



## School of Oral Health Sciences receives funding from the Gauteng Department of Health

**Maditsi Matlala spoke to Prof Stephen Hendricks following receipt of funding from the Gauteng Department of Health which enabled the School of Oral Health Sciences to procure vital equipment.**

**Maditsi Matlala:** Congratulations for securing the grant that was spent on the Aerosol Generating Processing (AGP) Equipment and the X-Ray sensors. What is the significance of the equipment as far as training and healing of the patients are concerned?

**Prof Hendricks:** The significance is that the AGP will assist to extract aerosols which contain the Covid 19 viruses which are emitted when dental procedures are performed. In other words, it makes the environment safer for the patient, the student, the clinicians, the dental assistants and the cleaners.

**MM:** In which department will the equipment be utilised?

**Prof Hendricks:** The equipment will be utilized in all the departments which generate aerosol sprays during dental procedures including Operative Dentistry, Maxillo-Facial Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine and Periodontology and Prosthodontics.

**MM:** How much did the equipment cost?

**Prof Hendricks:** The equipment cost R2, 4 million.

**MM:** Is there any training that will be conducted before the equipment is put to use?

**Prof Hendricks:** Indeed, there will be training of the clinical staff on how to utilize the AGP Equipment so that the safety of the patients is upheld.

**MM:** The equipment would need some kind of maintenance. Who will do that?

**Prof Hendricks:** The company that supplied the equipment will provide guidelines on the training and also provide training. The clinicians will also do so.

**MM:** Will the equipment be made accessible to the students as part of their training?

**Prof Hendricks:** Indeed the AGP Equipment will be central in the 4 handed dentistry approach where high volume suction can be used so that students working with either buddy students or with dental assistants work as a team and so they are afforded the protection against the Covid 19 virus.