Young Graduate Hospital-Internship Program: Bridging Dental Education Theory And Practice

ABDUL KADIR R1, MD DOM TN2, ABD-AZIZ N3, SUJAK SL4, HUSSIN ZA5, YUSOF ZY6, RAYMOND AA4

1: Faculty of Dentistry, Lincoln University College
2: Allianz for a Caries Free Future Malaysia Chapter
3: Faculty of Dentistry, University Kebangsaan Malaysia
4: Faculty of Medicine, University Kebangsaan Malaysia
5: Ministry of Health Oral Health Division
6: University Malaya

Introduction: In Malaysia, the dental curriculum includes a one-year equivalent module of general medicine and general surgery. Although the module includes cognitive, psychomotor and clinical components, students generally have very little opportunity to practise the oral health knowledge acquired in their education in a hospital setting. An internship program was initiated which allows fresh graduates to have a 6-week stint in a teaching hospital to conduct an oral health promotion programme for inpatients, their caregivers, and healthcare workers. Objectives: To assess the ability of fresh graduates in conducting an independent oral health promotion in a hospital setting.

Methods: Five recently graduated dentists who responded to the internship advertisement were recruited into a two-part programme(1)development of a work proposal at a one half-day workshop and,(2)adaptation and implementation of the proposal in actual hospital setting for a six-week period. Oral health promotion activities were conducted for the following: patients at obstetrics and gynaecology wards, paediatric oncology wards, antenatal clinics and outpatient clinics, visitors, medical nurses and doctors. Evaluation of the programme conduct was carried out quantitatively by number of patients who received their services, personal interview and a focus group discussion.

Results: Interns provided services for 370 patients. They provided hands-on demonstrations on basic routine oral hygiene procedures emphasising the role of oral health as an integral part of general health. Qualitative evaluation highlighted the satisfaction of the interns in being able to practice oral health promotion for inpatients and contribute significantly in voluntary work. Healthcare workers provided positive feedback for the programme. Conclusions: The programme was not only able to provide the needed hospital-based opportunities for the interns but it had also enhanced the dynamic camaraderie and sharing of experiences among the interns who were all from different universities.

Keywords: young graduates, oral health promotion, hospital internship, Malaysia

Incorporation of Motivational Interviewing into Undergraduate Dental Curriculum

XIAOLI GAO1, EDWARD CHIN MAN LO1, COLMAN MCGRATH1, SUSAN BRIDGES2, STANLEY MAN LUNG LAI4

1: Dental Public Health, Faculty of Dentistry, The University of Hong Kong
2: Centre for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, The University of Hong Kong
3: Faculty of Education, The University of Hong Kong
4: Periodontology, Faculty of Dentistry, The University of Hong Kong

Objectives: Motivational interviewing (MI) is an effective way for helping patients improves their health behaviours. This project incorporates MI into undergraduate dental curriculum and evaluates the learning outcomes and students' learning experiences.

Methods: Led by the Faculty of Dentistry, an interprofessional teaching development project was carried out at the University of Hong Kong to introduce MI into undergraduate curriculum in Dentistry, Medicine, and Nursing. A culturally relevant learning resource bank was prepared. Staff development workshops were organized. MI was nested into the problem-based learning of BDS-II class. Students learned from the online learning materials, a theme-based seminar and a practical workshop. The