

MADPHS E-BULLETIN



HIGHLIGHTS

Message from the MADPHS president

MADPHS activities

Selected articles from MADPHS
members

In memory of late Dr Azura Abdullah



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1** WELCOME MESSAGE
- 3** MEET THE COUNCIL MEMBERS
- 4** LAUNCHING OF OUR NEW WEBSITE
- 5** A WAY FORWARD FOR DPH CURRICULUM IN MALAYSIA
- 7** MADPHS ACTIVITIES
Webinar Series
Community Engagement
- 9** ALLIANCE FOR CAVITY-FREE FUTURE MALAYSIA CHAPTER
- 11** SHORT ARTICLES
Role of MADPHS in Health Advocacy
Happy World Oral Health Day
Overlooked and costly: The burden of periodontitis in Malaysia
- 16** VOICES OF FUTURE DPHS
Our Reflection on Community Empowerment
- 18** IN MEMORY OF LATE DR AZURA
- 19** UPCOMING EVENT

MESSAGE FROM THE MADPHS PRESIDENT

ASSAMULAIKUM WBT & GREETINGS

Dear fellow members of the Malaysian Association of Dental Public Health Specialists (MADPHS),

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the first edition of our e-bulletin. As we continue to work towards our goal of promoting and improving oral health in Malaysia, this e-bulletin will serve as a valuable platform for us to share our experiences, insights, and ideas.

As dental public health specialists, we are tasked with addressing the oral health needs of our communities through effective public health policies and programs. We play a critical role in promoting oral health and preventing oral diseases, and it is important that we stay up-to-date with the latest research and developments in our field.

In this e-bulletin, we will feature articles and updates from our members, as well as news and events related to dental public health in Malaysia. I encourage all of you to contribute your own articles and share your experiences with the community.

Let us use this e-bulletin as a means to strengthen our bonds and work together towards our common goal. I look forward to hearing from all of you and working together towards improving the oral health of our fellow Malaysians.

Thank you for your continued dedication and support.

Salam hormat,

Dr Salleh Zakaria

President,
Malaysian Association of Dental Public Health Specialists
Term 2022 - 2024



Greetings to all,

On behalf of the editorial team, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the debut issue of our MADPHS E-Bulletin. We are excited to share with you the latest updates, news, and insights from our association in the field of dental public health.

In this issue, you will find short articles and features from our members, along with important updates on our events and opportunities for professional development. We are particularly thrilled to highlight the achievements and contributions of our members, who continue to drive excellence in our field. The main focus of this issue is a roundup of news and events that have taken place since the appointment of new MADPHS council members in March 2022. Additionally, we have also dedicated a section for future dental public specialists aimed at encouraging our associate members and dental public health postgraduates to share their valuable opinions and experiences.

We also want to take this opportunity to thank our contributors and dedicated team, who have worked tirelessly to make this e-bulletin possible. Your hard work and commitment are truly appreciated, and we are grateful for the effort you have put into making this issue a success.

We welcome your feedback and ideas for future issues. We encourage you to share your thoughts with us and to continue to actively engage with our association. Contact our team at madphs.scientific@gmail.com if you wish to contribute to our next issue.

Thank you for your continuous support, and we hope you enjoy this first issue.

Best regards,
Associate Prof Dr Nor Azlida Mohd Nor
Editor
MADPHS E-Bulletin
Term 2022-2024

Editorial Team



Assoc Prof Dr Nor Azlida Mohd Nor
Editor



Dr Ainol Haniza Kherul Anuwar
Associate Editor



Dr Noorhazayti Ab Halim
Editorial committee



Dr Wong Siong Ting
Editorial committee (Proofreader)



Dr Muhd Firdaus Che Musa
Editorial committee

ADVISORS

Dr Salleh Zakaria

Assoc Prof Dr Haslina Rani

MEET THE MADPHS COUNCIL MEMBERS

TERM 2022-2024



IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Assoc Prof. Dr Tuti Ningseh
Mohd Dom



PRESIDENT

DR SALLEH BIN ZAKARIA



PRESIDENT ELECT

Assoc Prof. Dr Budi Aslinie
Md Sabri



SECRETARY

Dr Azliza Dato' Zabha



ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Assoc Prof Dr Haslina Rani



TREASURER

Dr Nuryastri Md Mustafa

COUNCIL MEMBERS

ECONOMY



Col (Dr) Nor Azman
AB Rahim



Dr Wong Siong Ting

EDUCATION



Assoc Prof Dr Nor Azlida
Mohd Nor



Dr Noorhazayti
Ab Halim

PUBLIC RELATION



Dr Ainon Natrah Aminnudin

WELFARE



Dr Muhammad Farid Nurdin

LAUNCHING OF A NEW

MADPHS WEBSITE

www.madphs.com



On 1st December 2022, a new website has been launched for our association, providing members and the public with a user-friendly platform to access information and resources related to MADPHS activities. The website features a modern design and improved functionality, including an online directory of members, a calendar of events, and a publication section. With the new website (**www.madphs.com**), we aim to improve communication and engagement with our members, as well as enhance the user experience for those seeking information about the dental public health profession. The website is accessible to members and the public and will serve as a valuable resource for anyone interested in the field. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our website development team who have worked tirelessly behind the scene to bring this website project to reality.

MADPHS

Malaysian Association of Dental Public Health Specialists



Home

About

Membership

Events

External links

Publications



Malaysian Association of Dental
Public Health Specialists (MADPHS)

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT TEAM



Dr Ainon Natrah
Aminuddin (Team Leader)



Dr Marleen Kaur
a/p Harban Singh



Dr Mohd Hidir
bin Mohd Atni



Dr Badrul Munir
bin Mohd Arif



Dr Amirul Faiz
bin Lui

A Way Forward for Dental Public Health Education in Malaysia

We were thrilled to hear the news that our immediate past president (Associate Prof Dr Tuti Ningseh Mohd Dom) has been appointed as a dean at one of the prestigious dental schools in Malaysia. Congratulations on this remarkable achievement! The fact that this is a re-appointment is a testament to her dedication, hard work, and expertise in the field of dentistry and especially with regard to dental education and training.

Members of MADPHS are proud to see Associate Prof Dr Tuti taking on this leading role in UKM dental school. She has been an inspiration to many of us. Her passion for dentistry, commitment to excellence, and leadership skills will undoubtedly make a significant impact on the next generation of dental professionals.

Given her extensive background in curriculum development and involvement with various curriculum review boards, we had a brief interview with Associate Prof Dr Tuti to gain insight into a potential way forward for dental public health (DPH) education in Malaysia.

Congratulations Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tuti Ningseh Mohd Dom

on your appointment as
Dean,
Faculty of Dentistry,
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
on the 29th April 2022

In your opinion, how has the curriculum for DPH evolved over the years to align with changing societal needs?

DPH has always acknowledged the impact of social determinants on health status and outcomes. Hence with the changing needs of society, the DPH curriculum recognises the importance of addressing broader social determinants of health that influence people's lives. For example, a greater emphasis is now given to interdisciplinary collaboration, highlighting the need for professionals from different fields to work together to address the complex interplay of social and health problems. As a result, DPH curriculums have expanded to include coursework in areas such as sociology, economics, and political science.

Another aspect is the growing interconnectedness of the world which has led to a greater focus on global health in public health programs. Some programmes now include coursework on international health issues and the impact of globalization on health. By adapting to these changes and incorporating new approaches, public health professionals including DPHS can continue to promote health and improve overall health outcomes for individuals and communities.



Assoc Prof Dr Tuti Ningseh,
MADPHS Immediate
Past President

Technology has become increasingly important in public health;

I believe new DPH curriculums have expanded the scope of topics such as data analytics, health informatics, and advanced epidemiology. Moreover, greater exposure is needed to digital technology such as the use of electronic health records, telemedicine, and mobile health apps - emphasizing the ethical issues surrounding their applications in societal health.

How has your previous experience in MADPHS helped to enhance your leadership skills?

I played some minor background roles to support the initiation of MADPHS by our Founding President Prof Rahimah Abdul Kadir. Most of the time I was just an Ordinary Member but later served as Council Member prior to my appointment as President for the 2020-2022 term.

The most important lesson I have learned while being the President of MADPHS is to effectively work with other DPHS from other agencies, namely the MOH, MOD and other universities. Together, we learn to focus on our common aspirations to advance the science and practice of DPH through sharing of resources and smart collaborations, while at the same time navigating through our own institutional commitments. Undoubtedly, we have many similarities that may be channelled to realise our goals of better health and oral health for all.

“

Through my involvement in MADPHS, I have been able to collaborate with other professional associations that share the same passion for the promotion of population health and well-being in our country as well as globally. Some of the NGOs that we have worked with are IDAM, ACFF Malaysia, Malaysian Health Coalition and others.

”

How to instil leadership and management skills in the DPH curriculum to prepare graduates to take up leadership & management roles one day?

1. Strengthening Leadership and Management Courses:

We can strengthen specific courses that focus on leadership and management skills, including health advocacy. These courses can cover topics such as strategic planning, financial management, human resources management, health marketing, and project management.

2. Providing Mentorship and Internship Opportunities:

This can be done through partnerships with public health organizations or the Ministry of Health, allowing students to work on real-world projects, health systems and policies, and learn from experienced professionals and leaders.

3. Offering Case-Based Learning:

We can use real-world case studies to teach students how to apply leadership and management principles to public health challenges.



What key changes have been/should be made to the DPH curriculum to reflect advancements in research, technology, and evidence-based practice?

I believe our DPH curriculum has undergone significant changes in recent years to reflect advancements in research, technology, and evidence-based practice. Some key changes include:

Integration of Data Science: With the increasing importance of big data in public health research, many public health/DPH programs have integrated data science into their curriculum. This includes coursework in data management, analysis, and visualisation, as well as training in the use of advanced statistical techniques and machine learning algorithms.

Emphasis on Translational Research: DPH programs now emphasize the importance of translational research, which involves translating research findings into practice. This includes coursework in implementation science, dissemination and implementation research, and program evaluation.

Focus on Precision Public Health: Precision public health is an emerging field that aims to tailor public health interventions to the specific needs of individuals and populations. Hopefully, the aspect of precision of public health can be enhanced in our future DPH curriculum to better prepare our graduates with the necessary knowledge and skills to implement such approaches.



DPH Webinar Series

"Exploring a world of creativity which widens your perspective"

FREE admission

31 MAY 2022 TUESDAY

12.00 - 1.30PM

ZOOM LINK:
<https://bit.ly/3w1jZ2L>

SCAN FOR REGISTRATION

MODERATOR:
DR NURUL SALWA CHE ABDUL RAHIM
Chief Academic Officer, Universiti Malaysia

CPD Point TBA*

Organised by:
Department of Community Oral Health & Clinical Prevention
Faculty of Dentistry, Universiti Malaysia

IN Collaboration with
Malaysian Association of Dental Public Health Specialists (MADPHS)

ASSOC PROF DR NAHRIZUL ADIB KADRI
Department of Biomedical Engineering
Faculty of Engineering, Universiti Malaysia

THE ART OF MEDIA WRITING: DENTISTRY EDITION

12.00pm - 1.00pm

ASSOC PROF DR HASLINA RANI
Department of Family Oral Health,
Faculty of Dentistry, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

USING SOCIAL MEDIA TO PROMOTE ORAL HEALTH

1.00pm - 1.30pm

2ND ANNOUNCEMENT

MADPHS WEBINAR & 14TH AGM

Essential Skills to Help You Realise Your Potential

There are those who never appear to have enough time to complete tasks and who do not seem to be able to get ahead no matter how hard they try. Yet there are others who appear to manage their work and personal life with ease and somehow do everything better than anyone else. Management gurus coin all sorts of terms to describe the traits of these successful people. However, not all these traits are innate within everyone. In this session, Prof Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud will share some of his own thoughts and experiences on what he considers the four essential skill sets which can help people realise their full potential. It is his belief that anyone can acquire these skill sets so he will demonstrate his own practical approach to the acquisition of these skill sets.

SPEAKER
DATUK PROF DR AWANG BULGIBA AWANG MAHMUD

11 FEBRUARY 2023

9.00 am - 10.30 am (Webinar)
10.45 am - 12.30 pm (AGM)
Venue : Online (Webex)
Registration fees : RM 20
(50% will be donated to Asrama HALLIAN Penyangg, Selangor)

OPEN FOR REGISTRATION
<https://forms.gle/zHC9617wxPH9N719>

Come and join us.

Further details → www.madphs.com.my

MADPHS in collaboration with other public institutions have initiated a webinar series to provide educational and informative content to both members and the general public. The webinars cover various topics and featured key experts as speakers.

FORUM SMILE 2.0

Mental Health For Dental Wealth

13 June 2022 9.30 am - 11.00 am

"It's okay...to not be okay"

Visit www.smileuitm.com or scan code

Brought to you by: **Collaboration with:** **Sponsored by:**

Panelists:

DR. AHMAD ROSTAM MD ZIN
Consultation-Liaison Psychiatrist,
Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah

ASSOC. PROF. DR. AMER SIDDIQ AMER NORDIN
Consultant Psychiatrist,
Universiti Malaysia

ASSOC. PROF. DR. BUDI ASLINIE MD SABRI
Program Director for Postgraduate of
Dental Public Health
Faculty of Dentistry UTM

PROF. EMERITUS DATO' DR. WAN MOHAMAD NASIR BIN WAN OTHMAN
Academic Fellow,
Faculty of Dentistry USM

Moderator:

CPD POINT : TBA

The webinars are one of many benefits our members receive through the provision of the latest updates on important issues and development related to the field of dental public health. Overall, these webinars were well received by our members. We are proud to announce that MADPHS has been officially recognized as the CPD provider by the Malaysian Dental Council (MDC). Therefore, please stay tuned to our upcoming webinars!

WEBINAR TALK

FLUORIDE IN DENTISTRY

IS IT STILL A RELEVANT PREVENTIVE STRATEGY IN MALAYSIA?

MONDAY 19 SEPT 12:00 - 1.30 PM

SPEAKER
PROF. DR. NORINTAN AB MURAT
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY ORAL HEALTH & CLINICAL PREVENTION (UM)

NDC CPD POINT: TBA

REGISTER NOW

<https://forms.gle/5JTYRMHL3FIK2Z7>

ID: 955 2031 9329
Passcode: 834313

IN COLLABORATION WITH
MALAYSIAN ASSOCIATION OF DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH (MADPHS)

ORGANISED BY
DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH,
KULLIYAH OF DENTISTRY, IUM

MODERATOR
ASST. PROF. DR. SALWANA SUPAAT (IUM)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



@RUMAH ANAK YATIM, TERATAK NUR BARAKAH, SHAH ALAM Date: 12 Nov 2022 (Saturday)



PKPD Petaling (*Klinik Pergigian Seksyen 19*, Shah Alam) in partnership with MADPHS had conducted an oral health education program for orphanage children in Teratak Nur Barakah. The programme aimed to improve the oral health of orphanage children and promote healthy habits that they can carry into adulthood. Approximately 20 children benefited from this programme. This programme included interactive sessions that used game-based activities to cover topics such as proper tooth brushing and flossing techniques, the importance of regular dental check-ups, and the impact of diet on oral health. The children were also provided with toothbrushes, toothpastes, and toiletries sponsored by Colgate-Palmolive Malaysia to encourage them to practice good personal hygiene. In addition to the educational sessions, *Klinik Pergigian Seksyen 19* offered free dental checkups and treatments to the children.

ALLIANCE FOR CAVITY-FREE FUTURE MALAYSIA CHAPTER

By Assoc Prof Dr Haslina Rani



SYMPOSIUM: SUGAR AND EARLY CHILDHOOD CARIES
CELEBRATING WORLD CAVITY-FREE FUTURE DAY 2022

FREE TO JOIN!

31ST OCTOBER 2022
8AM -1PM
LECTURE HALL 2, KULLIYAH OF ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES, IIUM Kuantan Campus

OFFICIAL LAUNCH BY
Dr. Noormi Othman
Principal Director of Oral Health

MODERATOR
Assoc. Prof Dr. Tuti Ningseh Mohd Dom
Co-chairman
ACFF Malaysia Chapter

Prof. Dr. Rahimah Abdul Kadir
Chairman
ACFF Malaysia Chapter

Dr. Natifah binti Che Salleh
Director
Oral Health Care Division
Ministry of Health Malaysia

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ahmad Faisal bin Ismail
Secretary
Malaysian Association of Paediatric Dentistry

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Budi Aslinie Md Sabri
President-elect
Malaysian Association of Dental Public Health Specialists

CPD POINTS PENDING

On the 31st of October 2022, MADPHS became one of the collaborative partners with the Alliance for Cavity-Free Future Malaysia Chapter (ACFF MC) in celebrating the World Cavity-Free Future Day (WCFFD) Malaysia 2022. WCFFD is an annually celebrated global event that brings together dental and healthcare professionals, as well as individuals and groups from around the world, to promote the message that cavities can be prevented.

The launching of WCFFD Malaysia 2022 was officiated by Dr Noormi Othman, Principal Director of Oral Health, Ministry of Health Malaysia, at the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), Kuantan Campus. Various activities were conducted such as a symposium on sugar and early childhood caries, oral hygiene instruction workshops for kindergarten teachers, fluoride therapy hands-on sessions for dental therapists and dental surgery assistants, and a photography competition.



The WCFFD Malaysia 2022 was sponsored by Colgate-Palmolive and Southern Lion Malaysia. MADPHS also contributed by sponsoring a speaker, our very own President Elect, Associate Professor Dr Budi Aslinie Md Sabri who shared a highly engaging talk entitled “Public Health Perspectives on Sugar Management”.

Most notably, in conjunction with the WCFFD Malaysia 2022, the Kuantan Declaration was released, highlighting the dedication and commitment of ACFF and all collaborators including MADPHS, towards achieving a cavity-free future. The declaration proposed measures to regulate sugar consumption from various perspectives and called for cooperation from government agencies, non-government organisations and industries to work hand-in-hand and contribute towards achieving the objective.

We are proud to have played an active role in the success of the WCFFD Malaysia 2022 and the issuance of the **Kuantan Declaration**. It is through collaborative efforts and shared commitment that we can make a meaningful impact in improving oral health and promoting dental public health initiatives related to sugar management. We look forward to continued collaborations and contributions towards achieving a cavity-free future in Malaysia.



#CavityFreeFuture

THE ROLE OF MADPHS IN HEALTH ADVOCACY

By Assoc Prof Dr Nor Azlida Mohd Nor & Assoc Prof Dr Budi Aslinie Md Sabri

The Malaysian Health Coalition (MHC) was established on 1st March 2020, during COVID-19 pandemic, as a coalition of 53 professional societies representing doctors, specialists, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, allied health professionals, alongside dedicated citizens working together to engage in health advocacy and supporting Health in All policies (<https://myhealthcoalition.org/>). During COVID-19 pandemic, MHC has been actively providing evidence-based information related to COVID-19 to the public, supporting the Ministry of Health and engaging with relevant stakeholders to recommend strategies and measures to mitigate the outbreak.



MADPHS is part of this powerful coalition (MHC) and actively supports various joint statements related to health issues with the aim of protecting the health of Malaysians. With these joint statements “on record”, advocates can respond promptly and express their support or opposition when needed. For example, recently on 4th April 2023, MHC expressed disappointment with the government’s decision to collect excise taxes on nicotine liquids and gel used in e-cigarettes and vaping devices and called for clear laws on vaping before any taxation. We share concerns about the public health implications of vaping and tobacco use among young generations. You can find some of our joint statements with MHC on the website <https://myhealthcoalition.org/category/joint-statements/>. We invite you to join us by voting on the MHC joint statements via MADPHS Telegram, as your voice matters in shaping health advocacy efforts.

#Our Voice Matters

As dentists/dental specialists in collaboration with other health professional groups, we have the potential to form a powerful lobbying force and advocate for policy changes [1]. Advocacy encompasses a wide range of efforts aimed at improving the quality of life for individuals, families, and communities at various levels [2]. In the context of health, advocacy plays a crucial role in creating sustainable health systems that prioritise the well-being of individuals, communities, and the environment. It involves speaking up and taking action to influence policies, practices, and behaviours that impact health outcomes. When individuals and communities join forces in health advocacy, it can lead to positive changes that promote sustainable health for present and future generations [1,2]. Our voice matters in health advocacy, and through collective efforts, we can make a meaningful impact on the health of our current and future generations.

References

1. Watt RG, Williams DM, Sheiham A. (2014). The role of the dental team in promoting health equity. *British Dental Journal*. 2014;216(1): 11-14.
2. Amini H, Wells AJ, Boynton, JR, Guo X, Ni A. (2021). Oral health advocacy education impacts future engagement: Exploration at a midwestern US dental school. *Frontiers in Oral Health*.2021;2: 714199.



Malaysia Perlu Undang-Undang Vape Sebelum Mengenakan Cukai

Gabungan Kesihatan Malaysia amat prihatin dan kecewa dengan keputusan untuk mengutip cukai eksais atas cecair nikotin dan gel yang digunakan dalam e-rokok dan peranti vape mulai 1 April 2023. Keputusan ini diumumkan pada 31 Mac 2023 dalam Warta Persekutuan.

Kami maklum bahawa undang-undang sedia ada di Malaysia tidak membenarkan atau mengharamkan e-rokok atau peranti vape dengan jelas. Oleh itu, status e-rokok dan peranti vape adalah tidak tertulis dan tidak jelas, tanpa sebarang peraturan untuk mengawal penggunaan peranti vape atau mengurangkan bahaya peranti vape kepada populasi yang terdedah seperti kanak-kanak atau remaja.

Bagi membolehkan cukai eksais ini dilaksanakan secara sah, Menteri Kesihatan terpaksa mengecualikan cecair dan gel nikotin daripada Akta Racun 1952 (juga diumumkan pada 31 Mac 2023). Kami kesal kerana pengecualian ini diperlukan sebagai langkah pentadbiran kerana Malaysia masih belum membuat keputusan untuk membenarkan atau mengharamkan peranti vape.

HAPPY WORLD ORAL HEALTH DAY

ISSUE 1
APRIL 2022- MAC 2023

By Dr Noorhazayti Ab Halim & Dr Wong Siong Ting

World Oral Health Day is an annual international event held on March 20th to raise awareness about the significance of good oral health and its impact on overall health and well-being. This day is recognised by organisations worldwide, including dental associations, health organisations, and government agencies. It is celebrated in over 209 countries worldwide. Every year, World Oral Health Day features a different theme that highlights various aspects of oral health. Some past themes have included "Say Ahh: Think Mouth, Think Health," "Live Mouth Smart," and "Healthy Mouth, Healthy Body." The theme for 2021-2023 is "Be Proud of Your Mouth," which encourages individuals to take pride in their oral health at every stage of life and make positive changes to improve their overall well-being.

Various activities take place on World Oral Health Day, including dental check-ups, seminars, workshops, and awareness campaigns. These events offer an excellent opportunity to empower people with the knowledge, tools and confidence to secure good oral health. Additionally, World Oral Health Day emphasizes the need for access to dental care for everyone. Unfortunately, many people around the world lack access to basic oral healthcare, which can lead to serious health problems.

Malaysia is one of the countries that participate in the celebration of World Oral Health Day. Key stakeholders such as the Oral Health Programme Ministry of Health, Malaysian Dental Association, Malaysian Dental Schools, Malaysian Armed Forces, dental industries, Malaysian Dental Students' Association, and various agencies have conducted multiple awareness campaigns and activities to increase public awareness about oral health. We would like to congratulate all relevant organisations and MADPHS members involved in making the celebration of World Oral Health Day in Malaysia a success.

In summary, World Oral Health Day is an essential day that reminds us of the significance of good oral health and its impact on our overall health. This day presents a remarkable platform for organisations to collaborate and work towards achieving a common goal of promoting optimal oral health and well-being for the population. Alone we are smart, but together we are brilliant. Let us unite our efforts and share the responsibility of improving the oral health of our community for a better oral health tomorrow for all.

In this issue of our MADPHS E-Bulletin, we are pleased to showcase a random selection of photographs featuring the smiling faces of some of our members, in conjunction with the World Oral Health Day 2023 celebration. We look forward to receiving more photographs from our members and featuring them in our next E-Bulletin issue for the World Oral Health Day 2024 celebration.

#Be Proud of Your Mouth



**World Oral
Health Day**
20 March

BE PROUD OF YOUR MOUTH

Look after your oral health for a lifetime of smiles



World Oral
Health Day
20 March



**DR DATU MOHD AMYRIL
ABDULUDIN**

Division Dental Officer, Tawau, Sabah



DR SALWANA SUPA'AT
Assistant Prof, International Islamic
University Malaysia



DR BIBIANA YONG HUI YING
Dental Officer, Sarikei, Sarawak



**MAJOR GENERAL DATO'
(DR) ZULKIFLI ZAINAL ABDIN**
Dental Director, Health Services Division,
Malaysian Armed Forces Headquarters



MAJOR (DR) RUZAWANI RUSLAN
Dental Public Health Specialist
Hospital Angkatan Tentera Tuanku Mizan



DR ROKIAH MAMIKUTTY
Dental Public Health Specialist, Ipoh, Perak



DR MISAH MD RAMLI
Senior Principal Assistant Director, Perak



**DR RATHMAWATI AHMAD &
DR ASMANI ABDUL RAZAK**

District Dental Officer, Kota Bharu &
Deputy State Director (Dental), Kelantan



DR MUNIRAH MOHD ADNAN
Senior Lecturer, Universiti Sains Malaysia

#MouthProud #WOHD23

BE PROUD OF YOUR MOUTH

Look after your oral health for a lifetime of smiles



World Oral
Health Day
20 March



DR MARHAZLINDA JAMALUDIN
Senior Lecturer, Universiti Malaya



DR NAWWAL ALWANI MOHD RADZI
Senior Lecturer, Universiti Teknologi Mara



DR DEWI MAYANG SARI KAMARAZAMAN
District Dental Officer, Seremban, Negeri Sembilan



BRIGADIER GENERAL (DR) NORMAH HJ. SAMSURI
Dental Director

Malaysian Army West Field Command Headquarters



DR FAIZAH ABDUL KARIM
District Dental Officer, Gombak, Selangor



DR WONG FUI JAK
Dental Officer, Sandakan, Sabah



MAJOR (DR) AHMAD ASYRAF AZIL
Dental Officer, Hospital Angkatan Tentera Tuanku Mizan



DR AMEERA SYAFIQAH ALY
Dental Public Health Specialist, Taiping, Perak



DR NOR AZLINA HASHIM
District Dental Officer, Kuala Krai, Kelantan

#MouthProud #WOHD23

OVERLOOKED & COSTLY: THE BURDEN OF PERIODONTITIS IN MALAYSIA

By Dr Ainol Haniza Kherul Anuwar

Periodontal disease in Malaysia affected an estimated 12 million adults in 2020, with a half-a-million increase from a previous national survey in 2010 [1]. Vulnerable and marginalised populations are at higher risk due to limited access to oral healthcare services and inadequate oral hygiene care. Ageing populations and urbanisation also contribute to the rise. This issue is significant, as periodontitis shares risk factors with major non-communicable diseases (NCDs) that cause two-thirds of deaths in Malaysia.

Based on the Markov model, the estimated utilisation of oral healthcare services among adults with periodontitis in Malaysia is alarmingly low, with only 0.7% seeking dental treatment in 2020 [1]. This is particularly concerning as early detection of periodontal disease is crucial, and low utilisation of dental services may contribute to worsening periodontal health and social inequalities. Action must be taken to improve the utilisation of oral healthcare services for early detection and prevention of periodontitis, as it has a significant individual and societal impact.

It is known that effective oral health education and promotion are crucial to prevent re-treatment and improve patients' oral health-related quality of life. The cost of treating periodontitis patients posed a significant financial burden to oral health services. Findings from my study estimated the average direct medical costs for non-surgical periodontal management in Malaysia to be MYR 8,863/patient per year in public clinics and MYR 16,137/patient per year in private clinics [1]. These estimates are higher than those reported in a previous study, emphasising the need to reduce the economic burden of healthcare.

Therefore, we need a collaborative effort to tackle the disease urgently. Encouraging effective home oral hygiene care and increasing diagnosis and management rates of periodontitis can result in a positive return on investment and cost savings in the long run. The economic burden of periodontitis management is significant, and policies are needed to reduce the negative impact of out-of-pocket payments for dental care, which disproportionately affect vulnerable groups.

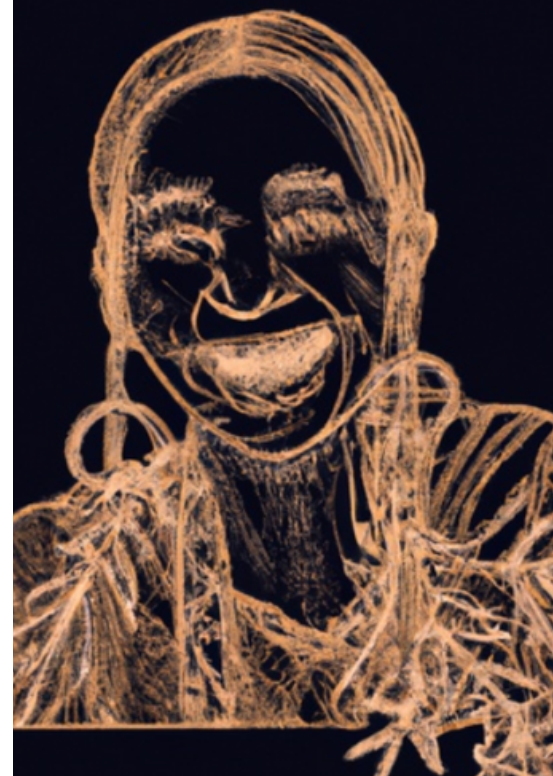
In light of the rising prevalence of periodontal disease in Malaysia, it is imperative to devise a comprehensive strategy to prevent and manage this condition. This plan should incorporate a multifaceted approach, including oral health education, early detection of the disease, and effective preventive measures. Let's work together to improve the oral health outcomes of Malaysia and ensure a healthier future for all.

Reference

1. Ainol Haniza Kherul Anuwar. (2020). *Modelling the National Economic Burden of Non-surgical Periodontal Management in Specialist Clinics in Malaysia using Markov Model*. [Doctorate Thesis]. Universiti Malaya.

"A genuine smile comes from the heart, but a healthy smile needs good dental care"

WAYNE CHIRISA



REFLECTION ON COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE IMPACT

By Dr Zarikh Saqina Zabeti & Dr Nurul Salwa Che Abdul Rahim

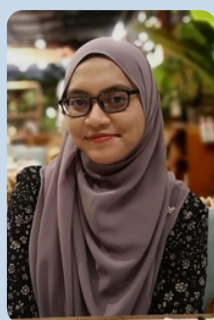
Our postgraduate attachment at the Intercountry Centre for Oral Health (ICOH), Chiang Mai provided us with valuable insights into oral health promotion activities in Thailand. During our visit in 2022, we observed that the Thai Government places a strong emphasis on individualised oral health through the self-care concept by the Village Health Volunteers (VHVs), who are responsible for delivering these activities. Additionally, there is a strong focus on community empowerment through community oral health programmes [1]. VHVs have been an integral part of Thailand's health system since the 1970s. These volunteers are responsible for assisting the local healthcare workers in promoting health, preventing diseases as well as providing basic health services to the local communities, involving both medical and oral health components. Currently, the Ministry of Public Health in Thailand oversees approximately 1 million VHVs nationwide.



The Ministry of Public Health in Thailand has provided extensive training for these VHVs, equipping them with the skills needed to perform their duties effectively. During our visit, we observed oral cancer screening by the volunteers with the use of an oral cancer mobile application to record the findings. They also utilised teleconsultation with health care professionals for necessary referrals to clinics. By having a trained VHV in every village, we learned that it eliminates distance, time and travel costs to the clinics, thereby increasing the numbers of individuals and communities served. This concept of empowerment is something that we can adopt in Malaysia to facilitate larger population coverage and create a more sustainable oral health care system.



One of the oral health challenges in Chang Mai is endemic fluorosis (i.e. dental and skeletal fluorosis) caused by naturally occurring high levels of fluoride (ranging from 1.5 to 7.8mg/L) in the groundwater in the Northern Region [2]. As a result, efforts are needed to implement defluoridation measures to ensure safe water consumption. A few government-subsidised reverse osmosis (RO) plants were built in response to the health needs caused by fluorosis. We observed that some of these RO plants were fully operated by the local residents, which supports community empowerment efforts. It was informed to us that these locally-operated RO plants encouraged local support for the defluoridation programme and helped reduced the final product price. In addition, some RO plants were also strategically built within the community centre or school compounds, facilitating multisectoral efforts to raise awareness about fluorosis. We witnessed a strong sense of joint responsibility shared together by health workers and community members in combating fluorosis, making it difficult to discern where one responsibility ends and another begins.



Dr Zariqh Saqina Zuberi
Doctorate Student in
Dental Public Health,
Department of
Community Oral Health
& Clinical Prevention,
Faculty of Dentistry,
Universiti Malaya.
Dental Officer, Ministry
of Health, Malaysia.



Dr Nurul Salwa Che Abd Rahim
Doctorate Student in
Dental Public Health,
Department of
Community Oral Health
& Clinical Prevention,
Faculty of Dentistry,
Universiti Malaya.
Dental Officer, Ministry
of Health, Malaysia

Correspondence: zariqzuberi@gmail.com

Seeing the positive impact of empowering local communities through initiatives like trained VHVs in every village was truly inspiring. It highlighted the power of community engagement and ownership in driving sustainable change and creating lasting improvements in health outcomes. As future Dental Public Health Specialists, it is our responsibility to cultivate a strong social network with the general public in order to symbiotically improve the oral healthcare system. We believe it is imperative to reinstate the centrality of the 'Public' in the field of dental public health.

References

1. Abdul Razak I, Mustafa N, Mohd Jeffry SJ, Ibrahim H. Comparative study of oral health promotion activities between Malaysia and Thailand- An outbound programme. *Annals of Dentistry UM*. 2014;21(2):41-45.
2. Chuah CJ, Lye HR, Ziegler AD, Wood SH, Kongpun C, Rajchagool S. Fluoride: A naturally-occurring health hazard in drinking-water resources of Northern Thailand. *Science of the Total Environment*. 2016;545-546:266-279. doi:10.1016/j.scitotenv.2015.12.069

In memory of late Dr Azura Abdullah

On 17th Feb 2023, we were saddened by the news of the passing of Dr Azura Abdullah, one of our esteemed MADPHS members. She and her husband, Mohd Rizal Othman, were involved in an accident on the North-South highway (near Gopeng) while on their way to Thailand.

Looking back at Dr Azura's journey, she received her undergraduate degree from Tokyo Medical Dental University (TMDU) in 2001 and was among the first Malaysian students to pursue dentistry at TMDU. She later returned to Malaysia and served as a dental officer in the Ministry of Health for several years before pursuing a postgraduate study in Master of Public Health (Oral Health) at the Faculty of Dentistry, Universiti Malaya.

As a dental officer, she served in various dental clinics in Klang and Hospital Tengku Ampuan Rahimah Klang. Throughout her career as a Dental Public Health Specialist, she held various positions at the State Dental Health Department, Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya. Additionally, she served in the Oral Health Programme under the *Cawangan Perkembangan Profesion Kesihatan Pergigian*, Ministry of Health, Malaysia and contributed significantly to the National Health Morbidity Survey (NHMS) 2017- School-Based Oral Health Survey.

We extend our deepest condolences to Dr Azura's family, friends, and loved ones. She will always be remembered for her kindness, dedication, and professionalism. May her soul rest in peace.

Our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to all MADPHS members who generously contributed to our recent donation appeal aimed at supporting Dr Azura's children during this challenging time.



Dr Salleh and Dr Farid, representing MADPHS, visited the family of the late Dr Azura to offer their condolences and present the donation.



"We belong to
God, and to
Him we shall
return"

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ الْيَوْمَ الْيَوْمَ
فَاللَّهِ يَوْمَ الدِّينِ إِنَّا لَنَعْبُدُ وَإِنَّا لَك
نَسْتَغِيثُ إِهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ صِرَاطَ
الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ
عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ

UPCOMING EVENT



Organizer



Co-organizer

FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT

MADPHS SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE 2023

Health White Paper : Impact on Oral Healthcare Delivery System

REGISTRATION FEES

MADPHS MEMBER	: RM 200
NON MADPHS MEMBER	: RM 250
STUDENT (UNDERGRADUATE / POSTGRADUATE)	: RM 200
LATE / ON - SITE	: RM 300

TALK BY EXPERTS | FORUMS | PAPER PRESENTATIONS

PLATINUM SPONSOR

pharmaniaga
passion for patients

BRONZE SPONSORS

HAL-ON
Colgate



DR NOORMI BINTI OTHMAN

Principal Director of Oral
Health, MOH
Speaker



**DR MUHAMMED ANIS BIN
ABD WAHAB**

Assistant Director National
Health Financing Section
Planning Division, MOH
Speaker



**MR AZRUL BIN MOHD
KHALIB**

Head and Founder of the
Galen Centre for Health &
Social Policy
Speaker



**BRIG. JEN. (DR.) MOHD ASRI
BIN DIN**

MOD Representative
Panelist



**ASSOC. PROF. DR TUTI
NINGSEH BINTI MOHD DOM**

MOHE Representative
Panelist



**DR AKMAL AIDA BINTI
OTHMAN**

MOH Representative
Panelist



**ASSOC. PROF. DR MAS
SURYALIS BINTI AHMAD**

MDA Representative
Panelist

20 MAY 2023 | SATURDAY | IMPIANA HOTEL , IPOH

Further details →



www.madphs.com

See You There!



WHAT'S NEXT?

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Target group: Orphanage (*Rumah Haluan Penyayang*)

 **Event location:** Masjid Al- Bakri, Seksyen 32, Shah Alam, Selangor

Date: 10th June 2023 (Saturday)

Organiser: PKPD Petaling (*Klinik Pergigian Seksyen 7 Shah Alam*) in collaboration with MADPHS and *Badan Agama Masjid Al-Bakri*.

Open to MADPHS members to join as dental experts. Interested to participate?

Please contact: **Dr Farid Nurdin**
(mfaridnurdin@gmail.com)



Call for articles for our next issue

Interested in contributing or submitting content/articles for the MAPDHS e-bulletin?

Contact our editorial team at:
madphs.scientific@gmail.com

Scan the QR Code for more details.

SUBMIT NOW!



<https://www.facebook.com/MADPHSMY/>



MADPHS (<https://t.me/+8Qt1-3GXHYRkZGVI>)



15th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ASIAN ACADEMY OF PREVENTIVE DENTISTRY

**INNOVATIVE
TECHNOLOGY
FOR PREVENTIVE
ORAL CARE**

**8-11
NOV
2023**

HONG KONG



SOCIETY OF
PREVENTIVE DENTISTRY
OF HONG KONG
香港預防齒科學會

aapdasia.org

MADPHS

INTERESTED?

ABOUT US

Read our constitutions:

<https://tinyurl.com/madphsConstitution>



JOIN US

- **Register:**
<https://tinyurl.com/MADPHSregister>
- **Update membership information:**
<https://tinyurl.com/MADPHS-Mupdate>
- **Check your membership status:**
<https://tinyurl.com/MADPHSdatabase2023>
- **Annual/ Life membership payment:**
<https://tinyurl.com/MADPHSannualfee>
- **Join our Facebook group:**
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/485948425697242>