

Policy statement of Fukai Institute of Health Science

Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and oral health in order to achieve healthy longevity

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Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) represent a major global health problem because they are a leading cause of death and medical expenditure. Lifelong health and vitality are fundamental human rights, so universal health coverage must be provided everywhere and to everyone in the world. However, in order to make such a system financially viable with constrained resources, those resources must be directed primarily toward prevention.

The existing but currently disjointed array of health services must also be integrated into a more comprehensive and efficient system. Scientific evidence indicates that the prevention and control of oral disease and tooth loss contribute directly to the prevention and control of NCDs.

Our goal is to consider how this evidence can best be translated into effective policy and action. To this end, our goals for the coming year are as follows:

1. Provide evidence and information that enables and encourages both dental and medical health professionals to understand their role in the prevention of NCDs.
2. Accumulate evidence regarding the economic effects of integrated dental and medical health policies and practices.
3. Advocate for making early-stage (childhood) prevention a higher priority in public health expenditure.
4. Promote the integration of the life-course approach and the common risk factor approach for the prevention and control of oral diseases and NCDs.