



An official newsletter of Maratha Mandal's N. G. Halgekar Institute of Dental Sciences & Research Centre, Belagavi.

## STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN DOMINICAN OUTREACH MISSION



Mr. Viraj Nesargi, an intern from our institute, was a part of the Dominican Outreach Mission organized by Envista Smile Project (Philanthropic Foundation) and the Universidad Catolica Nordestana (UCNE) from July 1st to July 9th, 2023, in the city of San Francisco de Macoris, Escuela Gregorio Luperon, Ensanche Vista del Valle (Av. Prof. Juan Bosch, 31000), Dominican Republic. The outreach mission was headed by Dr. Carlos Munoz (Mission Director) and Dr. Luis Esmurdoc (President of UCNE and General of the Fire Department of the Dominican Republic).

The purpose of this 6-day outreach mission, in which a group of 25 dentists and five hygienists participated, was to provide free dental care to an underserved population that does not have access to dental care. Dental treatment was provided to individuals of all ages and walks of life, including



orphans, children and adults with special needs, and institutionalized elderly, many of whom have not received any dental care. They provided oral examinations, scaling, oral prophylaxis, fillings, sealants or fluoride varnishes, root canals, routine or surgical extractions, and dental education. During the outreach mission, treatment was provided to 680 adults and 175 children. Our intern performed 23 restorations, 30 oral prophylaxis, and 72 extractions on 123 patients.

## DENSMART TRAINING PROGRAMME

Training of our institute staff members and postgraduate students in Densmart Patient Management software was conducted from July 12th to 14th. Mr. Ranjit Nambiar from Densoft Infotech Pvt. Ltd. visited our institute and trained each department's staff and PG students separately on the first two days. On the final day, a combined session for all staff members and PG students was conducted in our auditorium, where queries regarding the software use were clarified.



## PH.D. FINAL SYNOPSIS PRESENTATION

Dr. Priya NS, Ph.D. Research Scholar of the Department of Oral Pathology and Microbiology, presented her Ph.D. final synopsis on July 14th, 2023. The title of the Ph.D. thesis was "Detection and comparative assessment of miR-21 and miR-26a in urine and tissue samples from patients with oral squamous cell carcinoma: A cross-sectional study." Dr. Sangeeta Palaskar, Professor and Head, Department of Oral Pathology and Microbiology, Sinhgad Dental College and Hospital, Pune, was the deputed examiner. Dr. Maharudrappa Basanakar, Professor and Head, Department of Oral Pathology and Microbiology, from HKEs S. Nijalingappa Institute of Dental Sciences & Research, Kalaburagi, was appointed as an observer by Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences.



## SCREENING CAMP

Three postgraduates, Dr. Akanksha Gaonkar, Dr. Anjany Chowdary, and Dr. Nigel Menezes, from the Department of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics, along with three interns, visited Maratha Mandal's College of Pharmacy and Maratha Mandal Polytechnic and examined around 350 students on July 18th and 19th. Students were educated on the maintenance of oral hygiene and advised on how to do so. Students who required dental treatment were counselled and the necessary treatment was carried out at our institute.



## TRIBUTE

The late Shri. Nathajirao G. Halgekar was the Founder-Chairman of our institute and President (1977-2005) of the Maratha Mandal Group of Institutions. He was a humble person and an inspirational leader in the field of education. On July 22nd, 2023, Principal Dr. Ramakant Nayak and all staff members gathered together and paid tribute to Late Shri Nathajirao G. Halgekar at our institute on his 18th death anniversary.



## GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. Chandrashekar Yavagal, Professor and Head, Department of Laser Dentistry and Photo Medicine at our institute, was invited as a guest speaker at the A. J. Institute of Dental Sciences, Mangalore, on July 25th. He delivered a lecture and conducted a hands-on workshop on photobiomodulation in dentistry.

## ALUMNI CORNER

Dr. Apurva Nair, an alumna of our institute, 2015-16 batch, has secured an MBA-HM degree from IIHMR University. She has been recruited by TATAAIG General Insurance Company Limited as a Management Trainee (Special Investigation Unit).



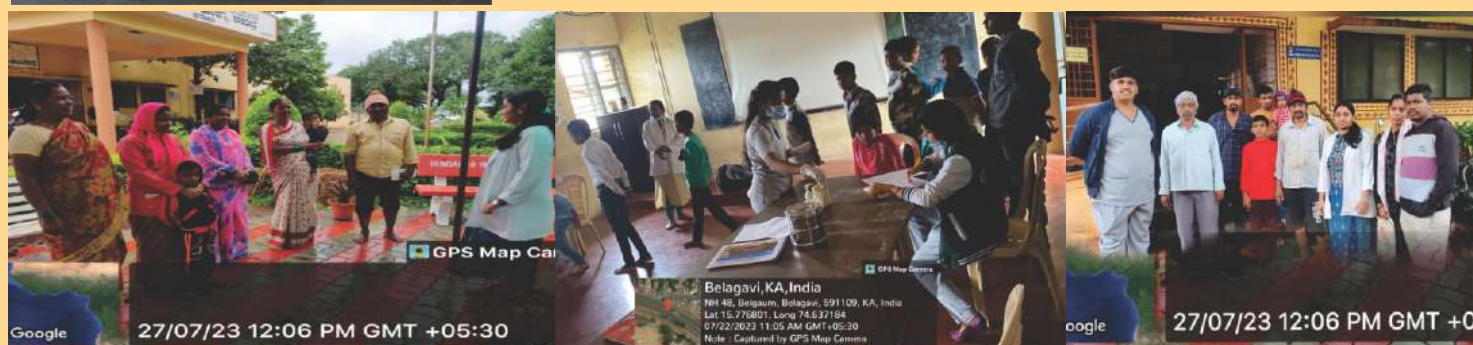
## ENDODONTICS BASICS AND BEYOND

The Department of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics conducted a two-day workshop on "Endodontics Basics and Beyond" on July 26th and 27th, 2023. The resource person for the event was Dr. Vishwas Gowda, a private practitioner from Bangalore who runs a high-end practice limited to microscopic endodontics and aesthetic dentistry. Dr. Madhu Pujar, Professor and Head, and Dr. Hemant, Professor, were the coordinators of the event. The basics and advances in the field of endodontics were discussed in detail, followed by a comprehensive hands-on course. The unique aspect of the event was that all participants were allotted patients to work on in the hands-on course. Forty-one delegates, comprising eight private practitioners, 23 interns, and 10 postgraduate students, benefited from the programme. The programme was allotted 18 credit points by KSDC, Bangalore.



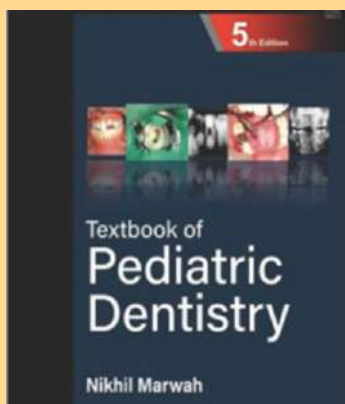
## NATIONAL DOCTOR'S DAY

The Department of Public Health Dentistry celebrated National Doctor's Day in the month of July 2023. A dental camp was organized at REM High School, Hirebagewadi, to celebrate National Doctor's Day with the theme "Celebrating Resilience and Healing Hands". A total of 103 school children were screened, and health education was given on oral hygiene practices and tooth brushing technique to improve awareness of oral hygiene. A health awareness talk was also given at the Late Nathaji G. Halgekar Memorial Satellite Dental Clinic, Kadoli, by Dr. Sreeja Powar.



## MASTERSOFT CLOUD TRAINING

On July 31st and August 1st, Mr. Hasan Shaikh and Mr. Suhel Pendhari, team members from MasterSoft Cloud, were in our institute to train our teaching staff and library staff. They familiarized the staff with the ITLE implementation module, attendance implementation module, and library module. Later, queries related to various modules were answered by them.



## BOOK CONTRIBUTION

Dr. Chandrashekar Yavagal, Professor and Head, Department of Laser Dentistry and Photo Medicine at our institute, has contributed two chapters titled "Lasers in Pediatric Dentistry: Principle, Tissue Interactions and Types of Laser" and "Contemporary Laser Application in Pediatric Dentistry and Recent Advances" to the 5th edition of the Textbook of Pediatric Dentistry by Nikhil Marwah.

## WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY

The Tobacco Cessation Cell, in association with Public Health Dentistry, observed World No Tobacco Day on May 31, 2023, at Kumaraswamy Layout, Bauxite Road, Belagavi. Dr. Sujata Byahatti, Professor, Tobacco Cessation Cell Incharge, spoke on "Tobacco and its ill effects" in the local language. Dr. Rekha Katte, senior lecturer, Department of Public Health Dentistry, spoke on "Epidemiology of Tobacco and Oral Hygiene Practices." In addition, screening of 22 patients was done for oral lesions associated with tobacco use.



## ORAL HYGIENE DAY

Oral Hygiene Day was celebrated on August 1st, 2023, in the Department of Periodontology to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. G.B. Shankwalkar, the pioneer periodontist of India and founder of the Indian Society of Periodontology (ISP). To mark the occasion, the Department of Periodontology had announced free scaling treatment for the patients in August. The event was celebrated in collaboration with the ISP with the theme "Be an Ecodontist." The ISP is running a nationwide "Green Drive" to bring awareness to the public regarding the use of eco-friendly oral hygiene products such as bamboo toothbrushes made of natural material to replace the plastic ones.

The programme started with an inauguration wherein Dr. Sheetal Sanikop, Professor, and the Programme Coordinator gave the welcome address. The Principal of our Institute, Dr. Ramakant Nayak, Vice Principal, Dr. Preethi Kusugal, and HOD of Periodontology, Dr. Aarati Nayak, and all the staff of the Department of Periodontology, lit the lamp. Later, five interns spoke on the topic "Be an Ecodontist", wherein they highlighted the harmful effects of plastics on the environment, thus reducing the use of plastic tooth brushes and replacing them with bamboo toothbrushes. Two hundred eco-friendly bamboo toothbrushes and toothpastes, which are sponsored by the ISP, were distributed to the patients and non-teaching staff of the institute. As a part of the Oral Hygiene Day activity recommended by the ISP, the Department of Periodontology collected 165 used plastic toothbrushes and 50 toothpaste tubes from all departments and sent them to the ISP for proper disposal. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Sai Chandini and ended with refreshments.



## ANTI-RAGGING DAY

The Anti-Ragging Day, as decided by the UGC this year, was observed on August 12, 2023, in our institute. All the undergraduate and postgraduate students and the interns attended the programme. The students were made aware of the zero tolerance shown by the Institute against ragging. A few videos regarding ragging from the UGC web site were shown to the students in the auditorium. Principal Dr. Ramakant Nayak, Vice Principal Dr. Preethi Kusugal, Administrative Incharge Dr. Puspha, Anti-Ragging Committee members, and squads were present.





## SAD DEMISE

Our Trustee Member, Smt. Padmajadevi Nathajirao Halgekar, wife of our Founder Chairman, Shri. Nathajirao G. Halgekar and mother of our President, Dr. Rajshree Nagaraju, passed away on Saturday, August 12th, afternoon. Her funeral took place at Kamat Galli Crematorium, Belagavi. She was 85 at the time of her death. Her loss was deeply mourned by all staff and students at our institute. To pay homage to the departed soul, a condolence meeting was organized on August 14th at 12 p.m. in the institute's auditorium, which was attended by all the staff members.

## INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

The Cultural Committee organized the 77th Indian Independence Day celebration on August 15th at our institute premises at 7.30 a.m. The National Flag was hoisted by the Chief Guest, Dr. A. V. Ganapule from the Department of General Surgery. Other dignitaries present on the dais were Principal Dr. Ramakant Nayak, Vice Principal Dr. Preethi Kusugal, Administrative Incharge Dr. Puspha, and Cultural Incharge Dr. Pallavi Gopshetti. Interns Ms. Priyanka Benake and Ms. Rani Paragannavar were the masters of ceremonies. Mr. Yash Bhide, an intern gave the command and Ms. Gayatri Zulpe and Ms. Aadnya Parmekar from first year BDS delivered a speech in Marathi and Hindi respectively. Teaching and non-teaching staff members and students participated in the Independence Day celebration.



## WORKSHOP DEPUTATION



Our institute deputed Dr. Sadanand Kulkarni, Professor & HOD, Department of Pediatric and Preventive Dentistry; Dr. Sheetal Sanikop, Professor, Department of Periodontology; and Dr. Vijaylakshmi Kotrashetti, Prof. & HOD, Department of Oral Pathology and Microbiology, to attend a two-day workshop on "Capacity Building in Futuristic Educational Constructs" held at KLE VK Institute of Dental Sciences, Belagavi, on August 17th and 18th, 2023. The two-day workshop was about futuristic educational constructs and training new-age learners in digital education. The workshop was activity-based, wherein they were made to design various online and hybrid-mode curricula. Also, there was a session about how to conduct collaborative research involving undergraduate students. Overall, the workshop was very informative and fruitful.



## TARU NIRMITI ABHIYAAN

The student volunteers of the NSS and YRC units of our institute took up an initiative called Taru Nirmiti Abhiyaan, a seed ball initiative, which aims to replenish the green belts lost due to deforestation. Our student volunteers enthusiastically participated by making around 1300 seed balls in the months of March and April. Each ball consists of different varieties of seeds mixed with soil, ash/neem powder, and cow dung powder. On August 31st, 2023, these balls were thrown in the Jamboti-Khanapur stretch, where they will germinate and grow to form trees. Students also collected the trash that was thrown in that area and carried out Swachhata Abhiyaan. Twenty-six student volunteers, NSS and YRC committee staff members, Dr. Ramya Pai, Dr. Umesh Bhosle, Dr. Sachita Naik, Dr. Anuradha Bandiwadekar, and Dr. Kishor took active part in the event. This initiative was inspired and guided by renowned environmentalist Mrs. Bharati Hardi, along with constant support from our President, Dr. Rajshree Nagaraju, and Principal, Dr. Ramakant Nayak.



## HEPATITIS B VACCINATION

The hepatitis B vaccination was administered to I BDS students of 2022-23 academic batch of our institute under the supervision of physician Dr. Zubin Ruttonji and the nursing staff. They received their first dose on August 9th and their second dose on September 9th in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. A total of 30 students were vaccinated.



## RGUHS ZONAL SPORTS

At RGUHS Zonal Sports, held on September 7th and 8th, 2023, at KIMS Hubli, Dr. Nandita Solapurkar (intern), Dr. Shriya Patil (intern), and Ms. Darshitha S (1st BDS) represented our institution in women's table tennis. They played the finals against SSIMS&RC, Davangere, and won. President Dr. Rajshree Nagaraju, Principal Dr. Ramakant Nayak, Vice Principal Dr. Preethi Kusugal, Sports Incharge Dr. Sachin Shivanaiakar, and Dr. Zarir Ruttonji congratulated the winners.



## INVITED RESOURCE PERSON

Dr. Sheetal Sanikop, Professor, Department of Periodontology, was invited as a resource person for a plenary session at the Janani-2023 "National Symposium on Interdisciplinary Approach to Antenatal Care" on September 8th and 9th, 2023, to deliver a talk on "Dental Considerations in Pregnancy," organized by KLE's Shri B. M. Kankanwadi Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya at KLE Centenary Convention Centre, Belagavi.



## PLACEMENT DRIVE

The Placement Cell of our institute conducted a campus placement drive in coordination with Clove Dental Corporate Hospitals on September 1st in hybrid mode. Manager, Mr. Sanjay Peshin, and Dr. Divya Pandey briefed about Clove Dental clinics, their criteria for selection, and their salary structure. Thirty-six interested students from current interns, batch 2018-19, and alumni, batch 2017-18, attended the online presentation at the institute's auditorium. Dr. Hemant Vagarali, Professor and Incharge, Placement Cell, submitted the list of these students to Mr. Sanjay Peshin, whose personal interviews are planned for October. The event was well appreciated by students.



## SMART BOARD DEMONSTRATION

The demonstration of the smart board and the various tools was conducted by Dr. Sachin Shivanaiakar, Professor, Department of Periodontology, and Mr. Sagar Rangdal on September 21, 2023. They explained how to connect and use a smart board for saving daily lectures and delivering student notes. Using different tools, pasting URL links, 3D model diagrams, loading the gallery with images, etc. were also shown. Principal, Dr. Ramakant Nayak, and Dental and Medical staff attended the demonstration. This was done mainly for the newly joined staff of our Institute.



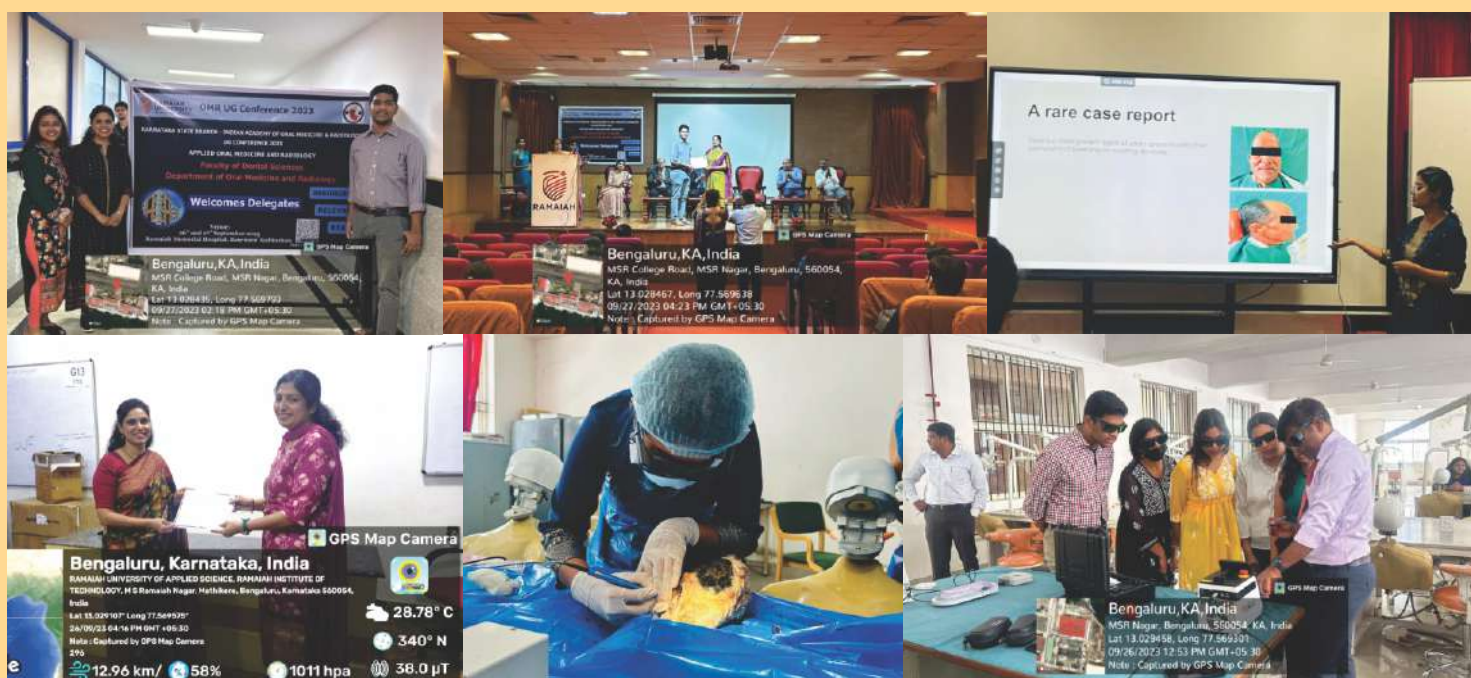
## GANESH CHATURTHI

Ganesh Chaturthi Festival was enthusiastically celebrated for five days in our institution, as done customarily every year. On September 19, 2023, Lord Ganesh's idol was brought to the institute and installed in the richly decorated pandal. Every day at nine in the morning, Ganesh puja was performed, in which the students and staff took active part. Sri Sathyanarayana Pooja was performed on September 21st. Ganesh Visarjan took place in the afternoon on September 23rd.



## IAOMR UG CONFERENCE 2023

Mr. Neilvishwas Dhanawade (intern) and Ms. Shukla Chougale (4th year BDS), along with Dr. Sujata Byahatti, Professor, Department of Oral Medicine and Radiology, attended the OMR UG Conference on September 26th and 27th, 2023, at MS Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, Bengaluru, organized by the Indian Academy of Oral Medicine and Radiology, Karnataka State Branch. They attended the Lasers in Dentistry workshop, in which they got to work on specimens. They also attended guest lectures on 3D printing, CBCT, and salivary gland disorders. Mr. Neilvishwas Dhanawade presented a paper on "Transmagnetic stimulation: A perfect combination of physics and neurobiology for the cessation of tobacco addiction." Ms. Shukla Chougale presented a paper on "Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura: A Rare Case Report." Mr. Neilvishwas Dhanawade secured second prize in the scientific paper presentation. Dr. Sujata Byahatti chaired a session of scientific paper presentations.



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