

HUMAN-FOOD INTERACTION THROUGH THE MOUTH: INTEGRATING ORAL AND FOOD SCIENCES

Singapore is expected to become a super-aged society by 2030, increasing the need for geriatric dentistry. Interest in oral frailty is rising, while the oral cavity – as the entry to the digestive system – offers a unique link between oral function, food properties, and nutrition. In Japan, dentists help determine appropriate food textures and participate in decisions about nutrition routes, including whether oral intake is feasible or whether alternative enteral feeding routes – such as gastrostomy feeding or nasogastric feeding – are required.

Beyond nutrition, eating together greatly contributes to well-being. Because most foods ultimately reach people through the mouth, collaboration between food scientists and oral and swallowing experts is key to ensuring that innovations translate into solutions for diverse real-world needs. This talk explores the importance of oral intake and the human–food interaction mediated through the oral cavity.



SPEAKER | Dr Kohei Yamaguchi

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Dr. Kohei Yamaguchi is a clinician-scientist specializing in swallowing disorders, oral function, and geriatric dentistry. He received both his D.D.S. and Ph.D. in Institute of Science Tokyo (formerly Tokyo Medical and Dental University). He has authored over 80 peer-reviewed publications across dental and geriatric medicine, nutrition, and food-related sensory and consumer science, demonstrating a strong foundation in interdisciplinary research bridging health and food domains through oral and swallowing function.

Beyond his academic research, Dr. Yamaguchi collaborates with chefs to translate scientific insights into practical dining innovations. He co-developed dysphagia-friendly French full-course meals – using techniques such as 3D food printing – that were served in long-term care facilities, allowing residents to enjoy the same beautifully crafted dishes together and advancing inclusive eating for people of all abilities.

27 February 2026

6.00pm to 7.30pm

**Level 9
Dental Auditorium
NUCOHS**

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