



## Academic Meeting in August 2004 Oral Health of Children in Hong Kong Past, Present and Future

The last academic meeting was held on 20 August 2004. Our honorable speaker was Dr. Joseph C. Y. CHAN, Consultant-in-charge, Dental Service of Department of Health who has given a very interesting and informative talk on the development of oral health of children in Hong Kong. We would like to take this opportunity to share with you the essence of the talk in this newsletter.

### Abstract

The oral health of children has come a long way since the early 1960's where less than 1% of 6 to 8 year-old children and 2% of the 9 to 11 year-olds were free from dental caries. The mean number of primary teeth with decay experience (dmft) was found to be 9.2 in the 6 to 8 year-olds and the mean number of permanent teeth with decay experience (DMFT) was found to be 4.4 in the 9 to 11 year-olds. Water fluoridation was introduced in 1961 and by 1968 the proportion of 5 to 6 year-olds affected by dental caries was down to 84%. However, the adjustment of the fluoride content of our community water supply to an optimal level proved to be a real challenge and it was not until 1988 that the optimal level of 0.5 ppm was adopted for our local population.



Left: Our Chairman, Dr Y H CHONG;  
Right: Dr Joseph C Y CHAN



The Department of Health's School Dental Care Service (SDCS) and the Oral Health Education Unit played an active role in improving the oral health of children in Hong Kong since the 1980's. A population-wide oral health survey conducted in 2001 reported that 49% of 5 years old children and 62% of 12 years olds were free from dental caries. The mean dmft was found to be 2.3 in the 5 year-olds and the mean DMFT was found to be 0.8 in the 12-year olds. The survey results are very encouraging but also indicated that there are areas that requires attention to further improve the oral health of children in this new millennium.



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## *Coming Academic Meeting*

The coming academic meeting will be held on 21 September 2004.

Topic : **Some interesting legal cases in Public Health**  
Speaker : Mr. YIP Wing-sang, Senior Assistant Law Officer  
Date : 21 September 2004 (Tuesday)  
Time : 6:00 pm to 7: 00 pm  
Venue : Lecture Hall  
The Federation of Medical Societies of Hong Kong  
4/F, Duke of Windsor Social Service Building  
15 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai



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## *Social Function in October 2004*

We are going to visit our famous outlying island, CHEUNG CHAU in the afternoon of 9 October 2004. You and your family members are most welcome to join us. Please contact our social convener, Dr. K. H. CHAN at 28675434 for details.



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## *Annual dinner in November 2004*

The Annual dinner will be held at East Lake Seafood Restaurant (東湖海鮮酒家) in Causeway Bay on 26 November 2004. Both members and non-member are welcome to join. Details of the dinner will be announced later through our poster and e-mail.

