

The Honorable Henry Tang GBS JP, Chief Secretary for Administration, HSAR

# Faculty of Dentistry

## Celebrate 25 Years of Excellence in Dentistry

The Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Hong Kong marks its Silver Jubilee by reflecting on its academic and research achievements so far, and the plan for future success.

As the Silver Jubilee of the Faculty of Dentistry of the University of Hong Kong, only faculty of its kind in Hong Kong. Some 25 years of pioneering research and academic excellence have made the faculty arguably the most vibrant in Asia.

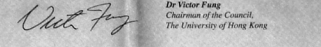
At the faculty celebrates the first 25 years, Dean of Dentistry Lai Ah-ma Samarayake takes a look at the academic accomplishments so far, how the faculty is celebrating the jubilee, and how it will endeavor to ensure that its students continue to enhance the field of dentistry.

"Our aim has always been to be the premier faculty of dentistry in Asia, which it is," Professor Samarayake said proudly. "There are no difficult factors, our teaching model is based on problem-based learning and self-directed learning in small groups."

While the undergraduate degree is currently five years, it will become six years from 2012 under the Bureau of Education director to lengthen university studies by one year, to allow students more study diversity in their first year.

The faculty began admitting postgraduates in 1985 and has a very strong research wing. The faculty concentrates on four areas: research and education; undergraduate and postgraduate education; patient care

This year, the faculty of Dentistry of the University of Hong Kong celebrates its Silver Jubilee, and it certainly has much to celebrate, as the only dental school in Hong Kong. The Faculty of Dentistry has a unique and very important role to play over the past 25 years, it has made enormous contributions to the education and training of Hong Kong's dental professionals, provision of private, public and academic dentists, and improvement of oral health care in the community. The Faculty has become internationally recognized for its achievements in clinical, basic, and applied research. Today, the faculty is considered indeed the world's leading dental faculty in its past successes and it will continue to succeed for many years to come.



Dr. Victor Fung, Chairman of the Council, The University of Hong Kong

# Years of Excellence

HKU Faculty of Dentistry • Since 1982



Philip Poon Dental Hospital at the teaching nucleus of the HKU Faculty of Dentistry

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On behalf of the University of Hong Kong, I am delighted to congratulate the Faculty of Dentistry on the occasion of its Silver Jubilee. For a quarter of a century, the faculty has been serving the people of Hong Kong and the region by advancing their oral health and well-being. It is the territory's only provider of undergraduate and postgraduate dental education, and is committed to teaching and research excellence, patient care and community engagement. The University is proud of the faculty's numerous accomplishments over the past 25 years - which have earned it both local and international respect, and helped strengthen the University's standing.

I am pleased to mark the beginning of further growth and success for the Faculty of Dentistry, and again, my warmest wishes to all its staff, students and alumni on this happy and historic occasion.

Prof. Lawrence Tsui, Vice-Chancellor, The University of Hong Kong

# Milestones

1982 • The HKU Faculty of Dentistry is established at the Prince Philip Dental Hospital on 1 July 1982

1984 • The UK BDS (Bachelor of Dental Surgery) degree is granted recognition by the UK Faculty General Dental Council

1985 • The first batch of 75 BDS students graduates from the 4-year-4-month course • The HKU Dental Alumni Association is formed • Taught postgraduate courses are offered

1986 • The BSChD (Master of Dental Surgery) candidate graduates • The faculty holds the annual meeting of the International Organization for Standardization Technical Committee for Dentistry

1987 • The first PhD dental candidates successfully defend their theses at HKU

1988 • The Oral Biology Unit is created to encourage research into Oral Biosciences • The faculty hosts the 11th International Conference on Oral Biology and Oral Scientific Meeting of the Southeast Asian Division of the International Association for Dental Research

1990 • The BDS course is extended to 5 years

1992 • The faculty celebrates its 10th Anniversary

1994 • The BDS Elective Programme starts, giving each student the opportunity to specialise in a particular area of dentistry • 2-3 weeks at dental school or institution abroad in Year 5 • The Dental Research Seminars are inaugurated

1995 • The first batch of students reading the 5-year BDS curriculum graduates

1997 • The faculty becomes a unitary faculty, without separate departments

1998 • The faculty introduces problem-based learning (PBL) to the undergraduate curriculum to promote student-centred life-long learning

1999 • The faculty's Simulation Laboratory, one of the best equipped in the world, is established

2000 • The total number of taught postgraduates graduating from the faculty exceeds 100

2002 • The faculty celebrates its 20th Anniversary • The faculty hosts the 17th Scientific Meeting of the Southeast Asian Division of the International Association for Dental Research and the 13th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Asia Association for Dental Education

2003 • The first batch of students reading the integrated PBL curriculum graduates

2004 • The total number of BDS graduates exceeds 1000 • The Oral Health and Science Seminars are inaugurated

2006 • The Prince Philip Dental Hospital celebrates its 25th Anniversary • The faculty starts planning for the 5-year BDS curriculum

2007 • The faculty celebrates its Silver Jubilee • The faculty launches a Conjoint International Postgraduate Programme in Restorative Dentistry • The faculty hosts its 20th Annual Scientific Meeting

2008 • The faculty celebrates its 26th Anniversary • The faculty starts planning for the 5-year BDS curriculum

2009 • The faculty celebrates its 27th Anniversary • The faculty starts planning for the 5-year BDS curriculum

2010 • The faculty celebrates its 28th Anniversary • The faculty starts planning for the 5-year BDS curriculum

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2012 • The faculty celebrates its 30th Anniversary • The faculty starts planning for the 5-year BDS curriculum

2013 • The faculty celebrates its 31st Anniversary • The faculty starts planning for the 5-year BDS curriculum

2014 • The faculty celebrates its 32nd Anniversary • The faculty starts planning for the 5-year BDS curriculum

2015 • The faculty celebrates its 33rd Anniversary • The faculty starts planning for the 5-year BDS curriculum

2016 • The faculty celebrates its 34th Anniversary • The faculty starts planning for the 5-year BDS curriculum

2017 • The faculty celebrates its 35th Anniversary • The faculty starts planning for the 5-year BDS curriculum

2018 • The faculty celebrates its 36th Anniversary • The faculty starts planning for the 5-year BDS curriculum

2019 • The faculty celebrates its 37th Anniversary • The faculty starts planning for the 5-year BDS curriculum

2020 • The faculty celebrates its 38th Anniversary • The faculty starts planning for the 5-year BDS curriculum

2021 • The faculty celebrates its 39th Anniversary • The faculty starts planning for the 5-year BDS curriculum

2022 • The faculty celebrates its 40th Anniversary • The faculty starts planning for the 5-year BDS curriculum

2023 • The faculty celebrates its 41st Anniversary • The faculty starts planning for the 5-year BDS curriculum

2024 • The faculty celebrates its 42nd Anniversary • The faculty starts planning for the 5-year BDS curriculum

2025 • The faculty celebrates its 43rd Anniversary • The faculty starts planning for the 5-year BDS curriculum

2026 • The faculty celebrates its 44th Anniversary • The faculty starts planning for the 5-year BDS curriculum

## Onwards and upwards Faculty continues to score high marks for its research

Looking back over the past 25 years, the Faculty of Dentistry is proud of the research and development that it has carried out, and it is still going strong.

Associate Dean for Research and Discovery Professor Lin Kwong Cheung said, "The 25th anniversary is a milestone in any dental school. The faculty has found its position in Hong Kong and is the leading dental faculty in Asia."

According to Professor Cheung, the faculty cover biomedical and tissue engineering, infection and immunity, and public health and safety aspects. According to the 2010 Hong Kong-wide Research Assessment Exercise, the faculty ranked 1st in the research and supervised a level of research excellence appropriate to the discipline in Hong Kong and also showing evidence of international excellence.

Professor Cheung has been involved in a variety of tissue research including the "Commons Director" - tissue which is implanted into the jaw bone and can create new bone and stimulate the new bone to grow faster. This is done for people with a cleft lip and palate. Research has also been carried out

## Students combine art and technology in friendly environment

Jonathan Ku King-to, 21, says that as a schoolchild - unlike his peers - he never found it difficult to draw. He would just settle himself for a drawing chair and work by a window.

"As an early introduction to the career Mr Ku has chosen to go into, his third year of a five-year dentistry degree programme at the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Hong Kong, Mr Ku said that from a practical perspective, a career in dentistry offers people a stable income in Hong Kong.

"It is a profession, because it combines art and technology," he said. "It provides a good career path. Some people are like being an artist, you can finish a task quite easily, but it is a challenge to complete it artistically. In dentistry, you have a dentist, and I think that's what attracted me to it."

Mr Ku is the chairman of the faculty's Dental Society from 2005 to 2006. The society organizes different

## Congratulations to the HKU Faculty of Dentistry on its Silver Jubilee:

(Not in order of priority)

TESCO Dental Supplies Ltd. Biotech Dental Limited Chong Ning Instruments Co. Ltd. Bionisa Dentals Ltd. Colgate-Palmolive (H.K.) Ltd. MINTON SUPPLIES COMPANY HONEYLACE MEDICAL LTD. SHUN HING GROUP

and usually stay a week, learning about their clinics, study practices and culture.

As well as the study tour, the society also has an ongoing exchange programme with the dental faculty at the National University of Singapore. The society also has a number of Asia Pacific Dental Student Association members who are members of the Faculty of Dentistry is rather being part of a big family," said Mr Ku. Bionisa Dentals Ltd. is a separate building away from the main campus of the University of Hong Kong. The success activities are always carried out by them and bring them together in friendship as well as study.

The Dental Public Health Committee, one of the sub-committees of the Faculty of Dentistry, has also been carrying out research programmes for the community with an aim to enhance public oral care.

Prince Philip unveiled a plaque at the Opening Ceremony of the Prince Philip Dental Hospital

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