



MINISTRY OF HEALTH MALAYSIA

## **PRESS STATEMENT MINISTRY OF HEALTH MALAYSIA**

### **3RD NATIONAL ORAL HEALTH RESEARCH INITIATIVE (NOHRI) CONFERENCE 2024**

**6 SEPTEMBER 2024**

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The Ministry of Health Malaysia (MOH) wishes to inform that 3rd National Oral Health Research Initiative (NOHRI) Conference 2024 has been held from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> September 2024, at Putrajaya. This year's conference, themed "Precision Dentistry: Unveiling The Future Through Data-Driven Insights," will serve as a vital platform for advancing oral health through cutting-edge research and innovative data-driven approaches.

The National Oral Health Research Initiative (NOHRI) was established in 2010 to enhance evidence-based policy decisions in the delivery of national oral healthcare. This committee, composed of dental professionals from various agencies, plays a key role in identifying research priorities within the field of oral health and overseeing a more effective oral health research agenda in Malaysia.

The NOHRI Conference 2024 is a collaborative effort between the Oral Health Programme (OHP) of the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Malaysian Association of Dental Public Health Specialists (MADPHS).

MADPHS, composed of Dental Public Health Specialists from various agencies, plays a crucial role in addressing oral health issues and advancing expertise across all dental disciplines. This partnership underscores our joint commitment to enhancing oral health care and research in Malaysia.

This conference aligns with Malaysia's dedication to the Global Oral Health Action Plan (GOHAP) 2023-2030, which focuses on six strategic objectives: dental health governance, disease promotion and prevention, oral health care, health workforce development, information management systems, and research agendas. GOHAP's innovative reporting system will be integral in guiding our efforts and monitoring progress in these areas.

Recent findings from the National Oral Health Survey of Adults (NOHSA) 2020 highlight significant oral health and oral health related quality of life challenges in Malaysia:

- a. 1 in 20 adults aged 35 and over are edentulous (without teeth).
- b. Only 34.3% of adults aged 60 and over retain 20 or more teeth.
- c. 17 out of 20 Malaysian adults suffer from dental caries.
- d. 9 out of 10 Malaysian adults have unhealthy periodontium
- e. 94.6% of Malaysian adults require dental treatment
- f. 4 out of 10 Malaysian adults have experienced social impacts due to oral conditions in the past three months
- g. Only 1 in 4 Malaysian adults are aware of mouth self-examination techniques

Moreover, findings from the National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS) 2023 indicate that only 25.7% of Malaysians have received dental treatment in the past year. These statistics underscore the

urgent need for intensified efforts to improve oral health in our country, and high-quality research is a key component of this effort.

To support this, the Ministry of Health has introduced the “**1 Individual: 1 Dental Record**” initiative. This program empowers individuals by providing access to their dental records through the MySejahtera app. By integrating data from the Dental Information System (DIS) into the app, we are creating a comprehensive Lifetime Health Record (LHR). This digital approach not only enhances patient care but also supports forensic odontology services, particularly in the Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) process.

We are committed to leveraging the research findings presented at the NOHRI Conference 2024 to shape policies, develop new initiatives, and enhance existing oral health activities. The dedication of the dental community to producing precise and high-quality research will drive continuous improvements in oral healthcare delivery in Malaysia.

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