

# MDC



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MALAYSIAN DENTAL COUNCIL

# BULLETIN

## HISTORY OF DENTAL AUXILIARIES' TRAINING IN MALAYSIA



	President's Message	2
	From the Editor's Desk	3
Research at the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Malaya		4
	In Remembrance of Dato' Dr Ratnanesan	7
History of Dental Auxiliaries' Training in Malaysia		10
	Secretaries of the Malaysian Dental Council	15

## The President's Message

Season's greetings, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all dental practitioners', and a very warm welcome to the young dental graduates beginning their dental careers in Malaysia as they join the Ministry of Health Malaysia for their compulsory one year service.

I am very sure all of you are aware that to practice dentistry in Malaysia one has to be registered with the Dental Council and satisfy the requirements under the Dental Act, which includes having a recognised qualification, a one year period of compulsory service, and possessing a current Annual Practising Certificate.



Also, dentistry can only be practised at a registered or licensed facility under the Private Healthcare Facilities and Services Act 1998 (Act 586). The practice of dentistry without fulfilling all the above criteria will be deemed as the practice of illegal dentistry under section 4(1) of Act 586, which, if a person is found guilty, carries a maximum fine of RM300,000 or jail term not exceeding 6 years or both. I hope all new dental graduates will take note of this fact.

Of late I am sure all practitioners are aware there have been several cases of unregistered/unqualified people engaging in the placement of orthodontic braces. These procedures are carried out in hotel rooms, guesthouses or homes and all business advertisements are disseminated online via social media like Facebook, or by word of mouth.

Gullible young people have had braces placed by these people, as their charges are very much less than at legal practices. Unfortunately flashing a smile with orthodontic braces is considered a fashion statement or status symbol by these people. Little do they know that they are exposing themselves to the consequences of this illegal practice, for example Hepatitis and HIV infections, the possibility of loss of teeth, oral infections and a total disaster of a smile.

Let it be known that the Malaysian Dental Council and the Ministry of Health do not take these activities lightly and will go all out to prosecute these criminals under the law.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all dental practitioners to educate their patients regarding this matter, and inform the authorities if you know of such practises, so that together we can prevent the practice of illegal dentistry.

Finally, best wishes for a happy and prosperous 2017.

**Datuk Dr Noor Hisham bin Abdullah**

## From The **Editor's Desk**

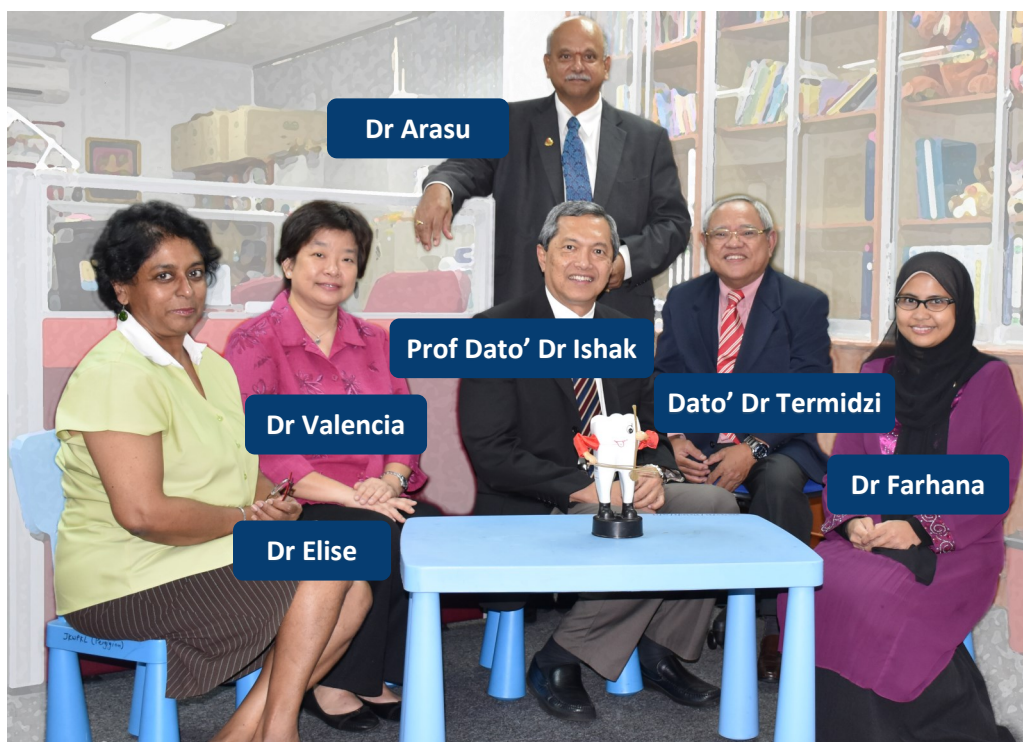
Since its inception in 1946, the Dental Training School in Penang has played a significant role in the provision of oral healthcare to school children in Malaysia. Throughout the years of its existence it has produced various categories of oral health personnel, from Dental Therapists and Dental Technologists to Dental Surgery Assistants. As a mark of recognition of its significant contribution to the oral health of school children in Malaysia, the Children Dental Centre & Dental Training College as it is called today, is featured in this Bulletin.

The functions of academic institutions in Malaysia is to dispense knowledge, provide services to patients and to undertake research. Research undertaken at the universities and the subsequent publication of research findings constitute a significant component in the raking of universities worldwide. This issue of the bulletin features the research that has been undertaken at the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Malaya, which has received the highest ranking among institutions of higher learning in Malaysia under the QS World Ranking 2017.

After serving about five years as Secretary to the MDC, Dr Noormi has now been posted as the Timbalan Pengarah Kesihatan Negeri (Pergigian) Wilayah Persekutuan. In the five years she was with the Council, she has selflessly devoted her time to the development of the MDC, foremost among which, is her contribution to the development of the Dental Bill, which will be tabled in the coming sitting of Parliament. In order to operationalize the new Dental Act when it is passed, the Dental Regulations have simultaneously been prepared so there will not be a big time lag between the passing of the Act and its implementation. We wish Dr Noormi every success in her career development. The position vacated by Dr Noormi has been filled by Dr Sofiah who is no stranger to the MDC. She has been with the MDC for the last five years.



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Not in the picture: Dr Husna, Dr Sunthari, Dr Sharol

# RESEARCH AT THE FACULTY OF DENTISTRY, UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA

By

Prof. Dato' Dr. Zainal Ariff  
Abdul Rahman  
Professor and Dean

Through its almost 45 year history at the Lembah Pantai campus, the Faculty of Dentistry of the University of Malaya has produced thousands of dental surgeons, who have gone on to serve the nation both in the public and private sectors. In recent years the Faculty has been at the forefront of postgraduate training in a wide range of dental specialties leading to a Masters in Clinical Dentistry degree as well as the Masters of Community Dentistry and Doctor of Dental Public Health. Additionally it offers graduate research programmes leading to an MSc or PhD.

In-line with the University's vision to be an internationally renowned institution of higher learning in research and innovation, members of the Faculty have embarked on numerous research projects through internal and external grants, most recently supported by a large High Impact Research Grant from the Ministry of Higher Education.

These High Impact Research (HIR) Grants are to fund projects which will result in publication in well renowned journals. As such, the emphasis will be on both fundamental and applied research, which will lead to the generation of new knowledge. This grant helps to equip the faculty with cutting-edge research equipment and support talent development. The HIR grants have contributed tremendously to the Faculty of Dentistry's progression towards being recognised as one of the top dental research institutions in this region. The fact that University of Malaya has improved its position on the QS World University Rankings from 146 in 2015 to 133 this year can in part be attributed to the success story of the HIR.

Prior to the HIR grants, the research activity at this faculty was centered towards community based research. The receiving of the HIR grants has diversified the research conducted into various multidisciplinary areas utilising cutting-edge technology. It has also allowed the faculty to embark on a prestigious platform for world class research. Besides disseminating knowledge through research publications, the HIR funding has resulted in research that introduces new treatment modalities, provides potential diagnostic and prognostic solutions that not only bring tremendous impact to society but also changes the health economic decision making process.

The HIR grants have also enhanced the research culture in the faculty. A larger number of postgraduate candidates with the human capital development of more than 55 has been recorded. There was also a large increase in the number of collaborations between the dental faculty and various renowned universities including Oxbridge and Ivy League colleges. Collaborators from the local scene include various dental schools from both the public and private sectors.

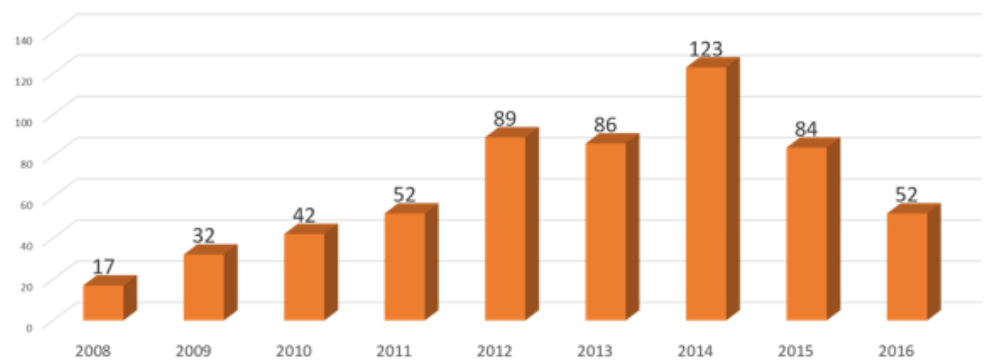
The staff of the faculty has also received numerous renowned awards including the distinguished Siti Hasmah Chair and the Top Researcher Scientist Malaysia Award.

# RESEARCH AT THE FACULTY OF DENTISTRY, UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA

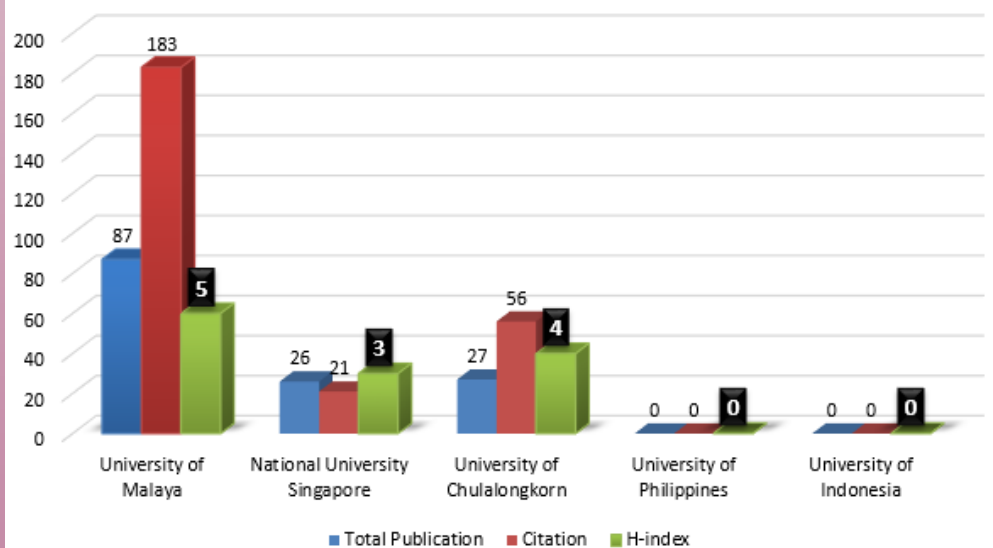
As for publications, the number of Tier 1 publications has increased sharply with the aid of the HIR grants as shown in Figure 1. In comparison to other top dental schools in Asia, Europe, America and Australasia as revealed in Figure 2, 3 and 4, our dental school has outperformed many of the schools.

Much of this research work has been published in highly renowned Tier 1 publications including Nature Scientific Report and PLoS One. Concurrently, the number of citations has increased significantly during this period. Recently, a research paper from the funding of the HIR grant has been accepted by Nature Reviews Cancer with an impact factor of 34.

**Figure 1: Total ISI Publication of Dental Faculty, University of Malaya (2008-2016)**



**Figure 2: Publication Summary in Top South East Asian Dental Schools 2015**



# RESEARCH AT THE FACULTY OF DENTISTRY, UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA

Figure 3: Total ISI Publication by Top Dental School in 2015

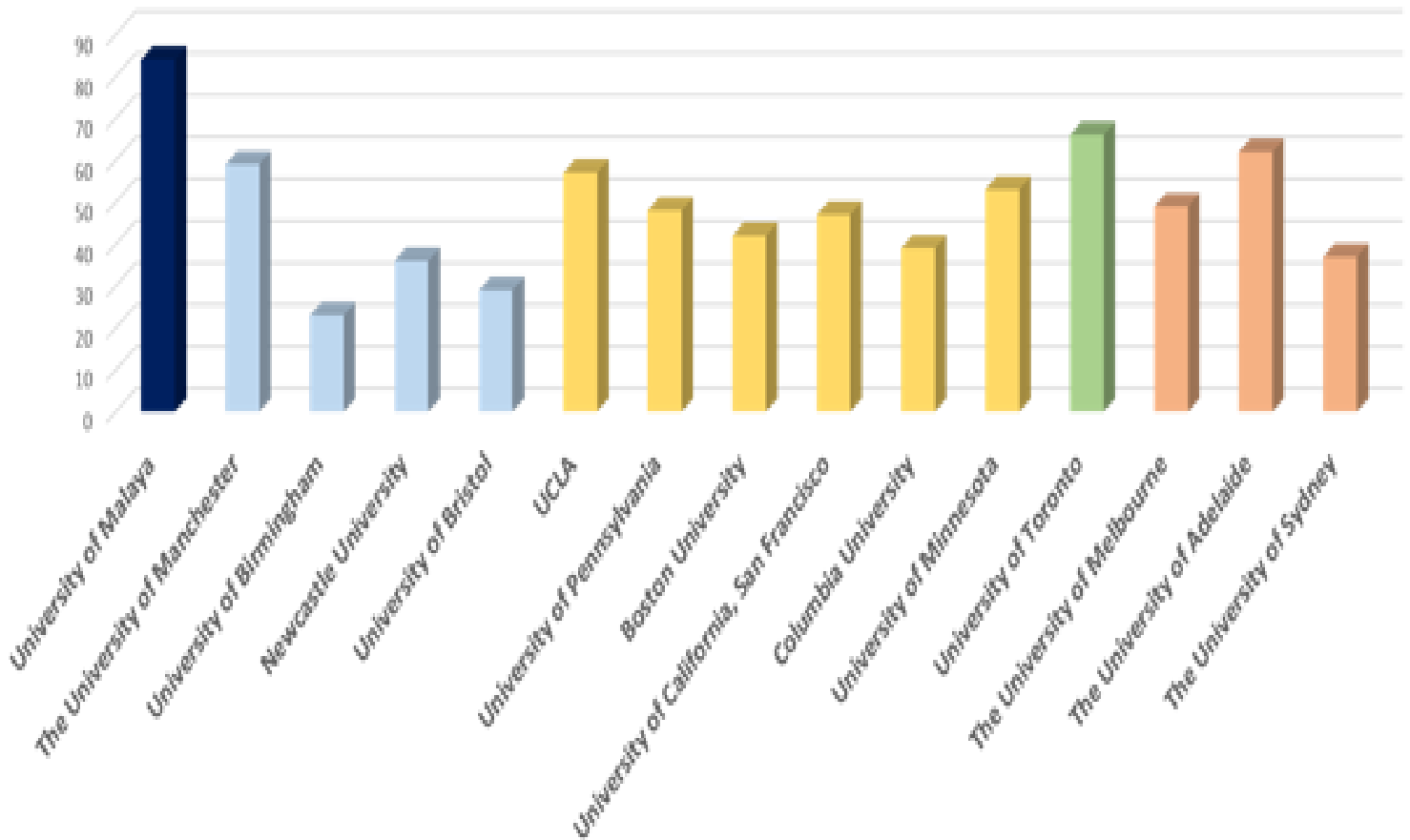
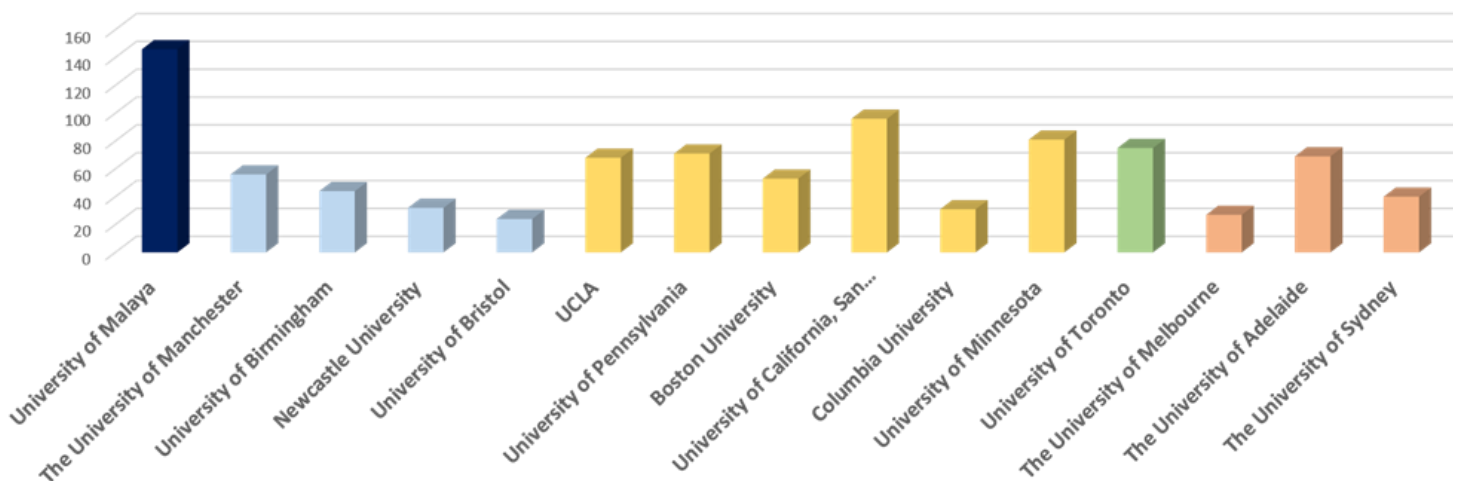


Figure 4: Citation by Top Dental Schools in 2015



# IN REMEMBRANCE OF

## DATO DR A RATNANESAN

(1944 -2015)

By Dr Wong Foot Meow

The Malaysian Dental Council is deeply saddened by the passing of Professor Dato' Dr. Ratnanesan a/l Arumugam, one of the most illustrious members of the dental profession, on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2015 at the age of 71 years.

### A DEDICATED ALL-ROUNDER

Lifelong dedication to the dental profession, a great friend, devoted husband, loving father, dotting grandfather, inspiring co-worker, indefatigable taskmaster and dental visionary genius. This aptly sums up the great man, whose presence is irreplaceable. Dato' Dr. Ratnanesan will be sorely missed, lovingly remembered and forever cherished by the local and international dental fraternity.

### ILLUSTRIOUS ACADEMICIAN

So how did the dental journey of this shining beacon and cherished leader of the Malaysian Dental Profession begin? The answer lies in this time honoured verse of humility, which simply but clearly epitomises Dato' Ratnanesan.

***“ God Grant Me The Serenity To Accept The Things I Cannot Change, The Strength To Change The Things That I Can, And The Wisdom To Know The Difference ”***

Dato' Ratnanesan or Ratna as he is known to his friends was the 4<sup>th</sup> in a family of 7, born on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1944 in Kuala Lipis, Pahang. He had his early education at King George V School in Ser-

emban and later at the elite Federation Military College, before leaving for Singapore to obtain his BDS (Singapore) in January 1969, scoring a distinction in prosthetic dentistry in the process.

Even in those early days, his leadership qualities were unmistakable, being elected President of both the Dental Society and King Edward VII hall of residence. Academically, he was a student par excellence. After a successful stint in the junior ranks of the Malaysian Government Dental Services he was selected to continue his post-graduate studies in the United Kingdom. He surpassed all expectations in an unprecedented display of academic brilliance when he obtained in quick succession, the triple Fellowships in Dental Surgery from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Glasgow and Ireland in 1976.

His academic pedigree was duly established when he obtained the MDS (Singapore) in oral surgery in 1977. Subsequently, the faculty of General Dental Practitioners', Royal College Of Surgeons Of England had no hesitation in conferring upon him the DDGP(UK) followed by the honorary FFDGP(UK) *ad eundem* in March 2001.

### PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Dentistry ran in Dato' Ratnanesan's veins; he lived and breathed dentistry. His service in dentistry was exemplary and progressive. Dato' Ratnanesan excelled in the dental scene at the local, national, regional and international levels.

# IN REMEMBRANCE OF

## DATO DR A RATNANESAN (1944 -2015)

He is one of the few in Asia who not only had a distinguished career in dentistry but has also occupied the august positions of MPDPA president, MDA president, APRO president, Professor Emeritus of ICCDE and ultimately President of the FDI.

Locally, he won initial recognition as President of the Malaysian Private Dental Practitioners' Association in the mid 1980s. The impact he created was explosive, not dissimilar to an irresistible force meeting an immovable object. His lustre shone brighter and raised the bar for all when Dato' Ratnanesan joined the MDA in 1986. A tough taskmaster and workaholic who thrived on challenges and adversity, it is no surprise that his favourite maxim was "*people who are busy rowing have no time to rock the boat*". He was President for seven terms with the same dedication, enthusiasm and commitment in every year that he held office.

In his time as President, Dato' Ratnanesan selflessly and magnanimously dedicated a substantial portion of his time and energy to the dental profession, as he patiently built up the Malaysian Dental Association, and established it as an influential voice internationally, which culminated in the hosting of the FDI 2001 World Dental Congress, and 35th Asia Pacific Dental Congress 2013 in Malaysia.

Regionally he served the Asia Pacific Dental Federation with distinction in various capacities:

- Editor
- Treasurer

- Vice President
- Professor Emeritus of ICCDE
- FDI Council Representative

Dato' Ratnanesan, at that time, was the only one to breach the great divide between regional and international organisations. Internationally he initiated The Commonwealth Dental Association in 1991 and was the President for 3 years from 1994-1997. From there, Dato' Ratnanesan's star rose steadily to reach the pinnacle when he effortlessly made the leap, that very few make, into the rarified air of the international dental stage, when he became the FDI president on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2001.

### A DENTAL STALWART

Too energetic to slow down, Dato' Ratnanesan continued to serve the profession even after he ceased dental practice. He opted for academia in 2011 where he was appointed Professor of Primary Dental Health Care in the Dental School of Mahsa University College.

Dato' Ratnanesan's exemplary service to the dental profession in various capacities since 1982 is incomparable. He served the Malaysian Dental Council tirelessly for 16 years from 1985-2001. Time constraints however forced Dato' Ratnanesan to relinquish his MDC appointment the year he became president of the FDI. However, as concurrent President of the MDA between 1988 and 1996, his unique position and abilities allowed him to bridge the formidable dental divide between government, quasi-governmental bodies and pri-

# IN REMEMBRANCE OF

## DATO DR A RATNANESAN

(1944 -2015)

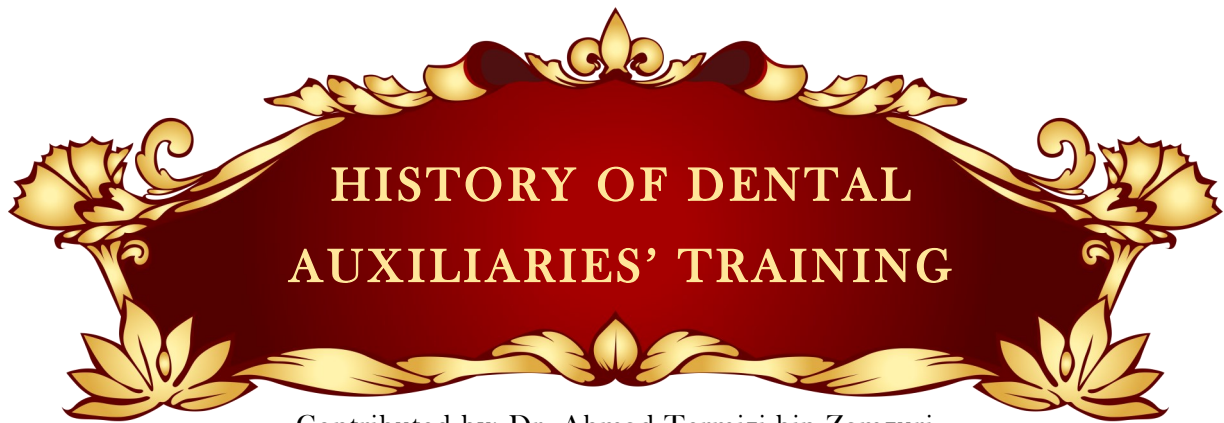
vate practice. Known for upholding justice and fairness, he also served as the Chairman of the Preliminary Investigations Committee of the MDC from 1985-1989.

In a nutshell, Dato' Ratnanesan was the Dental Man for the ages. Here, we have only touched the surface of Dato' Dr. Ratnanesan's numerous contributions; President of the FDI, President of the MDA for 7 terms, the Founder President of CDA, Senior Council Member of the august Malaysian Dental Council and the President of the Malaysian

Private Dental Practitioners' Association.

To conclude, words will not suffice to express the heartfelt sorrow we feel at his demise. We will always remember him as a generous man with a huge heart for friendship. An extremely articulate and influential leader, who was called upon to speak at many important occasions, Dato' Ratnanesan always lived, savoured and served with his all.





## HISTORY OF DENTAL AUXILIARIES' TRAINING

Contributed by: Dr. Ahmad Termizi bin Zamzuri  
Director Children's Dental Centre & Dental Training College Malaysia, PENANG

The Dental Training School Malaysia, currently known as the Children's Dental Center and Dental Training College Malaysia, is the only public training institution for oral allied health personnel in the country. Its establishment was the brainchild of Dr. Charles F. Mummery way back in 1946. At that time, as the Chief Dental Officer for Malaya and the Straits Settlements, he was faced with a shortage of dentists in the Peninsula, and there was no school of dentistry. More than 50% of the population was aged below 18 years, and their caries experience was described as appalling. Amidst this scenario, a scheme for the training of suitable operating auxiliaries known as Dental Public Health Nurses was considered, to treat school children. To this end, the Dental Training School Malaysia was set up on the first floor of the Penang General Hospital's "A" Block in June 1949. The training curriculum was adapted from a course carried out in New Zealand and a satellite clinic in Grove Road, Penang was also utilised for clinical practice.

Dr. Charles F. Mummery became the first Director, who managed the first intake of trainees with the first Dental Sister Tutor, Miss Barbara Grumitt from the New Zealand School Dental Service. The intake comprised of five nurses already qualified in general nursing who graduated as Dental Public Health Nurses in 1950 after undergoing training for one year. In order to strengthen the teaching faculty, three Dental Nurses were sent to New Zealand in 1951 to be trained as tutors. They returned to Penang in 1953 to begin their teaching duties.

In 1951, Dr Chellie J. Sundram, was appointed the first local Director of the institution. In the same year, the institution began its formal training in Dental Mechanics with Mr. Lau Ah Cheng as its first instructor. The nomenclature evolved to Dental Technicians in 1959. During his tenure the institution gradually gained a reputation for excellence and subsequently garnered international recognition with the admission of foreign trainees. It attained further recognition in the early 1970's as an accredited "WHO Collaborating Centre for Training and Demonstration in Oral Health".

The Assistant Nurse (Dental) scheme, known as Dental Surgery Assistants since 1959, was also established in 1951. It was introduced to provide assistance to dental surgeons, and to replace the hospital attendants who had been performing that role before. However beginning 1982, a formal full-time two-year training programme was introduced in the institution. Later, in 1993, the mode of training incorporated the concept of distance education thus enabling a four-fold increase in student enrolment.

The vision of the institution is to be the authority and leader in training of oral allied health personnel. Whist the mission is to develop knowledgeable and competent personnel who are able to integrate teaching-learning activities and clinical skills with professionalism and are in possession of a caring attitude for the benefit of their clients.

The institution has since expanded its roles and made significant contributions in the training of oral allied health personnel for the country. The three main roles and functions are:

- To ensure training of the three categories of oral allied health personnel to meet the demand of stake holders;
- To provide oral health services to compliment teaching-learning activities through clinical and laboratory practices; and
- To establish research potential and capabilities in areas of oral health and training.

Following recognition of both certificate courses in Dental Nursing and Dental Technology as an equivalent to a diploma in 1996, the latter was officially re-designated as Dental Technologists. With the upgrading, the institution was also renamed the Children's Dental Center and Dental Training College Malaysia in April 2003. In tandem with Dental Nurses, the institution also conducted its first post-basic course for Dental Technologists in 1993. To date, a total of 33 post-basic training courses, in different specialties such as maxillofacial prosthesis, paediatric dentistry, periodontics and orthodontics, have been successfully implemented.

Begining with the construction of its first permanent building on the present site in 1965, an additional 3-storey block was built in 1981. Further structural development and expansion continued with the construction of a 12-storey block in 2004 to house additional administrative and training facilities, as well as accommodation for the trainees. Since its inception 67 years ago, the institution has been headed by eleven Directors, and till June 2016 it has trained 3,868 Dental Nurses, 1,343 Dental Technologists and 3,250 Dental Surgery Assistants. The institution continues to expand its roles and functions, and aspires to continue to be the leading oral allied health personnel training institution in the nation and the region.

The vision of the institution is to be the authority and leader in training of oral allied health personnel. Whist the mission is to develop knowledgeable and competent personnel who are able to integrate teaching-learning activities and clinical skills with professionalism and are in possession of a caring attitude for the benefit of their clients.

## CDC & DTCM has been headed by eleven Directors

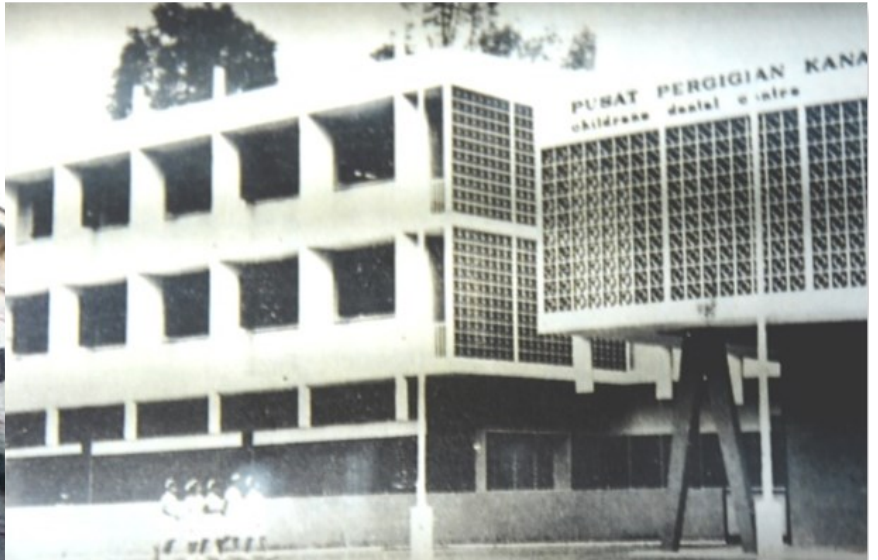


*Historical development of*

**CHILDRENS' DENTAL CENTRE & DENTAL TRAINING COLLEGE  
MALAYSIA (CDC & DTCM)**



Block A, Penang General Hospital, 1949



Completion of Block A and B on the present site in 1965



Block C under construction



En. Bahaman Shamsudin, Minister of Health Malaysia officiating the Block A in April 1965



His Excellency The Governor of Penang, Tun Datuk Haji Sardon bin Haji Jubir officiating the Block C in 1981



CDC & DTCM after 50 years of its establishment (1999)



## TRAINING OF DENTAL NURSES



First Dental Sister Tutor,  
Miss Barbara Grummit.



His Royal Highness of  
England, Prince Philip

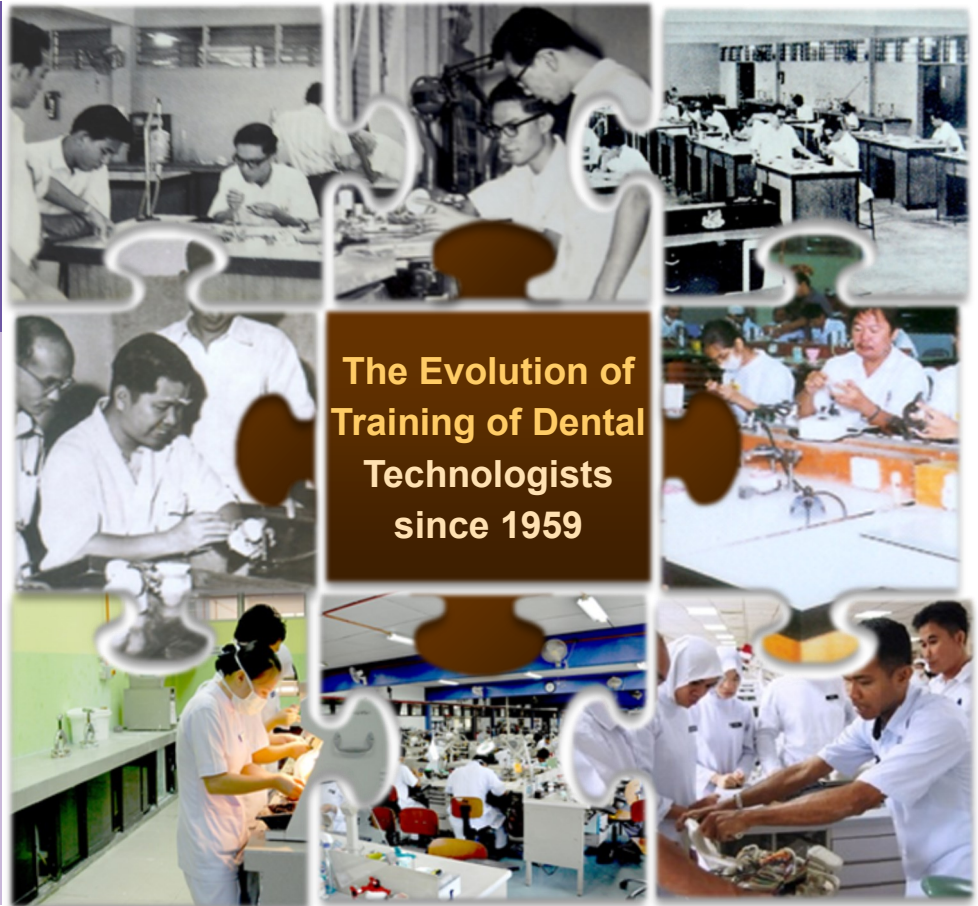


The Evolution  
of Training of  
Dental Nurses  
since 1949



# TRAINING OF

## *Dental Technologists*



# TRAINING OF DENTAL SURGERY ASSISTANTS



The Evolution of Formal Full Time 2 Years Training Programme of Dental Surgery Assistants since 1982



**M**alaysian Dental Council (MDC) was established in 1972 in accordance with the Dental Act 1971. The Secretary is one of the major posts in MDC. The President of the Council may appoint any officer of the Ministry of Health Malaysia to be Secretary of the Council. There were a total of 10 Secretaries appointed to serve the Council over the past four decades.

The first Secretary of the MDC was **Dr Hussain bin Ahmad**. He was succeeded by **Dr Tai Yen Hooi** (1973-1975) and **Dr Haji Ahmad Tajuddin Bin Yassin**, who is recorded as the longest serving Secretary (1976-1986). Subsequently, **Dato' Dr Dzulkarnain bin Hj Ibrahim Ali** (1987-1988) was appointed, followed by **Dato' Dr Norain binti Abu Talib** (1989-1994), **Dr Husna binti Abbas** (1994-2003), **Dr Elise Monerasinghe** (2003-2010), **Dr Kamariah binti Omar** (2010-2011) and **Dr Noormi binti Othman** (2011-2016).



DR HUSSAIN BIN AHMAD  
(1972)



DR TAI YEN HOOI  
(1973-1975)



DR HAJI AHMAD TAJUDDIN  
BIN YASSIN  
(1976-1986)



DATO' DR DZULKARNAIN BIN  
HJ IBRAHIM ALI  
(1987-1988)



DATO' DR NORAIN BINTI ABU  
TALIB  
(1989-1994)



DR HUSNA BINTI ABBAS  
(1994-2003)



DR ELISE MONERASINGHE  
(2003-2010)



DR KAMARIAH BINTI OMAR  
(2010-2011)



DR HAJAH NOORMI  
BINTI OTHMAN  
(2011-2016)

On 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016, **Dr Sofiah binti Mat Ripen** was appointed as the 10<sup>th</sup> Secretary of the Council following Dr Noormi's appointment as the Deputy Director of Health (Oral Health) in the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur & Putrajaya.

**Dr Sofiah Binti Mat Ripen was born in Kuala Lumpur on 25<sup>th</sup> July 1976. She received her Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree from the University of Otago, New Zealand and started her career in the Ministry of Health, as a Dental Officer in the Klang Dental Clinic. She subsequently served as Dental Officer In-Charge of Pandamaran Dental Clinic and Senior Principal Assistant Director of the Malaysian Dental Council. In 2007, she was awarded a Federal Scholarship by the Public Service Department (PSD) to pursue her Master in Public Health (Oral Health) at the University of Malaya. She was then gazetted as a Dental Public Health Specialist at the Ministry of Health Malaysia and her areas of interest include Medico-Legal Issues.**



The members of the editorial board welcome Dr Sofiah and express our profound and heartfelt congratulations on her appointment as the new Secretary of the Malaysian Dental Council, to continue the legacy and commitment of the Council.