

## Report of the Symposium Scientific Committee to the 2019 House of Delegates

Dear Esteemed Colleagues,

At the close of the 2016 House of Delegates Session, incoming President Robyn Watson appointed JoAnn Gurenlian as Chair of the Scientific Committee. Other members of the Committee then appointed included: Ron Knevel, Sharon Compton, Melanie Hayes, and Kim, Bo Kyoung. Robyn Watson and Corrie Jongbloed-Zoet served in an ex-officio capacity representing the Board.

The Scientific Committee (SC) prepared a proposal to the Board including information related to submissions for research abstracts for poster sessions and oral sessions. Once these materials were approved, JoAnn and Melanie worked with the PCO to advertise the submissions for poster sessions and oral sessions and time frames. Review criteria for scoring the oral sessions and poster abstracts were created and reviewed with the members of the scientific committee.

For the oral sessions, 85 proposals were received. Of those, 31 were accepted and 54 were not, allowing for other oral sessions to be available for corporate speakers as arranged by the Board. All oral sessions fit the theme LEAD (Leadership, Empowerment, Advances, and Diversity). Oral session speakers have been asked to make presentations interactive and to include time at the end of each session for questions and answers from the participants. A special emphasis has been placed on showcasing dental hygienists as featured speakers as this symposium is a meeting of and for dental hygienists. Many of the speaker are partnered with other health care providers to represent an interprofessional, collaborative model of care.

For the poster sessions, two calls were provided resulting in 122 abstracts received in total with 94 accepted and 28 not meeting the criteria. Research poster abstracts had to be pertinent to the theme of the symposium, national research agendas and significant to advancing the dental hygiene body of knowledge. Research could be related to systematic reviews, new programs or new research. If a poster session abstract was not accepted, it either was not research-based or did not follow the guidelines. Also, all poster presenters were offered the opportunity to conduct an extra presentation, called "rapid fire" presentations, as a way to highlight their research during a separate session at the symposium. In this way, if someone was unable to attend the poster sessions, they could still hear the current research being conducted in our discipline.

In addition to being offered oral session presentation opportunities, some corporate sponsors have been provided an additional workshop time to showcase new product innovations. These sessions will occur just after lunch each day during the symposium.

After nearly 2.5 years of planning, the SC is pleased to present a well-balanced, evidence-based scientific meeting. The program is available online at [www.ifdh.org](http://www.ifdh.org). We look forward to your participation!

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the SC,

*JoAnn Gurenlian*  
Chair, Scientific Committee