

Beginning of a New Era for the *Annals of Dentistry University of Malaya* (Ann Dent UM)

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Since 1994 Ann Dent UM is publishing scholarly contributions in the broader field of Dentistry. Likewise the faculty of Dentistry at Universiti Malay, as the pioneer school of Dentistry in Malaysia, it's official journal has also pioneered the milestone of dental journal publications in the country.

Over the years, the journey for the journal has not always been as smooth as it could have been. Nevertheless 25 years have been a long time to be in existence in the world of scientific peer-reviewed publications.

In view of embracing the challenge to become an indexed journal, the Faculty has agreed to restructure the editorial team to operate the journal's day to day operation independently. Hence, with the new structure and composition of the Editorial team under the leadership of the Executive Editor, Ann Dent UM is expected to have more efficient editorial decision making for high quality publications in the broader field of Dentistry.

The distinguished editorial team is now comprises of highly experienced specialists from both fundamental and clinical Dentistry. Given the secure footing of the journal that started about 25 years ago, Ann Dent UM will need to continue to evolve to ensure full advantage of the rapidly changing landscape of scientific publication and information dissemination.

I sincerely hope that the new editorial team will remain flexible in attending to the rapidly shifting scientific communication landscape, while maintaining and intensifying the high standards of academic.

At the same time the journal will meet the new demands and expectations from both authors

and readers, that now mostly depends on how a published paper makes an impact in social media, in the community, as well as in industrial development.

I strongly encourage clinical and fundamental researchers in the broader field of Dentistry and Oral health to submit their novel and enlightening manuscripts to Ann Dent UM and make it a leading journal to educate and support the evolving knowledge in the field.



Professor Dato' Dr. Zainal Ariff bin Abdul Rahman always believe that the strength of a clinical academician is based on his ability in advancing his specialty through research and innovation.

He had started the combine orthognathic clinic in 1996 and also involved in setting up the Universiti Malaya (UM) Integrated Cleft Lip and Palate Clinic in 2004. With the help of virtual planning the UM craniofacial team had successfully advanced the facial skeleton of a Crouzon Syndrome patient forward by 27mm. This was the largest movement ever achieved at that time worldwide.

Faculty of Dentistry at UM had started specialist training in collaboration with the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1998.

He had started and heads the Mercy Malaysia Mission to Bangladesh for cleft lip and palate surgery of under privileged patients. This project was of great importance to the underprivileged community in Bangladesh. Without this project there was no hope for them to get such treatments. Later he extended the same mission to Myanmar and Indonesia.

He had been awarded Fellowship of Faculty of Dentistry Royal College of Surgeons of England Ad Eundem in 1999 in recognition of his contribution to Dentistry.

Currently his research is focused on individualised treatment for oral cancer therapy. Up to date he has published more than 40 ISI WoS cited articles.

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