

Learning Report

Thanks to the generous financial support from the CHUI's excellent student scheme for supporting my attendance to the 2018 General Session & Exhibition of the International Associations for Dental Research (IADR). The IADR, with a history of more than fifty years, is widely recognized as the largest and most important dental research organization in the world. The annual IADR General Session & Exhibition have become the world's largest and most prestigious forum dedicated to the discovery of dental sciences. The 96th General Session & Exhibition of IADR was held in London from July 25th to 28th, 2018. There were more than five thousand members from all over the world participating in this remarkable annual event of dental research.

During the conferences, it was my privilege to receive the LION dental research award from the committee for my research on the relationship between salivary magnesium ions and head and neck squamous carcinoma. This award is only given to three awardees from three different research fields each year for recognition of their outstanding and innovative research in basic dental science for the improvement of public dental health. My award was announced in the opening ceremony of the conference, and a monetary award plaque was offered to me in a cocktail reception of the salivary research group. This award is important especially in the early phase of my research career, because it allows me to gain more confidence in the ongoing research topic and stimulate me to work even harder on my future studies so as to fulfill people's expectation.

The meeting is also a great chance for researchers in the dental area to stay connected. In the HKU cocktail reception, we managed to reunion with the academics who used to collaborate with our faculty and welcomed the new faces coming for knowing us more. In the China Night reception held by the Chinese Association of Stomatology, we got to know lots of researchers from mainland China and learned that the number of members in this area has grown greatly in the last few years. It is widely recognized that dental institutes in mainland

China will play a much more important role in the near future, which offers a great chance for the boost of Hong Kong dental research.

On the second day of the conference, I was able to join a guided tour to the Faculty of Dentistry, King's College of London. This visit allows me to better understand the dental education system in UK, as well as the lab and facilities in their research unit, which is quite different from the ones in Hong Kong. I did learn a lot from the sharing of the undergraduate and postgraduate students in King's College of London about their experience in clinical training and basic research. I hope maybe one day I can collaborate with the brilliant researchers here, or even have a chance to work in their fantastic lab for oral maxillofacial stem cell regeneration studies.

On the last day of the conference, I presented my research in the poster section and share my thinking with the others who have also been working in this area. Basically, my presentation received quite positive feedback from the audience, but it is more important for me to get some valuable suggestion and commons for improvement. In addition, I also managed to go through some of the posters that interested me and connect with academics working in the field of dental research from all over the world. Actually, this great experience had brought me some innovative ideas and filled in my knowledge gaps.

As a dentist, my lifelong goal is to help patients achieve good dental health and allow them to enjoy the beauty of life by restoring their normal oral function. Meanwhile, I wish to act as an active dental researcher to explore the mysterious nature of dental diseases and the amazing creation of God on the oral system, so as to benefit both patients and dentists. I believe, this conference and the award is a small but solid step towards my goal, and I am so grateful for the kind support offered by Ho King Chun Leadership Fund to make it possible.

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Fig.1 Announcement of IADR LION Dental Research Award in the opening ceremony of the conference.



Fig.2 Receive IADR LION Dental Research Award plaque from Prof. Henk Brand, president of IADR Salivary Research Group.