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### Welcoming Speech

A warm welcome to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Dental Students Scientific Conference, conducted virtually for the first time this year, albeit differently from the previous years as we embrace a new norm, practising safe social distance, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This conference has always been a venue for final year undergraduate dental students to present their cumulative result of their one year's hard work in elective research, supervised by dental academic staff.

This year's theme of "Beyond COVID-19: Dentistry in The New Norm" provides a tremendous change in many ways especially to the dental research fraternity in which steps are taken beyond the normality to create a more holistic environment that ultimately translates efficiently for the benefit of the community. We are constantly evolving to make remarkable advances by integrating applied and fundamental science for productive and efficient scientific research and such collaboration is crucial for sustaining oral health and wellness within the society.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has created a significant impact on the oral health care of our society at large, we still want our dental students to continue developing interest and ability to conduct research under these circumstances, growing into young scientists that appreciate and provide evidence based behind oral healthcare practice.

Through this platform, we hope that the conference will continue to serve and encourage our students, and not only to present and share their scientific research findings, but also build a global network while learning the latest advancement and development of research in the oral health field despite we are in these unprecedented situations.

Congratulations and a sincere thanks to the organizing committee headed by Dr Azlida Mohd Nor, for the tireless effort and hard work in ensuring that this first virtual conference is conducted smoothly and successfully.

To the presenters, I wish you all the best and have a great scientific competition. Lastly, I hope all participants will find this virtual event to be fruitful with wonderful moments of knowledge and experience sharing.

Thank you.