CONGRATULATIONS TO CLASS 2023
GIVE OUR CHILDREN A HEALTHY SMILE
IADR DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST AWARD

SMILES FOR ALL
SENSODYNE SENSITIVITY & GUM: DUAL ACTION, ONE TOOTHPASTE

- 63% greater sensitivity relief
- Continued improvement in sensitivity relief over 24 weeks
- 40% improvement in gum health
- Significant reduction in bleeding gums after two weeks

*Percentage improvement in Schiff score vs. fluoride-only toothpaste after 8 weeks, test 0.454% w/w stannous fluoride toothpaste vs. control fluoride-only toothpaste. Studies conducted using a 0.454% w/w stannous fluoride toothpaste, measuring Schiff score and DMFT questionnaire. Percentage improvement in bleeding index after 24 weeks, test 0.454% w/w stannous fluoride toothpaste vs. control fluoride-only toothpaste. Study also showed 19% improvement in modified Gingival Index with the test toothpaste vs. control at week 26. Both these measures are indicative of improvements in gum health. Sensodyne containing 0.454% stannous fluoride (1900 ppm fluoride) vs. negative control toothpaste (containing 100 ppm as sodium monofluorophosphate).


ALWAYS FOLLOW THE LABEL INSTRUCTIONS
Brush twice a day and not more than three times, minimise swallowing and spit out. If irritation occurs, discontinue use. Talk to your dentist or doctor as soon as possible if you experience swelling of the mouth or face. Sensitively teeth and/or gum problems may indicate an underlying problem that needs prompt care. If symptoms persist or worsen, see your dentist. Keep out of reach of children.

Not for use by children under 12 years of age, unless under the advice of a dental professional or doctor. The ends of this carton have been glued down. Do not use if carton ends are open.

The material is for the reference and used by healthcare professionals only.

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Modern Dentistry would not be possible without the technologies available today. Examples may include, new materials, intraoral scanners, 3D milling and printing, digital radiography, and electronic health records, just to name a few. Many of these technologies were developed by established corporations or startups. The contribution from universities was often focused on the safety and efficacy assessment and provided the evidence needed for the adoption in clinical practice and coverage by third-party payors. Our Institute for Advanced Dentistry, with its Central Research Laboratories and Clinical Research Centre, plays an important role in this.

To create new opportunities for our staff and students to get involved more upstream in the development of dental and medical technologies, we have started a Biomedical Engineering Initiative in close collaboration with the Faculties of Engineering and Medicine. It brings together interdisciplinary teams of staff and students with the goal to create new solutions for important clinical problems. Several research postgraduate students already have been enrolled under the Initiative and the first international symposium on “Humanizing Biomedical Engineering” will be held in June 2024 (www.bmesymposium.hk). Clinicians and scientists from all fields are welcome to attend this exciting event and join one of the teams working on the next big thing in health technology.

Our Biomedical Engineering Initiative is not only timely but also in line with the Government’s Innovation and Technology Development Blueprint for Hong Kong. The recently announced funding for the establishment of Life and Health Technology Research Institutes and the set-up of a Clinical Trial Institute provides an unprecedented opportunity to leverage our collective expertise in Dentistry, Engineering, and Medicine to build a world-class health technology cluster. Together with the vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem and large capital markets in Hong Kong and the advanced manufacturing base in the Greater Bay Area, the region is poised to spawn innovation and transform healthcare.

I look forward to seeing many of our staff and students take advantage of these exciting opportunities, become innovators and successful entrepreneurs, and contribute to improving outcomes of and access to healthcare in Hong Kong, Greater China, and beyond.

PROFESSOR THOMAS FLEMMIG
Kingboard Professor in Advanced Dentistry
Dean of HKU Faculty of Dentistry

To create new opportunities for our staff and students to get involved more upstream in the development of dental and medical technologies, we have started a Biomedical Engineering Initiative in close collaboration with the Faculties of Engineering and Medicine.

PROFESSOR THOMAS FLEMMIG
SmilesForAll
Serving Hong Kong’s underprivileged with life-changing dental care
The impact of oral diseases should never be underestimated. Serious conditions, including oral cancer, inflamed gums, tooth decay, crooked teeth, and deformed faces, can have profound effects on an individual’s overall quality of life, career prospects, and education. Individuals with deformed facial features, chronic tooth and jaw pain, headaches, and bleeding gums, face challenges as simple as smiling, which can greatly impact their self-confidence, leading to feelings of self-consciousness, social withdrawal, and even thoughts of self-harm. The far-reaching consequences of oral diseases extend beyond physical discomfort, affecting psychological well-being and overall happiness. Unfortunately, for many underserved members of our community, accessing the specialised care they need remains an unattainable dream.

The HKU Dentistry SmilesForAll Advanced Dentistry Fund, established in November 2022, is dedicated to addressing the oral health needs of the underprivileged with advanced multidisciplinary dental care.

Patients at SmilesForAll receive exceptional care at the Institute for Advanced Dentistry – Multi-Specialty Clinic (IAD-MSC), a significant undertaking of the HKU Faculty of Dentistry. Our mission is twofold: educating and training dental specialists in Hong Kong while offering affordable advanced dental care to those who suffer from severe and complex oral conditions.

IAD-MSC is a state-of-the-art facility equipped with 45 dental chairs, 6 day-surgery suites, and monitored anaesthesia care. With the latest technologies, local and international students in seven different dental disciplines can receive education and training in advanced dentistry and provide quality dental care for their patients. “We are proud to serve Hong Kong’s underprivileged in this modern facility with globally acclaimed dental expertise,” said Mr Gerhard Zielinski, Director of the IAD-MSC.

It is not just the facility and expertise that sets SmilesForAll apart. Our work would not be possible without support from various sectors. With the generous donations from the Azalea (1972) Endowment Fund, the Wu Chung Family Charitable Foundation, and the Ho Man Fat Memorial Foundation, SmilesForAll has started providing advanced dental care to patients suffering from oral cancer, severe gum disease and early childhood caries. The combined contributions from philanthropic foundations and industry leaders have paved the way for SmilesForAll to expand its reach and make a tangible impact on the lives of those facing oral health challenges. The partnerships and support underscore the collective effort and shared commitment to improving oral health equity.

ORAL CANCER

The treatment of oral cancer typically involves three phases. In the first phase, the overall oral health of the patient is improved by treating any existing oral diseases. Subsequently, the cancer,
Cover Story

Together with the surrounding bone and tissues, the tumor is surgically removed, often in combination with chemotherapy and radiotherapy. The final phase focuses on restoring patients' oral function and aesthetics. However, publicly funded care in Hong Kong only covers the second phase, which often leaves patients with impaired speech, eating ability, and facial aesthetics.

In collaboration with the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the Faculty of Dentistry, SmilesForAll fills in the gap to deliver comprehensive end-to-end care for underprivileged oral cancer patients.

Early Childhood Caries

Dental caries, commonly known as tooth decay, is indeed a widespread non-communicable disease that has a significant impact on oral health globally. This severe oral health issue not only affects overall well-being but also frequently leads to pain, infection, and even tooth extraction. As a result, a child’s quality of life can be significantly compromised, causing challenges with eating, sleeping, and in more advanced cases, persistent pain and chronic infections, or poor growth patterns.

IAD-MSC is providing curative care, such as dental restorations or extraction of decayed teeth, for children aged 1 to 5, complementing the faculty-led Jockey Club Children Oral Health Project, which provides preventive dental care.

Severe Gum Disease

Approximately 10 to 20% of Hong Kong adults suffer from severe gum disease (periodontitis), which affects their chewing ability, dietary intake, general health, self-esteem, and satisfaction with life. Furthermore, the substantial treatment cost can often pose a barrier for the underprivileged.

With the aim of improving the patient’s oral and general health, chewing function, speech, socialising ability and confidence, IAD-MSC provides comprehensive periodontal dental treatment to at least 100 needy patients suffering from severe gum disease.

Professor Thomas Flemmig, Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry said, “Advanced dental care makes a significant impact to those who have severe and complex diseases of the mouth and jaws. At HKU’s IAD-MSC, we have the expertise and technology to treat such diseases. With specialists from all the dental disciplines working together in a state-of-the-art facility, we can provide life-changing care to those who need it the most.”

Your Support, Their Healthy Smiles!
The SmilesForAll Advanced Dentistry Fund is positively impacting the lives of underprivileged individuals in Hong Kong. However, to continue providing essential dental care services and expanding its reach, the fund relies on the generous support of donors.

By making a donation, you can contribute to transforming lives through advanced dental care. Your support will enable the fund to continue providing vital dental treatments, education, and research to improve the oral health of Hong Kong’s most vulnerable populations. Together, we can create a brighter future for those in need.

Donate to SmilesForAll Now
smiles.facdent.hku.hk/donate-today
Congratulations to Class 2023

Celebrating students’ accomplishments at the 211th Congregation
The 211th Congregation cum Prize Presentation Ceremony held on December 7, 2023 at the Grand Hall, Lee Shau Kee Lecture Centre, Centennial Campus of The University of Hong Kong, marked a momentous occasion for the Faculty. This event was dedicated to celebrating the hard work and outstanding achievements of our graduating students.

During the ceremony, a total of 24 doctoral, 33 master’s and 69 bachelor’s degrees were conferred upon the graduating students, signifying their successful completion of their respective programmes. The ceremony also included the presentation of prizes and awards to deserving students who had demonstrated exceptional achievements in areas such as academic performance, clinical skills, patient care and community involvement.

Professor Thomas Flemmig, Dean of Dentistry, expressed his heartfelt admiration for the students’ unwavering dedication and perseverance, “It was your determination, countless hours of studying, laboratory work, and clinical training, your teacher’s instructions, and the support of our dedicated staff that made you what you are today.” He also shared his immense confidence in the potential of the graduating class, “I know you have all it takes to make this world a better place. I look forward to seeing great things from you.”

In her valedictory speech, Dr Gwendolen Wong, representative of the BDS Class of 2023, chose the word “ingenuity” to encapsulate the essence of the graduating class. She highlighted the unique qualities of each individual, while emphasising the unity and cohesiveness that, “[we] came together as a whole. Skilled and innovative; conforming and visionary.”

The joy and elation of the graduates were palpable, amplified by the presence of their beloved family members and friends who gathered to witness their remarkable milestone. Their support and encouragement added a touch of warmth to the event.

As the Faculty of Dentistry bids farewell to these accomplished graduates, we extend our warmest wishes for a prosperous professional journey and a fulfilling life. We are thrilled to welcome every one of them to the HKU Faculty of Dentistry alumni family!
FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

Dr Gwendolen Wong highlights the unity of the graduating class in her valedictory speech.

[Images of graduation ceremony]
FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

Hong Kong Dental Association Scholarship
AWARDEE: Dr Bae Song-Won
PRESENTER: Dr Spencer Chan, President of Hong Kong Dental Association

Rebecca Ho Prize for Dental Students of the Year
AWARDEE: Dr Pui Sum Wong
PRESENTER: Dr Spencer Chan, President of Hong Kong Dental Association

The PPDH Board of Governors Prize
AWARDEE: Dr Lam Cheng Hei
PRESENTER: Dr Rebecca Ho

Prize Presentation

Hong Kong Dental Association Continuing Education Prize
AWARDEE: Dr Chiu Cheuk Ki Kate
PRESENTER: Dr Spencer Chan, President of Hong Kong Dental Association

Rebecca Ho Prize for Dental Students of the Year
AWARDEE: Dr Cheng Yin Tung Janet
PRESENTER: Dr Rebecca Ho

The Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons Prize
AWARDEE: Dr Chiu Cheuk Ki Kate
PRESENTER: Professor Walter Lam, Chair of the Hong Kong Regional Committee, The Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons
We came together as a whole. Skilled and innovative; conforming and visionary.

DR GWENDOLEN WONG
The Jockey Club Children Oral Health Project (JCCOHP) is a pioneering initiative in Hong Kong dedicated to enhancing the oral health of preschool children in the region. The project is funded by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust and led by three distinguished chair professors from the Faculty - Professor Chun Hung Chu, Professor Edward Lo, and Professor Cynthia Yiu. The project aims to address the prevalent issue of early childhood caries (ECC), or tooth decay in young children, through dental care and education programmes.

Early childhood caries (ECC), or tooth decay in preschool, is one of the most prevalent diseases in children. It causes pain and infection, consequently affecting their growth and development. However, ECC is preventable, and the JCCOHP seeks to play a vital role in improving children’s oral health by providing dental care and education in schools.

The JCCOHP offers free-of-charge outreach services to kindergartens, including dental check-ups and silver diamine fluoride (SDF) solution treatment for children. SDF treatment is simple, painless, and well-received by children. It is proven to be effective in slowing down tooth decay, and no adverse effects have been reported. Success in silver diamine fluoride therapy will stain the cavity black, indicating successful prevention of tooth decay.

The JCCOHP aims to reduce the prevalence of tooth decay in children. Phase I of the JCCOHP, which began in 2019, has been concluded in August 2023. A total of 754 kindergartens have joined the initiative; the project team has performed over 193,000 dental check-ups, treated more than 230,000 decaying teeth with SDF, and provided 6,550 teachers with training. The project has a satisfaction rate of 97% among parents and teachers. In 2022-23, the tooth decay prevalence was 3% and the child had an average of 1.3 teeth affected by tooth decay (dmft 1.3).

Phase II of the JCCOHP started in September 2023 and continued to offer free-of-charge services to kindergartens in Hong Kong, targeting 900 kindergartens. In addition to providing dental check-ups and SDF solution treatment, the project has a new component – Children Oral Hygiene Workshop. The workshop aims to empower children to take an active role in their oral health. It will educate children on the importance of oral health, proper brushing techniques, healthy eating habits, and the importance of regular dental check-ups to maintain good oral hygiene.

The Faculty is delighted to witness the significant improvement in the oral health of children in Hong Kong. The project’s success lies in its prevention-focused approach, with early intervention and family education playing a crucial role in reducing tooth decay in children. Phase II of the project will build on this success and further reduce the prevalence of tooth decay in children, ultimately improving the oral health of children in Hong Kong.
The Faculty of Dentistry has secured funding from the Research Grants Council’s General Research Fund (GRF) for eight research projects. Our success in securing these grants demonstrates our research excellence and the calibre of faculty members.

The funded projects encompass a broad spectrum of important areas within the field. They range from clinical trials to treat dental caries in children, to the development of novel technologies such as artificial intelligence-based systems for predicting malignant transformation in oral diseases. Other projects focus on designing personalised and self-adaptive CPAP masks, investigating the genetic architecture of human facial shape, analysing the mechanism of RNA modification in bone remodelling, and discovering prognostic biomarkers for pulpotomy outcomes.

The grant awarded to each project ranges from HKD 1.1 million to 1.6 million. This substantial financial support enables the Faculty to embark on comprehensive research endeavours at hand, and the Faculty can delve deep into investigations, explore new avenues, and contribute to the progress and innovation of dental research.
Health and Medical Research Fund

Expanding our research capacity for patients’ benefits

The Faculty is proud to announce that five of its projects have been awarded the Health and Medical Research Fund (HMRF) by the Health Bureau. This achievement reflects the Faculty’s strong commitment to advancing scientific knowledge and enhancing healthcare outcomes. These projects cover a wide range of research areas, from the integration of artificial intelligence into dental practice, to the investigation of the relationship between dietary patterns and oral health. The HMRF funding will enable our researchers to expand their research capacity, facilitating health and medical research to improve population health, improving healthcare practices, elevating patient care, and fostering clinical excellence.

Principal Applicant
Professor Ke Deno
Clinical Assistant Professor in Periodontology & Implant Dentistry
Project Title
Effect of the healthy plant-based dietary pattern as an adjunct to non-surgical periodontal treatment in periodontitis: a randomised controlled clinical trial

Principal Applicant
Professor Walter Yu Hang Lam
Clinical Assistant Professor in Prosthodontics
Project Title
Detecting gum inflammation using artificial intelligence-powered smartphone photography among older adults in Hong Kong

Principal Applicant
Professor Weifa Yang
Clinical Assistant Professor in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
Project Title
Assessment of virtual surgical planning and augmented reality for complex impacted tooth management: a clinical pilot study

Principal Applicant
Professor Yifan Lin
Clinical Assistant Professor in Orthodontics
Project Title
Acceleration of orthodontic tooth movement using minimally invasive microneedles

Principal Applicant
Professor Ke Deng
Clinical Assistant Professor in Periodontology & Implant Dentistry
Project Title
Effect of the healthy plant-based dietary pattern as an adjunct to non-surgical periodontal treatment in periodontitis: a randomised controlled clinical trial

Principal Applicant
Dr Pei Liu
Research Assistant Professor
Project Title
A behaviour theory and AI-based mobile app to improve oral health in adolescents: development and validation study

Principal Applicant
Professor Walter Yu Hang Lam
Clinical Assistant Professor in Prosthodontics
Project Title
Detecting gum inflammation using artificial intelligence-powered smartphone photography among older adults in Hong Kong

100% more plaque removal¹
100% healthier gums¹

The displayed model is iO10

¹ According to the national health clinic, 90% plaque reduction at comparably lower cost. See how the national health clinic can help you to maintain your oral hygiene. See how the national health clinic can help you to maintain your oral hygiene. See how the national health clinic can help you to maintain your oral hygiene.

² To reduce gum inflammation and improve oral health. See how the national health clinic can help you to maintain your oral hygiene. See how the national health clinic can help you to maintain your oral hygiene. See how the national health clinic can help you to maintain your oral hygiene.

³ The displayed model is iO10. The average time to remove plaque from the teeth is 20 seconds, as shown by the national health clinic. See how the national health clinic can help you to maintain your oral hygiene. See how the national health clinic can help you to maintain your oral hygiene. See how the national health clinic can help you to maintain your oral hygiene.

4 The displayed model is iO10. The average time to remove plaque from the teeth is 20 seconds, as shown by the national health clinic. See how the national health clinic can help you to maintain your oral hygiene. See how the national health clinic can help you to maintain your oral hygiene. See how the national health clinic can help you to maintain your oral hygiene.

5 The displayed model is iO10. The average time to remove plaque from the teeth is 20 seconds, as shown by the national health clinic. See how the national health clinic can help you to maintain your oral hygiene. See how the national health clinic can help you to maintain your oral hygiene. See how the national health clinic can help you to maintain your oral hygiene.

6 The displayed model is iO10. The average time to remove plaque from the teeth is 20 seconds, as shown by the national health clinic. See how the national health clinic can help you to maintain your oral hygiene. See how the national health clinic can help you to maintain your oral hygiene. See how the national health clinic can help you to maintain your oral hygiene.

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8 The displayed model is iO10. The average time to remove plaque from the teeth is 20 seconds, as shown by the national health clinic. See how the national health clinic can help you to maintain your oral hygiene. See how the national health clinic can help you to maintain your oral hygiene. See how the national health clinic can help you to maintain your oral hygiene.

9 The displayed model is iO10. The average time to remove plaque from the teeth is 20 seconds, as shown by the national health clinic. See how the national health clinic can help you to maintain your oral hygiene. See how the national health clinic can help you to maintain your oral hygiene. See how the national health clinic can help you to maintain your oral hygiene.
IADR Distinguished Scientist Award

Recognising exceptional contributions of Professor Chengfei Zhang
RECOGNITION

Professor Chengfei Zhang, our esteemed Clinical Professor in Endodontics and Associate Dean for Research and Innovation, has been honoured with the prestigious International Association for Dental Research (IADR) Distinguished Scientist (Pulp Biology & Regeneration Award). This remarkable achievement not only recognises Professor Zhang’s outstanding contributions to the field of dentistry but also highlights the research excellence culture at HKU Dentistry.

Professor Zhang’s research expertise lies in the biology and regeneration of the pulp/dentin complex, as well as clinical vital pulp therapy and regeneration (revascularisation). His innovative research activities have garnered international recognition, including the International Association of Dental Research (IADR) William J Glus Award for his publication in the Journal of Endodontal Research, and the Best Paper Award by the Journal of Endodontics, a top Journal in Endodontology.

His research on endodontic etiopathogenesis and pulp regeneration has received funding from the Hong Kong Research Grants Council and various funding agencies in Mainland China. Professor Zhang has also been an active lecturer at many national and international events, notably the IADR/AADR and IADR-SEA meetings, and has published over 200 journal papers and book chapters.

In addition to his research accomplishments, Professor Zhang serves as a valued editorial board member for prestigious publications such as Journal of Dental Research, the International Endodontic Journal, International Dental Journal, Bioengineering, and advisory board member of Journal of Endodontics.

These roles demonstrate his commitment to advancing knowledge and fostering collaboration within the dental community.

Professor Zhang’s academic journey began with his pursuit of DDS and PhD degrees from Peking University, which provided him with a solid foundation in dental education and research. Since joining the HKU Faculty of Dentistry in 2009, he has played a pivotal role in furthering the institution’s research and innovation initiatives.

Expressing his happiness about his work, Professor Zhang said, “I am happy that my work contributes a bit to the dental pulp biology and regeneration field. As a clinician, I am even excited that necrotic pulp in young teeth can be successfully regenerated. We are continuously working on new strategies to regenerate/revitalise the dead pulp in adult teeth.”

The IADR Pulp Biology and Regeneration Award aims to recognise, encourage, and stimulate exceptional research contributions in the field of pulp biology. As one of the 17 IADR Distinguished Scientist Awards, this accolade represents one of the highest honours bestowed by IADR.

We congratulate Professor Zhang on this well-deserved award. His achievements bring immense pride to the entire HKU Dentistry community and serve as an inspiration for us to continue pushing the boundaries of knowledge in the pursuit of better oral health for all.

As a clinician, I am even excited that necrotic pulp in young teeth can be successfully regenerated. We are continuously working on new strategies to regenerate/revitalise the dead pulp in adult teeth.

PROFESSOR CHENGF EI ZHANG
RECOGNITION

The Faculty of Dentistry has once again demonstrated its outstanding academic prowess and global recognition. In the latest rankings released by Stanford University, an impressive total of 17 faculty members have been recognised as among the world’s top 2% scientists for the year 2023.

This prestigious acknowledgment is a testament to the significant contributions made by these faculty members in their respective fields. Their research excellence and dedication have positioned them as some of the most influential scientists on a global scale. We commend their commitment to advancing knowledge to shape the future of dental research and education, benefitting both the scientific community and society as a whole.

Their outstanding achievements not only reflect their individual accomplishments, but also showcase the faculty’s relentless pursuit of excellence in dental research and education. We extend our warmest congratulations to all the recipients and wish them continued success in their future endeavours.

ARRANGED IN RANKING ORDER

**Top 2% Scientists**

**Congratulating 17 recipients from the HKU Dentistry**

- **Professors**
  - Michael Botelho (Clinical Professor in Prosthodontics)
  - Gloria Wong (Clinical Professor in Paediatric Dentistry)
  - Cynthia Yu (Professor, Chair of Paediatric Dentistry)
  - Michael Burrow (Clinical Professor in Prosthodontics)
  - Wai Keung Leung (Clinical Professor in Periodontology)
  - Lijian Jin (Clinical Professor in Periodontology)
  - Gloria Wong (Clinical Professor in Paediatric Dentistry)
  - Mike Leung (Clinical Professor in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery)
  - Colman McGrath (Clinical Professor in Dental Public Health)
  - Chengfei Zhang (Clinical Professor in Endodontics)
  - Richard Su (Clinical Professor in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery)
  - Thomas Flemming (Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry)

- **Tutors and Clinical Practitioners**
  - Andy Yeung (Tutor in Radiography)
  - Iris Yin (Clinical Practitioner in Restorative Dental Sciences)
  - Chun Hung Chu (Professor, Chair of Family Dentistry)
  - Duangporn Duangthip (Senior Clinical Practitioner in Restorative Dental Sciences)

**Professors**

- **Dr Andy Yeung**
  - Tutor in Radiography
- **Professor Colman McGrath**
  - Clinical Professor in Dental Public Health
- **Professor Chun Hung Chu**
  - Professor, Chair of Family Dentistry
- **Professor Edward Lo**
  - Professor, Chair of Dental Public Health
- **Professor Lijian Jin**
  - Clinical Professor in Periodontology
- **Professor Thomas Flemming**
  - Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry
- **Professor Wai Keung Leung**
  - Clinical Professor in Paediatric Dentistry
- **Professor Richard Su**
  - Clinical Professor in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
Clinical Pledging Ceremony 2023

Students pledged to uphold professionalism in clinical training
80 BDS Year 3 students pledged to fulfil their professional responsibilities to provide the best possible care to all patients in the Clinical Pledging Ceremony on September 7, 2023. This ceremony marked a crucial milestone in their journey towards becoming dentists.

The presence of Professor Sophia Chan from the HKU School of Nursing as the guest of honour added prestige to the event.

During the ceremony, our students took an oath to fulfil their professional responsibilities to provide the best possible treatment to all patients. They also vowed to uphold the honour and integrity of the dental profession.

A key highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of silver badges engraved with the students’ names. These badges symbolised their transition from dental students to dentist-in-training, signifying their dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment to their chosen profession.

Dental students will enter a new phase of learning where they apply the knowledge and skills acquired during the previous two years. This is an exciting and challenging time for them to learn in a real-life setting. They will have the chance to work alongside experienced clinical practitioners and participate in providing care to actual patients.

The Faculty extends its heartfelt wishes to the students as they embark on their clinical training journey. We hope that the students will gain invaluable experience, build confidence, and develop a deeper understanding of the complexities and rewards of delivering dental care. The Faculty aspires for the students to acquire the necessary skills to become competent and compassionate dentists in the future.
Professor Mike Leung delivers an informative admissions talk to prospective students and their parents.

HKU Dentistry Info Day

Inspiring future dental professionals
EVENT

The Faculty of Dentistry welcomed a large number of enthusiastic students interested in pursuing a career in dentistry at the University’s Information Day on October 28, 2023.

This annual flagship event provided visitors with a comprehensive overview of the undergraduate programme of the Faculty. Participants had the opportunity to gain insights into the curriculum, explore the teaching and learning facilities, meet with current dental students and faculty members. The event was designed to inspire those interested in studying dentistry and provide them with guidance on how to achieve their goals.

The admissions talks were highly popular, with all three sessions being packed to capacity. During the talks, Professor Mike Leung, Admissions Tutor and Assistant Dean (External Relations), delivered an introduction of the Faculty, highlighting the key aspects of dentistry, and providing admissions information. He also took the time to address questions from prospective students and their parents. The attendees were impressed with the academic and professional opportunities available to the students.

Another highlight of the Information Day was the opening of the simulation laboratory, where visitors had the unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience with various dental instruments. Participants were able to try their hands at polishing coins for a taste of what it’s like to be a dentist. This interactive experience was well received by visitors, as it allowed them to explore the practical aspects of dentistry and further piqued their curiosity.

The Faculty expresses its gratitude to the students and faculty members for their valuable assistance and active participation in making the Information Day a resounding success. Their dedication and enthusiasm will definitely play a significant role in attracting talented students to join the Faculty.
It is my great honour to serve as the President of the Society of Preventive Dentistry of Hong Kong (SPDHK). The SPDHK has strived and attended a number of milestones, making a name of its own. Being a member of this family and witnessing its growth has been a very exciting while encouraging experience for me.

Prevention in oral health is an important public health agenda. The World Health Organisation expressed its goal of universal coverage for oral health by the year 2030. Prevention is certainly a crucial pillar that supports this goal, as the burden of oral disease would become unbearably high without prevention, coupled with the trend of a global ageing population and the prevalence of non-communicable lifestyle diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. The importance of prevention has been a long understood and convincing idea but to advocate prevention by placing it in the spotlight and building our healthcare system and its strategies around its concepts is certainly a breakthrough of the modern healthcare system.

Therefore, the SPDHK will work hard to promote preventive dentistry by fostering an environment which encourages prevention within the profession and hope to act as a bridge to bring together different entities to work together to effectively prevent oral diseases. We will also continue our work in the community as a charity to improve the oral health of the city. We are glad to be given such a privilege, and with the continuous support of our members, we are certain that we can achieve a lot more in the coming years.

DR FLORA WAI LING CHAN
President, Society of Preventive Dentistry of Hong Kong

BDS to me has been a rollercoaster: it was the first time where my efforts were greatly disproportionate to the results, found that talent did give people an edge clinically that I envied, and learned that textbooks can often be outdated due to new research.

However, it was also where I found a bunch of friends that I could remain hopeful with no matter how dreadful the day went. Especially as classes were disrupted by COVID-19, I would also not have graduated without the generous sharing of cases, knowledge and clinical sessions from my classmates, the tutors who taught me how to formulate treatment plans and how to carry out procedures clinically, the dental technicians who worked extremely hard to complete our cases timely, the dental surgery assistants who put up with our pace and sometimes working overtime, our patients that were truly so patient with their dental treatment, the administrative staff for helping us manage our patients and folders, support from Dental Christian Fellowship and many more that if I wrote, would fill more than all the pages of this newsletter.

As a newly graduated dentist in the private sector, although there are times of doubt, I am confident to say that BDS is the strongest backbone of my workdays. I am also very grateful for the guidance and invaluable advice of the experienced dentists around me. Dentistry is an ever-growing body of knowledge, and I am excited to continue learning as a dentist.

DR JANET CHENG
Private Practice

How our dental graduates impact their communities

I have often been asked the question by both BDS and classmates, “You have spent 6 years at The Prince Philip Dental Hospital (PPDH) - why do you choose to stay at the hospital full-time after graduation?”

Although within the same building and setting, working as a Training Support Dental Officer (TSDO) has been a very helpful transition from student life to independent practice. In fact, the experience is completely different from that of being an undergraduate student. The BDS experience focuses on providing key foundational skills of dental practice, where clinical procedures are heavily dependent on the guidance of supervisors and tutors. As a TSDO, there is a greater ownership in clinical decision making and my own time management, as I enjoy the freedom to explore a variety of treatment options and treatment planning with my patient. At the same time, there is always access to seniors and staff within the hospital, with a shift in dynamics from a student-teacher relationship to a mentor-mentee relationship as we work side by side as colleagues serving patients. This also allows me to learn from various specialties and obtain expert opinions from different specialists, in order to provide the best treatment for my patients through a collective and interdisciplinary approach.

DR STEPHANIE CHU
Training Support Dental Officer at PPDH
I just graduated from the Faculty of Dentistry, HKU in 2023. I am currently a Dental Officer at the Department of Health. This year, new graduates were assigned to work in rotations, including the Civil Servants Dental Services, Hospital Dental Service and School Dental Care Service. I was thankful to be given an opportunity to start my first rotation at Queen Elizabeth Hospital’s Oral Maxillofacial Surgery & Dental Clinic.

Starting my career at a hospital was not an easy task as there were quite a lot of cases I have never come across during my BDS years. I welcomed the challenges and was grateful to my seniors and colleagues for their uncountable and tremendous support who genuinely led me to the right track. I will not be ashamed to say “I know not”, nor will I fail to call in my colleagues when the skills of another are needed for a patient’s recovery.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the teaching staff at HKU, who helped me build a solid foundation in my BDS years. Looking back, I valued the rewarding studies at HKU that allowed me to develop my career as a dentist. On a professional basis, I would remind myself to stay humble and most importantly, to place my patients’ benefits in the first place and to take care of them with warmth and sympathy.

DR JADE KEI KI
Dental Officer at the Department of Health
Philips Sonicare AI Toothbrush

SenceIQ
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All-in-One
Brush Head

AI-Powered
Sonicare App

* Based on a study of over 800 dental professionals (dentists and hygienists) conducted in United States, Germany, Japan, China, Canada, Netherlands, Australia, Switzerland, Italy, Czech Republic, Slovakia