

Dental Hygienists Association of Australia Country Report 20 May 2019

Historical interest – achievements in the past

The Dental Hygienists Association of Australia (DHAA) is the peak body representing Australia's four and a half thousand Dental Hygienists, Dental Therapists, and OralHealth Therapists. The mission of the Association is to support the continuing development of the oral health professions and preventive models of care.

In 2014, DHAA undergone an organisational restructure from a federated, 8 state based system and successfully became a truly unified national entity. The national board is comprised of 8 elected directors representing each of the 8 states and territories, and a skill based appointed external director. Under the consecutive leadership of presidents Melanie Hayes and Cheryl Dey, the board has been able to develop a clear vision and strategic plan for the Association. The board is also supported by a local committee at each state and territory, as well as a number of special interest groups.

More recently, Mr Bill Suen commenced as the CEO to implement the board's strategic agenda and lead the small team of staff across Australia. Mr Suen is an experienced CEO with substantial skills and knowledge in health administration, governance, regulation, research and education, as well as business management through his past tenure with the Pharmaceutical Society, AHPRA, Monash University, and a range of commercial business in the health care area. His management and governance expertise is a perfect match to the DHAA board and management team in the pursuit of an effective association representing its members in oral health.

Current activities / anniversary celebrations / legislative changes etc

DHAA has undertaken a number of significant advocacy activities on behalf of the dental profession and our members.

Scope of Practice

Submissions and meetings were undertaken by DHAA to reflect the need and benefit of autonomy of oral health practitioners and their various roles and training in Australia. DHAA also advocates for the improvement of access to oral health practitioners by high risk groups. The Dental Board of Australia

Industrial Relations

DHAA through its industrial relations support services has made representations before the Australian Fair Work Commission to protect its members from being absorbed into a general health service award which is likely to lead to a significant reduction of wages and a gradual erosion of employment conditions and career progression. The issue is ongoing but DHAA has been working tirelessly not only with the Fair Work Commission, but also through building support and alliance with other health professional groups.

Public Oral Health

DHAA is well represented in a variety of boards and organisations advocating for better oral health. Some key collaborative initiatives include:

- Aged Care Alliance
- Sun Smiles
- Alliance for A Cavity-Free Future (ACFF)
- Rethink Sugary Drink Alliance
- Public Health Association Australia (PHAA)
- Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health (SARRAH)

The new Oral Health Promotion/Public Health Special Interest Group has formulated a mission statement:

To advocate, promote and create awareness for oral health as an important part of general health wellbeing.

To make oral health a shared responsibility for all (health) professionals and those outside of the dental profession.

To reduce inequalities in oral health in improving access to preventive oral health care.

Next National Conference

The next DHAA National conference is “**MELBOURNE: Laneways to better oral health**”

Our next national conference title, whilst alluding to the iconic Melbourne laneways – known nationally and internationally for their unique world class architecture, location, restaurants, bars and graffiti artwork – this double entendre will focus on the various directions oral health practitioners (dental hygienists and oral health therapists) can take their own professional development as well as referral pathways and treatment planning for their patients.

The program – both plenary and social - is well under development and aims to meet the needs and interests of all delegates – from students and new graduates to academics and experienced clinicians. The aim of the plenary program will be to follow various subject ‘laneways’. A panel of experts from each laneway, will present their views and recommendations relevant to a specific case study.

The Symposium will embody the heart and soul of Melbourne – supporting diversity, inclusivity, sustainability, and environmental consciousness - choosing green options where possible.

Association plans

On the Association’s immediate future agenda is a review of the name of the Association to reflect the evolving roles and clinical expertise of its members.

In line with the likely evolvement of the scope and autonomy of practice of its members, DHAA plans review the feasibility and impact of a government and/or health insurance ‘provider number’ for its members, both financially and clinically.

Overall, DHAA plans to strengthen its collaboration with other like-minded organisations to advocate for better oral health services and promotion across Australia.



IFDH Country Report – Canada The Canadian Dental Hygienists Association

CDHA exists so that its members are able to provide quality preventive and therapeutic oral health care as well as health promotion for the Canadian public. Serving the profession since 1963, the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA) is the collective national voice of 29,246 dental hygienists, directly representing more than 20,000 individual members. Dental hygienists in Canada are primary oral health care providers who work in a variety of settings, including dental offices, public health units, independent practice, long-term care facilities, hospitals, educational institutions, and dental industry, educating and empowering Canadians of all ages to embrace their oral health for better overall health. They are key partners in health promotion and disease prevention. Over the past 55 years, CDHA has relied on the strength, passion, and dedication of its members to move the profession forward through advocacy initiatives, public awareness campaigns, research, and education.

In accordance with the Policy Governance model, CDHA's board of directors articulates its vision for the association in the form of specific, measurable outcomes that are referred to as "ends." Board directors also endeavour to ensure that CDHA meets the needs and priorities of its members in an ethical and safe manner. CDHA's board has established five Ends or Goals to lead the association.

1. Public Policy Environment: Members play a key role in influencing the public environment to improve not only their ability to practice as primary health care providers, but also the overall health of Canadians.

CDHA staff met throughout the year with federal policy makers and elected officials to review priority initiatives, including access to care, cannabis use, health services funding and taxation, seniors' oral care, the sugar-carries link, and tobacco control. CDHA also prepared a prebudget submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance recommending the inclusion of oral care in residential and long-term care, the optimization of oral health human resources across the country, the enhancement of loan forgiveness programs for dental hygienists, and additional investments in oral health initiatives for Indigenous peoples.



CDHA Board of Directors and
The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health

CDHA also works to improve access to care through our contract with the government of Nunavut where we fly in dental hygienists to 17 remote northern communities to provide dental hygiene services.

Oral Health Practitioner Initiative:

In its ongoing efforts to improve access to care, CDHA worked with government officials, educators, indigenous groups, public health professionals, and international colleagues to develop an [innovative curriculum](#) capable of preparing multi-skilled oral health practitioners who can both prevent oral disease and alleviate unnecessary pain and suffering.

2. Professional Practice: Members have the resources to work as an integral part of a health care team.

CDHA's premier member benefits program includes professional liability insurance (for active members), health, LTD, home and auto insurance, the electronic Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties (CPS), free webinars, and a new member and family assistance program that provides free counselling and resources to support members in their professional and personal lives.

THE CANADIAN DENTAL HYGIENISTS ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES HYGIÉNISTES DENTAIRES

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Independent Practice: CDHA has developed an independent practice eLearning series: Growing Your Practice, Storefront Strategies and Mobile & Long-term Care Strategies. CDHA currently has over 1,300 members practising independent of dentists in Canada.

Healthy and Respectful Workplace: Members have the resources to ensure a healthy and respectful workplace: CDHA conducted a Healthy and Respectful Workplace survey of its members. In total, 3,780 members (22% of membership) completed the survey. In the past year, 35% of all respondents experienced some form of harassment / bullying / abuse / violence on an occasional, repeated or constant basis. 42% of respondents have experienced some form of harassment, bullying, abuse and/or violence over their career by their dentist; 36% by their office manager; 37% by their co-worker and 49% by their clients/patients. We will be developing tools and resources to support members to address this important issue.

Cannabis: With the recent legalization of cannabis in Canada, many dental hygienists have been asking about the impact of cannabis on the dental hygiene process of care. Cannabis use has many side effects that vary based on the person and potency. These can have implications for both oral health and dental hygiene treatment. CDHA developed a resource to support our members entitled [Impaired in the Chair?](#)

3. Public Recognition: The Canadian Public understands and values the dental hygiene profession.

Through media releases, print and television advertising, interviews, supplements, special events, social media connections, and its web presence, CDHA educates Canadians on the work of dental hygienists and the important links between oral and overall health. The association strives to ensure that dental hygienists are recognized by the public as partners in health promotion and disease prevention.

Dental Hygiene Image Bank: CDHA's new [dental hygiene image bank](#) offers a collection of high-quality images that accurately portray dental hygienists and reflect proper dental hygiene practice.

Dental Hygiene Superhero Competition: CDHA launched its [Dental Hygiene Superhero competition](#) to recognize dental hygienists who work hard, take pride in what they do, and make our communities better places in which to live, work, and play. Outstanding results included 855 submissions- the majority from the public!

Put Your Purple On: In celebration of National Dental Hygienists Week (NDHW) in Canada, CDHA has built an extensive annual public awareness campaign over the past five years, centred around the Put Your Purple On! theme (www.cdha.ca/putyourpurpleon). Our theme encourages members to show their professional #dhpurplepride.

CDHA's [national television advertising campaign](#) featured 30-second ads in English and French. [2nd tv ad.](#)

4. Professional Knowledge: Members create, contribute to, and utilize a growing body of professional knowledge and research:

From its flagship publications, the *Canadian Journal of Dental Hygiene* and *Oh Canada!* magazine, to its position statements, conferences, workshops, and webinars, CDHA offers a variety of opportunities for members to contribute to and learn from the latest in oral health research and education.

5. Leadership: Members potential for professional leadership is developed:

CDHA has student representatives in most schools in Canada. In addition, we host a biennial leadership summit. The next one will be in Whitehorse, Yukon on October 2, 2020.

Country Report – Denmark

Union growing stronger

In the last few of years the Danish Dental Hygienists have seen an increasing number of members joining the union. This is a very positive development, which shows that a common goal of gaining strength as an organisation and setting a goal to get more members has paid off.

In 2016 our union had around 1.600 members and that number had increased to 1.850 in January 2019.

The main focus in the strategy of recruitment of members has been on the students and dental hygienists who are preparing to shift from studying to starting their first real job. Emphasis has been put on creating a common culture of being 'proud to be a Dental Hygienist' among the students on the campus of the two universities in Denmark where you can study to become a dental hygienist. The interaction between the secretariat of the union and representatives among the students has led to a cooperation in arranging lectures for the students, raising awareness of the importance to be in a union and also gaining a pathway to better understanding the needs of the students while studying or preparing for their first job.

The increased number of members will give the union a far better bargaining position for the next negotiation on the collective agreement with the employers in early 2020. And it also creates a broader forum for discussion subjects concerning treatment methods, patient groups etc. among the members.

Upcoming elections

In the fall of 2019, the Danish Dental Hygienists will have elections in regard to the positions in the executive committee as well as in regard to become a representative at the congress in 2020. Elections will take place in the month of October and the executive committee and the assembly of representation will take office at the 1 December 2019.

Current members are considering running for re-election and new candidates are showing interest in running. An active group of members are an essential part of a union as the Danish Dental Hygienists. Without such active members the continuous work of the union when it comes to demanding better working conditions for the members, ensuring attractive jobs, developing the work area, putting focus on the needs of the patients etc. could not be carried out.

Courses and education

It is important to the Danish Dental Hygienists to keep members up to date on the latest news, research and developments within the profession. A growing demand in courses aimed directly at supporting members in the tasks that they are performing every day has led to new courses being planned and they will take place as early as in the fall of 2019 and many more to come in 2020. New rules from the public authorities concerning the required content of the patient's journal, a growing number of elderly citizens and people with chronic diseases etc. has led to an increase in the demand for new and more training courses for the dental hygienists.

In regards to the current three year education to become a dental hygienist with a bachelor degree we are also experiencing an increase in the number of members who want to know more about the possibilities to take a master's degree or equivalent level of education to broaden out their area of expertise and also open up new job opportunities. The aim of the Danish Dental Hygienist is to map the current possibilities of getting a master's degree and also try to clarify the possibilities of making a specific Dental Hygienist Master's Degree although that might take years to push through.

Increased focus on the elderly citizens

For some years now the Danish Dental Hygienists has focused on especially one group of citizens that many societies in the future will have to deal with – the increasing number of elderly citizens which often also have different chronic diseases.

The largest project carried out so far is one called "Project Progress – Elderly citizens and oral health problems". The project was carried out simultaneously in three Danish municipalities. Each project took its starting point in the concept and materials developed by the Danish Dental Hygienists. The material was designed in such a way that every person with a degree and title as Dental Hygienist will be able to carry out the project.

All projects took place at a nursing home where residents were invited to become part of the project. Those who accepted the invitation would initially be screened by a Dental Hygienist who would at the same time show, instruct and educate the caregivers in how to carry out the task of daily dental hygiene. Individual plans were made, and check ups were agreed upon and scheduled.

The results of the projects speak for themselves. Far better dental status among the citizens participating in the projects in general. Rapidly increased improvement in regard to the general health. Far less plaque and bacteria were detected when screening the citizens after just a few weeks.

The project is currently being spread out to many more municipalities in Denmark. The Danish Dental Hygienists is also keeping an increased focus on this particular group of citizens and talking to the relevant politicians to raise awareness on the importance of the work carried out by Dental Hygienists.

Country Report – Finland (FADH) 2019

Finnish Association of Dental Hygienists FADH has a new board that begun its two-year term on 1st of January 2018. Mari Heinonen was selected to continue as the president and Elina Mattila was selected as the new vice president. FADH has nominated Virve Jääskeläinen as the HoD member along with Mari Heinonen in the IFDH.

In April FADH organized its annual training days to dental hygienists. The training days had lectures about

- “Intoxication as part of a treatment plan” PhD, M.D. Johanna Uittamo from University of Helsinki
- “Periodontal connection to the general health” PhD Laura Tarkkila, University of Helsinki
- “Oral Infection load”, PhD Petri Hippi
- “How to interpret the patient’s medical list”, PhD, M.D. Lotta Grönholm from University of Helsinki
- “Psychodynamic vision of motivational difficulties”, psychotherapist Ville Merinen
- “Digitalization in oral health care”, Harri Hyvönen CEO of SoteDigi Oy

In October FADH is organizing a training day on a ferry from Turku to Stockholm, Sweden. All training days are open to members and non-members.

During the last three years (2016-2018) FADH has been actively taking part to the European Dental Hygienists Federations project “*Common Education Framework*”. The project has established a base for education of DH’s to the whole European area and it has been approved by the EDHF’s Annual meeting in Israel in 2018.

FADH has its own publication for members in total of four numbers a year. The magazine can be ordered to other parties as well. The content is mainly in scientific articles from the dental field as well as articles about FADH actions around Finland and also ads about dental supply companies.

FADH has a student council that coordinates events for students of dental hygiene in all four campuses in Helsinki, Kuopio, Oulu and Turku. They provide information about FADH and its mission and vision for the students as well as guidance about how to make a good job application or a contract of employment.

In November FADH is taking part in the Finnish Dental Congress and Exhibition (7th - 9th) as an exhibitor. At the exhibition FADH provides information about our profession as a dental hygienist and about our association. Focus is also in meeting our members and partners at the fare. In November FADH is also having its annual meeting in Helsinki.

FADH is (and has been) actively involved in the major planning on the change in Finnish health care and social systems. The vision is to make the social and health care system more effective and easier to access for the patients. The modification will require a number of changes to the Finnish Law and changes to the municipal and government organization in health- and social care. FADH is actively taking part of the planning to improve dental healthcare systems and taking care of its



members' working conditions and terms. FADH is most particularly making sure that dental hygienists should be more involved to the caries preventive care and periodontal diseases. FADH has been actively involved at the Ministry of Health's taskforce to establish the treatment access guidelines for dental care in Finland for the past two years.

FADH is attending to the IFDHs Meetings in Brisbane, Australia and the IFDH Symposium in August and FADH is hosting the EDHF's 20th annual meeting in Helsinki later in September.

More information (in Finnish) www.suuhygienistiliitto.fi.

18th of May, 2019

Mari Heinonen
President,
International Delegate of FADH

Virve Jääskeläinen
Member of the Board,
International Delegate of FADH

THE GERMAN DENTAL HYGIENIST ASSOCIATION

The German Dental Hygienist Association was founded in 1990 by seven foreign educated RDH's. It is an independent association with its own convention, its own journal and is the International representative for Germany, whereas the IFDH only accepted us under the condition, that all members have diplomas.

Our concern has always been to establish a degree course in Germany. Once we have the same level of higher education as other countries, we will finally be able to apply for a new job profile. The DIU (Dresden international University) is now planning to implement this clinic-based Bachelor's program "Dental Hygiene" (B.Sc.), which we, the RDH, had envisioned for over 40 years.

The first contacts with Dr. Ulrich Bremer (Managing Director) and Dr. Kornelia Möser (Head of Development Medicine and Health) the *Dresden International University* have so far taken place either in Dresden or Würzburg. All the aforementioned parties are committed to continue to meet to establish the Bachelor Program. The initiators of a full-time study program, Prof. Dr. med. dent. Ulrich Schlagenhauf, Head of the Department of Periodontology in the Polyclinic for Tooth Preservation and Periodontics at the Julius-Maximilians-Universitätsklinikum Würzburg and Beate Gatermann, RDH USA & CH, President of the German Dental Hygienists Association (DDHV) in Munich have been searching for ways to offer a more clinic-based education in Germany, than previously possible. Many previous attempts to establish a State Study program were unsuccessful. This led us to this private university, which is focused on careers like ours and thus represents a novelty in Germany. Scientific director in Dresden will be Prof. Dr. Dr. Thomas Hoffmann, former Director of the Polyclinic for Periodontics of the University Carl Gustav Carus at the TU Dresden and in Würzburg it will be Prof. Dr. Ulrich Schlagenhauf, Head of the Department of Periodontics in the Polyclinic for Dental Retention and Periodontics, University Dental Clinic Würzburg. Both professors, ex-presidents of the DGP / DGPARO (German Periodontal Association), indicated that they could connect their endless waiting list of patients as periodontics to expert dental hygiene education directly next to the university.

It is also the "second educational way" which runs nationwide in Germany which will be offered as a university entrance examination at the DIU is possible. Previously completed vocational training of three years with middle maturity, as well as a bachelor's degree for the so called "German Dental Hygienists" (they have no Diploma and no profession as such does not exist in Germany) will be considered according to their services provided so far. We, the DDHV that have worked to establish this level of schooling will "allow" graduates of the non recognized continuing educations programs to study and attend clinic to complete their degrees. We have succeeded in reconciling the diversity of career paths and study opportunities and are happy to finally have found dedicated people who understand our concern for "in the clinic- and not on the job patient training". The degree program was presented on April 6, 2019 at the last Convention of the DDHV in Dresden by the DIU and those in charge of the program.

Best Regards,
Beate Gatermann President DDHV
Carmen Lanoway IFDH/EDHF Delegat

Country Report Ireland 2016-2019

August – December 2016

August 2016- Switzerland -The IDHA won the bid to host the ISDH 2022 (originally 2021) September 2016- The EDHF was held in Lisbon and Jeannine Byrne Treasurer IDHA attended - she was also elected Secretary of the Federation 2016-17.

November 2016- The IDHA held their national conference in Radisson Blu, Little Island, Co Cork. It was a very successful meeting over 1.5days with workshops on the Friday and lectures on the Saturday. The AGM of the IDHA was held at this meeting. and president Louise Fleming was succeeded by Donna Paton. The IDHA/Kin Dental Hygienist of the year was announced at the conference.

The IDHA President Louise Fleming was invited to join the local organising committee of the BSDHT conference in Belfast, Northern Ireland as both organisations have a close working relationship it was the perfect opportunity work together.

A Spring and Winter journal were published. 2016 saw the development of a new look website www.idha.ie

The IDHA have a representative on the on Dental Council of Ireland auxiliary workers committee. There was continued work on extended duties for Dental Hygienists to include impression taking and tooth whitening. The Dental Act 1985 is under review and Independent Practice for Dental Hygienists has been put forward.

The appointment of new minister for health began a new round of requests from the IDHA to meet with the minister along with a request for updates on the new oral health strategy from the Chief Dental Officer Dr Dymphna Kavanagh. Letters were acknowledged but no date for a meeting was offered in 2016.

Dental Hygienists graduated from both Cork University Dental School and Hospital and Dublin Dental School and University, Trinity College, Dublin.

2017

2017 saw the IDHA celebrate 30 years since its formation. The annual conference in November marked the occasion in style with a packed speaker programme and a party for our delegates in the evening time. Music and food made for a memorable night!

The IDHA met with the Irish Dental Association to discuss reintroduction of the provision of a routine scale and polish to patients. The Irish Dental Council met with the IDHA and reported it will be at least 3 years before new Dental Act will be published. Also, for discussion the new dental act, three-year degree programme in the dental schools and extended duties. March saw the IDHA put on a free lecture programme on smoking cessation in the Dublin Dental Hospital for members. The IDHA committee developed a sub committee to work on the development of the document "Direct Access (Independent Practice) for Dental Hygienists in Ireland" July 2017IDHA was represented at the International Federation of Dental Hygienist's Social Responsibility Conference, Florence, 2017 by

Ms Catherine Waldron, RDH, MSc and Ms Sviatlana Anischuck, RDH.

They plan to develop and implement their programme between 2017-2019 before ISDH 2019.

A Spring and Autumn journal were published. Dental Hygienists graduated from both Cork University Dental School and Hospital and Dublin Dental School and University, Trinity College, Dublin. The IDHA attended and hosted a stand at the Irish Dental Association annual conference.

2018

January – An extraordinary meeting was held by the Association due to recent changes making DH's employees rather than self-employed. Issues over rates of pay and contracts were discussed. A presentation by an employment solicitor and lobbyist and as a result the IDHA produced for its members of "Recommended Terms and Conditions of Employment for Irish Dental Hygienists".

IDHA met with Chief Dental Officer Dymphna Kavanagh to discuss the development of the New Oral Health Policy and the role DH's can play in its implementation. Few details of the new policy have been released however the role of prevention and expansion of the scope of practice has been accepted as necessary. Continued pressure was applied to the Dental Council of Ireland who's auxiliary working committee passed to main dental council committee for approval for the expansion of DH's scope of practice to include the duties impression taking, suture removal and tooth whitening.

Europerio 9 in Amsterdam saw President Donna Paton and trade representative Sandra Joyce attend on behalf of the IDHA. A meeting with the board of IFDH took place to discuss Dublin 2022.

May 2018 saw the introduction of GDPR which has brought challenges for the IDHA with regards contacting lapsed members and sending updates to those who had not returned their consent. Work continued to develop a GDPR policy. The new Oral Health Policy was due for publication July 2018, but nothing was forthcoming at this time. Planning for the Annual Conference 'Changes Ahead' was well underway for November. Spring and Winter Journals were published.

Registrations for ISDH Brisbane were made and continuous work on the ISDH 2022 continued all year.

2019- to date April 2019 saw the long-awaited launch of the New Oral Health Policy 'Smile agus Slainte' (Smile and Health) President Donna Paton attended the launch along with other stakeholders. This proposes to change the current health care system of free dental care to those under 16 and those who qualify for the service because of a disability/ health condition. The Dental Hygienist is referred to within the policy as a key provider of preventive care and it has been acknowledged that direct access for the public in their choice of oral care provider is important. However, there are many areas we need to challenge and discuss with the Chief Dental Officer. A meeting has been arranged and a request to the committee on health in the government of Ireland has been sent to present our comments and feedback on the oral health policy.

Further plans and meetings to plan the ISDH 2022 are no doubt a focus for the ISDH subcommittee of the IDHA going ahead.



Israel's country report

The IDHA is forging ahead full force and utilizing its various committees and subcommittees to explore and develop numerous and varied projects. These include continued dissemination of information to the general public by posting relevant subject matter concerning oral health using social media. Naturally we encourage the public to seek further information by booking appointments with their dental hygienist. To that end, we are also working on an app that will, at first, decimate information amongst our member hygienists, and in the future can be used for the general public as well.

As there is no recognition of "occupational" related injuries, and therefore no benefits, we are now in the process of gathering scientific proof of such, in order to present our findings to the various relevant government bodies to ensure compensation.

June 2019, we held our association's annual conference. We had a record number of 650 attendees and enjoyed lectures along with a lively interactive social meeting, and of course good food. We had an impressive number of vendors. Some were first time participants – They assured us it will not be the last.

In September the IDHA is hosting a very important conference to deal with hygienists' legal rights, employment opportunities and benefits, pension funds, work conditions, professional insurance, occupational hazards, occupational medicine, and more.

We are also planning our upcoming two-day celebration of International Dental Hygiene Day coming up mid-November.

The association is involved in coordinating volunteer hygienists for various Social Responsibility projects which thus far included two health awareness days in Jerusalem and a Special Smiles Olympics project in Tel Aviv. Also, in the works is a program in battered women's shelters and among refugee children.

On October 2016 We were extremely pleased to join the EFDH as full members.

On Oct. 3rd, 2018, we were privileged to welcomed members of the EFDH to their annual meeting which took place in Jerusalem. We have had delegates from 17 European countries participate. The meetings were productive, and planned events a huge success! We were so honored and happy to hear the fabulous impression that was left by our guests.

May 2017, the international conference of Dental Public Health was held in Nazareth. The IDHA had two members sitting on the steering committee.

March 2019, The IDHA hygienists participated in the Jerusalem Marathon marking international woman's day. It gave us a great opportunity to show our profession highlighting promotion of oral health as part of the general health as well as making DH more public awareness. After the run we had a great brunch at a near by restaurant and were given lectures.



We continue to take an active role in making changes within the Ministry of Health to promote changes in improving the standards and conditions of the Dental Hygiene profession and the oral wellbeing of all.

We are very pleased to inform you all that through our great and relentless efforts the unjust law has been changed and there no longer exist "temporary licenses". All qualified hygienists receive their permanent license when they qualify.

In the course of the IDHA's last general meeting we reorganized the association's structure. We "hired" Sharon Friedman-Yaniv, our former chairperson to fill the position of CEO, and welcomed back former chairperson Yael Carlin to once again take up that position. Whereas in the past we held elections for board members, we are happy that beside the new additions to the board we also have two unofficial board members who will be actively helping us lead the association and profession to achieve our goals.

At the end of the summer vacation volunteers from the IDHA once again manned a booth at the Wilf Children's Hospital (Shaarei Tzedek) "Health Happening" in Jerusalem, where we had a chance to promote oral health and instruct thousands of children and their parents in good oral hygiene practices throughout the day.

We are looking forward to participating the ISDH in Brisbane Australia

And wish us all a prosperous meeting

Shalom from Israel



Country Report: AIDI's activity

More than 30 years have passed since the AIDI - Italian Dental Hygienist Association - was founded on February 18, 1981. We are therefore talking about a considerable period of time that allows us today to make a rather mature assessment of the path undertaken, both from a merely practical point of view, than from the ideal side, so that we can draw now an overall picture of considerable relevance.

The legal process that led to the full recognition of the DH figure in this thirty-year period has been complex and articulated, and throughout the whole process, AIDI has always promoted and been the lead of the various phases. A decisive step forward for the association came on 20 July 2013, when a decree of the Ministry of Health based on the requirements provided, accepted AIDI as a representative association of dental hygienists, thus recognizing its identity. Upon completion of the entire route, on 2 August 2017, pursuant to the relevant ministerial decree, AIDI is considered a full member of the Technical-Scientific Associations already accredited by the Ministry of Health.

From the beginning, among the objectives of the association there has been the regulation and definition of the figure of the DH, who gradually took on a definite profile and a very specific connotation, and it immediately became clear, that it was necessary to protect and promote the development of the profession, from the scientific point of view promoting and encouraging constant updating in order to bring the professional to ever higher qualitative levels. In the meantime, on the political level we tried to interact with the government and the institutions and contextually build and nurturing international relationships that have been of vital importance both from a communicative and an experiential point of view.

Very briefly, AIDI's "*mission*" has always been to develop the value of the profession, and consequently the mission of the dental hygienist based on the AIDI principles, is to take care of dental hygiene and the health of the oral cavity of the population, whose expressive cornerstones remain welded to the concepts of professionalism and competence: an articulated technical-value base, which at the same time represents the gateway to a much more complex and problematic universe that must also take into account the personnel lived of each patient.

In the first instance, the commitment of AIDI is concentrated on the disciplinary improvement and on the all-round development of the abilities of the DH and the achievement of this goal, for the association, means undertaking a daily battle without borders against the scourge of illegal professional.

The strategy pursued is to promote a qualified and continuous academic and vocational training, encouraging opportunities for confrontation and development in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the Regions, the Health Authorities, the bodies and public health institutions.



Associazione Igienisti Dentali Italiani

Given these assumptions, the "vision" of AIDI translates into that of a dental hygienist not only from high professionalism, but also from that of a caretaker of oral health and the overall well-being of the person.

On a practical level, to carry out a coherent scientific mission, AIDI has also established a Study Center with the aim of transforming the dental hygienist into the handler for the prevention and treatment of oral health. The aims of the Study Center are coherent and integrated with those of AIDI, that is, how to collaborate with other scientific societies; develop training courses with high quality standards; support the high professionalism of the Dental Hygienist; foster the multidisciplinary nature of the profession; contribute to the formulation of ministerial guidelines and verify their implementation in clinical practice. We are talking about an ambitious project that aims to create a medical-anthropological multitasking, from which today it is no longer possible to do without. The first concrete and active step of the Study Center has been the realization of the document "*Enhancing the Dental Hygienist Profession*", in which, through the mapping of the Management/Organization and Marketing/Communication areas, we tried to identify opportunities, criticalities and possible solutions to improve patient satisfaction levels and dental practices.

There are still many activities carried out by the association, among these is the professional update; Continuing Education in Medicine; professional protection through the establishment of a trade union (AIDI-PRO); insurance agreements; promotion activities on the territory on the figure of the DH; volunteer projects, and also collaboration with the universities in order to ensure that the degree courses meet the required necessary training requirements.

Among the recent achievements, a very important one was made possible thanks to the collaboration of all the associations of the different health professions with the institutions and that is obtaining of the professional order. In fact, the law 3/2018 established the Order TSRM PSTRP, to which 19 health professions belong, with the relative Registers including that of the Dental Hygienists. And it is precisely in the implementation of professional registers, that AIDI, as the most representative association of the professional profile of dental hygienists (with another representative Italian association), is providing an important technical-administrative support in the evaluation of the applicants enrollment qualifications, through its representatives designated for each region (RMRA - representing more representative associations).

This is probably one of the most important goals ever achieved, as the Orders and the relative national Federations are non-economic public system that act as subsidiary organs of the government in order to protect the public interests, guaranteed by the law, connected to the practice of the profession. They promote and ensure the independence, autonomy and responsibility of the health professions and professional practice, the technical-professional quality, the enhancement of the social function, the protection of human rights and the ethical principles of professional practice indicated in the code of ethics. They also verify the possession of professional qualifications and take care of the professional registers.



Associazione Igienisti Dentali Italiani

Every DH enrolled with the Register must demonstrate that they have carried out the necessary updates that in Europe are achieved through the obtaining of educational credits, in order to be able to exercise their profession. In order to facilitate professionals, AIDI offers all members, a sufficient numbers of free training credits in distance learning mode, to comply with training needs and thus ensure adequate preparation, an essential aspect of professional ethics, towards the patients. Instead with regards to residential training, AIDI guarantees really a wide offer thanks to a pyramidal work group that works harmoniously and synchronously. The apex is represented by the national board, composed of 9 members, plus 6 of the extended board. The AIDI Statute, provides that in addition to the national executive, each region has its own Regional Council, consisting of a minimum of 3 to a maximum of 7 members, AIDI hygienists elected by the members of the region every three years, and each Council is guided by its own President and operates in its own territory following the guidelines of the Executive and the National Assembly, maintaining its own decision-making and operational autonomy. A part from the executive, there are now 97 AIDI hygienists, including the presidents, who are part of the regional councils. A large group born from the need to cope with the exponential increase in activities at the regional level, considering that the hygienists enrolled in AIDI are about two thousand. The enthusiasm of the members towards the associative life, as well as the growing desire of an increasing number of colleagues to cooperate actively, has allowed the set up of a large joint team with a very strong motivation. From January to June 2019, throughout Italy, 60 events of high cultural level were organized, which allowed a great number of members to obtaining the training credits, and another 40 are expected by the end of the year.

Furthermore, AIDI promotes the constant involvement of young students, enrolled in the association, coming from the 27 degree courses in dental hygiene throughout Italy, through an ambitious project called UniversitAIDI Academy, which organizes various activities, from contests to prizes, to many vocational training courses, aimed at offering to our future colleagues an overview that allows them to make the most appropriate choices for their future. Students are also always involved in the international day of dental hygienist, which is celebrated every year, in October, in the major Italian squares.

There is so much going on until today, and there are so many achievements, and the great goal that AIDI is pursuing now is the inclusion of the figure of Dental Hygienists in the country's public health context.

Last but not least, AIDI has always worked to raise the figure of the DH through international comparison, thanks to membership with the International Federation of Dental Hygienists and the European Dental Hygienists Federation, both federations that through the exchange and sharing of resources have contributed and will contribute enormously to the growth and evolution of the profession of DH, in many ways, including political and socio-cultural.

Key activities of Korean Dental Hygienists Association

1. Newly appointed president and vice-presidents

The Korean Dental Hygienists Association held the 38th General Congress on March 9 to appoint the new executives to lead the association for their three-year office.



▲ Newly appointed presidents

The meeting was attended by 131 delegates, and Rim Chunhee ran for the presidency as the only candidate. In her manifesto, Rim pledged to focus on: 1. reflecting the actual practice of dental hygienists in law; 2. managing the association with the members; 3. regaining the public's trust in the association and dental hygienists. She also revealed her vision to recover members' trust by ensuring transparency in operations, listening to and communicating with members, and working with local chapters on equal terms rather than considering them as the association's subordinate affiliations.



▲ New President Rim Chunhee

In the election of the 18th executives, 96 of out 102 people, or 94%, voted for the group of candidates (Rim Chunhee as the president, Park Jeongran as the first vice-president, Lee Mikyeong as the second vice-president, Park Jeongi as the third vice-president, and Yoo Yeongsuk as the fourth vice-president) for the 18th executives of the Korean Dental Hygienists Association.

2. The 18th executive meeting

On April 7, the Korean Dental Hygienists Association held an executive meeting to catch up with the work of the newly appointed executives and discuss business plans. The meeting was attended by the new executives and staff of the secretariat, who presented and discussed key business plans in 2019 as defined and approved by committees and the general congress, including: members welfare; producing promotional materials; amendments to healthcare-related laws; improving the rights and interest of dental hygienists; developing policies; promoting the use of membership cards; publishing materials on dental hygienists work ethics; the 41st conference in celebration of the 42th anniversary of the association; preparing for pre-announcement of administrative measures against those not reporting their licenses; developing a website for the Dental Hygiene Continuing Education Center; establishing and incorporating the Korean Institute of Dental Hygiene Education and Evaluation; pursuing an Asia-Pacific council of dental hygienists; developing oral health education materials and characters; and introducing a KakaoTalk system.

3. International committee discusses 2024 HoD Meeting and ISDH

The international committee of the Korean Dental Hygienists Association made a report on the 2024 IFDH HoD Meeting and the ISDH hosted by Seoul and the progress to date and discussed further preparations. They also reviewed plans and schedules to attend the HoD Meeting and Symposium held in Brisbane, Australia this year.

Country report- LITHUANIA

Lithuanian Dental Hygienists Association was founded in 1999, several years after first dental hygienists graduated in Lithuania. The first years were dedicated to establish profession in Lithuania, to find a place in a dental team, to present our profession not just to patients but to the dentists as well.

Each year Association organises annual meeting. The President of Association is elected for 5 years. Last time election happened in 2016.

For last few years we can observe the rise of the number of new members in Association.

In 2016 we had active 37 members, in 2017 – 115 members, 2018- 192 members, 2019- 202 members.

In total there were 1209 registered dental hygienists in Lithuania in the end of 2018 according to the data provided by Lithuanian Dental Chamber. All dental professional have a duty to register in Lithuanian Dental Chamber and pay annual fee for the membership.

There are two kind of the Dental Hygiene Programs in Lithuania. One is in Medical University 4 years program, upon completing this program students get Bachelor degree and there are five 3 years programs at the Colleges of Applied Sciences. Each year graduate appr. 150 students.

Lithuanian Dental Hygienists Association is active also in communication with Lithuanian Ministry of Health. One member was included in working group for creating Lithuanian National Program of Oral Health 2016-2020. From the beginning of 2019 dental hygienists were finally included to the list of the primary health care workers and for the first time professional dental hygiene for children was reimbursed by National Health Insurance Agency. As well from July 1st this year some of the competencies were broaded. Finally again dental hygienist will be able to apply dental sealants without the referral from the dentist, also dental hygienists will be able to sign the form of child's oral health, which is obligatory for children in Lithuania each year to deliver to the school, previously it was done only by the dentists.

The relations with Lithuanian Dental Chamber are quite official, usually they do not support new competencies but tend to shorten the lists of procedures performed by dental hygienists in Lithuania.

It is getting easier to get some new dental hygienists involved in the Association because young professionals are quite active in social media, so it gives opportunity for Association to communicate more effeciently through social media.

Since 2017 each year Association creates two issues of e-journal to Lithuanian dental hygienists.

In 2017 Lithuanian Dental Hygienists Association joined EDHF and in 2019 joined IFDH.

Although number of dental hygienists is growing quite fast in Lithuania, it is obvious that to find a job is not easy. According to dental hygienists survey done by Rederiene (2018) , nearly 50 % of the dental hygienists work most of their time as dental assistants.

So one of the goals for the future is to strengthen the profession image in Lithuania, to show the benefits of dental hygienists working in the team, as well as to rise the quality of the knowledges of Lithuanian Dental Hygienists bringing more science into profession.

On May 10-11 2019 Lithuanian Dental Hygienists Association with supportive partner of Lithuanian Periodontology Association organized first Baltic Oral Hygiene Congress. The aim was to initiate communication both scientific and interpersonal between dental hygienists of neighboring countries, to share the experience and results of scientific researches.

We are very proud that first Baltic Oral Hygiene Congress was successful. Nearly 300 participants and lecturers from 16 countries. Lecturers from Sweden, Netherlands, Italy, UK, Belgium, Russia, Switzerland, Latvia and Lithuania were presenting topics for dental hygienists related to the main theme of the Congress " Lifestyle and Oral Health", there were 11 posters successfully submitted from Lithuania, Belorussia and Latvia.

Europerio9 Chair Michele Reners talked about the stress and periodontal disease, how it influences the periodontal tissue and oral hygiene habits, Prof. Wim Theugels focused on one of the options of additional periodontal therapy – oral probiotics, reviewed latests clinical trials on this topic. President of European Dental Hygienists Federation Yvonne Nyblom focused on the importance of the common education for all dental hygienists all over the Europe, also mentioned the situation of dental hygienists in Sweden. Russian colleagues Dr. Oles Shevchenko and hygienist Uliana Lenets presented their attitudes toward professional dental hygiene in Russia. Periodontologist from Switzerland Lithuanian origin Giedre Matulienė talked about the latest researches on implant care, managing of peri-mucositis and peri-implantitis. President of Lithuanian Periodontology Society Jurate Zekoniene was talking about the importance of non surgical periodontal therapy and showed this idea supporting clinical examples. Dr. Yvonne Buunk-Werkhoven was concentrated in her presentation of psychological aspects of behavior changes toward more effective oral hygiene habits. Independent lecturer and dental hygienist Stefano Checchi from Italy had presentation on effective communication and the presentation itself it was presented in very professional manner. Prof. David Gillam was very informative on the dentin hypersensitivity cases and also discussed about the choices of managing hypersensitivity using products with bioactive glass Biomin. Dr. Darja Kise from neighbor country Latvia presented new technologies in achieving better results in everyday oral hygiene.

Besides this during the breaks participants of the Congress we able to meet the industry and to know more about the new products or just to get samples of the products in the hall, where nearly 20 different companies presented oral hygiene products and instruments and devices for professional dental hygiene procedures.

Next annual conference is planned on November 9, 2019 in Vilnius. Because of the changes in competencies of dental hygienists, the topics of the conference will focus on new approaches of caries

detection, caries prevention, refresh the knowledges of dental sealants applications and cases of orthodontic abnormalities.

Country Report: Malta

Association - Malta Association of Dental Hygienists

Year association was established – 2014

Year Association joined IFDH – 2016

Number of Dental Hygiene Programmes: 1 three year (Level 6, 180ECTS) degree programme at the University of Malta

Masters programme available by research. Also Masters programmes are available in other areas such as Health Service Management.

Number of registered practitioners in the country: 28 dental hygienists

Association activities

Historic: Achievements in the past

2015- Scope of practice of Dental Hygienists in Malta revised and expanded to include Local Anaesthesia and fissure sealants.

2017 – MADH recognised as a professional association and listed in the fourth schedule of the Health Professions Act CAP 464 of the Laws of Malta.

2018- applied for recognition as a Voluntary Organisation

2018 – Scope of Practice of Dental Hygienists revised again

2019 –University of Malta aligned the curriculum of the Bachelor’s degree in dental hygiene with the Common Education Framework (CEF) approved by the European Dental Hygiene Federation – MADH coordinated and lead this.

Current activities

- MADH is currently working to harmonise the skills, knowledge and competencies of newly graduated dental hygienists (following CEF), Registered Dental hygienists who have graduated quite a few years ago and who need top up CPD training in certain areas with the Common education Framework.
- MADH also continuously organises training and seminars to ensure the its members are updated with the latest evidence.
- MADH forms part of the task force working to revise the Health Professions Act CAP 464 of the Laws of Malta especially the chapter which concerns the legalities of registering individuals within the various registers falling under the remit of the Council for the Professions CoOmplementary to Medicine

Future plans

Extend public awareness of the role of the dental hygienist.

Continue working to expand the scope of practice of dental hygienists.

Involve ourselves as an association in research initiatives

Organise and participate in more outreach activities and programmes aimed at the public.

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DENTAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATION OF NEPAL (DHAN)

Introduction:

Dental Hygiene Association of Nepal(DHAN), a non-profitable organization established at 2009 , has key objective of uniting dental hygienist in order to provide oral health care to poor and underprivileged group of Nepal and to aware them about different life threaten disease caused due to poor oral health.

Aims:-

1. To promote oral and general health awareness among people of Nepal irrespective of urban and rural areas.
2. To generate awareness about life threaten condition caused by oral disease.
3. To uplift current status of dental hygienist in country

OBJECTIVES:

1. Encourage widespread understanding and knowledge about oral health and importance of balanced diet for oral health.
2. Promote importance of nutritious diet for healthy living.
3. Conduct Oral Health camps at various rural part of Nepal.
4. Represent the interest of members of the association and maintain their ethic values.

Activities Narrative:

DHAN in collaboration with its supporters has organized different free oral health camp at the school and community level including the distribution of tooth brush and medicaments.

Along with it has also conducted various trainings focusing FCHV and local community social workers.

Supporters:

1. Kantipur dental college teaching hospital and research center
2. Kantipur School of dentistry.
3. BM Foundation.

Till date DHAN has been successfully conducting Free camps at various rural areas providing awareness and certain treatments (Like: ART, Oral Health Education) at camp site.

2019 Recent Areas DHAN has reached through camps:

1. Tawal, gangajamuna-2, Dhading.
2. Nashong Gaupalika, Manang.
3. Madhulia, tillotama municipality-17.

Current Scenario:

we have ten colleges offering certificate in Dental Science course in Nepal among them five are in Kathmandu valley.

Per year around 400 students graduate as a dental hygienist, 1000 plus Dental Hygienist Registered at Nepal Health Professional Council (NHPC).

In collaboration with Kantipur dental college and teaching hospital and research center and Kantipur school of dentistry, we are building Dhan and would like to become the platform for all dental hygienists in Nepal and we stand for a professional approach to preventive oral care. As such we would like to build a positive relationship with other oral/dental care professionals and we expect our members to respect and practice according to the Code of Ethics.

COUNTRY REPORT OF NEPAL DENTAL HYGIENIST ASSOCIATION



Submitted To:

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF DENTAL HYGIENIST

Submitted By:

NEPAL DENTAL HYGIENIST ASSOCAITION

Background:

Nepal is a small landlocked South Asian country of 140,800 square kilometers located between China and Himalayan ranges in the north, and India and the plains of the river Ganges in the south. The country contains 8 of the world's 10 highest peaks with 85 percent of the country being mountainous.

Total population (2016)	28,983,000
Gross national income per capita (PPP international \$, 2013)	2,260
Life expectancy at birth m/f (years, 2016)	69/72
Probability of dying under five (per 1 000 live births, 2017)	34
Probability of dying between 15 and 60 years m/f (per 1 000 population, 2016)	171/131
Total expenditure on health per capita (Intl \$, 2014)	137
Total expenditure on health as % of GDP (2014)	5.8

The World Health Organization (WHO) has defined oral health as “A standard of the oral and related issues which enables an individual to eat, speak and socialize without active diseases, discomfort or embarrassment and which contributes to general well-being”.

Oral hygiene is the practice of keeping the mouth and teeth clean to prevent oral problems and oral malodor. A preventive prophylaxis is the removal of dental plaque and debris from the teeth to prevent dental decay, periodontitis, and other oral diseases. Severe periodontal disease causes at least one third of adult tooth loss. Tooth decay is the most common global disease affecting many individuals and families.

According to oral health facts (WHO), the most common oral diseases are dental decay and periodontal (gum) disease. Worldwide, 60-90% of school children have dental cavities. Similarly, severe periodontal (gum) disease, which may result in tooth loss, is found in 5-20% of middle-aged adults, and the rate varies across geographical regions. The incidence of oral cancer ranges from 1 to 10 cases per 1,000,000 populations in most countries.

According to the Nepal national pathfinder survey 2004, it was found that the prevalence of dental decay is low in adolescents who are studying in school (i.e., 25.6% for 12- to 13-year-olds and 25.6% for 15- to 16-year-olds). The probable reason for this is the use of fluoridated toothpaste. However, periodontal problems (especially gingivitis and calculus) in adolescence is high (i.e., 62.8% for 12 to 13 years and 61% for 15 to 16 years). Nepalese are also not beyond oral health problems.

It shows that Nepal has a high incidence of problems in the area of dental health. There are different divisions working under the Department of Health Services, but not the Oral Health Division. The second long term health plan (1999-2017) has put oral health into essential health care services and oral health for the first time into a primary health care approach. Although the oral health policies and strategies are established, the limited fund resources and manpower are a constraint to implementation.

Oral health is a worldwide unrealized problem and is most common in developing countries. Poor oral health and untreated oral diseases and conditions can have a significant impact on quality of life. In developing countries like Nepal, oral diseases are the most common problems due to lack of education and poverty. The most common dental problem of the Nepalese is dental decay and periodontal diseases.

By maintaining good oral hygiene practices, various dental problems can be kept under control and uplift the health status of the Nepalese people. For this, oral health education and awareness plays an important role, especially for the school children of private as well as government programs. Thus, such education is essential for behavior change, improving health and quality of life.

Discussion of findings:

Nepal Dental Hygienist Association is established in 25th September 2006 with 15 dental hygienist team members. From the above findings NDHA continuously focus on community people and school children who are far from to use tooth paste and tooth brush.

NDHA set objective to serve school children and community people about

- Focus on school health program like Oral Health Instruction
- Brushing technique
- Preventive program like fluoride application, dental caries prevention and other mechanism to reduce dental caries and periodontal disease
- NDHA collaborate with international dental hygienist for school health and community health program.
- Finally NDHA published **Healthy smile** monthly magazine which ultimate goal is to reduce dental decay and other oral problem in our Nation .

Conclusion and Recommendation:

Nepal Dental Hygienist Association was dream about to be the Member of mother dental hygienist federation (IFDH) to continuous support and recommendation to NDHA about oral health and dental hygiene practice in developing countries like Nepal.

In these least developed countries we faced many problems about oral health because government is also neglecting on oral health and other international agencies also not so much focusing on oral health on basis of research and findings.

Nepal Dental Hygienist Association wants to do some social work as like dental camp or any research activities with IFDH because NDHA also focusing on **cavity free dentistry** and other dental hygiene problem.

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New Zealand IFDH report

Compiled by Mary Mowbray RDH NZ Delegate

The New Zealand Dental Hygienist Association (NZDHA) has been associated with IFDH since 1998 when we were accepted to become members of the House of Delegates. We are proud to say many delegates have been proactive as chairs of some of the HOD committees. We welcome Rachel Smith as the second NZDHA delegate.

One of our delegates continued to represent NZ and was appointed President of IFDH, Robyn Watson.

Our NZDHA is still growing in strength both financially and with membership numbers increasing by around 100 in the last 3 years. Our executives have been proactive in targeting new graduates by showing them the benefits offered by our association and encouraging new graduates to attend their branch meetings and conferences, giving them the opportunity to meet likeminded oral health professionals and gain continuing professional development.

Our conferences develop and expands yearly, strength by strength, giving delegates the opportunity to listen and gain knowledge from local and international speakers.

We have a very strong relationship with the NZ dental industry, who put on an excellent trade show, offering their products and latest creations that we can discuss with our patients.

At our 2017 conference, the then combining the two association NZDHA and NZDOHTA followed up by visiting all 10 professional to discuss the financial, legal



president, Paula Palmer instigated the idea of and NZDOHTA. The presidents of NZDOHTA branches, to present, to all oral health and logistics of combining the associations.

The NZDHA and NZDOHTA presidents, Anna Holyoake and Arish Naresh are planning to launch a new association in 2021. The name of this association is being discussed at present. The executives have come up with - New Zealand Oral Health Association (NZOHA), which will be voted on in the future

Combining these associations, of course will reduce duplication of many things, including administration costs, time commitments, costs of running an association and especially the sponsorship dollar.

As mentioned in the proposal, this will also reduce confusion regarding which organisation an emerging professional with a Bachelor's degree in Oral Health should join.

Creating a stronger voice as a united professional body for lobbying.

Creating stronger links with the Ministry of Health strategies for integrated service delivery.

The proposed executive council will consist of the overarching decision-making body with the next level of advisory group from each sector so that all oral professions will be covered. A three-year term will be instigated, improving on the 2-year current term.

Both executives are including all members with regular information and asking for feedback as plans for this joint venture move forward.

Once this amalgamation occurs it is estimated that membership numbers could be over the 1000 mark.

Already, combining association conferences has happened since 2017, with forward thinking presidents, and the growth in attendees has steadily increase. This format is now set in concrete.

The Membership

As New Zealand has two universities both offering BOH courses, we, as an association encourage both professionals to join. At present we do not know the ratio as members are not asked their profession when registering, however this will be discussed at our next Executive meeting so that we can start seeing the demographics of dental hygienists / oral health therapist ratio.

With three classifications of careers in New Zealand - DH, DT, BOH professionals, they have the decision of which association they can join. Unfortunately, there is a cost associated to each association, which can be a hurdle for new graduates. However, some dental professionals do opt to join both associations.

New Zealand Roadshow

As some of our dental professional, planned and organised the 2019 New Zealand Roadshows but also taking CPD to the



live in remote areas, the current Executive have Zealand Roadshow visiting not only the main regions to provide 3 – 4 hours CPD.

Branches of the NZDHA

The branches of the NZDHA are scattered around NZ. Some are large and some are very small, but all are encouraged to organise meetings through out the year, offering local speakers to share their knowledge. We are fortunate to have many industry companies, sponsor with the cost of venues and food. This gives oral health professionals an opportunity to forge relationships with their colleges and with the trade industry personnel.

Dental Hygienist of the Year award

In 2016 the Dental Hygienist of the Year award was launched and has continued every year.



This has now grown to having an award for DH, DT and BOH and at the last two conferences a Supreme award has been awarded for Excellent in their profession. This year the supreme award was awarded to Dr Susan Moffatt DT.



Social Responsibility Conference

Dr Sharmyn Turner attended the Social Responsibility Conference in Florence, Italy presenting her master's thesis "Communication, The Smart Way", to improve & support Oral Health amongst young adult in New Zealand by digital communications.

Sharmyn has now finished her master's and it is a proud moment that we have our first masters graduate, and, with this in mind, the Menemene (Maori translation for smile)– smiles for life oral health social responsibility project was launched in July at the 2018 Oral health conference 2018.



There have been breakout sessions at some conferences, on how to launch a programme in our country. Volunteers have been called upon. Volunteer clinics have been requested to be used to educate and treat young adults in oral health. A pilot scheme has been discussed.

There are currently 50+ interested practitioners who will dedicate at least one hour per month for the next 12 months to treating a patient in the 18-25 age group. This is a neglected group in New Zealand as they move from the School Dental Service into higher education and early employment makes dental care a low priority for this target population. practitioners and practices offering complimentary oral hygiene appointments once per month 12 months, with evaluation and feedback for research and results. The programme is generously sponsored by in kind donations of dental care kits for the patients by Colgate and 3M, and a grant from the IFDH.

Both Universities are encouraging graduates to continue their studies to future their profession to masters and PhDs. This is creating pathways for dental professionals to higher levels of education. We are proud to say there are a number of DH, DT and BOH who have taken up the challenge.



Norwegian Dental Hygienist Association, NTpF

A summary of key activities in the association:

Members 31st of December 2018: 963

Oslo, June 2019

Last year the Norwegian association celebrated its 50 years anniversary. The celebration was marked in combination with the annual conference in May 2018 together with members, guests and partners in beautiful surroundings in the capital, Oslo. Totally about 400 participated including 30 exhibitors.

Yearly about 80 DH are examined with a bachelor in dental hygiene at four universities.

There are 5 DH with an PhD in Norway.

In the month of May in different parts of Norway, the national congress is arranged. About 250-300 DH take part together with guests and exhibitors. The association makes program based on areas that the professional responsible consider adequate for the DH in private practice or in government clinics included political guidelines presented by a politician or representative from the administration.

NTpF regularly meet politicians in the Parliament, have dialogues with the Dental association and the universities. Other collaborate partners are the diabetes association, the pensioner association and other health care professionals. The association makes answers to quit a few different political documents.

As the public dental health services are managed at county level, the association strengthen the works for DH in each community. The parliament has emphasised the importance of the task. The project with DH in hospital has been a success. The association follows up this work. These examples illustrate the possibility to expand areas for the profession.

Yearly the association is present at "Arendals"-week which is an annual national arena where actors within politics, society and business meet for debates and dialogues.

In increasing the membership number, a group that pays extra attention to our members in private practice, is established. The association also meets the students, yearly and makes brochures and information about the profession. The association has two employees who take care of the daily operations and has responsibility for preparing the congress and the journal that is six annual editions.

Tilsluttet Delta – en arbeidstakerorganisasjon i YS

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www.tannpleier.no

The association provide a scholarship for members that takes further education. In Norway there is establish a continuing education for the DH to a master degree to enforce the possibility to a PhD.

NTpF is a part of EDHF and have been a part of activities regarding strengthen the DH profession in Europe by developing a common education framework.

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Country Report – PORTUGAL

IFDH Member –

Associação Portuguesa de Higienistas Oraís
(APHO)

Portuguese Dental Hygienists Association

In Portugal there are about 750 dental hygienists. There are two schools within the higher education system conferring a bachelor's degree. All dental hygienists working have at least a bachelor's degree, around 10% have a master's degree and 2% a PhD degree. The majority of the hygienists are working in private practice and around 20% work in the National Health Service.

The Portuguese Dental Hygienists Association is the only association representing DH. From about 500 members only around 100 are effective members. That is because the membership is not compulsory. To be eligible to work DH have to be registered in the Ministry of Health.

Efforts have been made to attract new members while they are still students and arranging benefits to those who are already members, but not paying their fees. This is a matter that the association is struggling for many years now. Partnerships with insurance companies, banks, travel agencies, are examples of such efforts.

One of the major aims of the association is the continuous education and professional development of its members.

Each year, there are two major National meetings:

The National Congress, held in April every year, counts with around 250 attendees, several well-known national and international speakers, national and international, and brings the upmost scientific research and evidence-based knowledge, as well as the industry novelties.

The Annual Reunion, organized with the biggest Portuguese scientific society in Dental Medicine, aims to deepen knowledge around one major subject, in a course format. Around 100 hygienists participate yearly on this event.

Besides these two major events, there are workshops, end of the day courses, around different subjects. Those are free of charge for effective members of the Association.

Associação Portuguesa de Higienistas Oraís

Avenida Rainha D^a Amélia, n^o 36, R/C Dto, 1600-749 Lisboa, Portugal

www.apho.pt

geral@apho.pt

All these events empower dental hygienists to become more active and partners in the general and oral health teams for a more collaborative practice.

Partnerships with companies and industries are established and the association collaborates actively in National campaigns, live webinars and scientific meetings. These are a win-win partnership and a way to gather sponsorships, that allow financial support to the association.

Dissemination and communication are assured by the institutional site, Facebook and Instagram.

Another major aim of the association is to protect and represent members. The association had been involved in the reformulation of the National Health Service, the National Oral Health Program, the definition of professional profile and in the recognition of qualifications of foreign hygienists, all at the Ministry of Health.

For many years now, the association is part of the allied health professional's movement for self- regulation.

At European level the association is an active member of the European Federation of Dental Hygienists (EDHF) and collaborated for the definition of the professional profile of the European Dental Hygienist and the Common Training Framework.

The association is represented in a variety of events with the major focus of projecting the image of the profession. These include health and dental organizations, organizations of patients and general public.

Despite all board members are volunteers, the entrepreneur spirit is present, the association has been growing steadily in the last years, and the recognition of the profession is a reality.

COUNTRY REPORT

Association of dental hygienist in the Slovak republic ADHS

Date 17h June 2019, Slovakia

ADHS Activities for 2019:

- Days of Dental Hygiene 2019 Yearly 3 day conference organized by ADHS took place from 7th - 9th June. International speakers were from Poland and Czech republic. In general about 120 dental hygienist from Slovakia visited this conference.
- Regular visits to nursing homes, and promoting social responsibility programs.

Visit our website for photo gallery : <https://adhs.sk/fotogaleria/>

- Educational project for former workers at Volkswagen Slovakia (one of the biggest companies in Slovakia, employing about 10.000 workers) This project was called: "Week of Oral health"
- ADHS collaborating with Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education on new University, estimated start date should be September 2010
- We launched a new website www.adhs.sk

Natalia Drgova

Vice President of ADHS

Contact details : natdrgova@gmail.com / vybor@adhs.sk

Tel.: 00421 903 944 586



Oral Hygienists' Association of South Africa

Suid-Afrikaanse Vereniging van Mondhigiëniste

VAT Number 4070262862

Oral Hygienists' Association of South Africa

Historical interests:

The Oral Hygienists Association of South Africa (OHASA) was established in 1978 to represent, protect and promote the interests of its members and the Oral Hygiene Profession in South Africa.

OHASA was registered with the South African Medical and Dental Council in April 1979. It was subsequently recognised by the International Liaison Committee on Dental Hygiene as a duly Constituted Group representing the interests of Oral Hygienists in South Africa in 1983.

With the assistance and support from OHASA a Professional Board for Oral Hygiene was established in October 1980 under the powers vested in the Minister of Health, Welfare and Pensions, Dr L A P A Munnik.

OHASA was recognised internationally (IFDH) in 1983.

Mission – OHASA promotes quality oral health care by representing, protecting and advancing the profession in partnership with stakeholders.

Vision – OHASA aims to be a dedicated, dynamic & professional association representing oral hygienists as invaluable members of the health profession team.

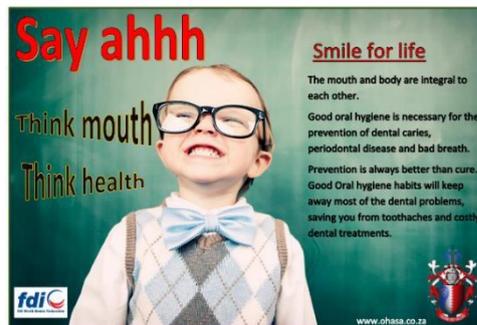
Current activities / anniversary celebrations / legislative changes:

A newly elected EXCO committee was elected for 2018 – 2020.

In 2018 it was OHASA's 40th anniversary, we celebrated it in October at the Radisson Blu hotel in Cape Town.

Maggie Naidoo, OHASA member and Oral Hygienist, recently received her Ph.D.

Oral health month initiative September 2018



We designed 6 posters and mailed the posters and certificates to practices for display. OHASA advertised on a billboard in Centurion for the whole month of September. We had 2 radio interviews with myself on Impact Radio, 103fm, promoting Oral Health Month. Dates: Friday 7th September @ 08H05 & Friday 28th September at 08H05.

The OHASA Journal (4 x Journals), the official mouthpiece of the Association, a communication tool on everyday oral hygiene and a forum for

publishing clinical and scientific articles other useful publications for the oral hygiene profession and the public. It is available online, on the OHASA website.

<https://www.ohasa.co.za/>



The Expanded Functions Course 25-29 March 2019 - The University of the Western Cape (UWC) invites Oral Hygienists for a Course in the Expanded Scope of Practice which includes procedures such as sealant restorations (PRR), periodontal splinting, tooth whitening techniques and procedures, fabrication of vacuum formed mouth guards and the Oral Hygiene Process of Care. The Regulations defining the Scope of Practice as Gazetted is entitled: *Regulations defining the scope of Oral Hygiene-GG 40996/2017* and is available on the HPCSA website (click on the link).

In April the 2013 Expanded Functions was offered at Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU).

Our next AGM will be held in Gauteng in October, where all the branches come together and meet. We have four branches. KwaZulu Natal, Western Cape, Gauteng and Eastern Cape. All branches have their own 2 – 3 seminars that they host annually.

Association plans – in the next few years

We would like to make the South African public more aware of the Oral Hygienist's role in their oral and general health.

Encourage and participate in inter-professional collaboration for better patient outcomes.

We want to encourage our members to participate in more research activities and writing up of articles.

Continuously meet and discuss the future of our profession with the respective universities and other stakeholders.

We would like to grow our association's membership even more and encourage our colleagues to practice as Oral Hygienists in Independent Private Practice.

Directors: Angelique Kearney (President) Stella Lamprecht (Immediate Past President) Gail Smith (Vice-President) Anri Bernardo (Secretariat) Suné Herman (Treasurer) Elaine Johnson Marie Ferreira (Additional Members)

P O Box 830 Newlands Pretoria 0049 website: www.ohasa.co.za

Email: ohasanational@gmail.com mobile: 0824549987

[Incorporated Association not for gain](#)



2019 05 20

Country report: Swedish Dental Hygienists Association (STHF)

Established 1969 – 50 years anniversary this year.

IFDH member since 1986 (1973 member of International Liaison Committee, ILC)

Total members March 2019: 3580

Active, full paying members: 2643

Independent practitioners: 177

Student members, passive and retired members

Unemployed: 29

DH-programs: 6 - examine 170/year, 180 Ect, Bachelor degree.

Dental Hygienists with PhD: 38, 3 Professors and 4 associated professors

Swedish Dental Hygienist Association, STHF –

Organization:

7 board members, 24 local chapters

Councils: Scientific, Ethical, Marketing, Journal, Leadership

DH- Network – Hospital employed, Community Oral health, Leadership, Independent practitioners, Elderly care, Research educated, Clinical teachers

Congress: 2017 (every three years - next 2020)

Annual conference: TandhygienistDagarna (Dental Hygienist Days)

Operation conference: 2018 (every three years)

Participation in external fairs: Approx. 6 every year

Scholarships: The Swedish DH Association member scholarship in memory of professor Sture Nyman. The Swedish DH Association & TePe Nordic student-scholarships (one at each DH program). The Swedish DH Association & Professor Kerstin Öhrn's scholarship for excellent thesis (first time 2019, The scholarship is planned to be presented every three years)

Journal: TandhygienistTidningen, 6 issues/year

Communication with members and public: Website, www.tandhygienistforening.se, Facebook, Instagram, responsive website for pads and smartphones, members newsletter.

International collaboration – IFDH and EDHF,

International Directors: Birgitta Jönsson, STHF board member,

birgitta.jonsson@tandhygienistforening.se

Yvonne Nyblom, STHF president, yvonne.nyblom@tandhygienistforening.se

Association activates

- STHF has issued an opinion on 25 referrals from agencies and government.
- STHF has had representation in approximately 50 working groups, studies, boards, hearings, workshops, investigations and conferences with the government, agencies, boards, and employers, both national and international.
- STHF regularly meet with people from the national authorities, the dental community, educators, researchers, employers.
- Interprofessional collaboration with other health care professionals
- STHF have arranged member activities and courses such as network meetings, student activities, symposium at the annual Dental faire and courses regarding union activities, negotiation technique, treasure duties and leadership, starting a business of your own.
- STHF have performed a number of members recruiting activities at the universities with DH-programmes, labour market activities, local chapters and student fairs.
- STHF arrange the Oral Health Day in September together with the Dentists and the Dental assistant associations.
- STHF have participated in the European Dental Hygienist Federation, EDHF, activities regarding strengthen the DH profession in Europe by developing a Common Education Framework and lobbying activities towards stakeholders in EU-commissions and Oral health professionals organizations.
- STHF have participated in EDHFs involvement in two Erasmus+ projects: Com4you and EuHyDens. Both now finished.
- STHF participates in several working groups developing a new oral health care insurance system, specially seeking to strengthen equality.
- The competence supply for a lot of the health professional is a huge problem in Sweden. There is a significant lack of dental hygienists in relation to the demands from employers, this require a lot of negotiations.
- A new education description for Dental hygienist examination is implemented.

STHF key activity:

- The project to develop systematic continuing education leading to formal specialisation in certain areas within the dental hygienist profession is now going in to a final phase.

Submitted by Yvonne Nyblom, president STHF



Questions concerning the content of the country report can be mailed to:
yvonne.nyblom@tandhygienistforening.se



**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF DENTAL HYGIENISTS**

NAME OF ASSOCIATION:

Swiss Dental Hygienists

NUMBER OF MEMBERS:

2141

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS/TRAINING INSTITUTIONS:

4 Schools/Training Institutions for Dental Hygiene in Zurich (2), Bern and Geneva.
About 80 graduated Dental Hygienists per year.

SIGNIFICANT ASSOCIATION ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2016-2019

- Successful realization of ISDH 2016 in Basel with 1700 participants from 43 countries, 67 exhibitors and 81 posters.
- 2017 conjoint symposium with the Swiss Association of Periodontology.
- 2018 conjoint symposium with Swiss Association of Implantology.
- 2017 & 2018 annual congresses with 1000 participants and a successful exhibition.
- Three times participating at the medical congress in Crans Montana with 4500 medicals each year.
- Several PR activities with sponsoring partners.
- Several interviews on radio and in newspaper about different objects in dental hygiene.
- Development of new quality standards for members of Swiss Dental Hygienists.
- Successful recertification with the NPO Label for Management Excellence (over 95 %) for our quality and management system
- Regularly continuing education courses for our members.
- Successful symposium for independent dental hygienists every year.
- Networking with different associations within health care.
- Education for nurses in oral hygiene, with adapted training manuals.
- A closely collaboration with the Swiss Association of Nurses (SBK) for a better oral health for elderly people.
- Termination and launch the post graduate studies in geronto-Dental Hygiene.
- Collaboration with Kalaidos for a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene.
- Support the campaign of protecting children and youths for tobacco advertisement.

PLANNING ACTIVITIES FOR 2019-2022

- Establish political influences.
- Networking with multidisciplinary partners.
- Revise of the continuing education concept.
- Several PR activities with our sponsors and partners.
- Education for nurses in oral hygiene for elderly.
- Organization of the annual congress.

LINK TO WEBSITE

www.dentalhygienists.swiss

REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

Jacqueline Boss and Cornelia Jäggi, Delegate

Emirates Dental Hygienists Club

Year Association Established - 2015

Year Association joined IFDH – 2016

There is no hygiene program in UAE

Diploma (2 years) -

Degree (3 to 4 years) -

Masters –

PhD –

Number of Registered Practitioners in the country -

Dental Hygienists -

Dental Therapists -

Dual Trained – Estimate number 200

Association activity

Historical interest – achievements in the past

My smile campaign, largest oral hygiene lesson

Volunteering to Kenya to provide oral health care

Regular Dental Hygiene Seminars and study courses

Next National Conference – Dubai in March

Paving the future: 3-5 year plan.

- Build a cohesive and strong network of Dental Hygienists who can provide mentoring and support to the professional community.
- Have a regular and thriving online magazine and website.
- Develop collaboration between the public and private sectors to address inequalities in health.
- Create interdisciplinary discussion and referral to address the oral systemic public health threat.
- Address local policy to develop Scope of Practice for Dental Hygienists.
- Work with the regulatory body to include Dental Hygienists to the Medicines Act, enabling the administration of local anaesthesia.
- Hold an Oral Health Conference, open to all medical disciplines.
- Ongoing success with Dubai Smiles Healthy, schools accredited as “Health Promoting School” by the KHDA.
- Contribute to the 2021 Dubai Health Strategy: Develop awareness programs in dental and oral health
Develop oral health prevention and screening programs
Develop and launch Dubai dental protocol –
Develop innovative solutions for the delivery of dental care services and treatment

President:

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Email: hilaryshericebrowne@gmail.com

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VP:

Name: Hanan Abdalla

Email: dh.hanan33@gmail.com

Phone: +971508441531

IFDH Delegate 1:

Name:

Email:

Phone:

IFDH Delegate 2

Name:

Email:

Phone:

ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL ADDRESS: enquiriedhc@gmail.com



**2019 Report to the International Federation of Dental Hygienists
Carol A Jahn and Kelli Swanson Jaecks, Delegates**

Members: 15,603

Dental Hygiene Programs:

- Entry-level: 330
- BS Degree-completion: 56
- MS Degree: 21
- Mid-level provider programs: 1

Scope of Practice:

- 45 states permit dental hygienists to administer local anesthesia
- 42 states permit direct access to dental hygienist; in most cases these are in public health settings. Direct access means the RDH can initial treatment based on their patient assessment without the specific authorization of a dentist, can treat the patient without the presence of a dentist and maintain a provider-patient relationship
- 18 states allow direct Medicaid reimbursement to a dental hygienist

Board of Trustees: five officers plus 12 trustees

- Michele Braerman, RDH, BSDH, President – 2018/19
- Matt Crespin, RDH, MPH, President, 2019/20; assumed the position on 6/25/19
- Ann Battrell, MSDH, CEO

2018/19 Key Activities and Highlights

Continuing Education:

- 19,000 hours of CE were awarded by ADHA for on-demand, webinar, and in-person course covering today's hottest topics
- Increased attendance at the Annual Conference in Louisville KY

Partnerships:

- Centers for Disease Control (CDC); partnership on the [Tips from Former Smokers®](#) Campaign
- American Academy of Pediatrics: [Project Tiny Teeth](#) – helping moms-to-be and new parents about oral health and the oral health of their children.
- American Academy of Periodontology & the Canadian Dental Hygienists' Association: Dental Hygiene Symposium on new periodontal classifications

Social Media Presence:

- 145,000 social media engagements through various social media channels including Facebook and Instagram
 - National Dental Hygiene Month
 - Put Your Purple On with the Canadian DHA
 - Member Mondays
 - Student Proud Week

Federal Advocacy Efforts:

- Within the Federal Standard Occupational Classification system, dental hygienists have been reclassified as Health Care Diagnosing or Treating Practitioners. This now places them in the same grouping as dentists.
- Matt Crespin and Ann Battrell had been selected to contribute to the 2020 US Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health
- Endorsed federal efforts to make oral healthcare a benefit of Medicare Part B.
- Invited to the White House and invited to meet with US Health & Human Services.

Institute for Oral Health

- Awarded \$160,000 in scholarships and grants to students and researchers
- Yearly major fundraising event takes place each year at the Annual Conference.

Annual Conference:

- 2019: held in Louisville, KY June 21-25
- 2020: New Orleans, Louisiana, June 12-16
- 2021: Phoenix, AZ, June 18-22
- 2022: Louisville, KY, June 24-26
- 2023: 100th Anniversary of ADHA in Chicago, July 7-11th