

February 21, 2023

Sunstar announces the return of the World Dental Hygienist Awards and the launch of a new regional Awards of Distinction

- **Sunstar partners up again with the International Federation of Dental Hygienists (IFDH) to re-launch the World Dental Hygienist Awards**
- **A new European Award of Distinction has been announced together with the European Dental Hygienist Federation (EDHF), in parallel with the North American Award of Distinction. Both act as a qualifying round for the World Dental Hygienist Awards**
- **The World Dental Hygienist Awards ceremony will be held at the International Symposium on Dental Hygiene (ISDH) in Seoul, South Korea, in 2024**
- **The European and North American regional awards are now open for entries**

Sunstar, the international oral healthcare company, has announced the return of the World Dental Hygienist Awards (WDHA), after a three-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. First established in 2007, the WDHA recognises and honours the work and accomplishments of dental hygienists who have made significant contributions to the dental hygiene field.

“IFDH is proud to continue its involvement with Sunstar since the very beginning of this valuable program in 2007,” said Wanda Fedora, President of the International Federation of Dental Hygienists. “The only global meeting place for Dental Hygienists – the International Symposium of Dental Hygiene (ISDH) – has provided a unique and appropriate setting for the excitement when these distinguished awards are announced.”

Ahead of the WDHA, which will take place in 2024, a new regional Award of Distinction has been created in partnership with the European Dental Hygienist Federation (EDHF) and supported by the Sunstar Foundation to celebrate the achievements of European dental hygienists. The European Award of Distinction is now open for nominations with Sunstar and the EDHF calling for entries from qualified dental hygienists. Hygienists can either nominate themselves or a colleague, as long as they, or the person they are nominating, are officially registered dental hygienists. A similar award program has run in North America, in partnership with RDH Magazine since 2002

“EDHF is proud to be a partner of SUNSTAR in setting up the European Award of Distinction as a qualifying award for the World Dental Hygienists Award in 2024,” said Dr. Gitana Rederiene, President of the European Dental Hygienists Federation. “This award recognizes and honours the work and accomplishments of dental hygienists who have made significant contributions to the dental hygiene field and the impact on promoting oral health to society.”

Both the European and North America Award of Distinction programs act as a ‘qualification round’ to the WDHA program. Professionals outside of the European or the North American region are still eligible to compete for the WDHA and can apply directly on the Sunstar Foundation website, without a preceding competition. Both the Regional Awards of Distinction and the WDHA are split into six categories in which the nominee can choose from either: Public Health, Full Time Clinician, Academia, Entrepreneur, New RDH and Research.

Mayumi Kaneda, Director of the Sunstar Foundation, said: "We are delighted to announce that the World Dental Hygienist Awards will be returning in 2024 as the sixth edition of the awards, along with the introduction of the new European region category. To acknowledge and recognise the significant efforts of worldwide registered dental hygienists is incredibly motivating and inspiring to not only the current industry, but to the past and future professionals too, and we look forward to welcoming all entries."

The deadline for both the European and North American Award of Distinction programs is March 31, 2023. All nominations across the six categories will be judged by independent selection committees; details on the prizes can be found on the website. Each winner will automatically qualify for the International Symposium on Dental Hygiene (ISDH) in Seoul, South Korea, in 2024 where the World Dental Hygienist Award ceremony will be held.

Dental hygienists can find more information on the European Award of Distinction, the North American Award of Distinction, and the World Dental Hygienist Awards by visiting <https://www.sunstar-foundation.org/en/awards/world-hygienist>

ENDS

ABOUT THE SUNSTAR FOUNDATION

Sunstar Foundation's mission is to promote health, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation through education and research, focused on the connection between oral and general health. In doing so we contribute to the development of health, medical care and welfare in local, national and international communities. www.sunstar-foundation.org/en/

ABOUT SUNSTAR

SUNSTAR is a multinational company headquartered in Switzerland, marking its 90th anniversary this year after being founded in 1932 in Osaka, Japan. Today, SUNSTAR is a leading global company in the Mouth & Body Care field, a major presence in the Health & Beauty Care and the Environment & Amenity business fields, and a world leader in the Safety Support & High Technology fields. In fiscal year 2021, consolidated net sales of the SUNSTAR Group totalled 1,159 million Swiss Francs. The products and services of SUNSTAR are distributed in more than 100 countries, and the company has 4000+ employees worldwide. Under the motto "Always strive to help people everywhere achieve better health and enhance their quality of life", SUNSTAR continuously provides high-value-added products and services all over the world. It is also now prioritising a wide range of sustainability targets including reducing CO² emissions by 85% by 2030, 20% less water consumption, 100% renewable electricity in all its facilities and 100% sustainable or RSPO-certified palm oil. www.sunstar.com.

Media contact:

Becky Charman, Tala

E: becky.charman@teamtala.com

Elena Alcalde

Global PR Manager

E: elena.alcalde@ch.sunstar.com

+34 669 589 266