



Bulletin

Oral Health Division
Ministry of Health Malaysia



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A Lifetime of Healthy Smiles

Dec 2010



MAJLIS PELANCARAN

"PENJAGAAN AWAL KESIHATAN PERGIGIAN KANAK-KANAK
DALAM PROGRAM PERMATA"

TIDAK TERLALU AWAL
Memulakan Penjagaan Kesihatan Pergigian
Oleh

Y.A.Bhg. **Maduka S. Mansor**
A.B. Per... ah Mans...
merangka...
Kerja Peny... Program PE



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Editorial Board, Editor's Notes	2
Message from The Principal Director	3
Newsworthy Events, Happenings...	4 - 7
Visitors to Oral Health Division	8
SCODOS, NOHSA 2010	9
Launch of Early Childhood Oral Healthcare in PERMATA	10
Oral Health Campaigns & Exhibitions	11
Dental Health Education Materials	11, 12
National Oral Health Plan 2011-2020	13
CPD & Meetings	14, 15
National Innovation Awards 2010	16
Malaysia Medical Excellence	17
Feedback from Overseas Attachment	18 - 20

The Editorial Board



From left: Ms Fatimah bt Rahman, Dr Chew Yoke Yuen, Dr Savithri a/p Vengadasalam Dato' Dr Norain bt Abu Talib, Dr Chia Set Hoong, and Dr Faizah bt Kamaruddin

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WE WELCOME features and feedback from readers, which may be edited for purposes of clarity and space. Please submit articles in soft copies. Photos should be furnished

and preferably be in digital format (tiff, jpeg, psd, png) for further enhancement or editing if

So, no matter where you are stationed, do put pen to paper and give us your feedback. We look forward to hearing from you.

Editor's Notes

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS are often forgotten once we return from vacation. As healthcare personnel, some of our resolutions should veer on living exemplary healthy lifestyles before we foist our health beliefs on the general population. We will eat healthily, avoid sinfully rich food, not to pander to that sweet tooth and vow to exercise more. Smoking and drinking excessively which are the root causes of a slew of ills should be given a wide berth. Resolutions should be penned down and worked on immediately before the initial enthusiasm starts to wane. In this era of social networking, posting it on your blog or on your facebook/twitter account will further increase your commitment.



"Innovation drives Transformation" is the theme for this year's National Innovation Awards of the MOH. To actualize fantastic ideas we need to be passionately consumed by innovative fervor so as to unleash the underlying latent creative energy. As Mary Lou Retton an American gymnast and Olympic gold medallist has sagely mused, "Heat is required to forge anything. Every great accomplishment is the story of a flaming heart". We were certainly not short of creativity as evidenced by the many outstanding projects submitted for competition. In a rare tribute to MOH, Pos Malaysia did a First Day Cover on Malaysia Medical Excellence.

A broad group of oral healthcare professionals was engaged in the forum on the National Oral Health Plan for the coming decade. This gathering on 18th October has successfully forged fraternity collaboration to address root causes, critical challenges and see the big issues pertaining to the nation's oral health. Henceforth it is imperative to regularly monitor the achievement of the goals as national intent may not always resonate with ground level resolve.

The launch of Early Childhood Oral Healthcare in the PERMATA Negara programme by Y.A.Bhg. Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah Mansor, wife of the Prime Minister concluded successfully. The whole event was infused with an atmosphere of a delightful garden party. We focus on children as the need for oral healthcare is one essential dimension of a child's developmental needs.

I will begin to write my resolutions on the blank pages of my 2011 diary, with a post-it note stuck on for constant reference. As noted by Benjamin Franklin, "Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors and let each New Year find you a better man". I strongly resolve to keep mine and I hope that you can keep yours too.

Dr Chia Set Hoong
Editor-in-Chief

Message from The Principal Director of Oral Health

As we approach the end of 2010, with another decade to strive for the attainment of the targeted developed nation status in 2020, it's time we take stock of how far we have come in achieving our vision in oral health. In spite of an overall decline in caries levels, there are continuing disparities among certain population groups. Early childhood caries continues to be a major challenge. Caries prevalence among 6-year-olds remains high, whilst the periodontal status of 16-year-olds is also a cause for concern. As for the adults, the National Oral Health Survey for Adults 2010 has just been completed in August and we're awaiting the findings.



In a proactive stance towards addressing the population's oral health needs in line with Vision 2020, the Oral Health Division has embarked on reviewing 'Malaysia's National Oral Health Plan 2010' to chart the future directions for oral health of the country. This is also timely as we are also in the process of planning for the 10th Malaysia Plan. Various members of the dental fraternity and representatives from relevant stakeholders from other Ministries, Non-government Organisations (NGOs), academia, industries and consumer groups have come together to deliberate how best we can channel our resources and energy towards this end.

Another important event of the year was the official launching of the "Early Childhood Oral Healthcare" under the PERMATA Negara Programme. The PERMATA Negara programme focuses on the development of a child's cognitive, social, emotional, physical and communication skills. A significant feature of the programme is the involvement of community, primarily the parents. A wide range of services such as healthcare, family counselling and advisory services are provided for the children. I truly believe the incorporation of early childhood oral healthcare to this programme will strengthen our efforts towards addressing oral health disparities among this age group.

In our quest for optimal oral health, we will be continually faced with challenges but I believe "A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty." As we say goodbye to 2010, let's all welcome the New Year with gusto; with renewed vitality and optimism - the much needed ingredients to a successful start in 2011.

(DATO' DR NORAIN BT ABU TALIB)
Principal Director of Oral Health
Ministry of Health Malaysia

On the Cover

Y.A.Bhg. Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah Mansor, wife of the Prime Minister officiating the launch of Early Childhood Oral Healthcare in the PERMATA Negara programme, an initiative by the Oral Health Division of the Ministry of Health. She is flanked by the Principal Director of Oral Health, Dato' Dr Norain and the Honorable Health Minister, Dato' Seri Liow Tiong Lai.

