

WINTER 2023

expressions

CONGRATULATIONS
TO CLASS 2023

GIVE OUR CHILDREN
A HEALTHY SMILE

IADR DISTINGUISHED
SCIENTIST AWARD

SMILES
FOR
ALL



HKU Dentistry

Faculty of Dentistry · The University of Hong Kong

香港大學牙醫學院







facdent.hku.hk

SENSODYNE SENSITIVITY & GUM: DUAL ACTION, ONE TOOTHPASTE



With Micro Foam technology

-  **63%**
greater sensitivity relief*¹
-  **Continued improvement**
in sensitivity relief over 24 weeks²
-  **40%**
improvement in gum health³
-  **Significant reduction**
in bleeding gums after two weeks⁴



*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. ¹Study conducted using a 0.454% w/w stannous fluoride toothpaste; measuring Schiff score and DHEQ questionnaire. ²Percentage 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 24. Both these measures are indicative of improvements in gum health. ³Sensodyne containing 0.454% stannous fluoride (1100 ppm fluoride) vs. negative control toothpaste (containing 1100 ppm as sodium monofluorophosphate).

References: 1. Parkinson CR, et al. Am J Dent. 2015;28:181-244. 2. Mason S, et al. BMC Oral Health. 2019;19:226. 3. Parkinson CR, et al. BMC Oral Health. 2020;20:89-96. 4. Acherkouk A, et al. BMC Oral Health. 2021;21:441.

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. Sensitivity 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 on advice of a dental professional or doctor. The ends of this carton have been glued down. Do not use if carton ends are open.

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Technology - The Next Frontier

Transforming healthcare through interdisciplinary research and innovation

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



From left: The Central Research Laboratories provide extensive facilities to support the research activities of faculty and students; The Clinical Research Centre aims to facilitate translational and clinical research.



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SmilesForAll

Serving Hong Kong's underprivileged
with life-changing dental care



We are proud to serve Hong Kong's underprivileged in this modern facility with globally acclaimed dental expertise.

MR GERHARD ZIELINSKI

Top: SmilesForAll patients receive advanced dental care at IAD-MSC.

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,



From left: Project Lead Professor George Pelekos, Chairman of the Board Straumann Group Mr Gilbert Achermann, Chairman of Azalea Endowment Fund Mr Wong Kai Man, Dean of Faculty of Dentistry Professor Thomas Flemmig, Director of IAD-MSC Mr Gerhard Zielinski at the launch ceremony of the Azalea Gum Treatment Project.

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.

PROFESSOR THOMAS FLEMMIG

Right: Professor George Pelekos (centre), Project Lead of Azalea Gum Treatment Project performs dental check-up to patient.

together with the surrounding bone and tissues, is surgically removed, often in combination with chemotherapy and radiotherapy. The final phase focuses on restoring patients' oral function and aesthetic. 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



FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



Professor Thomas Flemmig, in his speech, commends the dental graduates for their dedication.



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

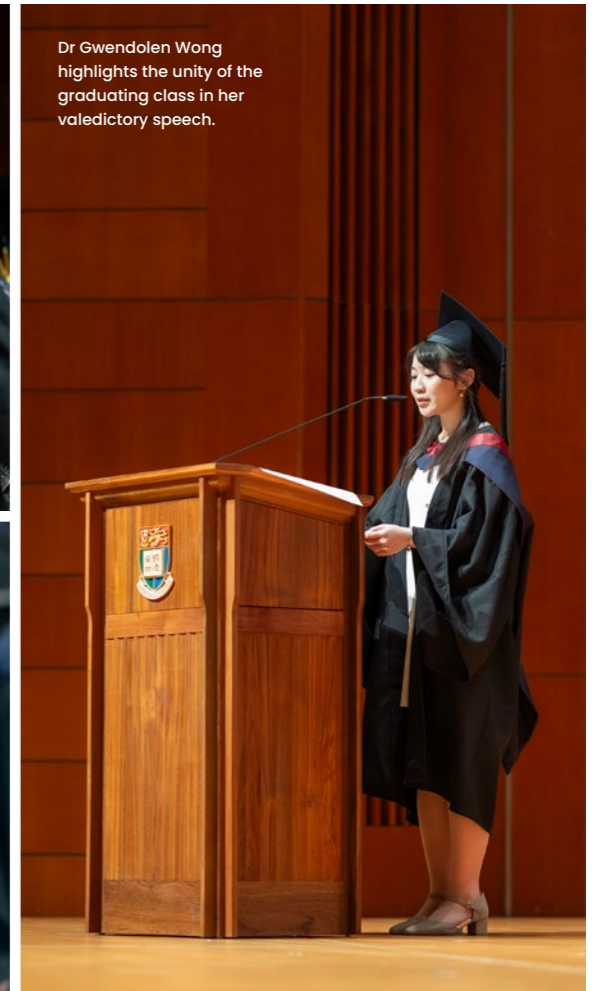
today." He also shared his immense confidence in the potential of the graduating class, "I know you have all it takes to make this world a better place. I look forward to seeing great things from you."

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.

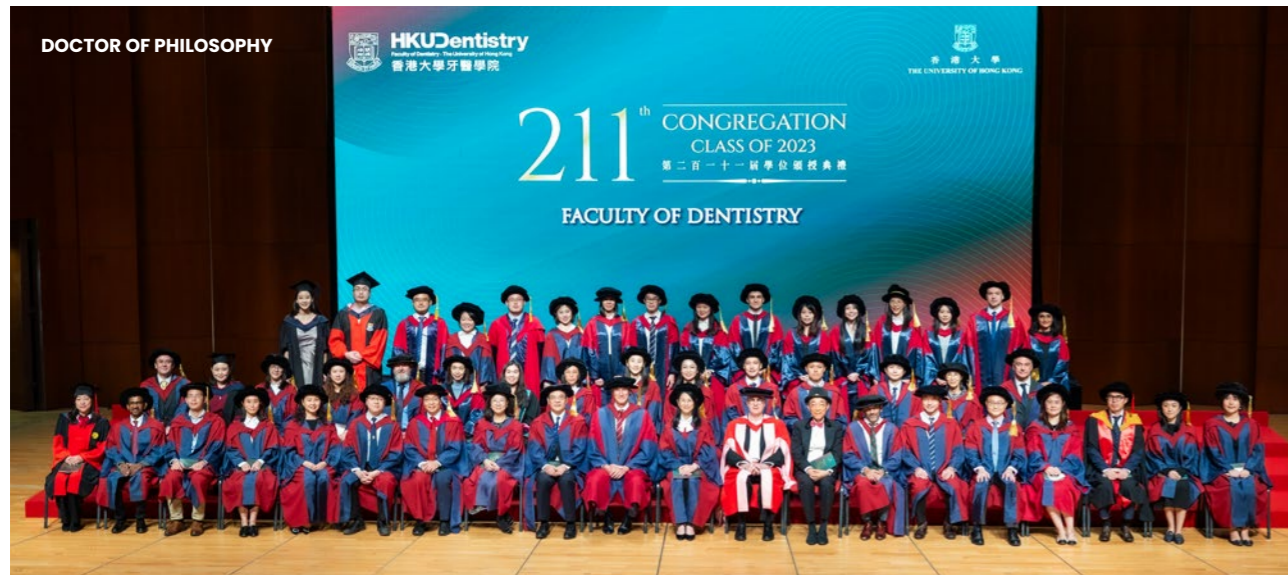
As the Faculty of Dentistry bids farewell to these accomplished graduates, we extend our warmest wishes for a prosperous professional journey and a fulfilling life. We are thrilled to welcome every one of them to the HKU Faculty of Dentistry alumni family!

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

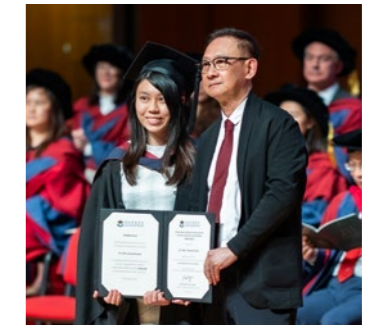


Dr Gwendolen Wong highlights the unity of the graduating class in her valedictory speech.





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



Hong Kong Dental Association
Scholarship

AWARDEE: Dr Bae Sung Won
PRESENTER: Dr Spencer Chan, President of
Hong Kong Dental Association



Hong Kong Dental Association
Scholarship

AWARDEE: Dr Cheung Ka Ho
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



Rebecca Ho Prize for
Dental Students of the Year

AWARDEE: Dr Wong Pui Sum
PRESENTER: Dr Rebecca Ho



The PPDH Board of
Governors Prize

AWARDEE: Dr Lam Ching Hei
PRESENTER: Mr Huen Wong, SBS, JP,
Chairman of the Board of Governors of
the Prince Philip Dental Hospital



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



Give Our Children A Healthy Smile

Jockey Club Children Oral Health Project started a new phase

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

Children learn how to brush teeth properly at the Children Oral Hygiene Workshop.



A child undergoes an oral screening by our dentist in the kindergarten.

performed over 191,000 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 31% 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.

From left: Children learn the importance of oral health through an interactive workshop; Parents attend an oral health seminar in the kindergarten.



General Research Fund

Supporting researchers to achieve excellence

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.



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
PROFESSOR CHUN HUNG CHU
Professor, Chair of Family Dentistry

PROJECT TITLE
Randomised clinical trial to arrest early childhood caries with a silver diamine fluoride gel



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
PROFESSOR RICHARD YUXIONG SU
Clinical Professor in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

PROJECT TITLE
OCCRiskNet: A novel artificial intelligence-based system for predicting malignant transformation in oral leukoplakia and oral lichenoid mucositis using multi-input whole-slide images



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
PROFESSOR GLORIA HAI MING WONG
Clinical Professor in Paediatric Dentistry

PROJECT TITLE
Deciphering the trans-ancestral genetic architecture of human facial shape: a high-throughput geometric morphometric approach



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
PROFESSOR CHENGFEI ZHANG
Clinical Professor in Endodontics

PROJECT TITLE
Discovering prognostic biomarkers for pulpotomy outcome in permanent mature teeth with irreversible pulpitis



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
PROFESSOR KATHERINE CHIU MAN LEUNG
Clinical Associate Professor in Prosthodontics

PROJECT TITLE
Root caries prevention using fluoride varnish fortified with strontium-doped bioactive glass-ceramic: a randomised double-blind controlled clinical trial



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
PROFESSOR YANQI YANG
Clinical Associate Professor in Orthodontics

PROJECT TITLE
A spatiotemporal analysis of the m6A RNA modification mechanism in senescence-associated alveolar bone remodelling



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
PROFESSOR JAMES KIT HON TSOI
Associate Professor in Dental Materials Science

PROJECT TITLE
Design and develop personalised and self-adaptive CPAP masks



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
PROFESSOR RORY MUNRO WATT
Associate Professor in Oral Biosciences

PROJECT TITLE
Stressed about fat: establishing mechanisms linking nutrients with survival mechanisms for oral and gut bacteria

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 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
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 YIFAN LIN
Clinical Assistant Professor in Orthodontics

PROJECT TITLE
Acceleration of orthodontic tooth movement using minimally invasive microneedles



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
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



360° round head* cleans better^ to stop dental issues before they start



NEW

small round head

regular manual toothbrush

100% more plaque removal¹
100% healthier gums[§]

the displayed model is iO10

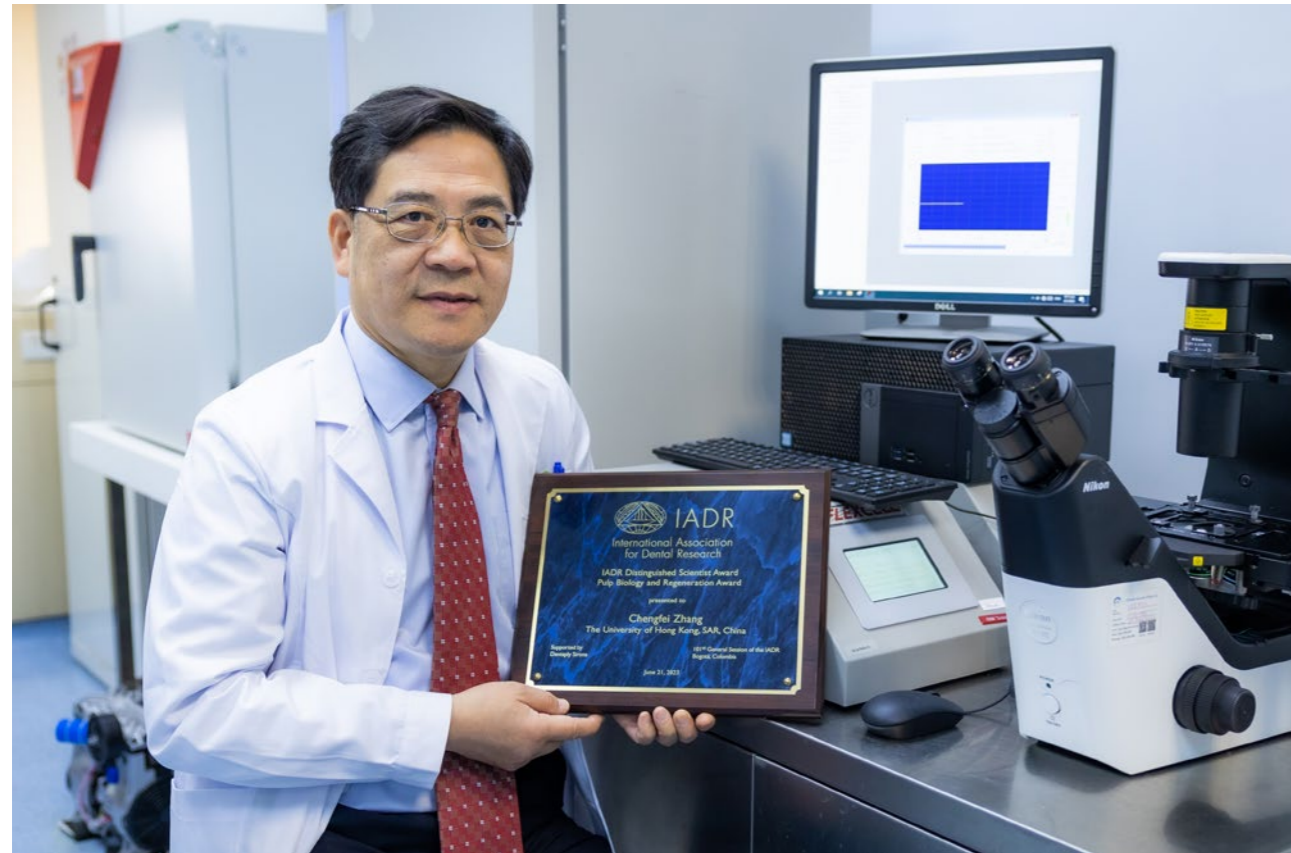
¹ Referring to the round brush head's 360 degree angle of circumference, vs a P&G regular manual toothbrush. The display brushhead is iO brushhead.
² Based on surveys of a representative worldwide sample of dentists carried out by a market research agency for P&G for the period of October 2020 and June 2022.
³ Based on P&G study monitoring plaque removal on 55 respondents using Oral-B iO power toothbrush's daily cleaning brushing mode and used together with Ultimate Clean Brush Head for 8 weeks, vs a regular manual toothbrush. Combined with continuous correct brushing methods, actual effect varies for each individual.
[§] Based on P&G study monitoring bleeding gums on 55 respondents using Oral-B iO power toothbrush's daily cleaning brushing mode and used together with Ultimate Clean Brush Head for 8 weeks, vs a regular manual toothbrush. The number of the subjects that used Oral-B iO and had healthy gum is 2 times vs that of the subjects using manual brush. Combined with continuous correct brushing methods, actual effect varies for each individual.

IADR Distinguished Scientist Award

Recognising exceptional contributions of Professor Chengfei Zhang



RECOGNITION



Top: Professor Chengfei Zhang's achievements symbolise the research excellence culture at the Faculty.

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 Gies Award for his publication in the *Journal of Dental 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 CHENGFEI ZHANG



The International Association for Dental Research Distinguished Scientist Award recognises Professor Chengfei Zhang's contribution to the field of pulp biology and regeneration.

Top 2% Scientists

Congratulating 17 recipients from the HKU Dentistry

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, benefiting 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



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 FLEMMIG
Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry



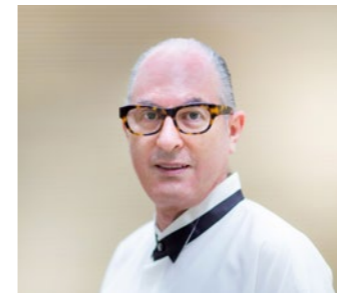
PROFESSOR MICHAEL BOTELHO
Clinical Professor in Prosthodontics



PROFESSOR GLORIA WONG
Clinical Professor in Paediatric Dentistry



PROFESSOR CYNTHIA YIU
Professor, Chair of Paediatric Dentistry



PROFESSOR MICHAEL BURROW
Clinical Professor in Prosthodontics



PROFESSOR CHENGFEI ZHANG
Clinical Professor in Endodontics



DR DUANGPORN DUANGTHIP
Senior Clinical Practitioner in Restorative Dental Sciences



PROFESSOR MAY WONG
Professor in Dental Public Health



PROFESSOR MIKE LEUNG
Clinical Professor in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery



DR IRIS YIN
Clinical Practitioner in Restorative Dental Sciences



PROFESSOR WAI KEUNG LEUNG
Clinical Professor in Periodontology



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.

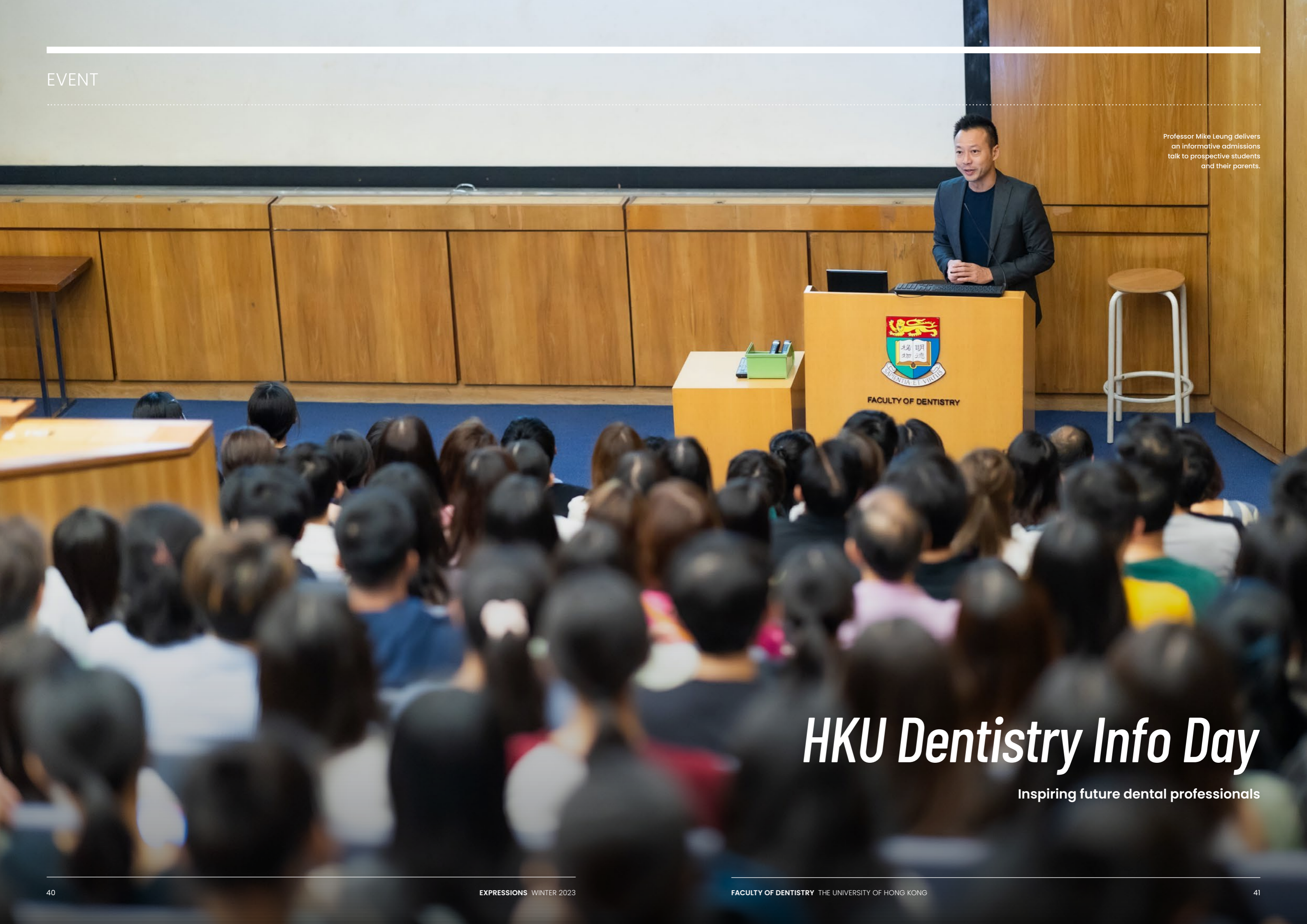


Clockwise from top: Students undertake to fulfil their professional responsibilities in providing dental care to patients; Professor Sophia Chan encourages our students at the clinical pledging ceremony; Students receive the silver badges with their names.

EVENT



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.

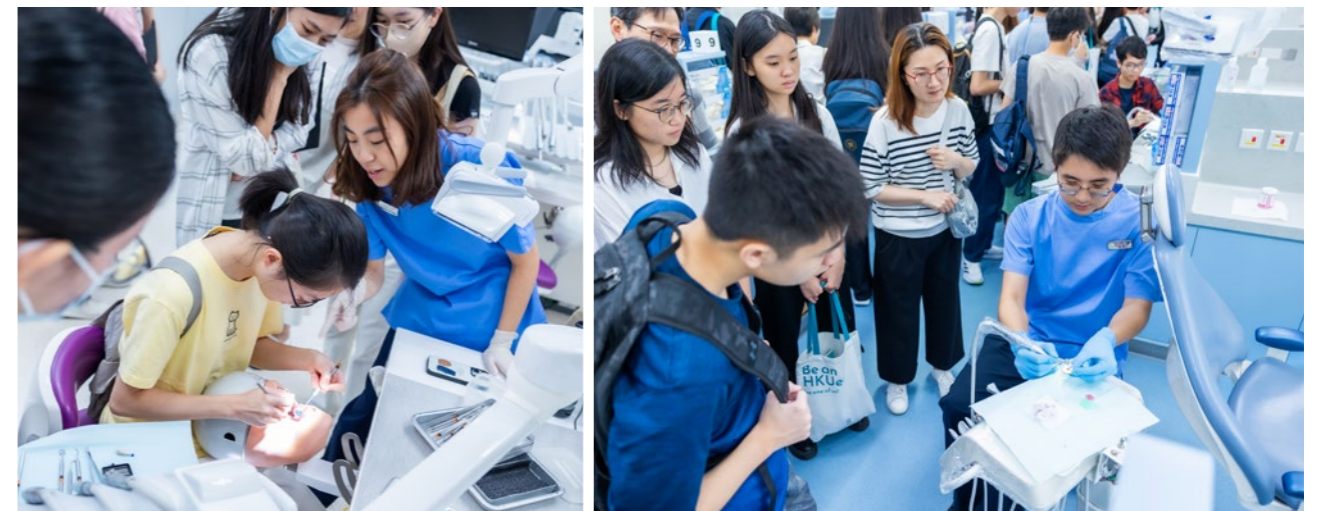
The admissions talks were highly popular, with all three sessions being packed to capacity. During the talks, Professor Mike Leung, Admissions Tutor and Assistant Dean (External Relations), delivered an introduction of the Faculty, highlighting the key aspects of dentistry, and providing admissions information. 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.

Bottom:
Participants of the Information Day get hands-on experience in the simulation laboratory.



Alumni News

How our dental graduates impact their communities

DR FLORA WAI LING CHAN

President, Society of Preventive Dentistry of Hong Kong

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 JANET CHENG

Private Practice

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 STEPHANIE CHU

Training Support Dental Officer at PPDH

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 JADE KEI KI

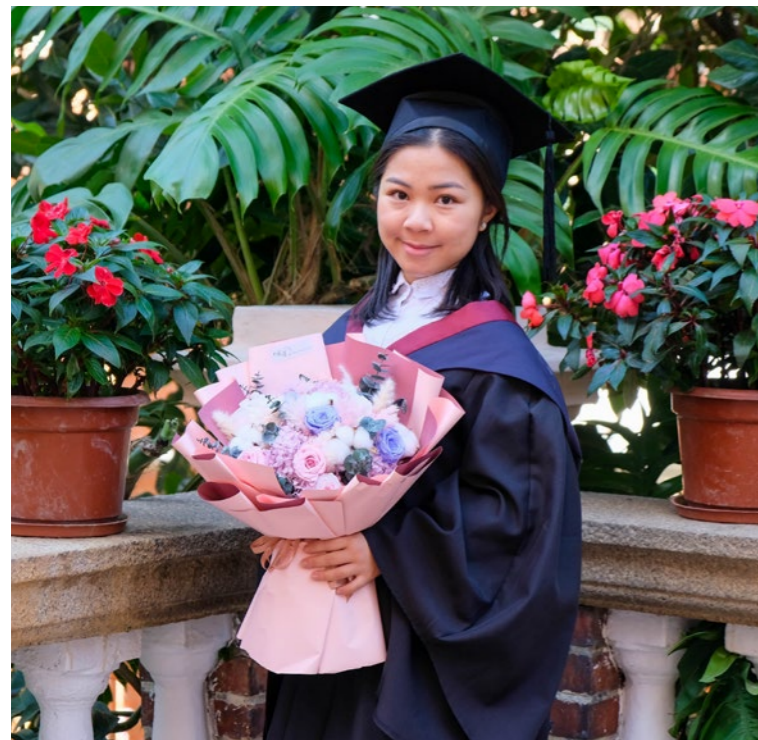
Dental Officer at the Department of Health

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.



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References:

1. Tavss et al. Am J Dent. 2003 Dec;16(6):369-74.
2. Driscoll, et al. J Am Dent Assoc. 1982 Dec;105(6):1010-3.

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