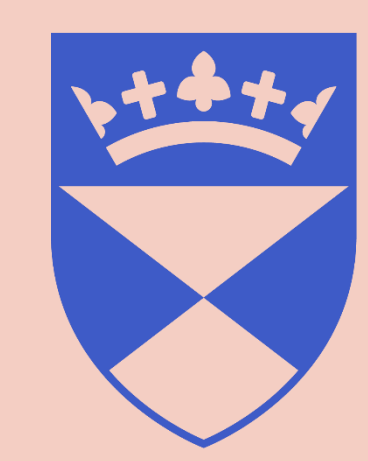


# The Wikipedia Collaboration of Dental Schools

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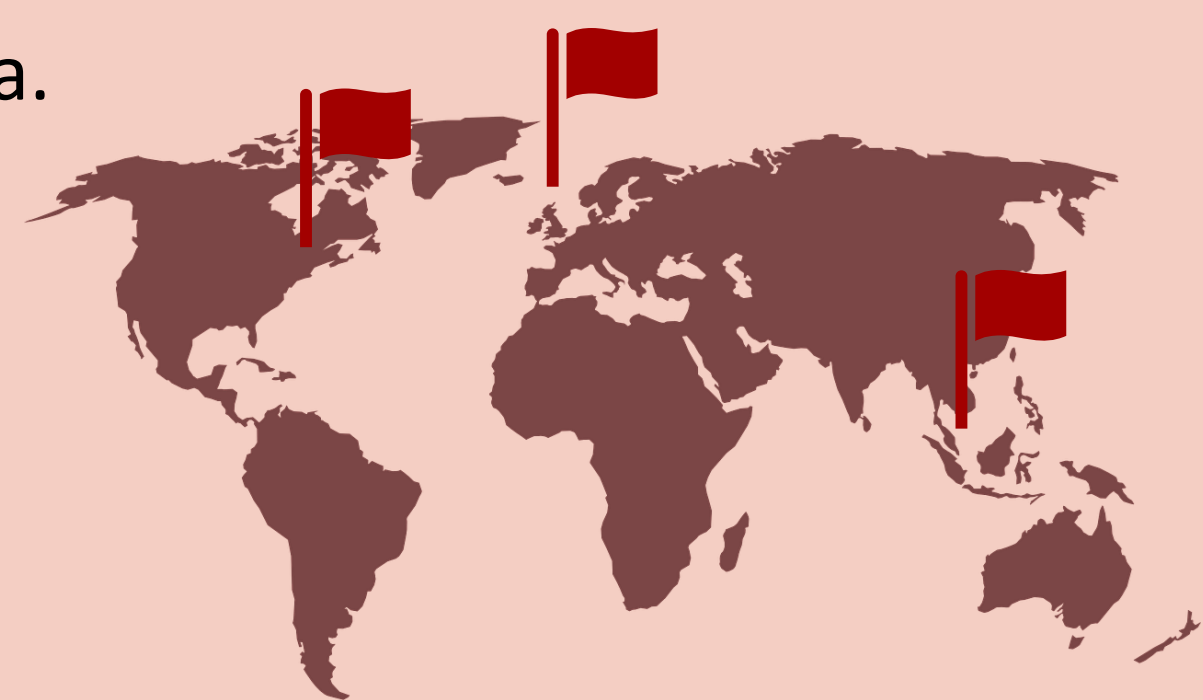
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## Introduction

The Wikipedia Collaboration of Dental Schools is a global initiative that unites dental students and professionals to improve the quality of dental information on Wikipedia to ensure that dental content is accessible, accurate, reliable and up-to-date.

WCODS was founded in 2017 by Dundee dental undergraduate students after they realised many dental articles on Wikipedia were unreliable as they had a poor evidence base and were poorly edited. The lack of accessible, accurate dental information inspired students to improve the quality of these articles. Today, dental students around the world collaborate to widen access to evidence-based dental information and advance dental literacy by updating, expanding and maintaining articles on one of the worlds most visited websites, Wikipedia.

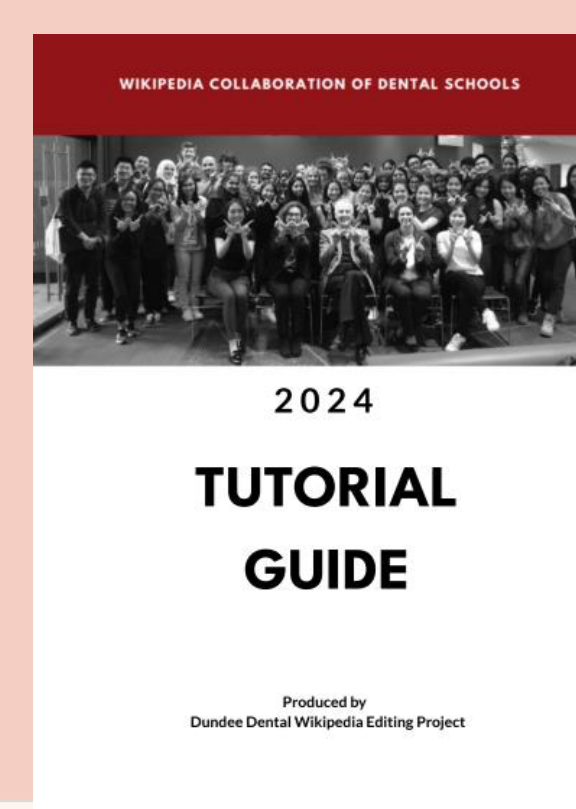
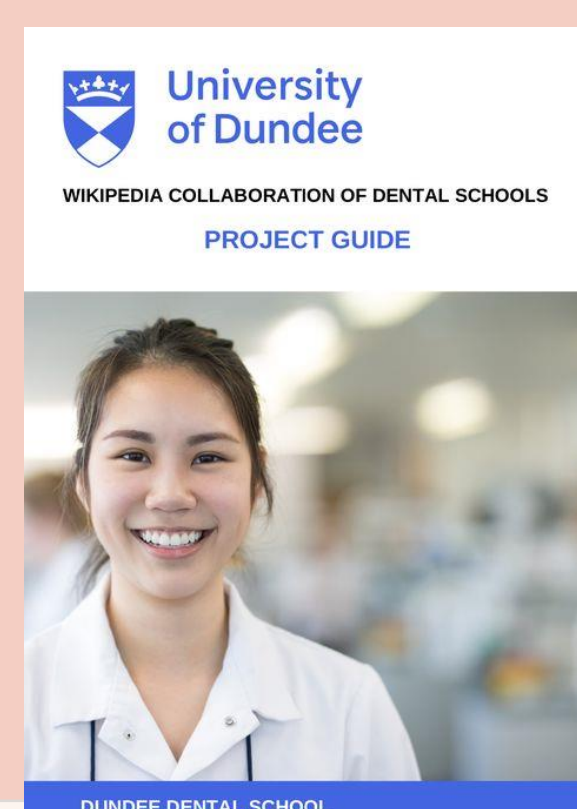
Universities collaborating in the project with the support of Dundee currently include the University of Toronto and the International Medical University (IMU) in Malaysia.



## Aims and Objectives

1. To maintain, update and expand dental content on Wikipedia using high-quality evidence-based research.
2. To provide evidence-based, accurate, readable dental articles to the public and dental professionals
3. To improve dental students' ability in reading and critically evaluating dental literature

Project (left) and tutorial (right) guides created by Dundee dental students which explain the project overview and objectives and help members edit articles by explaining each step from creating an account to publishing content.



## Method

Dundee students train others to join WCODS. There are six stages which ensure members edit to a high quality.

### 1 Pre-training Survey

Students complete a survey titled "Readiness to Wiki" to assess their understanding of evidence-based dentistry, including the hierarchy of evidence pyramid. Gaps in knowledge are identified and are addressed at stage 2.

### 2 Wikipedia Workshop

Students attend an informative and interactive workshop created by Dundee students to teach them the principles of evidence-based dentistry. This covers creating PICO questions, finding secondary research via Trip and Cochrane Oral Health databases, and critically appraising research. The workshop interactively teaches how to edit articles via "The Wikipedia Adventure" and the Wikipedia tutorial guide, created by Dundee students.

### 3 Registration

Students create Wikipedia accounts and register as members of WCODS by adding their names to the 'WikiProject Dentistry' page.

### 4 Post-training Survey

Students are required to re-complete the survey titled "Readiness to Wiki". This serves as a tool to verify their progress and understanding of EBD.

### 5 Editing

Students create groups and identify Wikipedia articles to improve using the 'stub' category on the 'WikiProject Dentistry' Page. Using evidence-based dentistry principles, students research and draft an article to be reviewed by a dental professional before it is published.

### 6 Quality Assurance

Dental professionals act as quality assurers to ensure information on the article is appropriate, evidence-based and has reliable references.

## Results



WIKIPEDIA  
The Free Encyclopedia

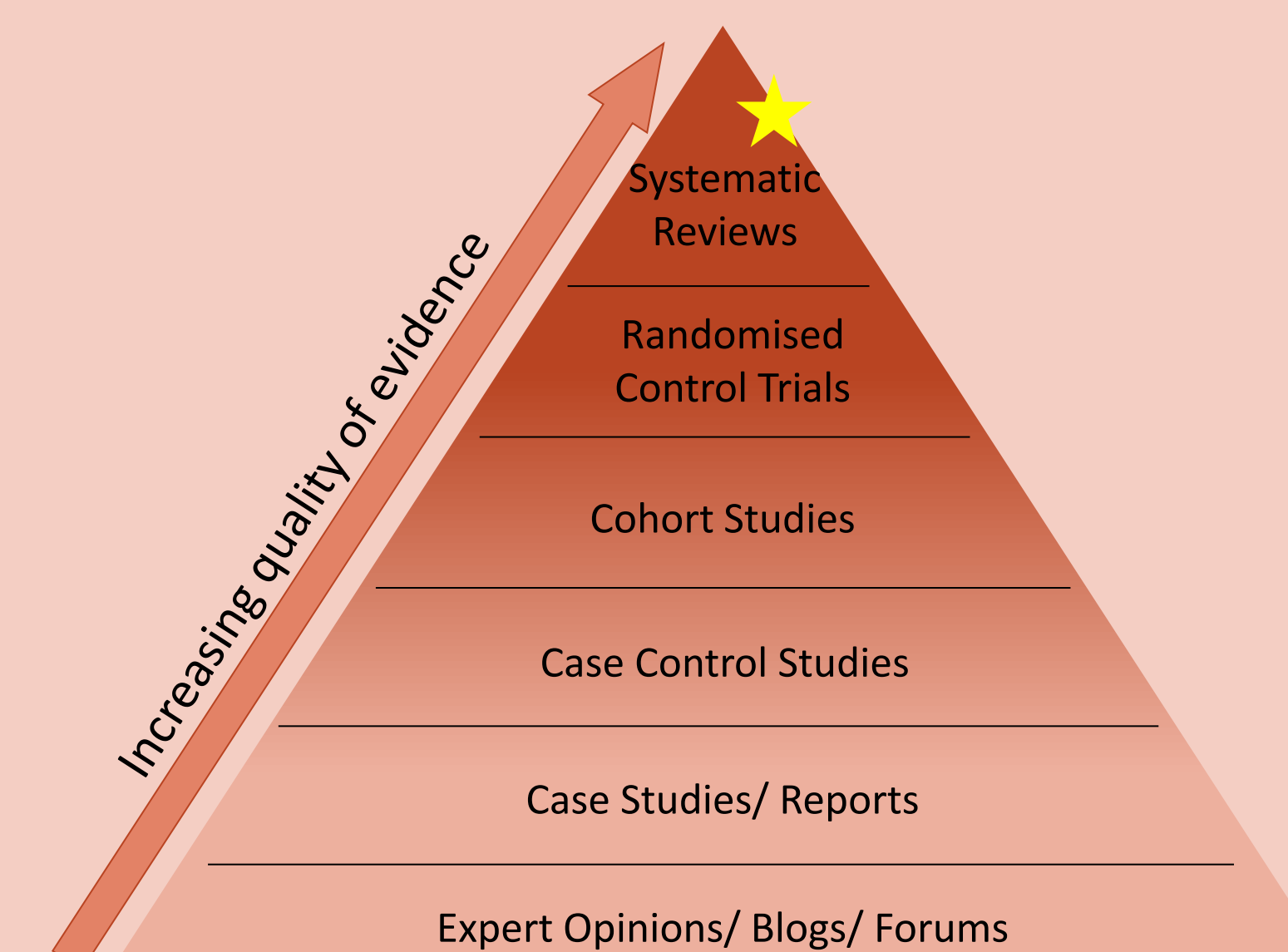
Since January 2024, 10 articles have been edited and have been viewed a total of 1.5 million times.

The initiative was relaunched in Malaysia this year, with students from Dundee hosting an online version of the Wikipedia Workshop for 68 students at IMU. In Dundee, student participation has more than doubled over the past year, with 28 students now participating. Together, the students are editing and preparing 17 articles for publication by 2025.

With the aim of strengthening global partnerships and expanding the project, 3 Dundee undergraduate students plan to travel to and host an in-person interactive Wikipedia workshop at IMU in June 2025.

Since the initiative began in 2017: [1]

- **385** students participated worldwide
- **424** articles edited
- **255** million article views
- **8** countries involved
- **34** articles created
- **6110** references added
- **105** pictures uploaded to Wiki commons



Systematic Reviews are the highest quality of evidence, and they are where students are taught to find their information for Wikipedia articles.

## Conclusions

WCODS is actively establishing a global community of passionate dental students and professionals who are dedicated to provide the public with evidence-based dental information at their fingertips, allowing autonomous decisions regarding dental health to be made confidently.

WCODS has made significant progress in reducing inequalities by improving access to dental information on a global scale. Participation spans three continents, facilitating the translation of articles into two languages, English and Arabic.

By empowering dental students to contribute to one of the world's most visited websites, WCODS has played a key role in enhancing oral health literacy through Wikipedia. This initiative ensures that accurate dental information is readily available and can be understood by people worldwide, while also contributing to the professional development of future dentists.



Image 1: WCODS students from the University of Dundee in Scotland in 2019. Image 2: Students from the International Medical University in Malaysia in 2019 at an introductory session.

## References

1. Wikipedia Outreach Dashboard, Campaign: Wikipedia Collaboration of Dental Schools [https://outreachdashboard.wmflabs.org/campaigns/wikipedia\\_collaboration\\_of\\_dental\\_schools\\_/overview](https://outreachdashboard.wmflabs.org/campaigns/wikipedia_collaboration_of_dental_schools_/overview) (Accessed 05/11/24)

## Acknowledgements

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