



Greeting from the DENSOC president.

Dear all,

Welcome to the online Dental Student Scientific Conference. COVID-19 hit us hard last year. This pandemic has led to a dramatic loss of human life worldwide and presents an unprecedented challenge to the world. The impact of the pandemic and its consequences are felt differently depending on the status as individuals of the society. As dental undergraduate students, we get affected tremendously during this pandemic either in lectures or clinical sessions. Uncertainty and stress overwhelmed us. However, we manage to embrace the uncertainty and strive for our future. I am proud to say that we are lucky to have lots of great lecturers who guide us along.

The theme for the online scientific conference this year is "Beyond COVID-19: Dentistry in the new norm". I agree with the title that COVID-19 had changed dentistry to a new world. Infection control plays an important role as the practice of dentistry involves the use of rotary dental and surgical instruments such as handpieces or ultrasonic scalers and air-water syringes which create aerosol. We must adapt to the new norm. It is impossible for us to stop dentistry due to COVID-19. For our dental faculty, changes have been made to make sure everyone is safe such as polyclinics have changed into individual enclosures and physical classes have converted into online lectures. Even the final professional examination was held online with invigilation from a second device. I am amazed with the technologies and capabilities to adapt to the new norm. This shows that we managed to find ways and be creative despite having limitations. As the saying goes, where there is a will, there is a way.

Let's cherish every moment with our friends and lecturers while pursuing our dream as a dental practitioner in the near future. I am highly honoured to take this opportunity on behalf of all final year undergraduate dental students to express my utmost gratitude to all the lecturers for working hard on this scientific conference. For all my friends, I wish you all the best during the scientific conference. It does not matter if you win or lose, the most important thing is you try your best with no regrets.

Thank you.