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The MalDent Project – Towards a Dental School for Malawi



College of Medicine

Excellency Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow

Work to date



The challenge of oral healthcare

Population of Malawi: 18.8 million

Number of dentists: 40 (UK: 35,000 in 2018)

Dentist patient ratio: 1:522,000 (UK: 1:2,000)



The partners meet: Lilongwe September 2017



First curriculum conference September 2017



COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
DENTAL SCHOOL CURRICULUM CONFERENCE
HELD FROM 27th-29th SEPTEMBER 2017 @ CLUB MAKOKOLA RETREAT, MANGochi, MALAWI.

Scottish Government pump-priming grant

- £60K
- Support an inward visit to University of Glasgow Dental School for Malawian delegation
- Support refurbishment of pre-clinical skills facility at Kamuzu Central Hospital Dental Department

Visit to Glasgow March 2018



KCH: Pre-clinical skills suite May 2019



KCH: Replacement dental chairs – May 2019



Scottish Government Malawi Development Programmes Funding Round 2018

- To **establish an undergraduate dental degree** (BDS) programme at the UoM College of Medicine which will train Malawian dentists who are 'globally competent and locally relevant' and able to provide support for delivery of a national oral health programme.
- To develop, with the Ministry of Health, College of Medicine and Scottish partners, a **national oral health strategy** as recommended by the World Health Organisation. This will include a **national prevention programme** aimed at children and based on a version of the well-proven Scottish **Childsmile** programme.



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Second curriculum conference November 2018



COM DENTAL CURRICULUM CONFERENCE
HELD FROM 25th-29th NOVEMBER 2018 @ SUNBIRD NKOPOLA LODGE, MANGOCHI, MALAWI.



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Curriculum approval 21 March 2019



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Malawi's first BDS students August 2019





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Building design workshop September 2019



THE GLASGOW
SCHOOL OF ART



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Challenges



- Capital costs of new building
- Identifying permanent faculty members
- Maintenance of equipment
- Consumables supply chain

Lessons learned and future work





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“Malawi needs dental medicine”



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Establishment of a national Oral Health Policy

Health Sector Strategic Plan II



| Category | Intervention Package | Intervention | Level of Care |
|-------------|----------------------|---|-------------------|
| Oral Health | Tooth pain treatment | Management of severe tooth pain, tooth extraction | Primary/Secondary |
| | | Management of mild tooth pain, tooth filling | Primary/Secondary |



Pilot child oral health survey – June 2019



National child oral health survey



Research that will inform practice and policy

- Recruiting PhD student(s)
- All BDS students will conduct research
- Staff being trained on research in oral health and other multidisciplinary research topics
 - This will improve practice
 - Some of the evidence will be used beyond Malawi
- There are potential symbiotic research collaborations with Scottish researchers and students



The MalDent Partnership



Ministry of Health
Republic of Malawi

Dental Association of
Malawi



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Regular communication between all parties



Trust and transparency

Visit by Ben Macpherson MSP September 2018





www.themaldentproject.com