collaborative opportunities and critically think about Faculty's impact in broader, more integrated ways. Externally, he envisions HKU Dentistry becoming even more visible as one of the global leaders in reshaping the future of oral healthcare.

"Our expectation is that the Hub would challenge us in constructive ways," he reflected. "If in the coming ten years we are still teaching and practising in the same way as today, then we fail to fulfil our mission. I want our graduates to be well recognised not only as excellent clinicians, but as innovators, advocates and leaders in their communities and on the global stage. The GHFD is one of the key vehicles that empower us reach that goal."

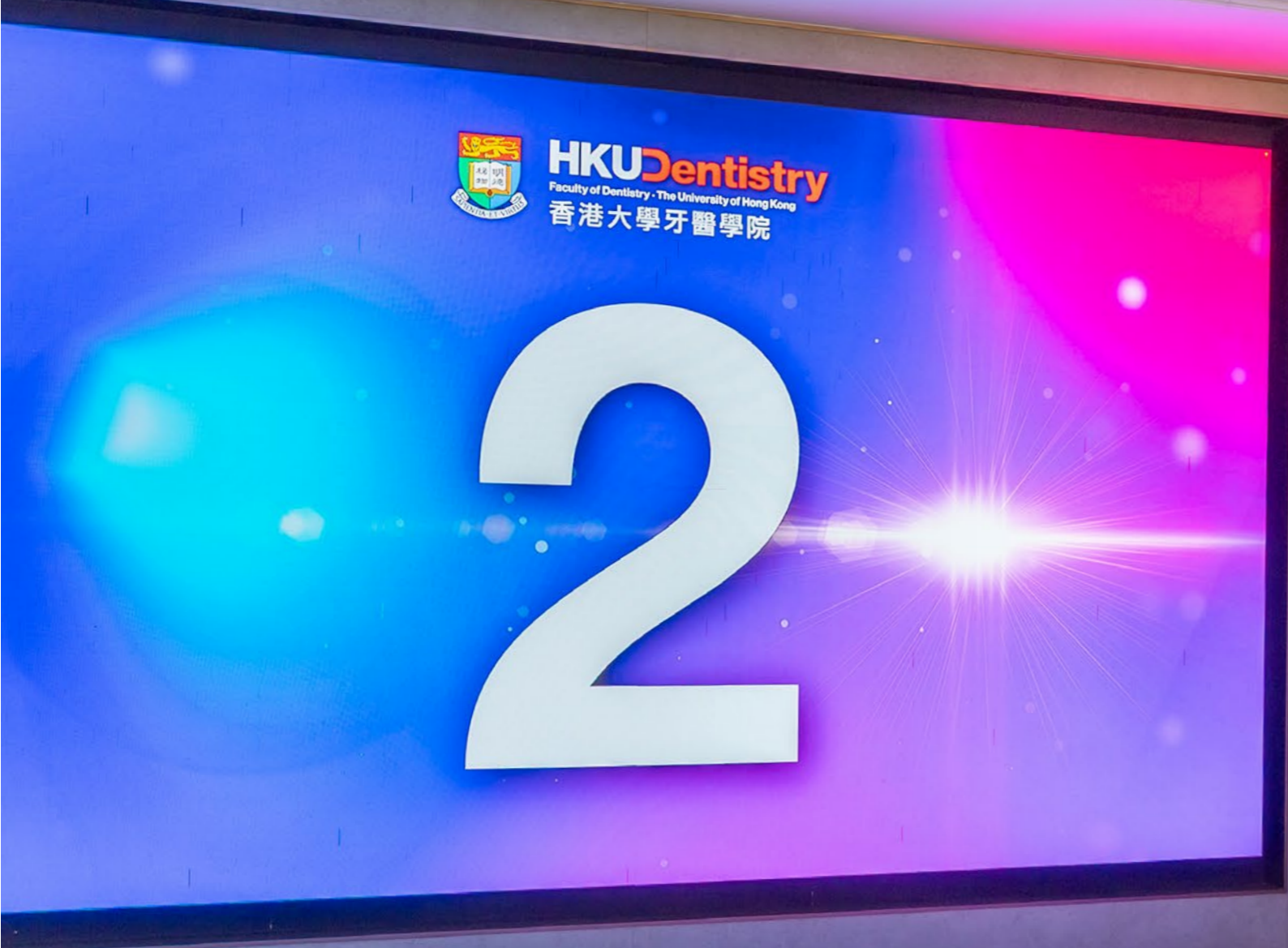
For Professor Tsoi, the success of the GHFD ultimately depends on the people who choose to engage with it. "A hub is only as vibrant as the community that uses it," he said. "We warmly welcome our students, colleagues, alumni and partners to appreciate the GHFD as their common platform where their most creative and forward thinking ideas can be nurtured, tested and shared. For the future of dentistry, there should be a sweet dreaming home in this Hub."

As the GHFD begins to take shape through seminars, pilot projects, strategic initiatives and collaborations, it sends a clear signal: HKU Dentistry is highly committed to shape, not simply adapting to, the future of oral healthcare. In doing so, the Faculty extends an open invitation to the Faculty's members, and the global talents and the partners to join in cocreating a future in which dentistry is more innovative, equitable and impactful than ever before.

Learn more of Global Hub for Future Dentistry, please visit: ghfd.facdent.hku.hk



Professor Stephanie Ma (third from left), Vice-President and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), and Professor Xiaobo Yin (right), Vice-President and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global) of HKU, officiate at the launch ceremony of the GHFD in Qianhai, Shenzhen, China



Celebrating Over A Decade of Global Excellence

HKU Dentistry Ranked World No.2 in QS Subject Rankings in 2026

HKU Faculty of Dentistry has once again re-affirmed its position as one of the global leaders by securing 2nd place in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026 (Dentistry). It further consolidates HKU Dentistry's international reputation and impacts.

This is not an isolated achievement, but a consistent tracked record of excellence. Over the past twelve years, the Faculty has been ranked among the world's top three dental schools in ten years (2015–2026). Such sustained performance highlights the Faculty's long-term commitment to high-impact research and discovery, innovative dental education, knowledge exchange and professional oral healthcare services to the community.

Professor Jin witnesses the exciting moment with all participants when the latest world ranking is released

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



We will continue to be dedicated to nurturing the next generation of dental professionals, researchers and entrepreneurs, working side by side with our esteemed stakeholders and collaborators to reshape the future of oral healthcare in Hong Kong and beyond.

PROFESSOR LIJIAN JIN

Above: The Faculty staff, students, alumni, stakeholders and distinguished guests celebrate the proud moment together

Professor Lijian Jin, Dean of the HKU Faculty of Dentistry, stated the ranking as a shared success. "It is a strong affirmation of over four-decade dedication of our faculty members, students and alumni," he said. "It represents our strong commitment to excellence in teaching, impactful research, knowledge exchange, and the delivery of high-quality oral healthcare. We will continue to be dedicated to nurturing the next generation of dental professionals, researchers and entrepreneurs, working side by side with our esteemed stakeholders and collaborators to reshape the future of oral healthcare in Hong Kong and beyond."

To mark this important milestone, the Faculty was proud to celebrate with the Faculty members, students, alumni, stakeholders and distinguished guests the notable achievement of being ranked 2nd in the world in the QS World University Rankings by Subject for the second consecutive

year on 25 March 2026. The occasion was not only a celebration of international recognition, but also appreciated the trust and support the Faculty has received from the government, HKU and the entire community over the years. The Faculty is deeply grateful for this consistent confidence and delightful encouragement.

On the occasion, Professor Jin also paid tribute to the Faculty's longstanding partners and collaborators, in particular the Prince Philip Dental Hospital (PPDH), emphasising the unity of purpose that underpins their relationship. "The Faculty and PPDH work together as one integrated family. Our achievements today would not be possible without the unwavering support of our collaborators. By strengthening our partnerships and building on our shared strengths, we are well positioned to reach new heights."

Looking ahead, HKU Dentistry remains firmly focused on growth, innovation and impact. Under a dynamic and encouraging academic environment, the Faculty is advancing new frontiers in dental education and research, supported by a strong cohort of young talents, emerging researchers and a global network of distinguished scholars. At the same time, it continues to respond proactively to evolving clinical and societal needs, locally, nationally and internationally. Through collaboration, innovation and a solid commitment to excellence, HKU Dentistry is poised not only to maintain its world-leading status, but also to reshape the future of oral healthcare, for better quality of life, health aging and long gerity in Hong Kong and around the world.



1. Professor Jin (seventh from right); Professor Lakshman Samaranayake (eighth from right), Past Dean of HKU Faculty of Dentistry; Dr Raymond Lee (fourth from left), Chairman of the Dental Council of Hong Kong; Professor WK Leung (second from left), President of the College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong; and Dr Kenny Lau (sixth from left), Chairman of the Board of Governors of PPDH take photo with colleagues 2. World No.2 is a strong affirmation of the dedication of our BDS students 3. From right: Dr Tin Chun Wong, Dr Eilly Lau and Dr May Ying Chung 4. Students are happy to participate in this joyful occasion 5. Professor Jin (centre) celebrates the joy moment with the Faculty members



Celebrating Knowledge and Compassion

Faculty Pays Tribute to Class of 2025 and Distinguished Awardees at 215th Congregation



The 215th Congregation Class of 2025, HKU Faculty of Dentistry

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



Above: The Faculty of Dentistry held the 215th Congregation cum Diploma & Prize Presentation Ceremony on 25 November 2025

The 215th Congregation cum Diploma & Prize Presentation Ceremony, held on 25 November 2025 at the Grand Hall of the Lee Shau Kee Lecture Centre, Centennial Campus of The University of Hong Kong, marked a proud milestone for the HKU Faculty of Dentistry, and celebrated the achievements of this year's graduating class.

Degrees and diplomas were conferred on graduates from across the Faculty's programmes in recognition of their successful completion of demanding academic studies, research work and intensive clinical training. Prizes and awards were also presented to students who excelled in academic performance, clinical skills, patient care, research and community service, reflecting the Faculty's commitment to nurturing well-rounded oral health professionals.

The ceremony was presided over by Professor Lijian Jin, Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry, in his first Congregation in this role. In his address, Professor Jin praised the graduates for their perseverance, resilience and adaptability throughout their years of study. He noted that their journeys had been shaped not only by lectures and laboratory work, but also by clinical practice and community service, where they cared for patients from diverse

backgrounds. Emphasising that true excellence in dentistry lies where knowledge meets compassion, he encouraged graduates to carry this spirit into every stage of their professional careers and expressed strong confidence that they would advance oral healthcare locally, nationally and globally.

Ms Kit Ying Sze, as a BDS student representative delivered a heartfelt valedictory speech, reflecting on the class's shared challenges and proud achievements. From pre-clinical labs and first patient encounters to tough examinations and late-night case discussions, the class had grown together in both skills and character. The graduand highlighted the importance of balancing precision with empathy, innovation with responsibility, and individual ambition with teamwork.

The Grand Hall was filled with joy and pride as families, friends, teachers and clinical supervisors gathered to celebrate with the cheerful graduates. As the Faculty bids farewell to this new generation of dentists, oral health professionals and the young researchers, it also welcomes them into the HKU Dentistry alumni family, ready to serve patients with knowledge, skills and compassion.



1. A graduate marks this proud moment on stage after receiving her degree
2. Professor Jin officially confers a degree on a graduand at the ceremony
3. Doctoral graduates enjoy the special moment at the ceremony
4. BDS Class of 2025 take the Hippocratic Oath
5. Ms Kit Ying Sze, representative of the BDS Class of 2025, delivers the valedictory speech



FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



6. Professor Mike Leung announces the names of graduates
 7. Dean's list recipients with Professor Jin
 8. Graduates celebrate the achievements at the ceremony
 9. Dr & Mrs John Yau (right & left) with the John Yau Scholarship recipient
 10. Graduates take photos together on stage
 11. A BDS graduate reflects with pride on her journey
 12. From left: Professor Daniel Yang, Professor Yuhui Li & Dr Guillaume Lintanf
 13. A BDS graduate shares his joyful moments with his family
 14. A BDS graduate marks her milestone with pride on stage
 15. Professor Chun Hung Chu (left) and Professor Ollie Yu (right) celebrate the special occasion with the PhD graduate



PRIZE PRESENTATION

Hong Kong Dental Association Continuing Education Prize

AWARDEE Pui Sun Lai
PRESENTER Dr Spencer Chan
President of Hong Kong Dental Association

Hong Kong Dental Association Continuing Education Prize

AWARDEE Chun Kit Mak
PRESENTER Dr Spencer Chan
President of Hong Kong Dental Association

Hong Kong Dental Association Continuing Education Prize

AWARDEE Ching Tsang
PRESENTER Dr Spencer Chan
President of Hong Kong Dental Association

The PPDH Board of Governors Prize

AWARDEE Wai Lam Chan
PRESENTER Dr Kenny Lau
Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Prince Philip Dental Hospital

The Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons Prize

AWARDEE Pui Sun Lai
PRESENTER Dr Suez Lam
Chair of the Hong Kong Regional Committee, The Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons

Gallant Ho Prize for Dental Students of the Year

AWARDEE Pui Sun Lai
PRESENTER Dr Rebecca Ho

John Yau Scholarship

AWARDEE Pui Sun Lai
PRESENTER Dr John Yau

16: Mr Chun Kit Mak receives the Hong Kong Dental Association Continuing Education Prize from Dr Spencer Chan
 17: Ms Ching Tsang receives the Hong Kong Dental Association Continuing Education Prize from Dr Spencer Chan
 18: Ms Wai Lam Chan receives the PPDH Board of Governors Prize from Dr Kenny Lau
 19: Mr Pui Sun Lai receives The Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons Prize from Dr Suez Lam
 20: Mr Pui Sun Lai receives Gallant Ho Prize for Dental Students of the Year from Dr Rebecca Ho





Happy graduation

Touching Lives with Life

Professor Phoebe Lam Honoured with Hong Kong Humanity Youth Power 2025 Award

When Clinical Assistant Professor Phoebe Pui Ying Lam stepped into a remote girls' orphanage in Togo, she did not expect her work to be described as "hope for the unseen." Yet it was there, in one of the most resource scarce corners of West Africa, that the spirit behind her latest accolade came into sharp focus.

Professor Lam, from the Faculty of Dentistry at The University of Hong Kong, has been named a recipient of the Hong Kong Humanity Youth Power 2025 award, established by the Hong Kong Red Cross to recognise young people under 35 who have shown sustained commitment to

humanitarian work. In recognition of the outreach service she has provided since 2012 when she was still an undergraduate dental student, this honour celebrates not only her dedicated service, but also her vision of oral healthcare as a vehicle for dignity, empowerment, and long-term refinement and accomplishment.

In 2023 and 2024, Professor Lam led teams of HKU dental students to Togo in West Africa and Tanzania in East Africa—regions where dental resources are scarce and unmet oral health needs are immense. The two countries share a lack of daily toothbrushing habits among many

Professor Phoebe Lam (right) has participated in the outreach service since 2012



Professor Lam has been named a recipient of the Hong Kong Humanity Youth Power 2025 award

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

If you want students to build a ship, motivate them to long for the endless sea. If I want the students to commit to service, I can't just tell them to be kind. I have to let them stand in places where suffering and resilience meet, so they can decide what kind of dentist – and what kind of person – they want to become.

PROFESSOR PHOEBE LAM

children, but differ in their “sweetness profile”, as she observes.

“In some parts of Togo, families are so poor they may not even have money to buy sweets,” she explains. “Tooth decay there is less severe than that in Tanzania, where the economy has improved and people sometimes celebrate with sugary treats. But in both places, children are growing up without the good habit of brushing their teeth morning and night.”

Her teams provided essential oral healthcare and treatment—often simple extractions and relief of pain—but Professor Lam insists that proactive

education is even more important. Students created their own teaching materials to demonstrate proper brushing techniques and explain basic oral healthcare. In Tanzania, they also addressed the widespread use of chewing sticks.

“Many people there clean their teeth with tree branches,” she says. “Over time, this can cause serious tooth wear. We didn't just correct the brushing technique—also tried to enrich their oral healthcare knowledge. Where possible, we distributed toothbrushes donated by Hong Kong companies to children who had never owned one.”

The work in Togo's remote girls' orphanages left a deep mark on her humanitarian path. She recalls an orphanage director, moved to tears, so grateful to the team: “She told us, ‘We are the poorest of the poor. Even the rich families here may not get this kind of oral healthcare service, yet you chose to take a long way to take care of us.’ In that moment, I felt the spotlight that shines when lives are interwoven.”

Professor Lam's humanitarian path is closely tied to her identity as a young educator. Now a Clinical Assistant Professor in Paediatric Dentistry, she once struggled as a student with the feeling that her manual skills lagged behind her research strengths. A CEDARS councillor's encouragement—recognising her empathy for



1. Professor Lam leads teams of HKU dental students to provide outreach service 2. BDS students create their own teaching materials to demonstrate proper brushing techniques and explain basic oral health



3. The outreach service team promotes basic oral health awareness, highlighting that education is even more important
4. Professor Lam leads her team to provide essential treatment to children in Africa
5. The outreach team provides dental checkups to the people in need

patients—helped her see that dentistry is far more than technical perfection.

That insight now shapes how she teaches. She deliberately builds space into overseas trips for students to connect with local communities, listen to stories and question their own assumptions about health and inequality. Some have returned to Hong Kong and determined to pursue public health or dental policy, hoping to tackle systemic barriers rather than individual cases alone.

“If you want students to build a ship, motivate them to long for the endless sea,” she says. “If I want the students to commit to service, I can't just tell them to be kind. I have to let them stand in places where suffering and resilience meet, so they can decide what kind of dentist – and what kind of person – they want to become.”

For Professor Lam, the Humanity Award is less a personal milestone than a reflection of HKU Dentistry's core values: a lifelong commitment to global oral health equity, hands-on humanitarian engagement and values-driven education.

“This award belongs to my past teachers, mentors, students, colleagues, and the communities that welcomed us,” she reflects. “Dentistry can relieve pain in a single appointment—but it can also plant seeds of hope that last far beyond the clinic. That is the kind of impact I hope we will continue to make through good teamwork.”

To learn more about the award, please watch the video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5ByOMVDJv0



General Research Fund

Driving innovative research through multidisciplinary teamwork

The Faculty of Dentistry is delighted to share that we have achieved outstanding success in the Research Grants Council (RGC)'s 2025/26 General Research Fund (GRF) exercise. A total of ten academic staff members have been awarded GRF grants this year, with individual project funding ranging from HKD 0.78 million to HKD 1.38 million.

These remarkable results underscore the Faculty's research excellence and the exceptional academic calibre of our staff. They also highlight our sustained commitment to advancing impactful, high-quality research that addresses critical needs in dentistry, oral health, and related biomedical sciences.

The funded projects span a broad spectrum of basic, translational and clinical research, reflecting the rich diversity of expertise within the Faculty. From improving patient care and treatment outcomes to exploring emerging technologies and novel biological mechanisms, these projects help drive innovation and strengthen our contribution to the global dental research community. With this substantial support, our researchers are well-positioned to deepen their investigations, explore new frontiers of science and technology, and translate discoveries into better healthcare for the community.

In addition to the GRF success, the Faculty is proud to announce that Professor Zhou Ye, Assistant Professor in Biofunctional Materials, has been honoured with the RGC's prestigious Early Career Scheme (ECS). This recognition not only affirms Professor Zhou's promising trajectory as an emerging researcher, but also reflects the strong nurturing environment for young academics within the Faculty. The Faculty warmly congratulates all GRF and ECS awardees on their outstanding achievements. Their success is a testament to the strength, ambition, and collective dedication of our academic community in advancing research, education, and oral healthcare for society.



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
Professor Chun Hung Chu
Chair Professor of Family Dentistry

PROJECT TITLE
Randomised clinical trial to prevent early childhood caries using silver diamine fluoride gel



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
Professor Yu Deng
Assistant Professor in Molecular Microbiology

PROJECT TITLE
Examining the role of prophage and plasmid mobilome for strain variation in phage resistance among antibiotic-resistant bacteria



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
Professor Mike Leung
Clinical Professor in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

PROJECT TITLE
Surgical accuracy of generative-designed patient-specific implants (PSIs) versus manual-designed PSIs for orthognathic surgery: a randomized clinical trial



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
Professor Wei Qiao
Clinical Assistant Professor in Restorative Dental Sciences (Cariology)

PROJECT TITLE
Peri-implant macrophage signals nociceptive nerves to promote osseointegration through PGE2-EP4 signaling



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
Professor Zhiyi Shan
Clinical Assistant Professor in Orthodontics

PROJECT TITLE
Deciphering the Effects of Photobiomodulation Therapy (PBM) on Periodontitis Using a Micro-Physiological System

EARLY CAREER SCHEME



PRINCIPAL APPLICANT
Professor Zhou Ye
Assistant Professor in Biofunctional Materials

PROJECT TITLE
Development of Smart ROS-responsive Antimicrobial Peptide Coatings for Controlled Bacterial Eradication and ROS Cleavage to Prevent Peri-Implantitis



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
Professor Kuo Feng Hung
Assistant Professor in Applied Oral Sciences & Community Dental Care

PROJECT TITLE
Development of an interpretable prediction tool for orthodontically-induced external root resorption using high-dimensional image features and risk factors



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
Professor Katherine Leung
Clinical Associate Professor in Prosthodontics

PROJECT TITLE
Dentine hypersensitivity treatment using strontium-doped bioactive glass-ceramic-filled dentine adhesive: a randomized double-blind controlled clinical trial



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
Professor James Tsoi
Associate Professor in Dental Materials Science

PROJECT TITLE
Design and develop a physics-informed neural network for dental prostheses design



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
Dr Iris Yin
Research Assistant Professor

PROJECT TITLE
A smart pH-responsive silver nanotherapeutic agent for arresting dental caries



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
Professor Chengfei Zhang
Clinical Professor in Endodontics

PROJECT TITLE
Unravelling the single-cell developmental atlas during degradation of the dental lamina: implications for whole-tooth regeneration in diphyodont species

Health & Medical Research Fund

Advancing oral health through clinical and translational research

The Faculty is proud to announce that Professor Jane Pu, Clinical Assistant Professor in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery; Professor Daniel Yang, Clinical Assistant Professor in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery; Professor Zhou Ye, Assistant Professor in Biofunctional Materials; and Professor Xuan Li, Assistant Professor in Tissue Engineering and Regeneration, have been awarded the Health and Medical Research Fund (HMRF) by the Health Bureau.



PRINCIPAL APPLICANT

Professor Jane Pu

Clinical Assistant Professor in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

PROJECT TITLE

Validation of an artificial intelligence-enabled skin perforator segmentation tool in computer-assisted osteocutaneous fibula free flap harvest: a clinical trial

This achievement reflects the Faculty's strong commitment to advancing scientific knowledge, improving clinical treatment outcomes, and enhancing healthcare delivery in dentistry. With the support of the HMRF, our researchers enable to deepen their investigations, strengthen clinical and translational research work, and generate scientific evidence that informs best practices for patient management.



PRINCIPAL APPLICANT

Professor Zhou Ye

Assistant Professor in Biofunctional Materials

PROJECT TITLE

3D-printed mouthguard with probiotic-encapsulated hydrogel as an adjuvant to periodontal treatment

These funded projects draw on the complementary strengths of clinical expertise, AI dentistry, biomaterials research, and tissue engineering, with the overarching goal of improving diagnosis, treatment, and long-term oral health outcomes. Through innovative research and the closer integration of science and clinical practice, these projects will contribute to better patient care and support the continued development of high-quality, evidence-based dentistry.



PRINCIPAL APPLICANT

Professor Daniel Yang

Clinical Assistant Professor in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

PROJECT TITLE

Smart distraction: AI-assisted optimization of trans-suture distraction osteogenesis (TSDO) for maxillary hypoplasia in cleft adolescents

The Faculty warmly congratulates Professor Pu, Professor Yang, Professor Zhou, and Professor Li on their innovative work. The success underscores our collective dedication to building research capacity, fostering clinical excellence, and delivering tangible benefits to patients and the wider community.



PRINCIPAL APPLICANT

Professor Xuan Li

Assistant Professor in Tissue Engineering and Regeneration

PROJECT TITLE

Nano-immunoantibiotics: multi-targeted therapy for periodontal disease by eradicating pathogen persisters, neutralizing virulence, and suppressing pyroptosis/NF- κ B-induced inflammation



Simply brushing with toothpaste is not enough

Colgate Gel·Kam
Your at home fluoride treatment



Designed for patients with
High cavities potential | Tooth hypersensitivity



RECOGNITION & AWARDS

The academic excellence of the Faculty was highlighted once again at the 2025 General Session of the International Association for Dental, Oral & Craniofacial Research (IADR). This annual global event in dental research and innovation, held from 25 to 28 June of 2025 in Barcelona, Spain, brought together prominent scholars, leading researchers, well-recognized clinicians and young talents from around the world. The Faculty continued to be strongly engaged in this meaningful conference, and made notable contributions via participating in various activities. Our staff and students received

multiple prestigious awards and fellowships in recognition of their scientific achievements and pioneering work. In addition, several colleagues were elected to leadership positions within IADR's scientific groups and networks, further showcasing the Faculty's global standing and impact for shaping the future direction of dental, oral, and craniofacial research. The Faculty extends its sincere congratulations to all awardees and elected colleagues for their distinguished accomplishments and solid commitment to advancing scientific knowledge and improving oral healthcare globally.

Research Excellence on the Global Stage

Faculty Members and Students Recognised with Prestigious IADR Honours



Professor Jin (third from left) and Professor Chengfei Zhang (right) share the joyful moment with collaborators around the world

The Faculty showcased the achievements made, promoted its innovative educational/research programmes, and offered career development opportunities, via setting up a well-attended booth during the meeting. Notably, the Faculty was also honoured to host a sizable Reception at the headquarters hotel of the meeting in Barcelona. Dean Jin warmly welcomed guests from over 110 institutions, including IADR leaders, distinguished scientists, leading researchers and experts, collaborators and proud alumni from around the world, for sharing the happy time. Yet, the event provided a valuable platform for professional exchange, reconnection and networking, and strengthening academic and research partnerships in the international dental community.

The Faculty is grateful for the recognition and support received at the IADR 2025, and for the continued confidence placed in its innovative work by the global community. Building on this momentum, the Faculty continues to enhance international collaborations and foster innovation for the benefits of patients and societies worldwide.

Looking ahead, the Faculty remains highly committed to advancing the frontiers of oral and craniofacial research, nurturing the next generation of dental scientists, and contributing to reshaping future oral healthcare services.



1. IADR provides a valuable platform for professional exchange
2. Professor Angeline Lee (left) connects with the guest at the Faculty booth
3. Professor James Tsoi (right) and his student capture a memorable moment in front of the student's poster presentation
4. Professor Edward Lo (centre) and Professor May Wong (second from right) engage with collaborators in IADR
5. Faculty booth in IADR

RECOGNITION & AWARDS



6. The Faculty of Dentistry hosts a Reception in Barcelona to welcome hundreds of guests 7. Professor Jin delivers welcoming remarks at the Reception
8. Professor Michael Botelho (centre) enjoys the connection with students and the international dental community 9. Professor Jin (second from the left) and the Faculty staff share the joyful moment with Professor Satoshi Imazato (centre), the President of the IADR 2024-2025



From left: Professor Waruna Dissanayaka, Ms Cicely Chau, Ms Minji Kwon and Ms Sophie Fong

In parallel with these achievements, our undergraduate student researchers have also attained remarkable success at the regional level. The Faculty congratulates the Undergraduate Student Research Team of HKU Dentistry, led by Professor Waruna Dissanayaka, Assistant Dean (Electives & Experiential Learning), including four BDS VI students – Ms Cicely Chau, Ms Minji Kwon, Ms Sophie Fong and Ms Hannah Ng. The team secured first place in the prestigious IADR Southeast Asian (SEA) Division Hatton Competition (Junior Category) at the IADR-Asia Pacific Regional (APR) Meeting in New Delhi, India, held from 18 to 22 September 2025. This outstanding performance qualifies them to compete against winners from all IADR divisions at the IADR Hatton Competition during the 2026 IADR General Session in San Diego, USA. The Faculty wishes the team every success in the future endeavour.

List of Awards and Fellowships

IADR Cariology Research Group Science Award

Professor Chun Hung Chu

Chair Professor of Family Dentistry

IADR Innovation in Oral Care Awards & Finalist of the 2025 IADR Joseph Lister Award for New Investigators Competition

Professor Ollie Yu

Clinical Assistant Professor in Cariology

IADR STAR Network Fellowship

Professor Yifan Lin

Clinical Assistant Professor in Orthodontics

Finalist of the 2025 IADR Joseph Lister Award for New Investigators Competition

Professor Shi Huang

Assistant Professor in Microbiology

IADR Pediatric Oral Health Research Group Faculty Award

Dr Faith Zheng

Clinical Practitioner

IADR Digital Dentistry Research Network Student Research Award

Zhaoting Ling

PhD student

A finalist for the 2025 IADR Growth and Development Research Award

Zhuoying Li

PhD student

IADR Prosthodontics Research Group – The Neal Garrett Clinical Research Prize

Xuedong Bai

PhD student

IADR Colgate Research in Prevention Travel Award

Shenyan Yang

PhD student

IADR Colgate Research in Prevention Travel Award

Wener Chen

PhD student

IADR Cariology Research Group Student Research Award

Shizhen Zhang

PhD student

IADR GORG Post-Doctoral Award (First Prize)

Xiaowei Zhao

PhD student

IADR Scientific Groups & Networks Positions

President, IADR Dental Materials Group

Professor James Tsoi

Associate Professor in Dental Materials Science

Vice President, IADR Digital Dentistry Research Network

Professor Walter Lam

Clinical Associate Professor in Prosthodontics

Recognition from Worldwide

21 Faculty Members Named Among World's Top 2% Scientists

The HKU Faculty of Dentistry has once again affirmed its international recognition and impacts, with 21 currently serving full-time faculty members listed among the world's top 2% of scientists released by Stanford University for 2025. It reflects the depth and breadth of research excellence within the Faculty. Each of the 21 scholars has made substantial contributions to their

respective academic fields, ranging from basic and translational science to clinical innovation and public healthcare, helping to reshape how oral diseases are better understood, proactively prevented, and precisely and effectively treated.

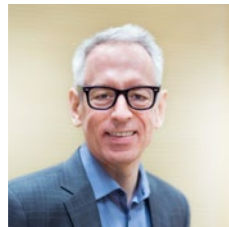
Being named among the world's top 2% is more than a measure of citation impact. It

signifies sustained influence, rigorous inquiry, and a long-term commitment to advancing scientific knowledge and technology that benefit patients, practitioners, and policymakers alike. From pioneering new diagnostic tools to driving evidence-based healthcare and informing health policy, the work of these researchers reaches far beyond the laboratory and/or clinic.

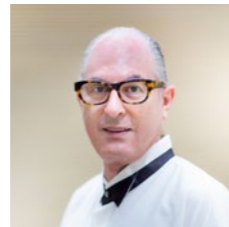
Their achievements also underscore the Faculty's role as one of the global leaders in dental education, research and innovation and knowledge exchange. They enrich the learning environment for students at all levels, potentially bringing cutting-edge discoveries into the classroom and clinic, and inspiring the next

generation of clinicians and scientists to push boundaries and ask challenging and forward-looking questions.

This milestone is a collective success for the Faculty of Dentistry, reflecting not only the accomplishments of individual scholars, but also a strong research culture built on power horse with strong confidence, innovative mindsets, collaborative teamwork, and targeted impacts. We extend our warmest congratulations to all 21 faculty members for the prestigious honor. Their dedication continues to shape the future of dental science and education, and advance oral healthcare and well-being in Hong Kong and beyond.



Professor Michael Botelho
Clinical Professor in Prosthodontics



Professor Michael Burrow
Clinical Professor in Prosthodontics



Professor Chun Hung Chu
Chair Professor of Family Dentistry



Professor Edward Lo
Chair Professor of Dental Public Health



Professor Colman McGrath
Clinical Professor in Dental Public Health



Professor Edmond Pow
Clinical Associate Professor in Prosthodontics



Professor Richard Su
Clinical Professor in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery



Professor Kuo Feng Hung
Assistant Professor in Applied Oral Sciences & Community Dental Care



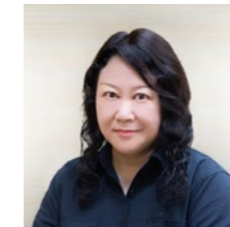
Professor Lijian Jin
Dean of HKU Faculty of Dentistry



Professor Walter Lam
Clinical Associate Professor in Prosthodontics



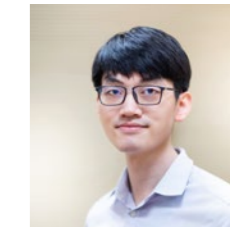
Professor James Tsoi
Associate Professor in Dental Materials Science



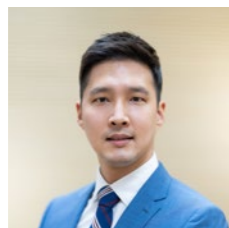
Professor Gloria Wong
Clinical Professor in Paediatric Dentistry



Professor May Wong
Professor in Dental Public Health



Dr Andy Yeung
Tutor in Radiography



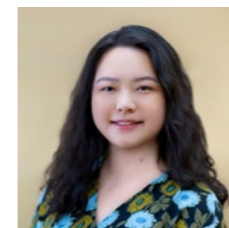
Professor Sang Jin Lee
Assistant Professor in Biofunctional Materials



Professor Wai Keung Leung
Clinical Professor in Periodontology



Professor Mike Leung
Clinical Professor in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery



Dr Iris Yin
Research Assistant Professor



Professor Cynthia Yiu
Chair Professor of Paediatric Dentistry



Professor Ollie Yu
Clinical Assistant Professor in Restorative Dental Sciences (Cariology)



Professor Chengfei Zhang
Clinical Professor in Endodontics

Outstanding Early Researchers

Celebrating Faculty Excellence in Research and Scholarly Achievement



From left:
Professor Jane Pu
& Professor Tong
Wah Lim

The Faculty is proud to celebrate notable research achievements by its academic staff, reflecting a strong commitment to advancing scientific knowledge, strengthening clinical practice, and nurturing the future academic/professional leaders in dentistry.

Among these achievements, Professor Jane Pu, Clinical Assistant Professor in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, has been honoured with the HKU Foundation Publication Award for Research Postgraduate Students 2024 at the HKU Research Postgraduate Symposium *cum* Award Presentation Ceremony. This prestigious accolade recognises her outstanding scholarly achievements, dedication to academic excellence, and commitment to advancing the field of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, through high-impact research and discovery. Her accomplishment reflects junior Faculty members' pursuit of innovation and clinical advancement for the benefit of patients and the wider community.

The Faculty is also delighted to congratulate Professor Pu and Professor Tong Wah Lim, Clinical Assistant Professor in Prosthodontics, on receiving the HKU Foundation First Year Excellent PhD Award 2024/25. Funded by The University of Hong Kong Foundation for Educational Development and Research, this award recognises PhD students who

demonstrate outstanding performance during their probationary period. It aims to encourage academic excellence, research innovation, and strong scholarly potential at an early stage of doctoral training.

Taken together, these achievements showcase the breadth and vitality of the Faculty's research enterprise from supporting promising early-stage investigators to promoting excellence in scholarship with real-world relevance. They also underscore the Faculty's commitment to building research capacity, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and advancing patient care through innovation, precision and evidence-based best practice.

Professor Pu's multiple honours are especially noteworthy, reflecting her exceptional dedication to both academic development and meaningful research in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Alongside the achievement of Professor Lim, their successes bring distinction to the Faculty and reinforce a shared mission to improve oral health through innovation, evidence-based practice, and scholarly excellence.

The Faculty warmly congratulates Professors Jane Pu and Tong Wah Lim on these well-deserved recognitions.

Honouring a Global Dental Education Leader

Professor Lakshman Samaranayake Receives Honorary Doctorate in Thailand

The lights of the Chulalongkorn University Auditorium shone brighter on 29 September 2025, as one of the world's leading dental educators and scholars, Professor Lakshman Samaranayake, Emeritus Professor and former Dean of the HKU Faculty of Dentistry, was conferred an Honorary Doctorate in Dental Science.

The distinction, awarded for the 2024 Academic Year of Chulalongkorn University, is one of the highest honours in Thai higher education. The ceremony was graciously presided over by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, The Princess Royal, who officiated on behalf of His Majesty the King of Thailand. Against this distinguished backdrop, the honour carried not only academic significance, but also deep symbolic recognition of Professor Samaranayake's lifelong commitment to advancing oral health worldwide.

For the HKU Faculty of Dentistry, the award is a moment of pride and reflection. As a former Dean, Professor Samaranayake played a key role in strengthening the Faculty's international reputation and nurturing its culture of academic excellence and innovation. His work has spanned dental education, research, knowledge exchange and clinical practice, highlighting how dentistry is taught, how oral diseases are understood and how patient care is delivered across different disciplines. The Honorary Doctorate in Dental Science from Chulalongkorn University acknowledges not just a distinguished career, but also a sustained contribution to the development of global oral healthcare. It recognises the impact of scholarly leadership that crosses borders—shaping curricula refinement, guiding young researchers, and helping capacity building in dental institutions across Asia and beyond.

This recognition also highlights the strong academic ties between leading dental schools

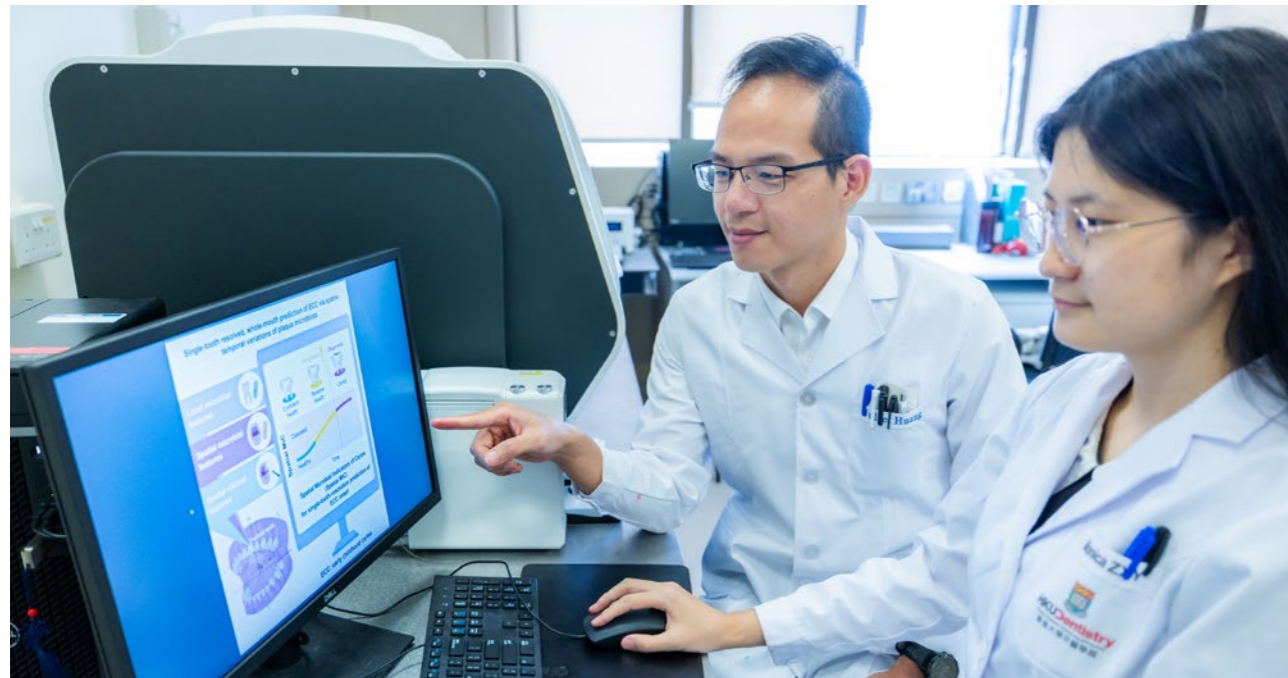


in Hong Kong, China and Thailand, and their shared commitment to improving oral healthcare outcomes in the region. In honouring Professor Samaranayake, Chulalongkorn University pays tribute to a career that embodies scientific rigour, collaborative teamwork and professional service to the community. The HKU Faculty of Dentistry warmly congratulates Professor Samaranayake on this remarkable achievement. His Honorary Doctorate stands as a testament to the power of visionary leadership in dentistry—and as an inspiration to future generations of oral healthcare professionals who seek not only to excel in their field, but to elevate oral health on a global scale.

1. Professor Lakshman Samaranayake (left) and Professor Dr Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of the Chulalongkorn University Council (right)
2. Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn (left) conferred honorary doctoral degree to Professor Lakshman Samaranayake

AI at the Tooth Level

HKU-Led Team Cracks the Code of Early Childhood Decay



Top: The research team, led by Professor Shi Huang (left). The AI system achieved a 93% accuracy rate in predicting caries that would develop two months later.

Early childhood caries (ECC) is the most common chronic disease of childhood, affecting more young children than asthma or obesity. Yet one basic puzzle has remained unanswered – why do some tooth decay and cavities develop rapidly while other teeth, in the very same mouth, stay relatively healthy?

A collaborative team led by the Faculty of Dentistry at The University of Hong Kong (HKU) has now brought that mystery into sharp focus. Working with partners from the Chinese Academy of Sciences Qingdao Institute of Bioenergy and Bioprocess Technology (CAS-QIBEBT), Qingdao Stomatological Hospital, and Qingdao Women and Children's Hospital, they have developed the world's first artificial intelligence (AI) system that can predict cavity risk for individual teeth based on their microbial fingerprints.

The system, called Spatial-MiC, reaches more than 90% accuracy and, in some cases, can foresee decay two months before it becomes visible. The study, published in the prestigious journal – *Cell Host & Microbe*, marks a major step towards truly “tooth-specific” precision dentistry for children.

The research team was led by Professor Shi Huang, Assistant Professor in Microbiology in the Division of Applied Oral Sciences and Community Dental Care at HKU Dentistry. The core group included PhD student Yufeng Zhang, Professor Jian Xu from CAS-QIBEBT, Dr Fei Teng from Qingdao Stomatological Hospital, and Dr Fang Yang from Qingdao Women and Children's Hospital.

To understand why ECC targets particular teeth, the team undertook the most comprehensive analysis to date of tooth-specific microbial

communities in preschoolers. They followed 89 children aged 3 to 5 over nearly a year, collecting 2,504 plaque samples from individual teeth. Using cutting-edge 16S rRNA sequencing alongside shotgun metagenomics, they examined not only which microbes were present, but also what they were capable of doing.

A striking pattern emerged in healthy mouths: a natural anterior-to-posterior microbial gradient. Front teeth (incisors) tended to host one type of bacterial community, while back teeth (molars) hosted another, forming a consistent spatial arrangement shaped by saliva flow, chewing forces and tooth anatomy.

In children who developed cavities, this orderly pattern began to break down before any visible holes appeared. Microbes normally associated with incisors started to appear on molars, and molar-associated microbes migrated forward. These subtle but consistent shifts signalled that specific teeth were moving towards disease.

Spatial-MiC was trained to read these patterns. By analysing the microbial community on each tooth, together with information from neighbouring teeth, the AI system achieved 98% accuracy in detecting existing cavities and 93% accuracy in predicting which teeth would develop cavities within two months. This represents a major advance over current approaches, which largely rely on whole-mouth assessments and often miss early, localised warning signs.

“These findings fundamentally change how we understand tooth decay,” said Professor Huang. “We have moved from seeing cavities as inevitable to being able to predict and prevent them at the microbial level, tooth by tooth.”

The implications are especially significant for countries like China, where ECC affects more than 70% of five-year-olds, and for global child health more broadly. Although clinicians have long observed that some teeth are more prone

These findings fundamentally change how we understand tooth decay. We have moved from seeing cavities as inevitable to being able to predict and prevent them at the microbial level, tooth by tooth.

PROFESSOR SHI HUANG

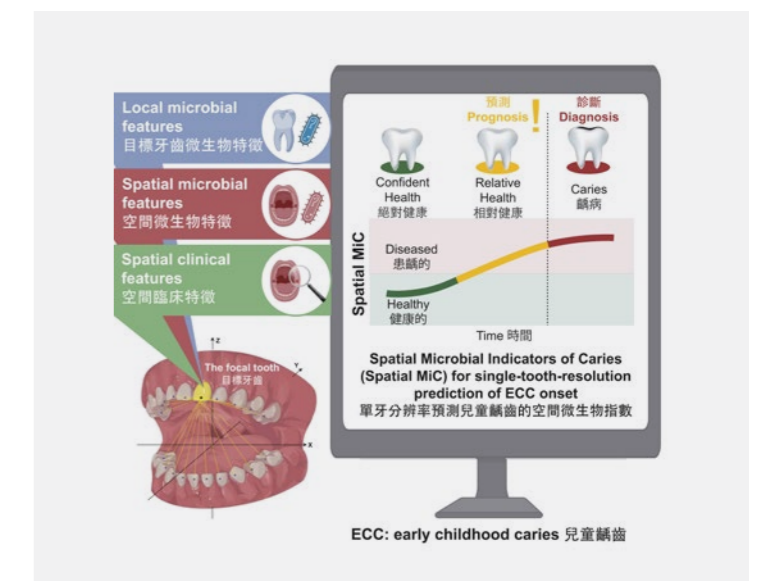
to decay, preventive strategies still tend to treat all teeth alike. The new research opens the door to targeted protection for high-risk teeth before irreversible damage, pain and infection set in.

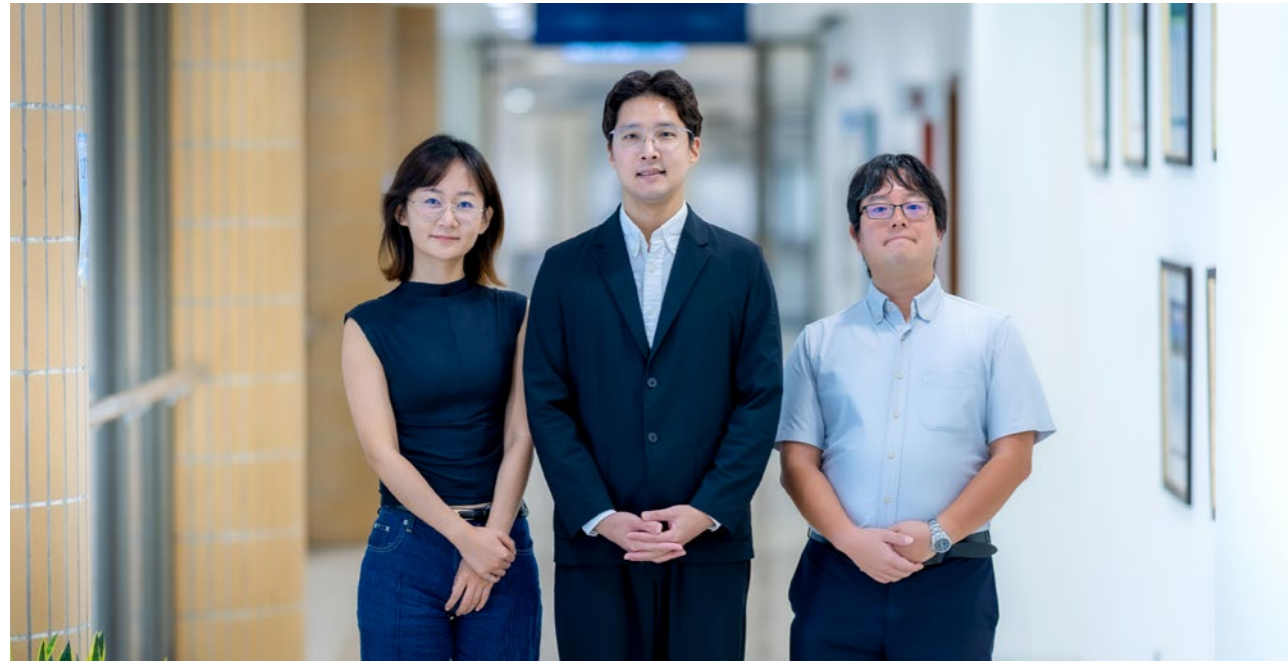
The team now plans to validate the Spatial-MiC approach in more diverse populations and to explore how it might be translated into practical tools for clinics. Their vision is that, one day, a simple plaque sample could help dentists identify which teeth in a child's mouth need the most intensive preventive care.

“This isn't just about better dental care,” noted Dr Yang, the first author. “It's about giving children healthier starts in life by preventing pain, infections, and the developmental impacts of severe tooth decay in a more precise manner.”

Below: HKU Dentistry developed Spatial-MiC, the world's first AI system for early childhood caries detection at the single-tooth resolution.

The research paper is available at: doi.org/10.1016/j.chom.2025.05.006





Injectable Tumour Model from HKU

Paving the Way for Smarter Cancer Immunotherapy

Above:
(From left)
Ms Ziqi Huang,
Professor Sang Jin
Lee and Professor
Rio Ryohichi
Sugimura

A research team led by the Faculty of Dentistry at The University of Hong Kong (HKU) has created a new kind of tumour model that could transform how scientists study cancer and develop next generation immune cell therapies.

Using a clever, non-surgical injectable hydrogel, the team has built a vascularised tumour system that more faithfully mimics how cancers grow and interact with blood vessels inside the body. The work, recently published in the journal *Advanced Composites and Hybrid Materials*, tackles one of oncology's longstanding challenges: how to recreate realistic tumours in animals without complex surgery or unreliable models.

The study is led by Professor Sang Jin Lee, Assistant Professor in Biofunctional Materials at

the HKU Faculty of Dentistry, in collaboration with Professor Rio Ryohichi Sugimura from the School of Biomedical Sciences in the LKS Faculty of Medicine at HKU. Together, they have developed a fully degradable, injectable, selfcrosslinking hydrogel made from carboxymethyl chitosan (CMCTS) and oxidized hyaluronic acid (oHA). This material is used to encapsulate high-density tumour cells and deliver them into mice through a simple injection.

Once injected, the hydrogel forms a supportive scaffold that allows these cells to develop into solid tumours. Crucially, these tumours are not just cell masses; they are supplied by functional blood vessels derived from the host, closely mirroring the natural tumour microenvironment. Conventional tumour inoculation methods often

Our platform not only faithfully recaptures the tumour microenvironment but, more importantly, provides a dependable tool for immune cell therapy research. This is particularly significant for advancing treatments for malignancies.

PROFESSOR SANG JIN LEE

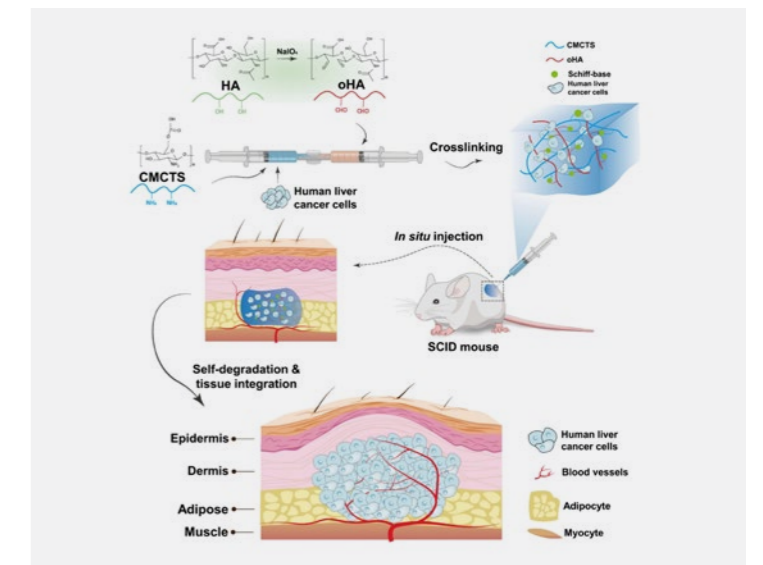
scatter cells, leave behind biomaterial residues, or fail to develop realistic vascular networks. By contrast, this hydrogel system keeps tumour cells precisely at the injection site and supports the formation of clean tumour clusters with integrated vasculature. This level of control and realism is essential for testing how drugs and immune cells behave in and around tumours.

"The lack of reliable vascularised tumour models has long been a bottleneck in cancer research," emphasised Professor Lee. "Our platform not only faithfully recaptures the tumour microenvironment but, more importantly, provides a dependable tool for immune cell therapy research. This is particularly significant for advancing treatments for malignancies."

The team went a step further and demonstrated that their model is not just structurally realistic, but also functionally useful for immunotherapy research. They injected human macrophages—immune cells that can be engineered or harnessed to attack cancer—through the tail vein of mice. These cells successfully homed in on the hydrogel-induced tumours and adhered to the tumour tissue, proving that the model supports immune cell trafficking and infiltration much like real cancers do.

This capacity is vital for evaluating how well potential cell therapies, such as engineered macrophages or other immune cells, can reach and penetrate solid tumours in living organisms. Professor Lee highlighted the translational potential of the work: "This model will serve as a vital conduit for the research and development of cell therapies to treat various cancers, such as oral cancer, in the near future, offering new possibilities for improving patient outcomes."

For Hong Kong and beyond, the implications are far reaching. A more reliable, injectable



vascularised tumour model can shorten the path from laboratory concepts to clinically relevant treatments, by allowing more accurate testing of immunotherapies before they reach human trials. It also lowers the technical barrier for laboratories that lack surgical expertise but want to work with sophisticated tumour systems.

By combining advanced biomaterials engineering with cancer biology and immunology, the HKU-led team has opened a promising new route for cancer research. Their hydrogel-based model is more than a technical innovation; it is a practical platform designed to accelerate the development of therapies that harness the immune system to fight cancer—and ultimately to bring better treatment options to patients.

Above: Schematic illustration of the preparation procedures of high-density human liver cancer cell-encapsulated CMCTS/oHA injectable hydrogel and their in vivo application.

The research paper is available at:
link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s42114-025-01429-4



DentalGPT: World's First Dental AI Model

A New Era of AI-Powered Oral Healthcare Begins in the GBA



Above:
The Faculty of Dentistry develops DentalGPT with its partners

A new chapter in digital dentistry is unfolding in the Greater Bay Area, as HKU Faculty of Dentistry and its partners unveil DentalGPT – the world's first multimodal large language model purpose-built for dental image recognition.

Jointly developed with The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Shenzhen), Shenzhen Stomatology Hospital (Pingshan) of Southern Medical University, Peking University National Biomedical Imaging Center, and Shenzhen Freedom AI Technology Co., Ltd., DentalGPT represents a leap forward in how artificial intelligence can support oral healthcare. Unlike general AI models, DentalGPT has been trained on an extensive, professionally curated dataset of dental images and refined with advanced reinforcement-learning strategies. This enables it to discern fine-grained radiographic details while performing sophisticated clinical reasoning.

DentalGPT can accurately interpret intra-oral photographs, panoramic x-rays and other routine dental images, identify a wide spectrum

of common oral diseases, and provide clear, image-based explanations. In tests using multiple disease-classification datasets annotated by licensed dentists, it achieved an average score of 67.1 – outperforming leading general-purpose multimodal models and demonstrating superior clinical relevance.

This breakthrough goes beyond technical performance. DentalGPT is designed to power a closed-loop “hospital-home-community” oral health management ecosystem. In clinics, it can support dentists in diagnosis and treatment planning; at home, it has the potential to underpin smart applications that help individuals better understand and monitor their oral health; in the community, its aggregated, anonymised data can contribute to real-time insights on oral disease patterns.

Over time, DentalGPT is expected to help generate a detailed epidemiological map of oral health across the Greater Bay Area, offering powerful evidence to guide public-health strategies, resource allocation and preventive programmes. By turning everyday clinical images into population-level intelligence, it bridges individual care and community wellbeing.

For the cross-disciplinary team behind the project, DentalGPT signals a shift in how AI fits into dentistry—from being merely “usable” to becoming genuinely “helpful and routinely used.” As the model continues to evolve and be integrated into real-world settings, it stands to transform not only how oral diseases are detected and managed, but also how data-driven, equitable and prevention-focused oral healthcare can be delivered at scale.

Building Smiles Across Borders

HKU and Shenzhen Join Forces to Tackle Oral Disease in the GBA

On 20 November 2025, HKU Faculty of Dentistry advanced its role as a regional leader in oral health by convening the Greater Bay Area Oral Disease Prevention and Control Forum in Shenzhen. The event brought together representatives from public health, maternal and child health, education, academia and industry to strengthen cross-border collaboration in oral disease prevention.

At the forum and press conference, the Faculty highlighted the achievements of the Jockey Club Children Oral Health Project, launched in Hong Kong in 2019. The project has provided more than 192,000 dental examinations to over 115,000 children and treated more than 153,000 decayed teeth with silver diamine fluoride. Within three years, the prevalence of early childhood caries among preschool children dropped from 38% to 31%, while the average number of decayed teeth fell by 20%. The programme also achieved zero cross-infections, zero serious adverse events, and satisfaction rates above 90% among parents and schools.

These outcomes demonstrated the effectiveness of prevention-focused, community-based oral healthcare and resonated with Shenzhen partners. In response, the Oral Disease Prevention and Control Centre of Shenzhen Maternity & Child Healthcare Hospital introduced two policy initiatives covering maternal oral health and oral healthcare for children aged 0–6 years from 2024 to 2030. Guided by the Health Commission of Shenzhen Municipality, the plans aim to build a life-course oral health protection system from pregnancy through the preschool years.

A key milestone was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between HKU Faculty of Dentistry and Shenzhen University Faculty of Medicine to establish a Greater Bay Area Oral Disease Prevention and Control Collaborative Development Platform, promoting technical exchange, talent development and research innovation.

Dean of Dentistry Professor Lijian Jin said the initiative marks an important step towards integrated healthcare development across the GBA.



1. The Faculty convenes the “Greater Bay Area Oral Disease Prevention and Control Forum” in Shenzhen
2. The Faculty signs a Memorandum of Understanding with Shenzhen University Faculty of Medicine

Connecting the Dental World

FDI World Dental Congress 2025

The FDI World Dental Congress 2025 turned Shanghai into a global hub for oral health innovation from 9–12 September, and the Faculty of Dentistry was proud to be part of the momentum. Bringing together dental professionals, researchers, educators and industry leaders from around the world, the four-day congress offered a rich platform for sharing knowledge, exchanging best practices, and exploring the latest advances in dental science and clinical care. Across lectures, symposia, and networking events, participants engaged in forward-looking conversations on how to improve oral health outcomes, enhance patient care, and drive sustainable development in dentistry.

Amid this vibrant international gathering, the Faculty joined hands with the Hong Kong Dental

Association (HKDA) to co-host a warm and welcoming tea reception. The event provided a relaxed setting for alumni, collaborators, and new friends to connect beyond the conference halls. Guests from different regions and professional backgrounds came together to share their experiences at the congress, discuss emerging trends in dentistry, and explore opportunities for future collaboration.

The tea reception also showcased the strong partnership between the Faculty and the HKDA, reflecting a shared commitment to advancing the profession through education, advocacy and community engagement. For many attendees, it was a valuable moment to reconnect with long-standing partners, while for others, it marked the beginning of new

professional networks that will continue to grow beyond the congress. Throughout the week, the spirit of collaboration and exchange was palpable. Conversations ranged from clinical innovations and digital dentistry to public health strategies and the future of dental education. The congress underscored the importance of working together—across borders, disciplines and sectors—to respond to evolving oral health needs worldwide.

As the FDI World Dental Congress 2025 drew to a close, one message resonated clearly: the future of dentistry will be shaped by the strength of its global community. The Faculty extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined the tea reception and contributed to such a meaningful and memorable week in Shanghai.

Building on the connections and insights gained at the congress, the Faculty will continue to foster international collaboration, support professional development, and promote excellence in oral health through sustained partnerships and shared progress for a brighter future for dentistry around the world.



1. The Faculty co-hosts a welcoming tea reception with the Hong Kong Dental Association 2. Professor Colman McGrath (left) and Professor Hui Chen (second from left) catch up with friends beyond the conference halls 3. Professor Yanqi Yang (right) and the guests from different regions share experiences at the congress 4. Professor Chun Hung Chu (third from right) meets with dental professionals from around the world 5. Professor Ollie Yu (right) engages with the guest from different professional background



1. From left: Tiffany Lui (BDS Year 4), Professor Mike Leung, Richard Siu (BDS Year 5)
 2. Visitors have a clinic tour at Information Day 3. Visitors try mock oral examinations on "dummy heads" 4. Students respond to visitors' admission enquiries 5. A guided tour in the Simulation Laboratory 6. Visitors enjoy a hands-on taste of being a dentist

Discovering Dentistry

HKU Opens Its Doors on Info Day 2025

The corridors of the Prince Philip Dental Hospital buzzed with curiosity and excitement on 25 October 2025, as the HKU Faculty of Dentistry welcomed prospective students, parents, and visitors to its annual Information Day.

From morning to evening, guests explored what it means to study and practise dentistry at one of the world's leading dental schools. At the heart of the programme was a series of admissions talks led by Professor Mike Leung, Associate Dean (Global Engagement and Development) and Admissions Tutor. Speaking to full lecture theatres and live broadcast audiences on HKU Main Campus, he introduced the Faculty's mission, internationally recognised curriculum, and its commitment to nurturing not only dental professionals, but also global

thinkers and future leaders. Across three sessions, Professor Leung unpacked "What is Dentistry?" — highlighting the science, hands-on skills, and human connections at the core of the profession. He also guided attendees through admissions requirements and selection criteria, before opening the floor to lively Q&A sessions where students and parents could have their concerns and aspirations addressed directly.

Adding a student voice to the day, BDS Year 5 student Mr Richard Siu and BDS Year 4 student Ms Tiffany Lui joined the final session to share their personal journeys. They spoke candidly about transitioning from pre-clinical training to treating real patients, balancing academic demands, and the rewards of building confidence and competence in the clinic. Their reflections offered

a glimpse of the challenges, camaraderie, and growth that define student life at HKU Dentistry.

Beyond the lecture theatres, visitors experienced dentistry first-hand through interactive activities. In the Simulation Laboratory, they donned lab coats and tried mock oral examinations on "dummy heads", discovering the precision and focus required of dental clinicians. In the Comprehensive Dental Clinic, polishing coins to mimic tooth cleaning became a playful yet eye-opening exercise in manual dexterity and attention to details.

With guided tours of the teaching and clinical facilities, and an information booth at the Run Run Shaw Podium on the HKU Main Campus, the day offered a comprehensive introduction to the Faculty and the dentistry profession.

Info Day 2025 not only informed—it inspired. The Faculty extends its sincere thanks to all staff and students whose enthusiasm, professionalism, and warmth helped many visitors take their first confident step towards a future in dentistry.



Showcasing Innovation & Connection

HKU Dentistry at HKIDEAS 2025



The HKU Faculty of Dentistry joined dental professionals from across the region at the Hong Kong International Dental Expo and Symposium (HKIDEAS) 2025, held from 22 to 24 August at the Convention Hall of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC).

Organised by the Hong Kong Dental Association, HKIDEAS is one of the city's flagship events for clinical excellence, innovation, and professional exchange. Over three days, the Faculty's booth became a busy meeting point for alumni, practitioners, industry partners, and prospective collaborators.

Visitors learned about the Faculty's latest achievements in clinical service, research, and education, including advances in preventive dentistry, digital workflows, and community oral health initiatives. Staff and students were on hand to answer questions, introduce current projects, and explore opportunities for collaboration in areas such as translational research and continuing dental education.

The event also offered an invaluable platform for two-way dialogue. Through conversations at the booth and on the exhibition floor, the Faculty gained insights into emerging clinical needs and practice trends—perspectives that will help shape future programmes and research directions.

Participation in HKIDEAS 2025 underscored the Faculty's commitment to engaging with the wider profession and contributing to the advancement of oral health in Hong Kong and beyond. The Faculty extends sincere thanks to everyone who visited the booth and looks forward to building on the connections forged over these three inspiring days.

1. Professor Jin (centre) and Professor Mike Leung (second from left) with the BDS students at the Faculty booth
2. Professor Jin (left) is having conversations with the BDS students at HKIDEAS 2025
3. From left: Professor Colman McGrath, Professor Angus Walls, Professor May Wong
4. Professor Jin (third from right) and Professor Mike Leung (second from left) take the group photo with the HKDA committee
5. From right: Dr Flora Chan and Professor Edward Lo
6. Professor Katherine Leung delivers a lecture at HKIDEAS 2025

Stepping into the Clinic

BDS 3 Students Take Their Professional Pledge



1

The atmosphere at the HKU Faculty of Dentistry was filled with pride and anticipation on 17 September 2025, as the new Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) Year 3 cohort marked a defining milestone in their education at the Clinical Pledging Ceremony. Joined by proud parents and loved ones, the students gathered to formally begin the clinical phase of their training. Standing together, they took a professional oath to “uphold the honour and integrity of the dental profession and to provide the highest standard of oral health care,” signalling their transition from simulation-based learning to real-life clinical responsibility.

For the first two years of the BDS curriculum, students train in pre-clinical laboratories and

simulation clinics, developing foundational knowledge and practising procedures on models. The pledging ceremony marks the moment when that careful preparation moves into a new arena: working alongside experienced clinicians and beginning to treat actual patients at the Prince Philip Dental Hospital.

The ceremony highlighted not only the technical skills the students have acquired, but also the ethical and human dimensions of their future role. By publicly committing themselves to professionalism, compassion and patient-centred care, the BDS 3 cohort acknowledged the trust that future patients will place in them as dentists-in-training.

In line with the Faculty’s tradition, each student received a silver name badge to mark this important transition. Worn in the hospital clinics, the badge serves as a visible sign of their evolving professional identity and a daily reminder of the promise they have made—to act with integrity, diligence and respect for every patient they encounter. Long after graduation, it will remain a personal memento of where their clinical journey began.

As the ceremony drew to a close, the message from the Faculty was clear: this is both a beginning and a responsibility. With their pledge made and their clinical training about to commence, the BDS 3 students step into the next phase of their education ready to learn, to serve and to grow. A heartfelt congratulations to the BDS 3 cohort – your clinical journey begins now.

1. The new BDS Year 3 cohort receive their silver name badges on 17 September 2025 2. Student representatives deliver a speech at the clinical pledging ceremony 3. Students take professional oath to provide the best care for their patients 4. Parents join the ceremony to mark the proud moment 5. Dr Kenny Lau encourages students at the ceremony 6. Proud moment of students having their silver badges engraved with their names 7. A student shares the joyful moment with her parents 8. Students formally begin the clinical phase of their training



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

Art in Every Cell

Dental Microphotography by Professor Tiejun Li Illuminates IAD-MSC and PPDH

In October 2025, the Institute for Advanced Dentistry – Multi-Specialty Clinic (IAD-MSC) and the Prince Philip Dental Hospital (PPDH) were transformed into spaces of quiet contemplation and unexpected beauty, as they unveiled a remarkable exhibition of dental microphotography by Professor Tiejun Li.

A distinguished scholar at the School of Stomatology, Peking University, Professor Li has devoted his career to advancing the field of oral pathology. At the same time, he has cultivated a parallel artistic journey, using his microscope not only as a diagnostic instrument but also as a creative lens. Through his work, ordinary microscopic images of dental and oral tissues were reimagined as striking visual compositions, revealing hidden colours, forms and textures that usually remain confined to the laboratory.

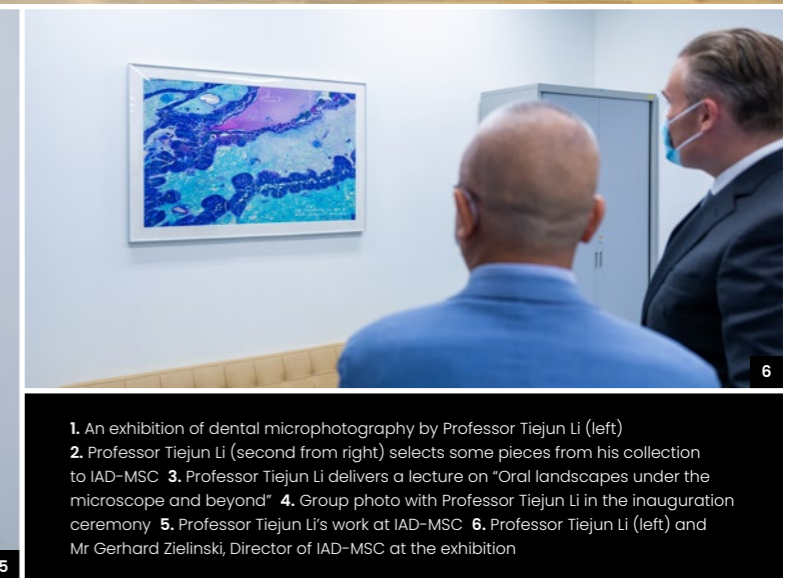
Thanks to Professor Li's generous contribution, selected pieces from his collection now permanently enrich the clinical environments of IAD-MSC and PPDH. Hung along corridors and in waiting areas, the images invite double takes: what could be mistaken for abstract paintings, dreamlike landscapes or intricate patterns are in fact enamel, dentine, oral mucosa and other oral structures, captured at high magnification and presented with an artist's sensitivity to colour and form.

The inauguration ceremony, held on 21 October 2025 at IAD-MSC, marked the official unveiling of the exhibition. Officiated by Professor Lijian Jin, Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry, HKU, with Professor Li as guest of honour, the event celebrated not only a collaboration between institutions, but also the convergence of science and art. In his remarks, the Dean highlighted how such works can soften the clinical atmosphere, offering patients moments of calm and wonder, while reminding students and clinicians of the beauty inherent in the structures they study and treat every day.

The following day, on 22 October 2025, Professor Li delivered a lecture at the Lecture Theatre of PPDH, where he shared the creative journey behind his microphotography. He spoke about how decades of examining pathological specimens gradually sharpened his awareness of their aesthetic qualities, and how his fascination with patterns and light led him to preserve and curate these images as artworks.

"Art seeks beauty; science pursues truth," Professor Li reflected. His images, he suggested, stand at the intersection of these two pursuits. For the students, clinicians, professionals and art enthusiasts who attended, the session offered an inspiring reminder that dentistry is not only a technical and scientific discipline, but also a field that can inspire awe and reflection.

Today, the presence of Professor Li's microphotography at IAD-MSC and PPDH continues to resonate. The works serve as a quiet, enduring exhibition—inviting every passer-by to look closer, and to rediscover the profound beauty within the microscopic world of oral tissues.



1. An exhibition of dental microphotography by Professor Tiejun Li (left)
 2. Professor Tiejun Li (second from right) selects some pieces from his collection to IAD-MSC
 3. Professor Tiejun Li delivers a lecture on "Oral landscapes under the microscope and beyond"
 4. Group photo with Professor Tiejun Li in the inauguration ceremony
 5. Professor Tiejun Li's work at IAD-MSC
 6. Professor Tiejun Li (left) and Mr Gerhard Zielinski, Director of IAD-MSC at the exhibition

Innovation in Action

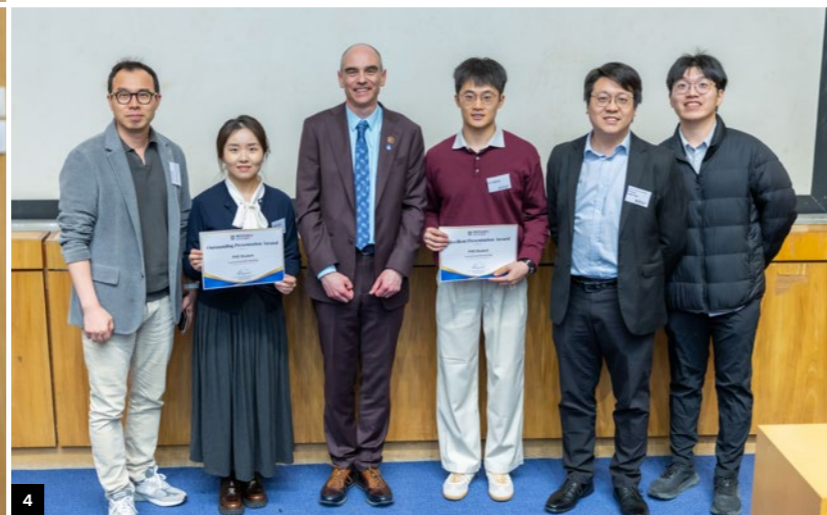
Highlights from the Annual Scientific Meeting 2026



The Faculty of Dentistry's Annual Scientific Meeting 2026 once again proved to be a cornerstone event for academic exchange and research innovation, drawing together a vibrant community of over 200 students and staff for a full day of learning and inspiration.

This year, the Faculty was honoured to welcome Professor Nicholas Jakubovics, Professor of Oral Microbiology at Newcastle University and Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Dental Research*, as the keynote speaker. In his thought-provoking lecture on the future of dental research, Professor Jakubovics offered a forward-looking perspective on how emerging scientific advances and interdisciplinary collaboration will reshape oral health care in the years to come. His insights challenged participants to think beyond traditional boundaries and to envision new possibilities for impactful research.

The programme was further enriched by a series of "Lunch and Learn" sessions, where more than 60 students and staff engaged in lively



1. Professor Nicholas Jakubovics is the keynote speaker 2. The Annual Scientific Meeting drawing a vibrant community of over 200 students and staff 3. One of the presenters showcases her latest findings 4. Participants honoured with Presentation Awards

discussions on topics related to dental research. These informal yet intellectually stimulating exchanges provided a valuable platform for participants to ask questions, share ideas, and learn from one another in a more interactive setting.

Research activity was also on full display during the oral presentation sessions. A total of 57 presenters – spanning undergraduate, taught postgraduate, and research postgraduate students, as well as researchers – showcased their latest findings and clinical advancements. The breadth of topics and the quality of presentations highlighted the Faculty's strong research culture and its commitment to nurturing the next generation of dental scientists and clinicians.

To recognise excellence and encourage continued pursuit of high-quality research, 18 participants were honoured with Outstanding, Excellent, and Merit Presentation Awards. These accolades not only celebrated individual achievements, but also underscored the collective effort of a community dedicated to advancing oral health through rigorous inquiry and innovation.

Building on the success of this year's meeting, the Faculty looks forward to further strengthening its research endeavours and fostering an environment where new ideas can flourish, collaborations can grow, and discoveries can translate into better clinical outcomes for patients and communities.



5. Oral presentation session at the Annual Scientific Meeting 6. Professor Sang Jin Lee shares his ideas at the meeting

Winners of Presentation Awards

Outstanding Presentation Award

- Mr Jing Hao
- Ms Chenxi Li
- Mr Yingheng Liu
- Mr Tsutao Henry Loo
- Ms Yeuk Ying Wong
- Dr Jing Zhang

Excellent Presentation Award

- Dr Tin Wing Joyce Li
- Ms Vidhyashree Rajasekar
- Ms Yiman Wang
- Mr Yefeng Wu
- Ms Sze Yee Yan
- Ms Junjing Zhang

Merit Presentation Award

- Dr Clarence Dayan Cardinal
- Ms Liang Chao
- Ms Shuwen Hou
- Ms Yilin Mao
- Ms Xinyi Shi
- Mr Zelin Jacky Ye



Passing the Torch

Mentorship Programme Empowers HKU Dental Students

A happy night between students and their mentors

STUDENT & ALUMNI



The HKU Faculty of Dentistry and The University of Hong Kong Dental Alumni Association (HKUDAA) have reaffirmed their commitment to nurturing future dental professionals with the launch of the Mentorship Programme for BDS Year 3 students (Class of 2029). The inauguration was held on 16 January 2026 at JEN Hong Kong by Shangri-La, with generous support from Haleon as the event sponsor.

Building on the success of previous cohorts, the programme continues to serve as an important bridge between students and the wider dental community. It brings together dedicated mentors from across the profession who are keen to share their knowledge, clinical experience and personal journeys in dentistry. By connecting BDS 3 students with alumni and practising dentists, the initiative helps students gain a clearer understanding of life beyond the classroom and simulation lab.

Throughout the year, mentors will provide personalised guidance tailored to each student's interests and aspirations. Discussions may cover specialty choices, career planning, patient care and practice management, while offering

students a supportive environment in which to ask questions and explore different career pathways. Clinic observation visits will further enhance the experience by giving mentees first-hand exposure to the realities of daily dental practice.

The Mentorship Programme is designed as a two-way learning journey. While students benefit from the wisdom and encouragement of experienced practitioners, mentors also gain fresh perspectives and renewed inspiration from engaging with the next generation. These exchanges strengthen the sense of community within the Faculty and reinforce the values of professionalism, compassion and lifelong learning that define the HKU dental family.

The Faculty extends its heartfelt thanks to all mentors for their generous commitment, to HKUDAA for its steadfast partnership in student development, and to Haleon for supporting this meaningful initiative. As the Class of 2029 begins its clinical journey, the programme will serve as a valuable guide in building not only clinical confidence and professional competence, but also the resilience, integrity and empathy essential for a fulfilling career in dentistry.

1. The Mentorship Programme serves as an important bridge between students and the wider dental community 2. Mentors share their knowledge and clinical experience to the students 3. Students seek advice from their mentor, Dr Suez Lam 4. Having fun with mentor, Dr Kelvin Ng 5. Dr Devin Kwan, President of HKUDAA 6. Professor Mike Leung (second from left) joins the dinner to support the programme 7. The BDS students and the dental alumni share a joyful night 8. Fruitful night between BDS students and their mentors 9. Great appreciation to all mentors



KE Funding Scheme for Impact Projects

Faculty Secures KE Funding for High-Impact Global Oral Health Projects

Four Faculty-led initiatives have secured full funding from the HKU Knowledge Exchange (KE) Funding Scheme for Impact Projects 2025–2026. Congratulations to Professor Gloria Wong, Professor Chun Hung Chu, Professor Phoebe Lam, and Professor John Adeoye and their project teams. Their innovative initiatives are poised to make a meaningful difference to oral health and community well-being in Hong Kong, the Philippines, and Nigeria.

The KE Funding Scheme for Impact Projects supports endeavours that translate academic expertise into tangible benefits for society, with demonstrable economic, social, or cultural impact. The success of these projects in securing full support highlights both the strengths of the Faculty's research and its firm commitment to addressing real-world challenges through partnerships and engagement.



PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

Professor Gloria Wong

Clinical Professor in Paediatric Dentistry

PROJECT TITLE

Promoting Birth Registration through Dental Age Assessment & Improving Oral Health among Indigenous Communities in Palawan, Philippines

PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

Professor Chun Hung Chu

Chair Professor of Family Dentistry

PROJECT TITLE

Prevention of Oral Diseases through Oral Health Promotion in District Health Centres

PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

Professor Phoebe Lam

Clinical Assistant Professor in Paediatric Dentistry

PROJECT TITLE

Improving Oral Health in Children with Special Needs through Social Stories & Family-Centred Dental Care

PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

Professor John Adeoye

Assistant Professor in Digital / Precision Dentistry

PROJECT TITLE

From Maps to Field: Empowering a Non-Governmental Organization to Perform Targeted Prevention & Early Detection of Noma in Northern Nigeria

Meeting with Distinguished International Scholars

Fostering Academic Exchange and Collaboration

The HKU Faculty of Dentistry continues to strengthen its international profile through visits by distinguished scholars from leading institutions worldwide, underscoring its commitment to academic exchange and collaborative advancement in dental education, research, and clinical practice.

Recent seminars have welcomed Professor Mutlu Özcan from the University of Zurich, Professor Falk Schwendicke from Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, and Professor Yingzi Yang from the Harvard School of Dental Medicine. Their visits brought together students, clinicians, researchers, and faculty members for discussions on emerging developments in dental materials, esthetic management, conservative dentistry, periodontology, developmental biology, and translational research.

These occasions have provided valuable opportunities for the Faculty community to engage with world-renowned experts, exchange ideas across disciplines, and explore future partnerships in research and professional education. Beyond the sharing of specialist knowledge, such visits further enhance the Faculty's vibrant academic environment and reinforce its position as a hub for global collaboration.

By fostering connections with leading scholars and institutions, the Faculty continues to broaden its international networks and contribute to the advancement of dentistry and oral health.

1. Professor Mutlu Özcan (right) from the University of Zurich
 2. Professor Yingzi Yang from the Harvard School of Dental Medicine gives a lecture on "Yap-mediated Mechanotransduction in Disease & Development"
 3. Professor Falk Schwendicke (third from right) from Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich signs a Memorandum of Understanding with the Faculty



Faculty Knowledge Exchange Award 2025

Harnessing AI to Enhance Oral Cancer Screening and Care

The Faculty warmly congratulates Professor Richard Su, Clinical Professor in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, and team members Professor John Adeoye, Professor Jane Pu and Professor Liwu Zheng on receiving the Faculty Knowledge Exchange Award 2025 for their project, "Artificial Intelligence-based Web Tools to Improve Oral Cancer Screening and Clinical Decision-making".

Established in 2011, the Faculty KE Awards recognise initiatives that turn academic expertise into tangible benefits for the community, industry and partner organisations.

Their award-winning project addresses oral cancer, a major public health challenge in which delayed diagnosis often leads to poorer outcomes and more intensive treatment. To support earlier detection, the team developed

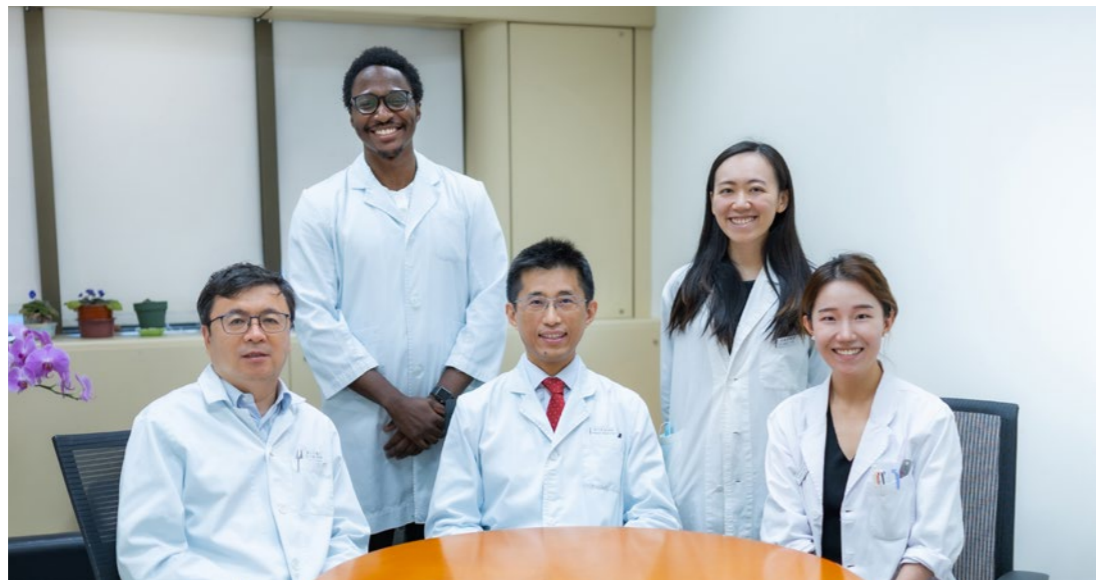
AI-powered web tools that help healthcare professionals identify potentially malignant and cancerous oral lesions and make better-informed clinical decisions.

Built on large datasets of clinical images and expert-annotated cases, the browser-based platform supports lesion risk assessment, referral prioritisation and follow-up planning. The project has strong potential to improve early detection, optimise specialist services and reduce disparities in access to expert care, while promoting evidence-based screening through training, outreach and educational resources.

To learn more about the project, please visit: facdent.hku.hk/publications/2025-summer/ai.php



From left:
Professor Liwu Zheng, Professor John Adeoye, Professor Richard Su, Dr Joanna Ko and Professor Jane Pu



THE PREMIER GLOBAL DENTAL SCHOOL

OUR PROGRAMMES

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME

- Bachelor of Dental Surgery

TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

- Master of Science
- Master of Dental Surgery
- Advanced Diploma

RESEARCH POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

- Master of Philosophy
- Doctor of Philosophy

All programmes are taught in English except some taught postgraduate programmes.

TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

MASTER OF DENTAL SURGERY

- Master of Dental Surgery in Endodontics
- Master of Dental Surgery in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
- Master of Dental Surgery in Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopaedics
- Master of Dental Surgery in Paediatric Dentistry
- Master of Dental Surgery in Periodontology
- Master of Dental Surgery in Prosthodontics

MASTER OF SCIENCE

- Master of Science in Implant Dentistry
- Master of Science in Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology & Diagnostic Imaging
- Master of Science in Community Dentistry
- Master of Science in Dental Materials Science

ADVANCED DIPLOMA

- Advanced Diploma in Orthodontics

RESEARCH POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

PROGRAMMES

- Master of Philosophy
- Doctor of Philosophy

SCHOLARSHIP

- HKU Presidential PhD Scholar Programme
HKD28,400 per month
- Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme
HKD28,400 per month
- Postgraduate Scholarship
HKD19,135 per month



HKU Dentistry
Faculty of Dentistry · The University of Hong Kong
香港大學牙醫學院

THE PREMIER GLOBAL DENTAL SCHOOL

OUR EXCELLENCE

2
QS RANKING
IN 2026

1982
YEAR OF
ESTABLISHMENT

OUR STAFF

62
PROFESSORiate

46
RESEARCH & TEACHING
SUPPORT STAFF

472
ADJUNCT / HONORARY /
VISITING PROFESSORiate

115
ADMINISTRATIVE &
SUPPORT STAFF

19
TECHNICAL
STAFF

714
TOTAL STAFF FROM
19 COUNTRIES / REGIONS

OUR STUDENTS

516
UNDERGRADUATE

89
TAUGHT
POSTGRADUATE

222
RESEARCH
POSTGRADUATE

827
TOTAL STUDENTS FROM
23 COUNTRIES / REGIONS

OUR ALUMNI

2118
UNDERGRADUATE

1035
TAUGHT
POSTGRADUATE

374
RESEARCH
POSTGRADUATE

3527
TOTAL ALUMNI FROM
45 COUNTRIES / REGIONS

100%
GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT
RATE IN 2025



HALEON



THE PINNACLE OF OUR SENSITIVITY RANGE

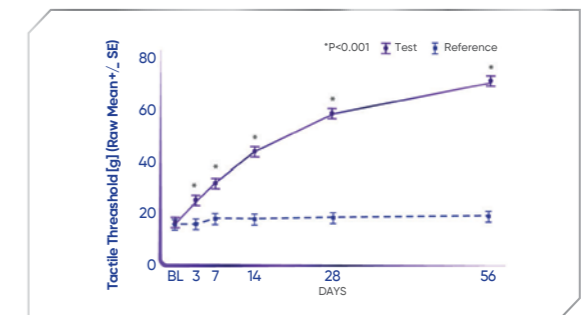
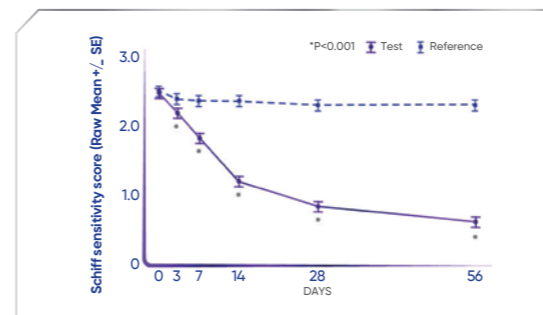
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Proven to relieve sensitivity in 3 days¹

Significant relief after 3 days that builds with continued use¹



*with continued twice daily brushing. With extra-fine Perlite for superior cleaning action (vs Sensodyne Repair & Protect Cool Mint) whilst being gentle on sensitive areas and enamel.

References: 1. Haleon Data on File, Study 300100; 2024; presented at IADR 2025.

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