
The first Hong Kong International Dental Expo and Symposium

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I am privileged to serve on the Scientific Program Subcommittee of the first Hong Kong International Dental Expo and Symposium (HKIDEAS) and I have witnessed the tremendous time and effort expended for this congress by staff members of the Hong Kong Dental Association (HKDA). This also applies to the Organizing Committee, including key Council members of the HKDA and our Asia Pacific Dental Congress President, Dr Jeffrey Tsang. For many months, detailed planning has been ongoing, and its complexity has been a great learning experience for me, despite my involvement in planning many international meetings in the past. The agenda and minutes of the meetings can be compiled into hundreds of pages and the resulting book would be thicker than the heaviest paperback in circulation. The meetings were chaired by Dr Tsang and started at 8:30 pm with all the Congress staff of the HKDA in attendance. The President and other committee members would join the meeting as soon as they finished their private practice.

I wish to draw attention to the fantastic scientific program, the small subcommittee comprising Dr William Cheung, Prof L. J. Jin and I have put together for the registrants. The HKDA members would already have received a 1-page summary of the preliminary program. The scientific topics cover a very broad scope that should interest all manner of dental specialists and general practitioners. No expense has been spared to also invite the world's top clinicians and scientists to cover specific topics in-depth and discuss the latest advances in their fields of expertise. This especially applies to implantology, where the periodontal, surgical, prosthodontics, and esthetic aspects are all covered in six plenary sessions and workshops. Other symposia include: orthodontics; basic and advanced endodontics; and an international forum with invited representative speakers from most Asian countries. In short, this great program is worthy of every dentist's attendance as there are bound to be topics that could benefit each and every individual.

More recently, there is a new trend of delivering deep sedation in the dental office, and thereby avoid/reduce the costs and time for completing the same procedure in hospital operating theatres. This procedure is most frequently adopted by pediatric dentists treating infants and young children with severe dental diseases that require minor surgery. This approach is equally useful for general dentists and specialists alike for treating patients who are extremely anxious and apprehensive or have physical or developmental disabilities. There is now a team of specialist anesthesiologists in Hong Kong who are well trained in the office sedation procedures. They are quite readily available to come to the dentists' surgeries to help deliver such care, provided the facilities are properly equipped and staff are well trained. Increasingly, relatively minor surgical procedures are also carried out by physicians and surgeons in their fully equipped offices, and therefore there is much

need of guidelines for safe sedation in dental and medical offices.

In the last few months, the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine has therefore promulgated guidelines for in-office sedation procedures. Similarly the Hong Kong Society of Paediatric Dentistry has published a booklet titled *Guidelines on Sedation for Dental Procedure in Paediatric Patients*. Every HKDA member should have received a personal copy already. In order to further disseminate this knowledge and to emphasize the safe use of sedation, a special workshop has been planned during the Congress, in which three prominent speakers experienced in this field will share their latest views and recommendations. I am pleased to chair this session and have invited several experts to address us: Dr C. Y. Chow, a physician heavily involved in developing the guidelines for the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, will update our dental colleagues on the medical scene; Dr John Low, an anesthesiologist who has helped to promote this technique for dentists, will discuss new advances in this field; Dr Eilly Lau, a specialist in pediatric dentistry, will describe her considerable experience in deep sedation in her office.

The dental exhibition booths have been heavily subscribed, so that dentists can go and view the latest equipment and products. Without visiting these booths, one might easily be left behind with respect to significant advances in the new equipment and techniques. The

commercial sponsors have been very generous and have promised to deliver the latest and best shows in the dental industry.

Under the leadership of our HKDA President, Dr Sigmund Leung and the very able members of the HKDA Council, the Hong Kong dental profession has become one of the best dental associations in Asia. The Council has made bold decisions to encourage all members to attend by giving special coupons to early registrants to subsidize purchases at the exhibition of dental products. Dentists from overseas now recognize that whatever the HKDA organizes is always of first class and that they will go away from the event having reaped much benefit from the wealth of new knowledge, and enjoyed all the special events and high-class social activities associated with the Congress. They also value the opportunity to meet many new and old friends and to cement friendships that will continue for years to come.

That is why HKDA is recognized at an international level and our members are involved in the World Dental Federation. Moreover, the *Hong Kong Dental Journal* (HKDJ) is also increasingly recognized as a desirable publication for the submission of papers by colleagues in Asia, and the quality of our papers has been rising with each issue. Not surprisingly, I look forward to many more outstanding articles from the speakers of the HKIDEAS being submitted to the HKDJ.