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KODAK 100



“There’s love in every bite.”

Ms Tan underwent treatment for ameloblastoma in the left upper jaw, and was referred to NDC to restore her oral functions. Treatment included the fitting of a customised obturator prosthesis to make her speech intelligible and allow her to regain normal eating and swallowing functions. She has made an amazing recovery and now owns an online bakery.

Ms Elizabeth Tan, 31
Maxillofacial patient, NDC

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KODAK 100T



“I keep high flyers in the air.”

This renal transplant patient was referred from SGH to NDC with enlarged and inflamed gum tissue, a common side effect from an immuno-suppressive drug used in his treatment. Mr Jaafar underwent gum surgery to remove overgrowths and restore his oral condition. He now sports a confident, bright smile.

Mr Jaafar Bin Salleh, 38
Renal transplant and dental surgery patient, NDC

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KODAK 100TMX



THE PATIENT, THE WHOLE PATIENT AND NOTHING BUT THE PATIENT.

NATIONAL DENTAL CENTRE SINGAPORE ANNUAL REPORT 2007

Patients. At the Heart of All We Do.

“ Oral health impacts one's quality of life in many ways. And so this fuels our pursuit of greater knowledge and new discoveries in dentistry that are relevant to our patients' general health, just so we can make quality oral healthcare a reality for all. ”

Dr Kwa Chong Teck

Executive Director, National Dental Centre Singapore

HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH/APRIL 2007

Making an impression with enhanced Oral Healthcare Training in partnership with enowned international institutions such as the annual faculty exchange programme between the National Dental Centre Singapore (NDC) and the Karolinska Institutet (KI).

NOVEMBER 2007

Set up of Bisphosphonate Register – a dental research project which focuses on collection of data for future studies.

FEBRUARY 2008

Cone Beam Digital Dental Imaging allows for clearer details to be captured which leads to better treatment planning and improved patient safety.

Mr Jaafar Bin Salleh, 38, a patient at the National Dental Centre Singapore (NDC) had enlarged and inflamed gums after the immuno-suppressant drugs he had been prescribed caused gingival enlargement. “The dental staff were patient and detailed as they explained to me about my condition and how they were going to treat me. I felt confident in their hands and am glad that I have regained a normal smile and no longer have to worry about problems with oral hygiene,” said Mr Salleh.

Mr Salleh's case is a clear example of how NDC provides a close link between medical conditions and oral health, and it doesn't just stop there. NDC plays a pivotal role in research to improve health conditions and prevent complications for future patients. NDC set up a new Bisphosphonate Register in November 2007 to collect data for future

studies and is part of a multi-disciplinary project to establish a long-term follow-up clinic for haematopoietic stem cell transplant patients. As more links are found between oral health and medicine, NDC is planning to set up more registers for various oral diseases, so as to better understand local disease trends.

Options for orthodontics patients are now much wider. Beyond conventional stainless steel braces, treatment choices include invisible acrylic aligners, orthodontic micro-implants, and lingual orthodontics. With better materials and techniques, aligning teeth can now be a comfortable solution for patients over 25 years of age. Imaging services have also improved. The introduction of digitised dental radiography services has led to quicker diagnosis and treatment times.

In February 2008, NDC acquired a state-of-the-art Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CT) scanning machine. A quantum leap over conventional two-dimensional x-ray imaging, the Cone Beam machine produces 3D images in stunning detail. This allows a finer capture of the entire jaw and craniofacial area for better treatment planning, at lower doses of radiation compared with medical CT scans. With clearer details and the ability to access information from various workstations, greater efficiency at the clinics will be achieved.

NDC's emphasis and excellence in service is evident from the Ministry of Health (MOH) customer satisfaction survey 2007 where eight out of 10 patients rated NDC 'good' or 'excellent', and NDC's clinicians were rated 'world-class' in terms of their knowledge, skills, care and concern.

AWARDS & ACCOLADES

Service

Excellent Service Awards 2007
18 NDC staff – 4 Star, 5 Gold, 9 Silver

Human Resource/Talent Development

People Developer re-certification
NDC

Singapore HEALTH Award 2007 (Gold)
NDC

Worklife Achiever Award 2007
NDC

Continuing Professional Educational (CPE) events, literature reviews and shared updates on evidence-based practices continue to be building blocks in NDC's drive to develop a knowledge-based institutional practice. The second round of the annual faculty exchange programme between NDC and the Karolinska Institutet (KI) was held from 31 March to 4 April 2007 and included lectures on Orthodontics and Orthognathic Surgery by Dr Chew Ming Tak and Dr Goh Bee Tin from Orthodontics and Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery to their counterparts in KI.

One patient who has benefited from advances in Maxillofacial surgery as a result of research and skills training is Ms Elizabeth Tan Li Yee, 31. “Surgeons had to remove a part of my upper jaw to treat ameloblastoma,” said Elizabeth. “At NDC, they worked miracles to restore my jaw with a customised obturator prosthesis.” The treatment not only restored Elizabeth's jaw, but also her ability to eat, speak and swallow normally, and clearly shows that the scope of dentistry goes far beyond teeth alone.

Dr Lye Kok Weng underwent further training at the University of Alabama in the oral management of Sleep Apnoea, and work is now under way at NDC to develop a clinical programme for patients with various oral conditions. Two senior dental assisting staff, Pauline Teo and Wong Kay Kew, recipients of the SingHealth Health Manpower Development Plan (HMDP) awards, attended a three-week attachment with the Cleft & Craniofacial Team at the New York University

FINANCIALS

Workload per annum

	FY07	FY06
Day Surgeries	6,492	6,381
Dental Attendances	168,837	161,136
Dental Procedures	160,214	172,738

Staffing (as at end March)

	FY07	FY06
Total	334	316
Dentists	80	80
Nurses	14	14
Allied Health Professionals	34	32
Dental Surgery Assistants	66	68
Others	140	122

Note:

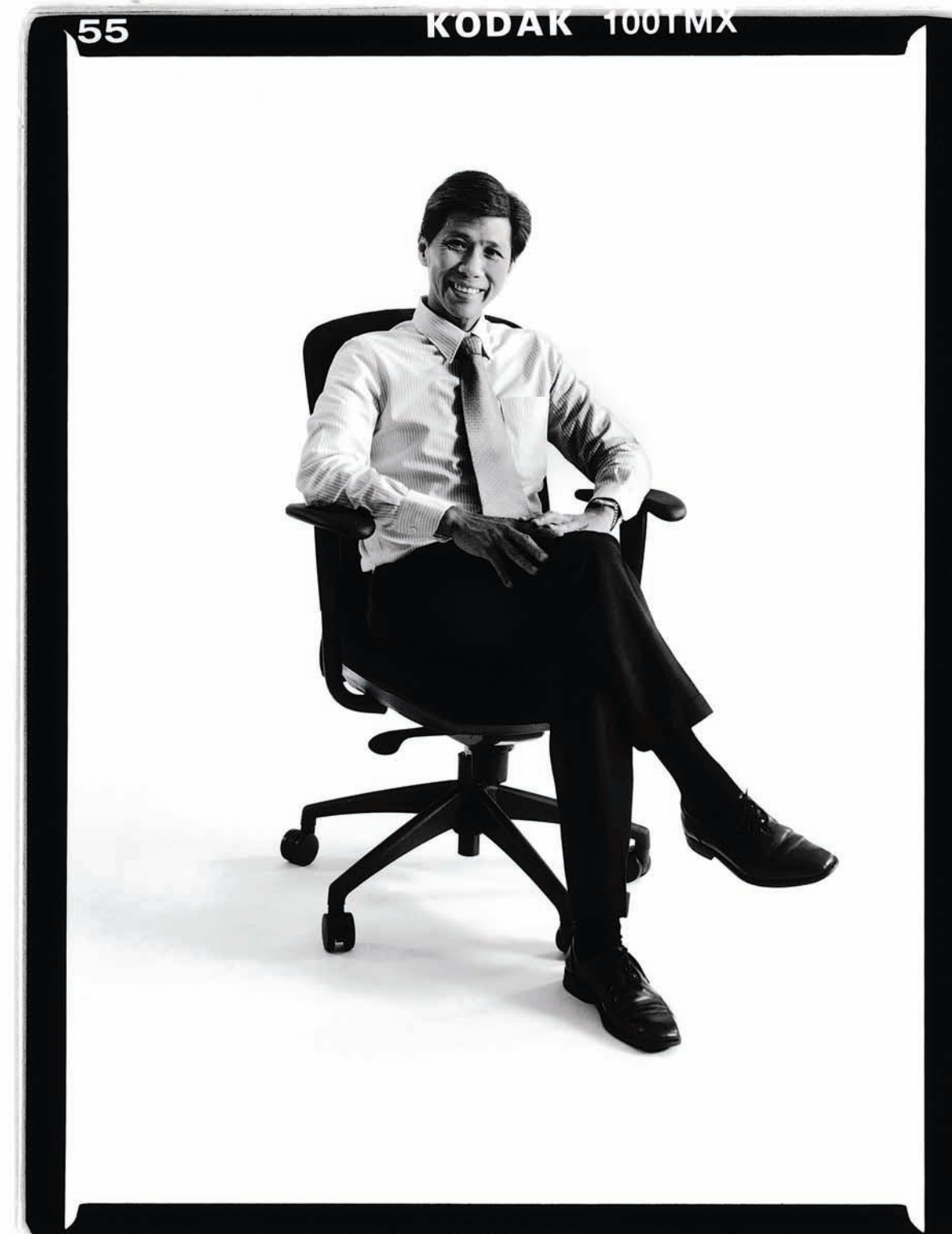
No. of dentists excludes Dental Officers deployed to the SAF arm forces, schools and polyclinics as well as postgraduate residents.

Medical Centre. The opportunity gave them a better understanding of clinical team management and care delivery for cleft patients who undergo multi-disciplinary management.

NDC is at the forefront of professional dental education not just in Singapore. It is also a regional training hub in the region. It collaborated with the Institute of Technical Education and the Singapore Dental Association to shape the curriculum for the NITEC in Dental Assisting training programme, and the first cohort of 28 trainees graduated in May 2008.

NDC continues in its efforts to build research resources and infrastructure, moving from small independent projects to holistic thematic research programmes. Three thematic programmes have been set up for Modular Endoprosthetic Replacement of Mandibular Defects, Artificial Scaffolds for Bone Engineering, and Growth Factor & Bone Morphogenetic Proteins in Periodontal Regeneration, creating overseas training opportunities for NDC clinicians. Funding will fuel a broader spectrum of research, supporting the relentless efforts of NDC clinicians.

Nasopharyngeal cancer patient, Mr Thomas Leong, 51, is a benefactor of NDC's advances in dental care. A patient since 1997, Mr Leong visits the NDC to monitor the side effects of his radiation treatment. “The doctors treating my cancer worked closely with my dentists at NDC to ensure I received the best possible care for my overall condition.”



“Teamwork is the carbon copy of success.”

Mr Leong was referred to NDC in 1997, following diagnosis of nasopharyngeal cancer, to manage the side effects of radiation that involved his teeth, mouth and appetite. Mr Leong counted on the unwavering support of his tight-knit family of eight and the expertise of the specialist teams at NDC for his recovery to good health.

Mr Thomas Leong, 51
 Nasopharyngeal cancer patient, NDC