



FACULTY OF DENTISTRY
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

DEAN'S Bulletin

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Internal Circular - Autumn 2004

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Dear Colleagues,

Greetings, and welcome back! I trust you had a good summer and enjoyed the holiday either in Hong Kong or at your favorite vacation land. As we have gone through a rather busy period after I accepted the Deanship, I would like to share with you, through this bulletin, some of the events that may have occurred in your absence.

But, let me, first thank you most sincerely for all the help, support, advice and encouragement given during my first seven months of leadership of our unique institution. I do hope that you will continue to do so - bouquets and brickbats are all welcome! My thanks are also due to the ever industrious, four associate deans who made my task less onerous.

What follows is a rather punchy sketch of the recent events and I seek your indulgence for inadvertent omissions, if any.

Faculty Realignment: Referred Back to the Faculty Boards

After discussing the outcome of the recent Faculty retreat, on the realignment of the areas/disciplines, the FEC decided to refer back the Group deliberations at the retreat for further discussion and follow-up as follows: **Group I**, (undergraduate educational matters): Board of Undergraduate studies, **Group II** (postgraduate educational matters): Board of Postgraduate studies, **Groups III and IV** (clinical and other related matters): Committee of Senior Clinicians.

As I have reiterated the process of realignment has to be done carefully, in measured steps and with much aforethought and it should, and must lead to the betterment of the institutional administrative structure. I am hopeful that we could reach a reasonable consensus in the autumn and implement the new structure in January 2005.

New Research Groups Established

A meeting of the academic staff was also held recently to review the current research groups and the faculty research strategy. The general sentiment was that three research groups were adequate in view of our relatively small staff complement. Each research group should serve essentially like-minded researchers to discuss, exchange and share ideas. However, there is merit in nurturing **focus groups** (with already strong research accomplishments) continuing under each umbrella in order to further strengthen their work (as stated in the University Research Committee promulgations).

The three new research groups thus established are:

- i Infection and Immunity: Proposed by Dr. L.J. Jin*
- ii Public Health and Healthy Ageing: Proposed by Prof. Edward Lo*
- iii Biomedical and Tissue Engineering: Proposed by Prof. L.K. Cheung*

The members will elect the conveners of each research group once its composition is established. If you have not already done so, please return the proforma forwarded to you by Professor Lim Cheung (Associate Dean for Research and Discovery) indicating your preferred primary, and secondary research groups.

A New Faculty Research Fund Established

A new *Faculty Research Fund (FRF)* using the savings from the central resources has been established. This fund is essentially meant to assist the research programme of the MDS students, and fractional appointees who cannot apply for central university funds for their research. Each MDS student would be allocated HK\$ 3000 per academic year for his/her own research, and it is hoped that the research so conducted would lead to a publication in an ISI journal. The FRF, in addition, may support worthy undergraduate student projects and student travel.

A Unitary Laboratory Administration

All laboratories in the Faculty will come under a single umbrella for administrative purposes in future under a 'user-pay' system of arrangement. It is hoped that the new amalgamation will lead to greater accessibility (24 hr) to all laboratories and, optimal utilization of technical and other resources under a unified, flexi-approach.

The administration of the unitary laboratory will be through a technician-in-charge and overseen by the Associate Dean (Research and Discovery). A number of meetings have been held to discuss the views of the technicians on this subject. After interviewing the interested candidates for the position Mr Tony Yuen has been appointed as the Technician-in-charge of the

Central Laboratory Complex, as of 1st September, 2004.

Faculty Website Fully Functional

We now have a fully functional, user friendly, and a highly informative website that is updated once a month or early, if necessary. I hope you will use this facility regularly for advertising all your postgraduate programmes, and updating your own profiles. Professor Urban Hagg and Ms Zinnia Pang have to be congratulated for taking care of this important facility which is our 'local and international electronic messenger.'

Record Number of New Taught Postgraduates Enrolled

At the time writing, we have admitted a total of 31 taught postgraduate students to all programmes for the 2004-2005 academic year, with 11 more pending admissions. Together with the continuing 36 taught postgraduates, we are likely to enroll a record total of some 70 students from various countries in the upcoming academic year. This will help the internationalization of our university and the faculty, and I plan to host a barbecue dinner in the autumn to welcome them all. (see below)

A New Series of Faculty Oral Health Science Seminars

A new series of Faculty *Oral Health Science Seminars* delivered by subject experts begins on October 6, at 5.30 pm in lecture theatre I. These are essential core seminars for all postgraduate students of the Faculty, but are open to all dental practitioners who seek continuing education credit. For further details, please visit the Faculty website www.facdent.hku.org. I thank in advance, all colleagues for contributing to these seminars.

Postgraduate Habitat Expands

The work on the new, expanded postgraduate habitat on the seventh floor (encompassing part of the Computer Centre) has begun and will be completed before the new students arrive in September. The new look habitat will accommodate upto 60 students, has a tailor made pantry, and 24 hr air conditioning. It is hoped that the new facility will foster

collegiality and friendship amongst our international student body in addition to provision of 'classy' accommodation.

The New Video- and Tele-conferencing Facility

The video- and tele-conferencing facility is now functional. The first in-house PhD oral examination through this tele-conference facility successfully took place recently. Hence, external examiners can now directly partake in postgraduate oral examinations, and the facility can also be used for research or clinical seminars with colleagues abroad. We are currently seeking ways to improve the quality of the hardware and the service.

Resource Room Opens for Friday Evening Socials

On a lighter note, colleagues will be happy to hear that the newly refurbished resource room on the seventh floor is now open on Friday evenings (530 pm- 700 pm) as a 'watering hole' and a convivial meeting area to enjoy a glass of wine or a can of beer. We are striving to get our liquor license back very soon - but until then the liquor will be on the house and users will have to take turns to bring their own drinks and liquor!

Personalia

*** Congratulations to the new Chair Professors** Congratulations are in order for the two new Chair professors of the Faculty: Professor Lim Cheung Chair of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Professor Anne McMillan, Chair of Oral Rehabilitation. Professor Franklin Tay well known to us as a part-time teacher has also been appointed as an Honorary Professor of the Faculty of Dentistry.

*** Dr. Ricky Wong joins the Faculty**

On behalf of the Faculty, I wish to extend a warm welcome to Dr Ricky Wong who joined the Orthodontics area as our newest Assistant Professor. Dr Wong is familiar to most of us for his dedication to the specialty and the prize winning research he has prosecuted here. In addition, he has just

completed his PhD, and we wish to congratulate him on reaching another landmark in his career.

*** New manager of the Dental Illustration Unit (new: Dental Media Unit)**

Dr Michael Botelho has accepted duties as the new manager of the Dental Illustration Unit, which is to be retitled as the *Dental Media Unit* to reflect its changing functions one of which is the maintenance and servicing the video/tele conferencing facility.

*** New manager of the Simulation Laboratory**

Dr Zee Kwan Yat has accepted duties as the new manager of the Dental Simulation Laboratory, and I am certain that his electronic and managerial skills will come in handy to 'kill the bugs' that appear to be surfacing there from time to time.

*** A new Clinician-in-charge of the PCU appointed**

Please note that Dr T W Chow will be the new clinician-in-charge of the Primary Care Unit as of August 1, 2004.

*** New University Mace Bearer**

Dr Fredrick Chu has been appointed as the new Mace Bearer of the University of Hong Kong. Congratulations Dr Chu for sharing this heavy burden on behalf of your *alma mater*!

*** Dr Newsome publishes a book on Dental Practice**

Dr Phil Newsome is to be congratulated for a landmark publication entitled *Profitable Dental Practice: strategies for building a practice that everyone loves to visit*. Co-authored with Dr Chris Barrow this book is considered an enlightening and an indispensable guide to dental practice.

*** Dr Lu Mei wins the Outstanding Research Student Award**

We wish to congratulate Dr Lu Mei (and Professor Bakr Rabie - supervisor) for winning the Outstanding Research Postgraduate Student Award 2002-2003 of the University of Hong Kong for her thesis entitled 'Allogeneic bone grafts mixed with basic fibroblast growth factor: a cellular and molecular study'

✽ *Professor Samaranayake nominated to the Vice Presidential slate of the International Association for Dental Research 2004*

As you are aware, I have been nominated to the 2004 vice-presidential slate of the International Association for Dental Research. The other two nominees are Professor Deborah Greenspan, from UCSF and Professor Peter Holbrook from the University of Reykjavik, Iceland. Voting is now open until October 29. I am amongst worthy contenders, and honored indeed to have been nominated for this prestigious position. I do seek your support and hope that you will cast your vote. Review the candidate biographies at <http://www.dentalresearch.org/elections/iabios.html>

✽ *Dr Luo Yan: Our New Post-doctoral Fellow*

We welcome **Dr Luo Yan** who recently began work as a Post-doctoral Fellow in community dentistry. Dr Luo, has a DDS from University of Wuhan, Hubei, PRC and pursued her doctoral studies in our faculty under the mentorship of Professor Edward Lo.

Planned Forthcoming Events

- A workshop on writing CERG grants : Faculty Board Room, September 10, 2004
- **Oral Health Science Seminars**
Seminar I: *Current Perspectives in Infection Control*; Prof L.P. Samaranayake Lecture Theatre I - October 6, 5:30 - 7:00pm
- An **Evening Barbecue** to welcome Postgraduate students - October 2004
- **Faculty Mixer** at the Shek-O Country Club - December 14, 2004
- **Annual Scientific Meeting** - October 2004



Warm regards.

Lakshman Samaranayake
Dean of Dentistry
University of Hong Kong
September 2004