



KERALA UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, THRISSUR ACADEMIC STAFF COLLEGE

Report of the Academic Staff College Webinar Series – March 2026 (Dental Faculty)

The Academic Staff College of Kerala University of Health Sciences introduced an innovative initiative to conduct a series of academic webinars across various streams under the university. As part of this initiative, the Dental Faculty was invited to launch the series with the theme “Recent Developments in Dental Specialties.”

Coinciding with *National Dentist’s Day*, the Faculty of Dental Sciences organized a series of four webinars, conducted every Wednesday from **12:00 PM to 1:00 PM** during March 2026.

Webinar 1: Oral Medicine and Radiology

- **Date:** March 4, 2026
- **Inauguration:** Dr. Mohanan Kunnummel, Hon. Vice Chancellor, KUHS
- **Topic:** *Optical Spectroscopic Techniques for Early Detection of Oral Precancers*
- **Speaker:** Dr. Ravikiran Ongole, Professor of Oral Medicine and Radiology, Manipal College of Dental Sciences

Dr. Mohanan Kunnummel emphasized the importance of continuous academic engagement and the need for faculty to stay updated with recent advancements. The session was attended by over **200 participants**, followed by an interactive question-and-answer segment.

Webinar 2: Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics

- **Date:** March 11, 2026
- **Inauguration:** Dr. C. P. Vijayan, Hon. Pro Vice Chancellor, KUHS
- **Topic:** *Digital Workflow in Orthodontics: From Diagnosis to Treatment Execution*
- **Speaker:** Dr. Kavitha Iyer, Professor of Orthodontics, Ragas Dental College

This session highlighted advancements in digital orthodontics, with approximately **170 participants** in attendance.

Webinar 3: Periodontology

- **Date:** March 18, 2026
- **Inauguration:** Dr. Anil Kumar, Controller of Examinations, KUHS
- **Topic:** *Emerging Evidence Linking Alzheimer's Disease with Periodontitis*
- **Speaker:** Dr. S. Muthukumar, Professor of Periodontology, Sri Ramachandra Dental College

The session explored interdisciplinary connections between systemic health and periodontal disease, drawing keen academic interest.

Webinar 4: Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology and Microbiology

- **Date:** March 25, 2026
- **Inauguration:** Dr. S. Gopakumar, Registrar, KUHS
- **Topic:** *Spatiotemporal Mapping of Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma (OSCC) Microenvironment for Predictive Therapeutic Stratification*
- **Speaker:** Dr. Ramya Ramadoss, Professor and Head, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology and Microbiology, Saveetha Dental College

This session focused on advanced research approaches in oral cancer diagnostics and therapeutic planning.

Conclusion

The webinar series marked a significant step by the Academic Staff College of KUHS in promoting academic excellence and continuous professional development among dental faculty. The initiative received an enthusiastic response from participants, reflecting strong engagement and interest in recent advancements across dental specialties.

Given the success of this first phase, participants have expressed keen interest in the continuation of similar webinars covering emerging topics in other specialties.

[Prepared by Prof. Dr. Elbe Peter, Faculty Dean, Dental Sciences]