

HKU Dental Student Awarded by International Association for Dental Research



The Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Hong Kong has been ranked the top dental school in the world. It is renowned for its world-class dental education and the best quality of our dental students. Dave Liu, the undergraduate student from the Faculty of Dentistry, has once again proven our accomplishments by being the Country Winner in the regional contest, and winning the Third Place Award in the Dentsply-Sirona Student Clinician Program (SCP) hosted by the International Association for Dental Research in Taipei in last August.

The SCP is an international research-based competition for undergraduate dental students. It is a Dentsply-Sirona Inc. program that has been conducted for the past 50 years. The objective of the program is to promote and support dental research by giving early exposure of research opportunities to undergraduate dental students. Last year, Dave's research thesis was selected by

the local Award Committee to compete with candidates from different countries, including Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam, at the IADR SEA Meeting in Taipei. He finally made his way to winning the Third Place Award in this international competition.

The significance of his research lies in its finding that our dental students have good awareness but low confidence and knowledge level towards managing patients who are tobacco users. Through evaluating Hong Kong dental students' awareness, preparedness and barriers towards managing tobacco-using patients, it allows the Faculty of Dentistry of HKU to implement further educational programs for dental students. Subsequently, Dave held a workshop to present the proper ways to manage tobacco-using patients to dentists, his classmates and juniors. It is a meaningful research that benefits dental students and improve the dentistry program in HKU.



Dave was very happy about the award as well as the whole competition experience. He gained confidence in public speaking and presentation at a formal international conference. The international recognition motivated him to help future dentists in HKU better manage tobacco-using patients. He humbly remarked that this achieve was impossible without HKU's education. It has equipped him with hard skills to conduct proper research in the dental field as well as the soft skills of critical thinking and interpersonal communication. These qualities, along with his knowledge on managing tobacco-using patients, empower him to provide a holistic patient care in his future dental practice.