

# the DENTAL SURGEON

SEP 2024 ISSUE



LION

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HAGUKI PLUS  
(GUM CARE)



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on gums

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<sup>\*</sup>INTAGE SRI+, Systema is No.1 Brand in Toothbrush Category, Value Sales, CY2023.  
<sup>\*</sup>INTAGE SRI+, No.1 Company in Oral Care Category, Value Sales, CY2023.



**EDITOR'S NOTE**

Greetings, loyal readers, and welcome back to the hallowed pages of *The Dental Surgeon*. I have a confession: this introduction was not born of my own feeble human intellect. No, dear friends, this witty prose is the product of artificial intelligence—a testament to the ever-evolving world in which we live.

But fear not, for while AI may have crafted these words, it is still our team of dedicated dental professionals who curate the insightful articles and cutting-edge research within these pages. So sit back, relax, and marvel at the wonders of technology, all while expanding your dental knowledge and perhaps even cracking a smile (or should I say, a perfectly aligned smile) at our AI's wry humor. Now, if you'll excuse me, I have a chatbot to thank for making me sound far more clever than I actually am.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Jeremy Sim



**Dr Jeremy Sim** is a director and dentist at Brightside Dental. He thinks of himself as somewhat of a conspiracy connoisseur and believes that the slow disclosure of non-human intelligence is imminent.

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### The Dental Surgeon

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Designed and printed by ColorMagic Pte Ltd

MCI (P) 002/10/2023

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**FOREWORD**  
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**DR EUGENE  
TANG KOK WENG**

*BDS (Singapore) NUS,  
DGDP (UK),  
MSc (Implantology)  
UK, Grad Dip Geriatric  
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*Two times Vice  
President, SDA.  
Two times President,  
SDA.*

*Founding Member,  
College of General  
Dental Practitioners  
(Singapore)*

*Organizing Chairman,  
IDEM (International  
Dental Exhibition and  
Meeting, 2016)*

*Dental Convenor,  
Tzu Chi International  
Medical Association  
(TIMA Singapore)*

*Chairman, SDA  
Standing Committee  
(dealing with CoC  
related matters)*

*Director, Aesthetic  
Dental Care Pte Ltd*

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## **FOREWORD FROM THE PRESIDENT DR EUGENE TANG KOK WENG**

Dear Friends and Colleagues of the Singapore Dental Association,

It is with a sense of déjà vu that I address you today, having served SDA during the SARS outbreak and how we witnessed the ravages caused by Covid-19 pandemic, and I have once again returned to serving SDA once more. These crises have profoundly reshaped our society and impacted the dental profession. Fortunately, SARS had also prepared us for the uncertainties that looked us squarely in the face during Covid-19.

We find ourselves in the midst of a digital revolution where technology, particularly Artificial Intelligence (AI), is transforming healthcare, including dentistry. AI-powered tools offer new possibilities in diagnostics, treatment planning, and patient outcomes, marking a significant shift towards precision and efficiency in our practice.

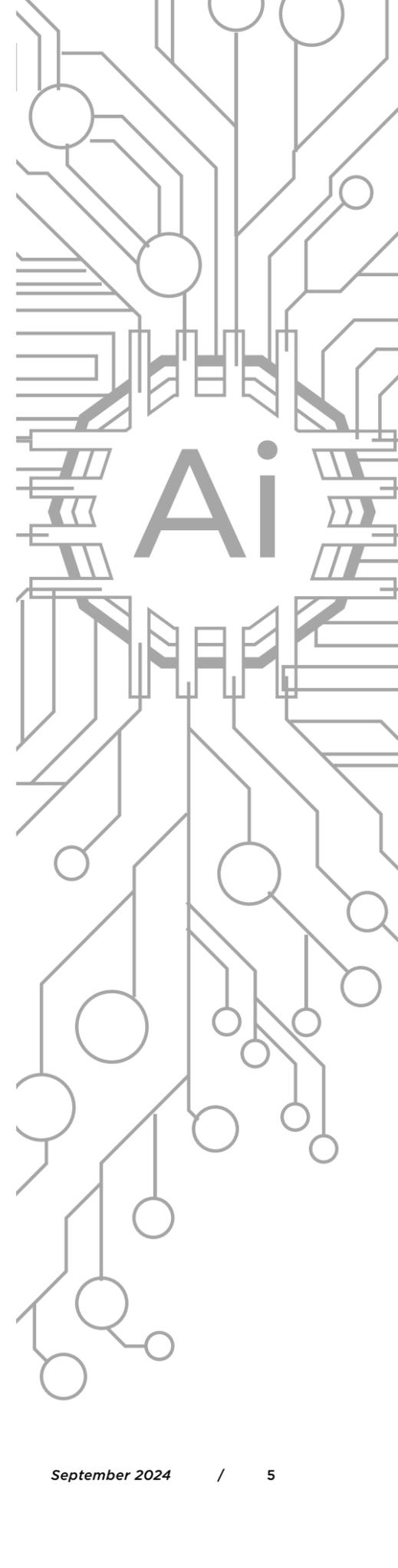
Yet, as we embrace these advancements, we must also navigate ethical considerations, patient privacy concerns, and the imperative of ongoing professional development. At the Singapore Dental Association, we are committed to supporting you through these transformative times. Our recent investment in IT enhancements underscores this commitment, aimed at empowering our members with the latest technological capabilities.

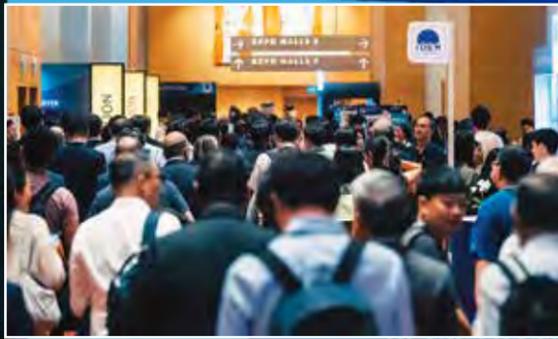
As we forge ahead, let us embrace change with optimism and adaptability. By leveraging AI and digital innovation, we can elevate dentistry to new heights, ensuring healthier smiles and brighter futures for all.

I extend a heartfelt thank you to each of you for your continued dedication and partnership in advancing our profession.

Warm regards,

Dr Eugene Tang Kok Weng  
President, Singapore Dental Association

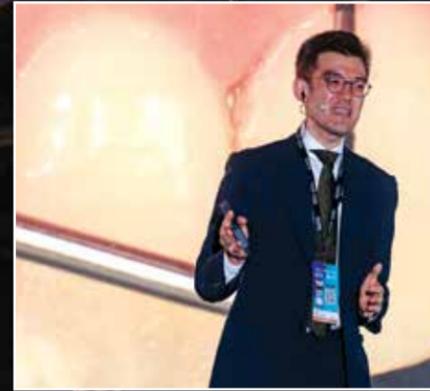




# 2024 IDEM 2024 IDEM 2024 IDEM 2024

REGISTRATION  
 19 April : 7.30am - 4.00pm  
 20 - 21 April : 8.00am - 4.00pm  
 COMPETITION  
 19 - 20 April : 10.00am - 6.00pm  
 April









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# Share your thoughts...

IDEM 2024



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### Here's how it works:

Existing members can get a S\$ 100\* rebate for introducing a new SDA member, capped at S\$ 200\* from now till 30 April 2026.

The rebate will come in S\$ 20 denominations and can be used for CDE events, IDEM, SDA convention, welfare, and membership renewal.

The new member will complete the SDA membership application form with the proposer's name. The proposer will get a confirmation email from SDA about the rebate after SDA had received the subscription payment from new member. The new member will also receive a waiver of the application fee.

### Get S\$ 200\* rebate

Invite your friends and colleagues to join the Singapore Dental Family today! If you have any questions, please reach out via email at [membership@sda.org.sg](mailto:membership@sda.org.sg)



Scan the QR code to access the SDA membership application or [click here](#)



\*Note:

- Not exchangeable with cash.
- The validity of the rebate will expire on 30 April 2026.



# Embarking on a Dental Odyssey: The Challenges of Establishing a Clinic in Singapore

BY DR JEREMY SIM

## What a ride it has been.

Singapore, renowned for its world-class healthcare system, presents a promising landscape for aspiring dental entrepreneurs. However, the journey of setting up a dental clinic here is not without its trials and tribulations. This article provides a little insight into the difficulties I faced starting my own little practice in Singapore.

### ① Regulatory Rigmarole

The first hurdle that aspiring dental clinic owners encounter is navigating the labyrinthine regu-

latory framework. Singapore's Ministry of Health (MOH) has stringent requirements for dental practices, encompassing everything from premises approval to equipment licensing. Obtaining the necessary permits and licenses can be a time-consuming and bureaucratic process, demanding meticulous attention to detail and adherence to regulations.

Moreover, dental professionals must be registered with the Singapore Dental Council (SDC) and meet specific qualifications to practice in the country. Foreign-trained dentists may face additional challenges in obtaining recognition of their qualifications

and fulfilling registration requirements.

### ② Finding the Perfect Perch

Securing a suitable location for the dental clinic is another critical challenge. Singapore's real estate market is notoriously competitive, with sky-high rental costs, particularly in prime areas. Dental clinic owners must carefully balance the desire for a visible and accessible location with the financial constraints of rental expenses.

Furthermore, the clinic premises must adhere to specific



guidelines set by the MOH and other regulatory bodies. These guidelines dictate the minimum space requirements, layout, and facilities that a dental clinic must possess to ensure patient safety and hygiene.

### 3 The Financial Frontier

Establishing a dental clinic in Singapore entails substantial financial investment. The costs associated with renting or purchasing premises, renovating the space to meet regulatory standards, procuring state-of-the-art dental equipment, and hiring qualified staff can quickly escalate. Additionally, ongoing operational expenses, such as utilities, supplies, and marketing, must be factored into the financial equation.

Securing adequate financing can be a challenge, particularly for new practitioners. Thankfully, traditional bank loans are rather easily attainable, with attractive rates and loan durations. Aspiring clinic owners may also explore alternative financing options, such as government grants or private investors, to bridge the financial gap.

### 4 Talent Tango

Recruiting and retaining skilled dental professionals is an ongoing challenge for clinic owners

in Singapore. The demand for experienced dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants often outstrips the supply, leading to a competitive hiring landscape. Offering competitive salaries, benefits, and opportunities for professional development are crucial to attracting and retaining top talent.

Young practices may consider a profit share model to keep base salaries lower, while motivating staff with the opportunity to exceed the average salary.

Furthermore, fostering a positive and supportive work environment is essential for staff morale and productivity. Dental clinic owners must prioritize creating a workplace culture that values collaboration, communication, and continuous learning.

### 5 Marketing Maze

In Singapore's saturated dental market, establishing a strong brand presence and attracting patients is paramount. Developing and implementing an effective marketing strategy can be a daunting task. Clinic owners must navigate a myriad of marketing channels, including online platforms, social media, print advertising, and patient referrals.

Understanding the target audience and tailoring marketing efforts to their specific needs

and preferences is crucial. Building trust and credibility through transparent communication, high-quality services, and positive patient experiences is fundamental to long-term success.

### Overcoming the Odds

Despite the myriad challenges, starting a dental clinic in Singapore has been an incredibly rewarding endeavour. With careful planning, meticulous execution, and unwavering determination, aspiring dental entrepreneurs can overcome the obstacles and build thriving practices.

By embracing innovation, staying abreast of the latest advancements in dental technology and techniques, and fostering a patient-centric approach, clinic owners can differentiate themselves in a competitive market. Collaborating with other healthcare providers, engaging in community outreach, and providing exceptional patient care are key ingredients for success.

Establishing a dental clinic in Singapore requires a blend of entrepreneurial spirit, clinical expertise, and business acumen. By acknowledging and addressing the challenges head-on, aspiring dental clinic owners can pave the way for a fulfilling and prosperous journey in the dental profession.



**DR JEREMY SIM**  
Is a director and dentist at Brightside Dental. He thinks of himself as somewhat of a conspiracy connoisseur and believes that the slow disclosure of non-human intelligence is imminent.

# SDA WISDOM TOOTH SURGERY

BY DR CHRIS CHAN QING SHENG

**S**tarting my career in dentistry, I soon realized mastering wisdom tooth surgery is no small task. Recently, I had the privilege of attending the Wisdom Tooth Seminar and Workshop, meticulously crafted by the Singapore Dental Association. This transformative experience expanded my understanding and equipped me with essential techniques for proficiently managing these surgeries.

The Seminar was a comprehensive exploration, delving into a spectrum of topics ranging from fundamental principles such as radiographic assessment to more advanced techniques like coronectomy. It served as both a refresher and an eye-opener, reinforcing the foundational knowledge acquired during my undergraduate years.

The Workshop stood out for its hands-on approach, where participants worked with lifelike simulation models. This practical experience allowed us to refine our skills under the guidance of experienced oral surgeons from both private practice and institutions. This immersive learning environment was especially valuable for novices in wisdom tooth surgery, offering a safe space to practice and improve techniques.





Additionally, the Workshop emphasized critical indicators for assessing risks in wisdom tooth surgeries. It highlighted red flags that require careful consideration in selecting cases, emphasizing the importance of discernment to ensure appropriate referrals to Oral Surgeons when needed.

Post-workshop, participants were extended the privilege of engaging in mentorship programs tailored to real-life cases. I was fortunate to partake in a live wisdom tooth surgery, guided by the expertise of Dr. William Lim. His personalized and constructive feedback offered invaluable insights, propelling my growth as a practitioner.

As the workshop concluded, I left with deep gratitude for the wealth of knowledge shared by experienced oral surgeons. This experience has unquestionably bolstered my confidence in managing straightforward wisdom tooth surgeries as a new graduate.

Risk Factor	Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
Age	Age <25	Age >25	
Expectations	Philosophical, Indifferent	Exacting	Hysterical
Medical History	Healthy	Uncontrolled, Complex	IV bisphosphonates, severe bleeding disorders
Anxiety	Calm	Mildly anxious	Deeply anxious (GA/IV)
Surgical Access	MMD >30mm Normal tongue and musculature	20mm<MMD<30mm Large tongue and tight musculature	MMD <20mm
IAN Location	Canal Narrowing Dnr, Bifid root	Root narrowing Root deflection	Root darkening Interruption of canal line Canal diversion
Root Morphology	Short, convergent roots	Long, divergent, curved roots	Dilacerated, bulbous roots
Tooth Angulation	Mesioangular Vertical	Horizontal	Distoangular Buccolingual Inverted
Vertical Impaction Depth	Superficial	Deep	Very Deep
Horizontal Impaction Depth	Superficial	Deep	Very Deep
Presence of Cyst	No		Yes
Presence of Infection	No	Mild infection	Severe infection



# “DOCTOR! HELP!” EMERGENCY MEDICINE (E-MED) IN YOUR AREA!

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**Venue: Seminar Room L1-S3,  
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**4 CORE POINTS**

**Lecture & Workshop (incl. GST)**

SDA Member: S\$ 196.20

Non-SDA Member: S\$ 381.50

**8 CORE POINTS**



**Scan / Click here to register!**

# SDA ADVANCED MICROENDODONTICS COURSE

BY DR CHRIS CHAN QING SHENG

Recently, I had the privilege of participating in the SDA Advanced Microendodontics workshop led by Dr. Abhishek Parolia. This immersive experience brought together practitioners from diverse backgrounds, all driven by a shared goal to deepen our understanding of root canal treatment and enhance patient care.

The workshop covered a wide range of endodontic topics, from fundamental therapies to advanced procedures. It attracted seasoned endodontists, general dentists passionate about endodontics, and enthusiastic fresh graduates alike, united in our dedication to advancing our clinical expertise.

A standout feature of the workshop was its hands-on approach, offering participants an exceptional opportunity for practical learning. Over two intensive days, we were equipped with state-of-the-art tools and instruments to explore cutting-edge techniques, such as obturation with bioceramic sealers using warm vertical condensation. Individual microscopes provided detailed insights into root canal anatomy, while ex-

perienced endodontists closely supervised, offering guidance and support throughout. This immersive environment not only enhanced our technical skills but also fostered newfound confidence in managing even the most complex root canal cases with precision and proficiency.

Moreover, the workshop featured live demonstrations of advanced root canal procedures by Dr. Abhishek Parolia, showcasing his expertise and finesse in real-time. Witnessing him navigate through challenges like the removal of separated rotary instruments from the root canal system was both enlightening and inspiring. Additionally, the course sensitized us to the importance of timely referrals for complex endodontic cases, ensuring optimal outcomes for our patients.

In conclusion, the SDA Advanced Microendodontics workshop was a dynamic and enriching experience that empowered us to maximize our learning potential in the field of endodontics. It not only expanded our technical repertoire but also reinforced the ethos of collaborative learning and continuous improvement, setting a new standard of excellence in our practice.



**DR CHRIS CHAN QING SHENG**  
graduated from NUS as the Best All Round Final Year Student. He is currently a dental surgeon in private practice.

# A DENTAL DIALOGUE DOWN UNDER

(Down Under in Singapore!)

BY DR EUGENE TANG

**EUGENE :** Welcome to Singapore, Chris! Let's kick things off with a bit about yourself, and what you like to do?

**PROF PECK :** Thanks for having me, Eugene! Well, I'm a bit of a dental nomad, hailing from the land Down Under. I've been lucky enough to experience living in the Middle East, Canada, and of course, soaking up the sunshine in Sydney. You could say I'm like dental gum—once I like a place, I stick and am hard to get rid of- in a good way of

course! On the personal front, I grew up playing sports, which really taught me about the importance & impact of being one team, and I love venturing into the outdoors as, for me, nothing beats the opportunity to connect with nature - it's where I'm able to do a lot of undistracted thinking. My family and wife Deb continue to be great inspirations and our dog Pete keeps us on our toes.

**EUGENE :** Wow, you are a true globetrotter! What has been

some of your pleasant memories that you wish to share with us?

**PROF PECK :** I've been incredibly privileged to be mentored by amazing people who opened my eyes up to neuroscience, orofacial structure-function relationships, and persistent pain and related disorders management. I've spent the past two decades at my Alma Mater at the University of Sydney and was honoured to be Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry for



**SCENE:** The picturesque backdrop of Singapore sets the stage for an engaging conversation between NUS Dental Dean Prof Chris Peck and Eugene Tang, the President of the Singapore Dental Association, in a cozy vegetarian restaurant in the West Coast!

eight years, before leading the University's academic strategy in western Sydney, in which we integrated health and non-health disciplines in Australia's biggest health precinct. I learnt a lot working across university, government, industry, and community sectors to redevelop this precinct and emphasise its academic underpinnings.

**EUGENE :** You have a wealth of diverse experience, Chris! So, what lured you to Singapore and why NUS Dentistry?

**PROF PECK :** Well Eugene, I'd flip the question and ask why NOT Singapore! The real eye-opener for me here in Singapore is the collaborative nature and the striving for excellence; every time I meet someone, the discussion typically focusses on how we may work together! This can happen of course in meetings such as IDEM and other professional events, but equally in the oddest places such as queuing for a cup of coffee or sitting next to someone on

public transport. I'm sure it's in Singapore's DNA.

And let's face it, who can resist the allure of hawker centers and the complete range of delicious food offerings around Singapore! Plus, NUS Dentistry had me at "hello" with its impact-driven approach; the university is known for its local and global influence through education and research. I must say NUS and especially the dental faculty hasn't let me down!

Why NUS Dentistry? Well, universities are all about discovery, whether it be through teaching evidence-based material or through undertaking research. NUS is very focused on impact and I was very curious to find out how the University approaches this. For us in dentistry, everything we do is, or can be, applied in the real world, and I was amazed to see the depth and breadth of activities in the faculty. This is particularly impressive when we consider the preceding COVID years, where absolutely everything in academia was turned on its head, resulting in rapid development of virtual teaching, non-contact research activities and unfortunately, a substantial reduction in academic staff. The support and guidance from my predecessor, Mun Loke WONG, and other dentistry and NUS academic and administrative staff has been extraordinary. This has also been the case with the many colleagues I have met through the SDA and other organisations, where I have had great opportunities to interact with public and private dental professional staff. I very much respect everyone's collegiality and focus on improving the health and wellbeing of Singaporeans. I have been very impressed by the work of individuals who contribute willingly and in their own time to help the more vulnerable members of our community who are at risk of poorer oral

and general health. This is so important as health is a fundamental human right.

**EUGENE :** Absolutely! So, after nine months in the Lion City, where do you see NUS Dentistry headed?

**PROF PECK :** Well, Eugene, picture this: as you know we're not just about fixing teeth, but involved in managing problems across the whole oral, dental, and craniofacial region! From my experiences so far, I really believe that NUS Dentistry has many of the ingredients required to drive significant discovery to improve health and wellbeing, but to do this we need a few enablers.

- Firstly, we need to reorient our "business", and emphasise that it's not only "teeth and gums" but the entire oral, dental, and craniofacial system. Consider the importance of this system for communication, mastication, emotional expression, all of the special senses, and the lifesaving reflexes to ensure we don't swallow or inhale harmful substances. I emphasise this because a holistic approach to dentistry that considers health and wellbeing from a biopsychosocial perspective is essential. Humans are a complex architecture of cells, tissues, and organs ("bio-"), overlaid with varying thoughts and beliefs,

behaviours ("psycho-"), and interactions ("-social").

- Another important enabler is to increase collaboration, and it must underpin everything we do. This includes working closely with private dental practitioners, our two national dental centres and other public health institutes, government, industry, and community. Productive collaborations with these parties will ensure that the "whole is greater than the sum of the parts". From my experience, for us to contribute to a significant change in health and wellbeing, it's all about teamwork within Singapore's dentistry community, and across the health professions. This will require interprofessional collaborative clinical practice, in which we and other health professionals work together with patients, families, carers, and communities to deliver the highest quality of care.

- Furthermore, we need to enable effective public health and preventive strategies for the communities and patients which we serve. We need to reduce the prevalence of dental disease, as over a third of Singaporeans has dental decay and over three-quarters have periodontal disease. This will require us to work closely with government and communities to ensure we have

effective and efficient models of care.

- We need a culture of innovation and creativity. Whether it be clinical, research, education or administrative activities, let's think of the desired outcome we want and then do a bit of creative reverse engineering to work out how to get to the result. There's lots of work being done in the digital workflow, artificial intelligence in healthcare and values-based healthcare where care is co-designed with the patient.

**EUGENE :** Haha, sounds like a dental extravaganza, and we can certainly look forward to a lot of innovative changes! So, that's the secret sauce to achieving a dental nirvana?

**PROF PECK :** Exactly Eugene, it's all about the enablers! We're flipping the script and Singapore's the place to do it! I am in awe how everyone has been incredibly generous with their time and patience and with sharing their expertise and experiences with me. Singapore makes things happen, and I love the Singaporean phrase, CAN, and it is at the heart of the faculty.

**EUGENE :** I love it! What's next on the dental agenda?

**PROF PECK :** It's got to be Collaboration with a capital C!

Simply put, we'll demonstrate that the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. We've all got unique skills and experiences and let's put these all together in the masterpiece jigsaw puzzle.

**EUGENE :** Wow, I know we are keen in contributing to this amazing work of art! So, what's the final ingredient in this dental recipe for success?

**PROF PECK :** Innovation, Eugene, innovation! We're talking digital workflows, artificial intelligence, and values-based healthcare, amongst others to develop the Singapore model of oral, dental and craniofacial healthcare. It's a difficult recipe, but when we get it right, everyone's going to be using it!

**EUGENE :** Haha, I can practically taste the innovation! So, any parting words for our dental enthusiasts out there?

**PROF PECK :** Absolutely! Let's keep those smiles shining and those ideas brewing—because together, we "CAN CAN" make magic happen in the world of dentistry!

*The interview concludes with a hearty handshake and a shared sense of excitement for the future of NUS Dentistry, leaving both Prof Peck and Eugene eager to continue their dental journey together.*



**DR EUGENE TANG KOK WENG**

*BDS (Singapore) NUS,  
DGDP (UK),  
MSc (Implantology)  
UK, Grad Dip Geriatric  
Dentistry (NUS)*

*Two times Vice  
President, SDA.  
Two times President,  
SDA.*

*Founding Member,  
College of General Dental  
Practitioners (Singapore)*

*Organizing  
Chairman, IDEM  
(International Dental  
Exhibition and Meeting,  
2016.*

*Dental Convenor,  
Tzu Chi International  
Medical Association  
(TIMA Singapore)*

*Chairman, SDA  
Standing Committee  
(dealing with CoC related  
matters)*

*Director, Aesthetic  
Dental Care Pte Ltd*



## APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY LEGAL ADVISOR

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We are delighted to announce that Senior Counsel Kuah Boon Theng has graciously accepted our invitation to serve as the Honorary Legal Advisor of the Singapore Dental Association.

It has been many years since the SDA has had the benefit of an Honorary Legal Advisor, and we are confident that Boon Theng's extensive expertise in the medico-legal field will greatly enrich our association.

We warmly welcome her and look forward to the valuable insights she will bring to SDA.

Best regards,  
*SDA Council 2024-2026*



### **Kuah Boon Theng (Senior Counsel)**

Boon Theng is the Managing Director of Legal Clinic LLC.

Appointed Senior Counsel in January 2018, her experience spans the full spectrum of legal work in the healthcare industry, from advising healthcare institutions, professional bodies and healthcare professionals, representing clients in mediation and legal proceedings, and serving on various hospital committees (including Clinical Ethics Committees, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees, Research Ethics Committees and Domain Specific Review Boards, Transplant Ethics Committees etc). She has received recognition for her volunteer work on the National Cancer Centre Medifund Committee, and also sits on the Ren Ci Medifund Committee and the Central Medifund Committee. She is also a Board member of Assisi Hospice.

Boon Theng has been Honorary Legal Advisor to the Singapore Medical Association and the Academy of Medicine for some years. She is co-faculty coordinator of the Medical Expert Witness Training course, a joint collaboration between the Academy of Medicine Singapore, Singapore Medical Association, Singapore Academy of Law and the Law Society of Singapore. She also serves on the Board of the Singapore Institute of Legal Education.

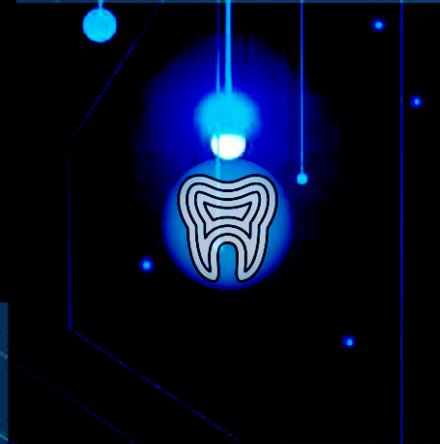
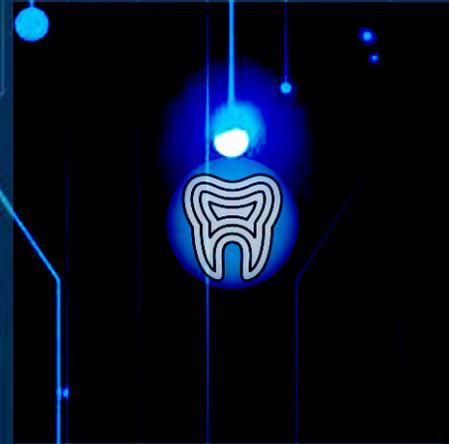
Boon Theng was a member of the Committee of the Review of Medical Litigation Regime, whose work culminated in the implementation of the High Court Protocol on Medical Negligence Cases in 2017. In 2019, she served as the co-Chairper-

son of the Ministry of Health Workgroup tasked to make recommendations on informed consent practices and to propose changes to the Singapore Medical Council complaints and disciplinary process. The Workgroup's recommendations eventually led to significant changes to the Complaints and Disciplinary Tribunal process under the Medical Registration Act, as well as the introduction of a new statutory test for medical advice in the form of section 37 of the Civil Law Act, both of which came into effect on 1 July 2022. She also served as a member of the SMC Sentencing Guidelines Committee in 2019.

Boon Theng currently co-chairs the National Electronic Health Records (NEHR) Guidelines Workgroup set up by the Ministry of Health to develop guidelines to help users of NEHR. The Workgroup aims to do so by setting out core ethical principles and propose reasonable professional standards to adopt when contributing to, accessing or using NEHR.

Boon Theng was an Exco member of the Law Society from 2012 to 2017, and served as its Vice President in 2016 and 2017. She is currently the Deputy President of the Maintenance of Parents Tribunal and was also appointed to the Panel of the Disciplinary Tribunal Presidents by the Honourable the Chief Justice of Singapore.

She was most recently been appointed as the Chair of the Safe Sport Disciplinary Panel.



# Transforming Dentistry: The Power of AI in Enhancing Patient Care and Practice Efficiency

BY DR HAMED FESHARAKI



In today's rapidly evolving landscape of dental care, technological advancements continue to reshape the way dental professionals operate, from diagnosis to treatment planning and patient education. Among these advancements, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is emerging as a game-changer, offering innovative solutions to streamline workflows, improve diagnostic accuracy, and enhance patient engagement. One pioneering company at the forefront of this AI revolution is Singapore born company Adravisio (adra.ai), cofounded by Dr. Hamed Fesharaki and a team of scientists and Machine Learning experts.

Dr. Hamed Fesharaki has been a dentist and clinic owner for over a decade who experienced firsthand the challenges of low treatment acceptance rates due to lack of trust and communication barriers with patients.

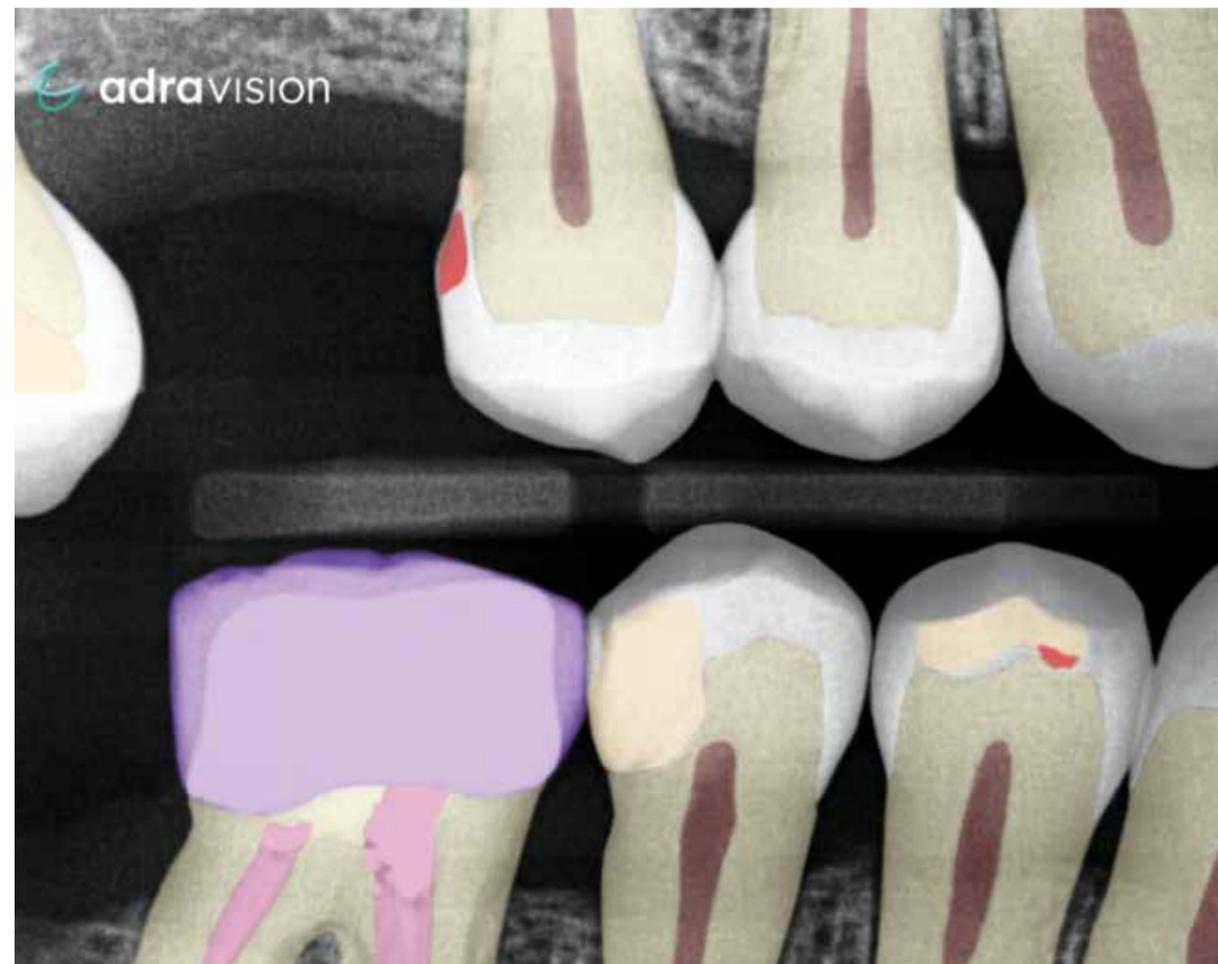
Adravisio is revolutionizing the dental industry by harnessing the power of AI to address the pain points faced by dentists in their daily practice. Dr. Fesharaki's personal experience as a dentist and clinic owner inspired him to create Adravisio with the mission of improving patient care and practice efficiency through advanced technology.

Adravisio's innovative software, 5handed®, harnesses the power of advanced machine learning algorithms to meticulously analyze all 2D dental radiographs, including OPGs, Bitewings, and PAs. This cutting-edge technology not only identifies pathological lesions and pre-existing restorations but also accurately measures bone loss with a remarkable precision of over 85%. Moreover, it intelligently highlights areas necessitating attention for the dental practitioner, facilitating more in-

formed decision-making and proactive patient care.

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into healthcare dates back to 1975, predominantly manifesting in solutions tailored to support medical professionals. However, the realm of dentistry has quietly embraced AI, propelled by the increasing number of aligner companies and the widespread adoption of intraoral scanners. Whether consciously acknowledged or not, AI has subtly permeated various facets of dental practice. In healthcare at large, AI solutions primarily aim to alleviate the administrative burden and repetitive tasks faced by practitioners, enabling them to dedicate more time to patient care—the core of their profession. In dentistry, where there's a lot of routine work, AI streamlines workflows, facilitating enhanced patient throughput, treatment plan approvals, and ultimately, more ethical and financially sustainable dental practices.

Dentistry is keeping up with technology trends, with numerous orthodontic solutions now empowering patients to envision potential treatment outcomes from the comfort of their homes, simply by capturing a photo with their smartphones. Envisioning a future where dental records are increasingly acquired outside the confines of traditional dental offices, we anticipate a significant reduction in time spent on record-taking and analysis during office visits. Instead, this time can be redirected exclusively towards patient treatment—an imperative consideration given the burgeoning global population and the perpetual constraints of time in our busy schedules.



One of the key areas where Adravison 5handed® software is making a significant impact is in automating workflows for dental professionals. Efficiency is paramount in any healthcare setting, and dental practices are no different. Adravison seamlessly integrates with existing workflow and leverages AI to automate dental charting and perio charting. A typical 15 minute dental charting can now take a couple seconds with Adravison. This automation significantly reduces the administrative burden on dental professionals, allowing them to focus more on patient care and less on paperwork.

Moreover, Adravison's 5handed® software facilitates better communication and education between dentists and their patients. One of the main challenges that Dr. Fesharaki faced in his own clinics was the lack of trust and proper communication with patients, which often resulted in low treatment acceptance rates. Adravison addresses this challenge by providing dentists with detailed insights and visualizations that they can share with patients to explain their diagnosis and treatment plan in a clear and understandable manner. By empowering patients with knowledge and information, Adravison helps build trust and confidence, leading to higher treatment acceptance rates and improved patient satisfaction.

Furthermore, Adravison plays a crucial role in increasing patient retention and recall rates for dental practices. Through its AI-driven analytics, Adravison identifies patients who are due for follow-up appointments or preventive treatments, helping dentists proactively reach out to patients and schedule

appointments. By staying engaged with their patients and providing personalized care, dental practices can foster long-term relationships and loyalty, ultimately driving practice growth and success.

In addition to its diagnostic capabilities, Adravisoin software offers an intelligence platform tailored for decision-makers and clinic owners. This platform provides comprehensive insights into the overall health of their practice, going beyond the conventional metrics typically offered by clinic management systems. Clinic owners and decision-makers can access detailed analyses of revenue streams, identifying areas of potential loss and pinpointing actionable strategies to mitigate financial setbacks. By leveraging advanced algorithms, the intelligence platform empowers stakeholders to make informed decisions regarding resource allocation, patient engagement strategies, and operational efficiency enhancements. This holistic approach not only fosters financial sustainability but also cultivates a culture of continuous improvement within dental practices, ensuring they remain adaptive and responsive to the evolving needs of both patients and the industry.

In conclusion, the integration of AI into dentistry represents a transformative shift in how dental professionals deliver care and engage with patients. Companies like Adravisoin are leading the way in leveraging AI to automate workflows, improve patient communication, and increase practice efficiency. By embracing AI technology, dental practices can enhance patient care, build trust and loyalty, and position themselves for long-term success in an increasingly competitive healthcare landscape.

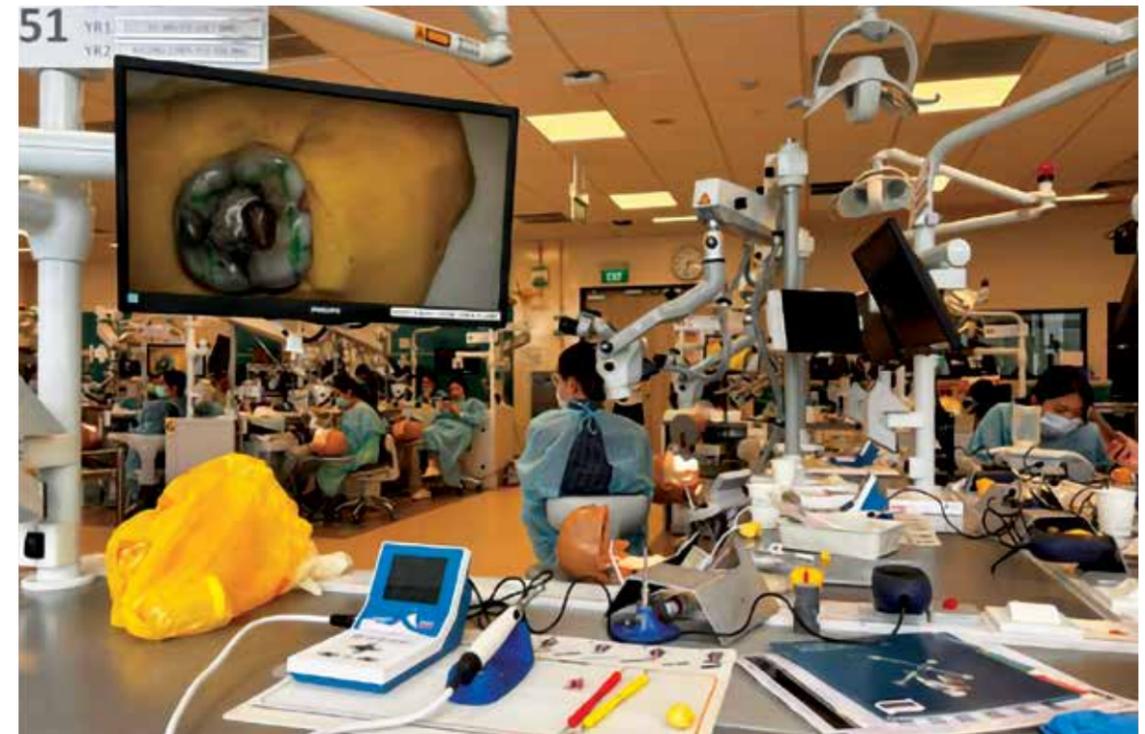


**DR. HAMED FESHARAKI** is a distinguished dentist and entrepreneur with a remarkable journey that began with academic excellence. A recipient of the prestigious Trinity College Foundation scholarship, he received his Bachelor of Dental Science from the University of Dublin - Trinity College. Upon completing his studies, Dr. Fesharaki ventured to Singapore, where he pioneered a groundbreaking concept in dentistry. In 2016, he established the first see-through dental office, revolutionizing patient care by introducing unprecedented transparency. This innovative approach not only set new standards in the industry but also reflected Dr. Fesharaki's dedication to enhancing the dentist-patient relationship. He then continued to have a few clinics in Singapore before retiring from practical dentistry and co-founding Adravisoin. Currently, he stands as the CEO and co-founder of Adravisoin, a trailblazing venture utilizing artificial intelligence to enhance dental care. Adravisoin's cutting-edge technology processes dental X-rays, providing comprehensive insights within seconds to automate dentists' workflow and improve patient care, showcasing Dr. Fesharaki's commitment to advancing patient-centric solutions in the dental industry.

# A CLOSER LOOK:

## ADVANCED MICRO-ENDODONTICS WORKSHOP

BY DR SELINA SOON



Let's face it, dentistry isn't always the most glamorous profession. Sure, you get to play hero and banish toothaches, but the daily grind (pun intended) can feel a bit... well, routine. But when it comes to deep and dark root canals which sometimes have me mentally questioning if I'm

imagining things, the wonders of microscope magnification sure make a difference, as I recently discovered.

"You do not find the canals, the canals find you", is the optimistic slogan of Dr Parolia, as he sets about imparting his Endodontics commandments to facilitate that. Imagine a world where root canals don't play

hide-and-seek with your instruments. A world where they find you?

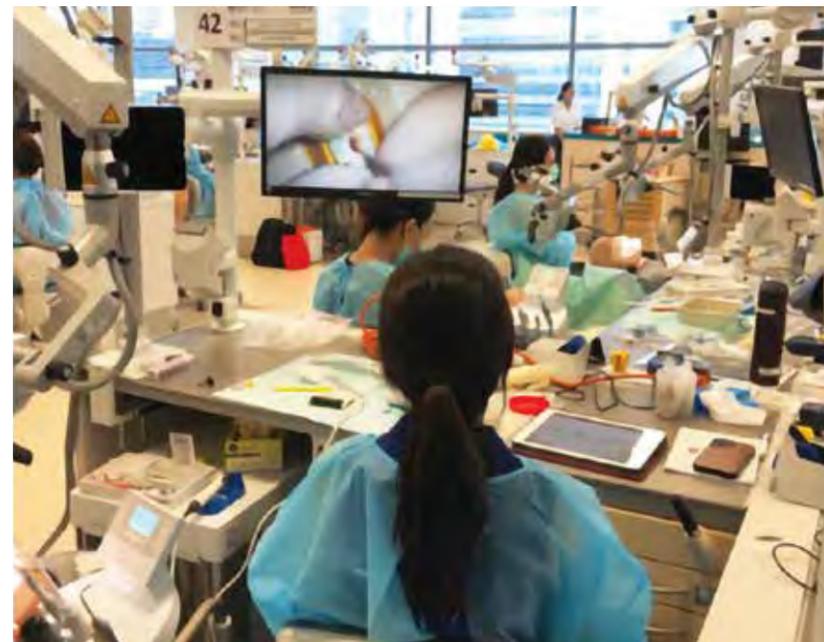
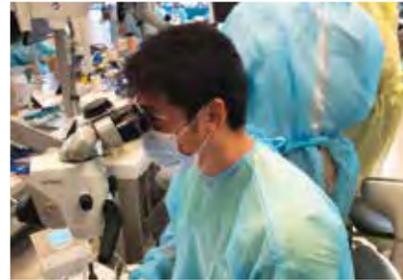
Enter the Advanced Micro-Endodontics course. This was a 3-day course helmed by Dr. Abhishek Parolia, that combined lectures with live demonstrations and hands-on practice on models, phantom head, extracted teeth with your own personal micro-

**WORKSHOP**  
○○○○○○○○○○

scope. With Dr. Parolia's great humour and dynamic energy, even the most confusing bits of Endodontics and the various different file systems were made understandable and noob-proof.

Before even setting foot in the workshop venue, we were treated to a prelude of knowledge thanks to the reading materials Dr. Parolia meticulously prepared and generously shared. Day 1 was a series of lectures spanning a wide spectrum of topics from principles of Endodontics treatment and re-treatment to the nitty-gritty details of the various file systems. But perhaps what truly set these lectures apart was the emphasis on the management of complications. Especially in the world of endodontics where things don't always go according to plan — canals may curve in unexpected ways, instruments may decide to make themselves home inside a tooth and patients may present with a myriad of challenges — having prior practice in tackling such unexpected circumstances would help.

Day 2 and 3 was all about honing our skills, and patience, as we worked on basic and advanced Endodontics such as canal instrumentation, ledge management, broken file retrieval, perforation repair and Endodontics retreatment protocols under the Endodontics microscope. For the uninitiated, microscopes may make everything look larger than life, but



that certainly didn't mean our hands suddenly became steadier. In fact, initially, it felt more like trying to thread a needle while riding a rollercoaster. There were definitely many humbling moments of poor hand-eye coordination. But as they say, practice makes perfect, and my file-wielding finesse shall be a work in progress.

Navigating intricate root canals, dealing with a hot tooth and an impatient patient can be nerve-wracking. Thankfully, Dr. Parolia understands and uses humour to diffuse the tension and create a learning environment that's both informative and engaging. His combination of humour, clear explanations and practical tips equips you with the skills and mindset to navigate those elusive canals with newfound precision.

So, if you're looking to demystify Endodontics or just looking to up your root canal game, this workshop might be perfect! Just be prepared for some eyestrain, a healthy dose of self-deprecating humour, and a newfound appreciation for the microscopic world hiding inside a tooth. Just remember, the canals are waiting to be found, you just need the right guide to show you the way.

Kudos to Dr. Parolia and the SDA team for putting together such an enlightening and informative workshop! And should you find your interest piqued, do keep a look out for the encore, but better, happening this November 2024!



# The Tooth, the Whole Tooth, and Nothing but the Tooth: The Wisdom Tooth Workshop

BY DR SELINA SOON



**A**h, wisdom teeth – those pesky and not-so-little molars that seem determined to wreak havoc on our mouths just when we thought we had this whole "adulting" thing nailed down. It usually goes like this: you're happily cruising through life, minding your own business, maybe even flossing daily, when suddenly out of nowhere, that lower wisdom tooth decides it's time to make their grand

entrance. Cue the drama, the discomfort, and the frantic search for a dentist before it stages a full-blown rebellion.

Except now you're the dentist, facing a walk-in or emergency patient eager to evict said wisdom tooth stat. Forget the fact that your university training barely scratched the surface of wisdom tooth warfare, you're left pondering the thousand-dollar question: to yank or not to? You practically see your patient's hopes deflate and feel

your heart sink with a little twinge of guilt as you break the news that you won't be playing tooth fairy today.

Well, that was me. Freshly graduated and thrown into the dental jungle right before lockdown hit. I found myself in more mental knots than a tangled ball of dental floss. Despite being one of the lucky few with some hands-on experience during my student days, and a supportive boss who would coach and come to my rescue, I was in



craving a crash course, one with much hands-on, to build some semblance of confidence.

Thankfully, after a long hiatus over the covid period, the 2-day wisdom tooth surgery course put together by SDA proved to be comprehensive

and effective. Being the first with both hands-on practice and post-course mentorship, it was met with great interest and participation, and did live up to expectations in arming me with the necessary knowledge and practical skills needed from start to finish of

handling both the patient and his wisdom tooth.

The workshop kicked off with a lineup of lectures by a team of seasoned professionals covering everything from the basics of anatomy to the intricate art of patient management.



They delved into the nuances and complexities of diagnosis, treatment planning, and navigating potential complications. Now one would think an entire series of lectures would be nap-inducing, but coming from a notorious lecture dreamer, it was actually any-

thing but. Whether it was Dr. Chew's infectious enthusiasm or Dr. Intekham's dental trivia showdown, Kahoot style, and many more but just to name a few, there was never a dull moment. These lectures built a solid foundation and ensured we approached the practical

sessions with a clear understanding of the procedures at hand. Personally, I found the real-life case examples and insider tips particularly helpful.

Nonetheless, the main highlight of the workshop was the practical component. We weren't

simply passive observers but did get down to business with a range of exercises designed to hone our surgical skills. There were 3 main components: suture pad practice, pig jaw flap design, raising and suturing, and lastly removal of differently-impacted wisdom teeth on the phantom head model. It was like a dental obstacle course, complete with step-by-step demos and a dream team of clinicians ever ready to offer advice and assistance. Overall, the variety of practical exercises provided a realistic feel of the surgical procedure and successfully bridged the gap between theory and real-world application.

Another standout feature of the workshop was the option for mentorship. This aspect was particularly exciting as it would provide ongoing guidance and support as we ventured into performing our own wisdom tooth surgeries. Whether it's to be your first attempt or gearing up for round two, having access to experienced mentors meant you could navigate the

intricacies of the procedure with confidence and address any lingering questions or concerns that may have cropped up during the workshop or in subsequent practice. More importantly, it would ensure that the learning didn't stop once the workshop concluded. Participants could continue to refine their skills, receive feedback and stay connected with a network of fellow dental professionals. This ongoing support system is invaluable, especially for those who are still finding their footing in the world of dentistry.

As courses resume their pre-covid operations, we are often spoilt for choice with the plethora of courses available. While each have their own merits and insights to be gleaned, the combination of theory and hands-on practice for this workshop proved to be quite a winning formula that surpassed my expectations. Many thanks to the clinicians and SDA team who made this possible!



**DR SELINA SOON**  
*graduated from New Zealand. This homebody and nature enthusiast is equally content curled up with a book or wandering off the beaten track. She embraces the thrill of an adrenaline rush, and can sometimes be found in places she probably should not be. That being said, the one thing she would never risk are our pearly whites.*

# Style Italiano Workshop

BY DR JULIANA TIAN

**S**tyle italiano was aimed to provide participants with comprehensive training on direct and indirect veneers for anteriors and posteriors. The objectives were to enhance their skills, provide practical knowledge and ensure they could apply what they learned in their clinical practice.

The course spanned over 4 days was held at Carl Zeiss Training Room, with all necessary facilities arranged including microscopes, course materials and motors per participants. Due to the overwhelming response to the program, the course was divided into two groups to ensure that all 50 participants received adequate attention and a complete learning experience.

Participants were able to learn directly from Prof Angelo Putignano and Dr Walter Devoto on topics such as essential shape on veneers, mock ups, veneers in one appointment, cementation and many more.

Feedback was gathered from participants, and some noteworthy comments included:

*"The course content was highly relevant and well-structured"*

*"The hands on were immensely beneficial to understand how to perform such procedures"*

A reflection by one of the participants, Dr Elizabeth Saat Dewi:

*The Styleitaliano course in July 2024 certainly was a much-anticipated course in my calendar. We had the honour to learn from the internationally-acclaimed gurus, Dr Walter Devoto and Dr Angelo Putignano.*

*The hands-on section of the programme focused on the preparation of teeth for veneers and the application of direct composite veneers onto teeth. Our instructors taught us novel, replicable concepts on how we can do conservative veneer preparation with predictable results. We were given live demonstrations before we started on our tasks.*



WORKSHOP

Under close supervision from our instructors, we had the opportunity to immediately apply our freshly learned knowledge onto the provided model teeth. We had the privilege to work on model teeth under state-of-the-art magnification, using StyleItaliano instruments. I certainly completed the course with renewed inspiration and confidence to continue to pursue excellent composite artistry in my work.

Analysing the participants feedback revealed several strengths, such as the course's comprehensive content and the instructors' expertise. However, some participants suggested that additional time could be allocated to cover

certain topics in greater depth, such as full mouth rehabilitation and posterior preparation techniques. I believe these points will be taken into consideration when the committee brings back similar programs in the future.

The course definitely met its primary objectives by equipping participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to apply in their day to day clinical practice. Furthermore, the hands on sessions were particularly effective in reinforcing learning outcomes. Overall, many participants had a generally positive experience and enjoyed learning from Dr Angelo Putignano and Dr Walter Devoto.



**DR JULIANA TIAN**  
graduated from the University of Queensland. In her free time, she enjoys binge watching her dramas and perfecting her secret recipe for sugar-free cookies. Currently, she is attempting to develop a knack for gardening.



# SDA CONVENTION 2025 PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

5<sup>TH</sup> & 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL (SAT & SUN) | ORCHARD HOTEL SINGAPORE

## DENTISTRY TODAY: EMBRACING CHANGE, DRIVING PROGRESS, PUSHING FRONTIERS



SCAN TO REGISTER

### DAY 1 (5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025)

- Sleep Apnea 1
- You Can Do It, Can I Do It? (Endodontics)
- AI For Dentistry
- TMD – Is It Myalgia Only?
- Saving Bites - Advanced Periodontal Techniques To Save Compromised Teeth
- Antibiotics Update
- You Can Do It, Can I Do It? (Orthodontics)
- Outmanoeuvring The Anxious Generation Alpha Child

### DAY 2 (6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025)

- Sleep Apnea 2
- You Can Do It, Can I Do It? (Implant Dentistry)
- Digital Dentistry 101
- Complex Implant Dentistry
- AI - The Future For CDE Programmes
- Short And Sweet Orthodontics – Tips And Techniques To Avoid Prolonged Orthodontic Treatment
- Ugly Side Of Veneers – How To Deal With Complication And Failures
- Oral Cancer – Early Diagnosis By Oral Health Professional

Note: The organisers reserves the right to change the programme without prior notice

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If you're not yet a SDA member, now is the perfect time to join! You can enjoy about 37% off the non-SDA member early bird rate and access exclusive events, resources, and networking opportunities. Don't miss out on this exceptional offer! **COME JOIN SDA! BE PART OF SINGAPORE DENTAL FAMILY!**

\* RATE IS INCLUSIVE OF GST

EARLY BIRD RATE (18 <sup>TH</sup> AUG TO 31 <sup>ST</sup> OCT 24)	
SDA MEMBER : S\$294.30	NON-SDA MEMBER : S\$463.25
REGULAR RATE (1 <sup>ST</sup> NOV 24 TO 21 <sup>ST</sup> MAR 25)	
SDA MEMBER : S\$403.30	NON-SDA MEMBER : S\$626.75
ON-SITE (5 <sup>TH</sup> APR 25)	
SDA MEMBER : S\$512.30	NON-SDA MEMBER : S\$790.25

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