# THE WIKIPEDIA COLLABORATION OF DENTAL SCHOOLS

Presenters: Lai SM (smlai@dundee.ac.uk), Tan LYR (lyrtan@dundee.ac.uk)
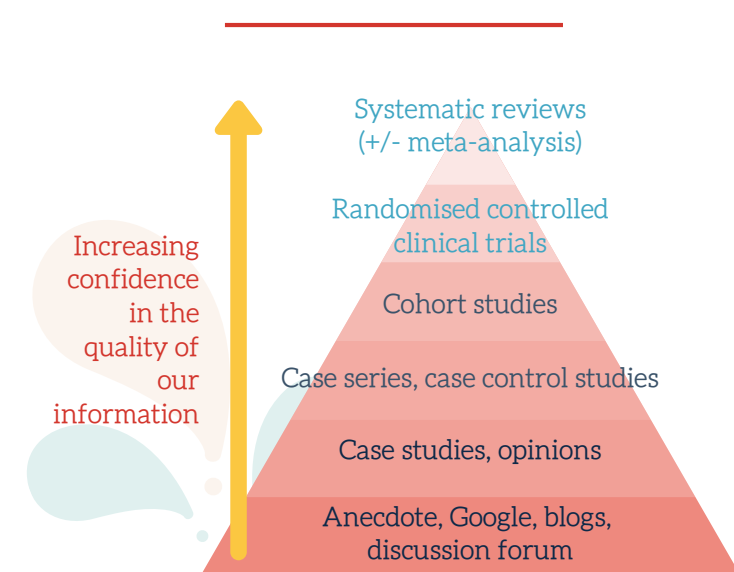Authors: Lai SM, Tan LYR, Clarkson J, Hector M, Radford JR, Mossey P, Innes N, Geres N
Institute: School of Dentistry, University of Dundee

**University of Dundee**

## INTRODUCTION

The Wikipedia Collaboration of Dental Schools (WCODS) was founded in 2016 at Dundee Dental School by an undergraduate, Nour Geres. Many dental articles on Wikipedia back then were poorly edited and had an insufficient evidence base if referenced, thus serving as an unreliable medium for the professional and public to obtain dental-related information.
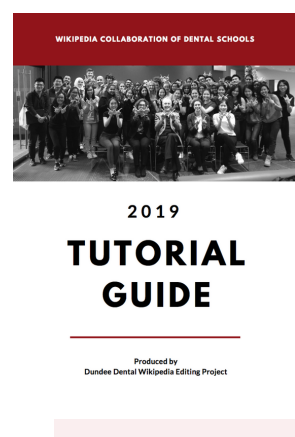
Motivated by information deficiency and need for improvement, students from Dundee Dental School have been spearheading this project for the 4th year and counting. Together with unwavering support from Cochrane, dental students from Dundee and all over the world work collectively to improve global access to Evidence Based Dentistry (EBD) by editing Wikipedia articles.

Hierarchy of Evidence: Our members are encouraged to always look for the best quality evidence i.e. secondary research to edit dental content on Wikipedia.

## AIMS & OBJECTIVES

1. To maintain, update and expand dental content on Wikipedia using high-quality research evidence.
2. To promote dissemination of credible and unbiased dental information to the public, informing them about oral diseases and prevention strategies.
3. To develop members' ability in reading and critically evaluating dental literature.

Now we have published 2 handbooks for our members:
(Left) Project Guide to provide an overview of this project and detailed explanation of all different types of evidence available. (Right) Tutorial Guide to help members navigate Wikipedia step by step, from creating an account to troubleshooting.

## METHOD

The Wikimedia-trained Dundee team provides leadership and coordinates all schools involved in the collaboration. To initiate an editing cycle, the Dundee team will train members in participating schools to edit Wikipedia. Our ultimate goal with this is to ensure all members are able to fully comprehend and upload Wikipedia articles backed up by the best evidence available.

Our training and editing process encompasses the following elements:

### 1 PRE-TRAINING SURVEY

Members are asked to fill in a survey titled 'Readiness to Wiki' to identify the possibility of any deficiency in knowledge or understanding of EBD, making them aware of where they should focus their efforts.

### UNDERSTANDING EBD 2

Members learn about the foundation of EBD through the 'EBD in Wikipedia' screencast produced by Dundee Dental students and staff. This includes formulating research questions using PICO, the hierarchy of evidence pyramid, usage of research databases (Cochrane Oral Health, Trip, PubMed) and critically appraising dental research articles.

### 3 REGISTRATION

Members then create and validate their Wikipedia accounts before registering under 'WikiProject Dentistry' – a central platform for editors to organize the edit of dental topics.

### POST-TRAINING QUIZ 4

Members then undertake a mandatory 'Competency Quiz' to assess their comprehension of the topics covered in the training in a clear and concise manner.

### 5 EDITING WIKIPEDIA

Having fulfilled all the training requirements, members team up to identify a series of suboptimal Wikipedia articles to work on. Thereafter, they communicate with each other, and relevant research is appraised, evaluated, paraphrased and shaped.

### QUALITY ASSURANCE 6

Members of staff from the students' respective dental schools act as 'Wiki Content Verifiers' to vet and review all their write-ups before it is uploaded onto Wikipedia. This step ensures that their content of edits is accurate, references are up-to-date and valid before being used to educate the wider community.

## RESULTS

The Collaboration includes participants from five dental schools across the UK, alongside international partners from Canada, USA, Saudi Arabia, Cairo and Malaysia. WCODS consists of over 200 editors who have amended 287 articles in two languages, English and Arabic. To date, the articles have been accessed a total of 52.3 million times. [1]

Members meet in March for an Annual Conference to showcase their editing progress as well as engage in meaningful discourse and debates about pertinent dental topics.

- Top row: Our flagship event i.e. the annual conference held in Dundee.
- Bottom left: Our second time organising a training workshop at International Medical University (IMU) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Bottom right: Introductory Event for dental students and staff members from Dundee Dental School in September 2019.

## CONCLUSION

- Over the span of three years, students and dentists of WCODS have made tremendous progress in improving articles which help to inform the dental workforce and patient groups.
- Our focus is to ensure edits made by participants are precise, accurate and reliable, so that the wider population will be empowered to make autonomous and evidence-informed healthcare decisions.
- The overall goal is to create a large, active, international community of dental members who are passionate about educating the public about various aspects of oral health across Europe, South America and Africa, allowing articles to be translated into a plethora of languages to be perused by non-English speaking readers.
- WCODS plans to continue to work closely with Cochrane, WHO, IADR and FDI to have an avenue to help direct Wikipedia efforts according to areas of interest for the Dental Profession.

## REFERENCES

1. Wikipedia Outreach Dashboard, Campaign: Wikipedia Collaboration of Dental Schools https://outreachdashboard.wmflabs.org/campaigns/wikipedia_collaboration_of_dental_schools_/overview (Accessed on 31st Oct 2019)

@WIKICOLLAB    DENTALWIKI@DUNDEE.AC.UK    WIKICOLLAB.WORDPRESS.COM