

DENTAL *Mirror*



A bi-annual newsletter of the Faculty of Dentistry

International Association for Dental Research (IADR) Singapore Section

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**Advancing
 research and
 increasing
 knowledge
 for the
 improvement
 of oral
 health in
 Singapore**
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The IADR Singapore Section turned 11 in April 2003. A protem committee was formed in 1990 and the Section was registered in 1991. The IADR Singapore Section was formally established on 27 April 1992 with A/P Teo Choo Soo as its first President. The objectives of the Section are to (a) Promote broadly, research in all aspects of dental and related sciences, (b) To encourage development of improved methods for prevention and treatment of oral and dental diseases and (c) To encourage and facilitate cooperation and mutual helpfulness among local investigators in every discipline of Dentistry in the Singaporean context. Membership of the section has grown steadily since its inception and is currently about 45. Members come from diverse backgrounds and include staff/students of the National University of Singapore and National Dental Centre as well as private practitioners who are interested in research. Activities are focused primarily on advancing research and the dissemination of research findings. These include the organisation of scientific conferences, research evenings and workshops, and the award of travel grants to attend regional and international IADR meetings. A new and younger team has recently taken over the helm from A/P Yeo Jin Fei, our second President, who has led the society since 1998 till 2002. With the vibrancy of youth on their side, the new team is tasked with taking the society to greater heights and promoting a vibrant research culture in Singapore.

A/P Adrian U J Yap
 IADR Singapore Section



Our focus this issue is the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) Singapore section which has now come of age. It is 11 years old this year. A new committee was selected early this year. At the helm is Associate Professor Adrian Yap whom everyone knows as a person so devoted to research that he practically eats, sleeps and breathes research! Not only that, he is a very powerful motivator too. All the right attributes for the job! It is hoped that with the younger blood manning the ship, research will continue to flourish and that they will be able to stimulate research activities among the younger graduates who have been exposed to research in their Final Year Research Projects.

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome or SARS... the disease that shook the world in the past few months. Being in the health care profession, dentists were affected to varying extents. The faculty was not spared either as activities came almost to a standstill initially with canceling of student's clinics, a huge drop in patient attendance, postponement of meetings etc. New changes were implemented in the faculty almost everyday as knowledge of the disease increased such as taking of temperature twice which later became thrice a day (kudos to our IT people for offering a reminder service via the paging system), wearing of masks within the hospital (certainly a challenge trying to give a lecture with the mask on initially!), tracking of staff movement, fitting exercise for the N95 masks, competency test on PPE (personal protection equipment) and the wearing of grey scrubs or t-shirt/pants which have now become the standard uniform. Let us all do our part to keep this disease at bay.

Dr Chay Siew Han

SEAADE: Short History and Significance of the Association



The South East Asia Association for Dental Education (SEAADE) was formed in 1990 at the Singapore meeting of the 78th FDI World Dental Congress. The first council was formed in Singapore in 1990 with Prof. H S Loh as the first President and A/P S B Keng as the Hon. Secretary.

The idea of SEAADE arose from the need to improve communication between the various dental institutions. During the IADR (South East Asian Division) meetings in the late eighties, this idea was discussed and accepted. The delegates who attended these meetings proposed an association be set up to further develop the close relationship of the member countries in the education field.

SEAADE played a big role in helping with the organization of the IFDEA/Dent Ed Evolve world education meeting which was held in Singapore in April 2002. The Faculty of Dentistry played host to the successful meeting which attracted participants from 34 countries. The Singapore dental school also has the honour of having had 2 past presidents (Prof H S Loh and A/P C S Teo) and the current President-Elect, A/P S B Keng to the association.

Presently, the association is represented by major dental schools in the South East Asian Region. The 14th SEAADE annual meeting will be held in September 2003 in conjunction with the 18th IADR (South East Asian Division) annual meeting in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

**Dr Chng Hui Kheng
A/P Keng Siong Beng**



INTRODUCTION

The International Association for Dental Research (IADR) is the premier international research organisation established to promote research in oral health sciences, to encourage development of improved methods for prevention and treatment of oral diseases, to improve oral health of the public through research and to facilitate cooperation among investigators through communication of research findings.



Singapore delegates tucking in during IADR in Hong Kong 2002

International Association For Dental Research (IADR)

Southeast Asian Division

The IADR currently has 20 Divisions worldwide and is developing a structure that groups Divisions into 5 geographical Federations. The Southeast Asian Division is one of the IADR Divisions and will be grouped under the Pan-Asia Pacific Federation.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Whilst the main IADR was founded in 1920, the Southeast Asian Division, after several years of developmental gestation, came into existence on 5 December 1985. A group of researchers from several Southeast Asian countries met then in Bangkok at the Asian Pacific Dental Conference and formulated the first Constitution for this Division. The first President chosen was Professor Edward Renson from Hong Kong with active participation from several SEA countries including Singapore, represented by A/Ps Teo Choo Soo and Yeo Jin Fei.

The SEA Division currently comprises more than 400 members from 19 member countries within a geographical region stretching from the Indian subcontinent across the Southeast Asian region to the east of the Pacific rim.

The leadership of this distinguished organisation rotated amongst member countries and Singapore contributed to this leadership through Past Presidents A/P Teo Choo Soo (1987), A/P Yeo Jin Fei (1993-1995) and current President A/P Keson Tan. There were significant contributions to the global Association when A/P Teo Choo Soo was appointed to the Board of Directors for 2 terms (1993-95 and 1998-2001).

Singapore also contributes significantly to the developing countries in the Regional Development Programme through the

services of members like A/Ps Keson Tan, Lim Lum Peng, Teo Choo Soo, Kelvin Foong and Stephen Hsu.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES/ IMPACT

The SEA Division meets annually with a rotation of meeting venues. Singapore has hosted the Division meeting on 3 previous occasions – in 1990, 1995 and 1999. The 1995 meeting was held in conjunction with the 78th Annual Session of the IADR. These meetings raised funds for promotion of research and programmes, including the University IADR Gold Medal.

The IADR Singapore Section was also formed in 1990 to promote and consolidate research amongst academicians and clinicians locally. Regular meetings are held in conjunction with the Academy of Medicine and others.

This year will see the 18th IADR (SEA Division) meeting to be held in Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City, in conjunction with the Southeast Asia Association for Dental Education. These meetings are scheduled from 23-27 September 2003.

The Division has come a long way to establishing quality, relevant and current research in this part of the world which is mainly in the developmental stage. With strong focus on research and development, the IADR is seen to be a very important platform on which the strength and focus on research can be amplified. The Council of the Division looks forward to your support.

A/P Teo Choo Soo
A/P Yeo Jinn Fei

Professor Roy Page NUS-SDA Distinguished Speaker 2003

'Bringing World-class Periodontology & Research to the Doorstep'

The invited speaker for this prestigious biennial event, Professor Roy Page, is an internationally renowned Periodontist, Researcher and Academician. He was the highlight of the Singapore Dental Association (SDA) Convention 2003 held at the Pan Pacific Hotel. Despite the temperature checks, the convention managed to attract more than 200 registrants. Prof Page more than fulfilled all expectations, delivering a full-day scientific programme tailored to help clinicians look at periodontics beyond scaling, root planning and polishing. He also packaged recent scientific insights and research data such that it had full clinical relevance and appeal to both generalists and specialists.



Prof Page also delivered a series of lectures over a period of 3 days at the Faculty. Topics covered ranged from the basic fundamentals in the pathogenesis of periodontal disease, periodontal risk assessment, diagnosis & treatment, to state-of-the-art research. As one of the highlights of the seminar, Professor Page demonstrated a new software tool (Periodontal Risk Calculator) developed by his research team for periodontal risk assessment in clinical practice. He also discussed and shared with the audience the research work he had pursued for many years in the development of a periodontal vaccine as well as his expertise and extensive experience in fostering research in a dental school.

Despite what was considered as an ambitious, exhaustive and intensive programme, Prof Page was able to satisfy the curiosity and individual needs that far exceeded the participants' expectations – it was truly a world-class performance. His humility, excellent presentation, exceptional organizational skills, stimulating and inspiring discussion was certainly well respected and applauded by all participants attending the programme.

A/P Lim Lum Peng



Staff undergoing the PPE Competency Test



Masked undergrads receiving a briefing



SARS

SARS



Lab sessions

SARS

March 2003 – The SARS virus descended like a gloomy cloud over our sunny island. Since the first case was recorded, Singapore has geared up to stamp out the virus with numerous precautions put into action. NUS has arranged two levels of administration to tackle SARS-related matters on its own campus. The first being a SARS Executive Group (SEG) and the second is a SARS Action Team (SAT). A website [<http://www.nus.edu.sg/sars/>] has also been set up to answer any possible queries about the virus.

NUS divided its sprawling campus into zones, encouraging staff and students to minimise contact between zones, making our existence seem ever more so claustrophobic. As our courageous doctors and nurses at TTSH tirelessly push on in the nation's war against SARS, in and around Dentistry, staff and students strove to retain some degree of normalcy in their daily lives armed with masks and trusty thermometers. Temperature taking has since become a daily ritual right next to brushing and flossing. All staff have to take their

temperatures thrice daily and record their readings into the NUH centralised temperature tracking system.

Yet, despite all the depressing news, we should not forget that even if we are behind a mask, we should still remember to smile. As they always say, laughter is the best medicine when you are facing any problems.

Jacey Yeh
Sunanthar Lu

Dental Centre



Triage with full PPE

Student Exchange Programme 2002

Every year, the Faculty organises the Student Exchange Program with the aim of widening and developing the academic, clinical and social acumen of our dental undergraduates. In September 2002, 16 of our third and final year undergraduates embarked on this journey. Here are their stories:

Zhiyuan, Puiyunn, Aaron and Eugene set foot upon the **University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill)**, the oldest public university of America. Hosted warmly by alumni Dr Alvin Yeo, they attended clinics and socialised with the local dental fraternity. They came back much enlivened and bursting with ideas enlightened by the US way of life and teaching methods.

Further south among the valleys and mountains of Southern California, Fengyi, Mervyn, Selvajothi, Loo Yee and Cecilia embarked upon the **Loma Linda University**. There, they mingled with friendly local students and visited various clinics such as the laboratory equipped Predoctoral clinic and the International Dentist Programme clinic.



Student clinic of University of North Carolina

They returned grinning from molar to molar, compelled to relate their unforgettable experiences to friends.

Bernard, Edelwise, Serene and Sandra visited the **Karolinska Institute** in Stockholm, Sweden's oldest academy for dental training currently undergoing major renovations to improve their already vast facilities to become one of the world's most modernised and well-equipped dental school. The students had a fantastic time enjoying the generosity of their hosts, the scenic landscape, exotic food and enriching exposure to Swedish dental clinics.

Last but not least, Szekheng, Hwee Hiang and Magnus had the privilege of visiting the **Tokyo Medical and Dental University**, one of Japan's most famous universities. For the 2 weeks that they were there, they explored both the university campus as well as



Karolinska Institutet lab for junior students



Prof Eto Kazuhiro with our dental students

the rest of Tokyo, immersing in the local culture and the local teaching/ learning environment.

All in all, the Student Exchange Program was a wonderful experience for all who decide to venture into. It would be encouraging if more students were compelled to partake in this program and learn to widen their scope of education. Earth is only this big and we have but a limited time to share it with everyone else.

As said by Millard Fuller "It's not your blue blood, your pedigree or your college degree. It's what you do with your life that counts".

Aaron Tan
Year 4

LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY
11092 ANDERSON STREET

Our students visiting Loma Linda University

Dental Public Health Screening and Exhibition

Dad is all smiles after his free dental screening.

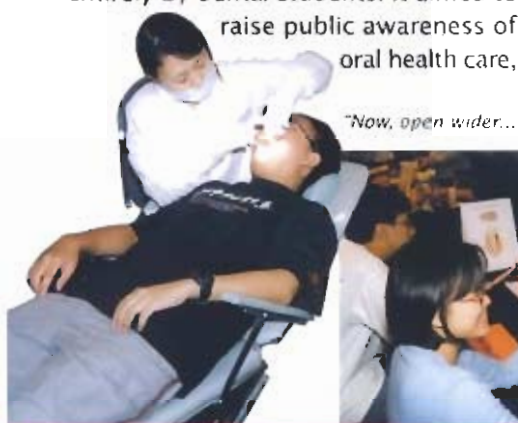
Organised jointly with the Medical Society of the Faculty of Medicine, this year's Dental & Medical Public Health Screening and Exhibition was held on the 16 February 2003 at the Suntec International Convention & Exhibition Centre.

This one-day event was an annual community service organised and ran entirely by dental students. It aimed to raise public awareness of oral health care,

via free dental screening, oral health instructions and exhibition. This year's Dental Public Health Screening and Exhibition saw a total of 283 people being screened.

Our heartfelt gratitude to all the staff who kindly volunteered to supervise the screening, the main sponsor of this event – Singapore Dental Health Foundation, and to our other sponsors as well.

Simon Ng, Asst Honorary General Secretary, DenSoc 53th Exco



"Now, open wider..."



Receiving oral health instructions from a volunteer.



Year-End Party 27 December 2002



Bartender angels at work at the Year-End Party.

Chinese New Year Party 14 February 2003



Enjoying the good food.

Bowling Good Times 2003

Once again, this popular event attracted a better than expected participation this year, with about 20 teams comprising of students, post-graduates, faculty staff, members of the Guild of Dental Graduates and the Singapore Dental Trade Association. A breakfast was provided before the actions started with a lucky draw and followed immediately by the team event. The bowling alley roared to life, especially with many supporters screaming for the first year students, who were there almost in full strength. The excitement continued with the individual event, whereby the weaker and less serious bowlers took the back seats to cheer the remaining 20-odd contenders. As usual, the graduates and guests were triumphant and won most of the prizes donated by Siemens Singapore (Dental Division). Everyone felt like a winner at the end, when almost everyone got a lucky draw prize, and a sumptuous lunch provided talk-shop moments from seniors/graduates about their good old days in dentistry. And they will be back next year for more!!

Prof Loh Hong Sai, President, Guild of Dental Graduates



The winning team!



"Loh Hei" – The CNY tradition.

President's Visit 10 March 2003



President Shih Choon Fong with A/P Keson Tan.

*Creating our Future Together
A New DNA*

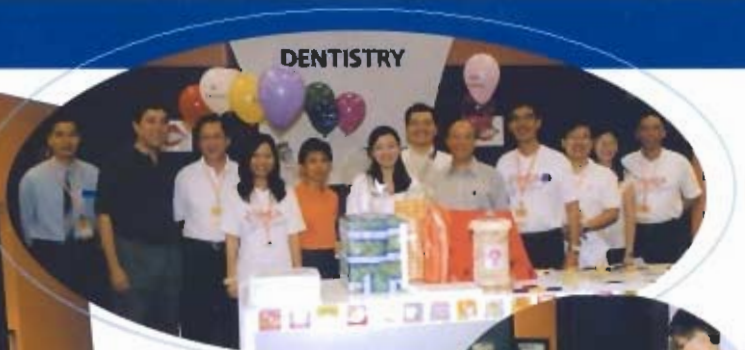
NUS



DENTISTRY



The leading institution in teaching, research and clinical care.



Faculty's staff and students after a hard day's work.



These kids might become future Dental students!

Fiesta On The Ridge 2003

The Faculty had a good location in the Multi-Purpose Hall, and there was ample space to display its many exhibits and posters, with colourful Faculty balloons adorning the booth. Our mechanical foot engine was replaced by a "tooth fairy, dressed so sweetly in white and with a wand in hand", as the star attraction!! Even the Guest of Honour, President Nathan, stopped over to have a chat with her. The crowd was much better than last year, with many enquiries from interested JC students as well as their

parents concerning dentistry as a career. This was the same response at the forum that we conducted. We had interesting give-aways for the entire family, and the guess the number of teeth contest livened up the atmosphere for the day. There was strong support from the faculty staff and students who came to lend their helping hands, a truly good faculty spirit prevailed in all. Cheers!!

Prof Loh Hong Sai



President Nathan gets a visit from the tooth fairy.



Getting crossed eyed from counting teeth.

Dental Annual Party

T rue to tradition, the Faculty Annual Party kicked off on 17 January 2003 evening with a spread of excellent food. Staff tucked in to a 10 course buffet, which included chicken chops, sotong satay and Vietnamese spring rolls, washed down with fruit punch. After everyone had been stuffed, the party adjourned to the Auditorium. We were entertained by our very own Elvis wanna-be (Prof Loh in full costume), a group of first year undergraduate acapella singers and the winners of the NUS Society Karaoke contest.

There were three games after that: "Know your way around", "Rat Race", and "Group Survival". It was all good fun, with professors, graduate students,



Jigsaw puzzles are not fun...

office staff and nurses mingling with and challenging each other. There was much teasing and laughter, as some very big babies drank from tiny milk bottles! In the end, it was still

the Lucky Draw that drew the most interest with lots of ooh's and aah's as prizes were distributed. But it was those whose names were not called out early that held their breath the longest - hoping very hard to bring home the top three cash prizes of \$250, \$150 and \$100. As the night ended, staff were already looking forward to the next Annual Party - to have more fun and games together again.

Geoffrey Lau

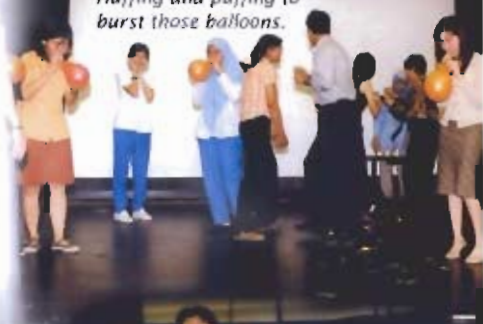
Come on baby, drink it up!



Elvis receives flowers from an ardent fan!



Huffing and puffing to burst those balloons.



Vijay leading the way for Yvonne.

Visiting Professor

- **Prof Jack Nichols**, who joined the faculty from 5 January – 2 February 2003.

Congratulations

- **Kenji Chin** and **Aaron Tan**, current final year Dental students were awarded the NUS Dental Society Silver Jubilee Award for the Academic Year 2002/2003.
- **Dr Juliet Tay** and **Dr Arthur Lim**, current OMS and Orthodontic Residents respectively, were awarded a cash prize each, out of a total of 3 cash prizes awarded, for their poster presentations at the NDC Annual Scientific Meeting.
- **Jerry Hoe**, from IT Unit, for his little bundle of joy (a baby boy) who was born on 8 November 2002.
- **Prof Chew Chong Lin** and his **Research Team** (**Ms Renuga Gopal**, **Dr Loh Poey Ling**, **A/P Seeram Ramakrishna**, **A/P Kelvin Foong**, **Dr Ganesh** and **Dr Fujihara Kazutoshi**) for having registered a provisional patent on "Fibre-reinforced Composite Product with Flexible Longitudinal Geometry". The Research Student involved in this project, **Ms Renuga Gopal**, was also awarded the **Merit Award** in the "Tan Kah Kee Young Inventors' Award Competition".
- **A/Ps Ho Kee Hai**, **Jennifer Neo** and **Yeo Jin Fei** were elected as members to the Singapore Dental Council.

Upcoming Events

- **18th IADR (SEA) Division Meeting, Vietnam 23-27 September 2003.**
- **75th Anniversary Celebrations in September 2004.**
Look out for it!

Warm Welcome

- **Mr Vellasamy** joined Dental X-Ray on the 16 December 2002 as a Technical Support Officer (Photo Technician).
- **Miss Sheila Naidu**, who has joined us on the 13 December 2002 as a Pupil Assistant Nurse.
- **Miss Yee Yoke Chun**, who joined us on 1 March 2003 as a Senior Administrative Officer.
- **Miss Liu Yuan Yuan**, who has joined us as a Research Assistant with the Department of Preventive Dentistry on 5 March 2003.
- **Miss Lum Luh Ping, Yvonne**, who joined us as a Staff Nurse on 1 April 2003.
- **Miss Wee Chui Nee, Paulene**, who joined us as a Patient Service Officer on 1 April 2003.
- **Miss Noryati Binte Mohammed Nor**, who joined us as a Patient Service Assistant on 1 April 2003.
- New Research Students: **Wang Xiaoyan (PRC)**, **Intekhab Islam (India)**, **Wu Xiaowa (PRC)**, **Meenakshi (India)**.

Appointments

- **A/P Keson Tan** was appointed a member of the Singapore Dental Council by Minister for Health.

Farewell

- **Dr Loh Poey Ling**, whose last day of service is 31 December 2002.
- **Mr Periyasamy**, whose last day of service was 31 December 2002 after 45 years of dedicated service.
- **Nurse Lim Wat Seew**, whose last day of service is 15 February 2003.
- **Miss Lim Wei Ting**, whose last day of service is 20 February 2003.



Mr Periyasamy says farewell after 45 years.

Promotions

- **Lim Eng Chuan**, who has been promoted to Lab Officer Grade B.
- **Tok Wee Wah**, who has been promoted to Systems Analyst, Grade 4.
- **Valliamah d/o Thangavelu**, who has been promoted to Operations Support Officer, Grade 3.



(Left) Pretty ladies all in a row. (Right) Dr Loh receives thanks from A/P Keson Tan. Dr Loh Poey Ling's farewell lunch party held on Thursday, 28 November 2002 at Level 4 Foyer, Faculty of Dentistry.

Dr Loh Poey Ling's Farewell

It wasn't time for retirement, but after her tireless years dedicated to teaching since 1987, Dr Loh Poey Ling left the academia where she obtained vast achievements, in pursuit of a clinical career under a different dental walkway...

Needless to say, our faculty missed a committed comrade and students a beloved teacher...The only consolation is, Dr Loh still agrees to contribute part of her valuable time at the faculty imparting her knowledge and share her experiences. Her passion for teaching will always be appreciated.

Poey Ling, a marvellous colleague who is ready to share her thoughts and rendered assistance to friends and students alike...Fond memories will always be around...

Dr Varawan Sae-Lim

ACADEMIC STAFF OF THE FACULTY OF DENTISTRY

Dean	: A/P Keson Tan
Vice-Dean (Research)	: A/P Kelvin Foong
Vice-Dean (Academics Affairs)	: A/P Grace Ong
Assistant-Dean (Clinical Affairs)	: A/P Keng Siong Beng

Dean's Office

Assistant Professor : Dr Cao Tong

DEPARTMENT OF ORAL & MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

Head of Department	: A/P Yeo Jin Fei
Professor	: Prof Loh Hong Sai
Associate Professor	: A/P Ho Kee Hai
Assistant Professor	: Dr Winston Tan Kwong Shen
Adjunct Fellow	: Dr Andrew Robinson

DEPARTMENT OF PREVENTIVE DENTISTRY

Head of Department	: A/P Grace Ong
Associate Professor	: A/P Teo Choo Soo
Associate Professor	: A/P Lim Lum Peng
Associate Professor	: A/P Kelvin Foong Weng Chiong
Associate Professor	: A/P Stephen Hsu Chin-ying
Senior Lecturer	: Dr Betty Mok Yuen Yue
Assistant Professor	: Dr Chay Siew Han
Assistant Professor	: Dr Soh Jen
Assistant Professor	: Dr Rashid Tahir
Adjunct Senior Fellow	: Dr Teresa Lee Woon Oi

DEPARTMENT OF RESTORATIVE DENTISTRY

Head of Department	: A/P Jennifer Neo Chiew Lian
Professor	: Professor Chew Chong Lin
Associate Professor	: A/P Keng Siong Beng
Associate Professor	: A/P Richard Ow Kok Keng
Associate Professor	: A/P Keson Tan Beng Choon
Associate Professor	: A/P Adrian Yap U Jin
Assistant Professor	: Dr Hilary Thean Pik Yen
Assistant Professor	: Dr Varawan Sae-Lim
Assistant Professor	: Dr Chng Hui Kheng
Fellow	: Dr Praneet Wattanapayungkul
Adjunct Fellow	: Dr Neo Tee Khin