



President's Activities Report 2022 – 2024

Dear House of Delegates Members,

The International Federation of Dental Hygienists Board of Directors has been very busy over the past two years. A lot has been accomplished. On behalf of the Board of Directors I offer our update of activities, so prepare a nice beverage, sit back and relax as the past term unfolds.

When I left Ireland in 2022, I arrived home with boundless enthusiasm and feeling excited to get started in my role as President. I also arrived home with Covid and needed a good week off. Thankfully our world hasn't had to experience another shut down and we were able to continue to meet as colleagues when we wished.

We started our term with 3 new board members and held an inaugural Board Orientation session which will be continued with each new board. Our committees were up and running when we left Ireland and most held meetings in September that year.

That September we released a joint statement with the EDHF entitled Actions to be taken to achieve the goals of the Oral Health Action Plan. I worked with EDHF President Gitana Rederiene to release the statement addressed to WHO Chief Dental Officer Dr. Benoit Varenne. Dr. Varenne has been supportive of our involvement in the WHO resolution on Oral Health and has provided virtual presentations at each of our Global Oral Health Summits.

That fall our new website was launched with our new logo and colors as had been introduced in Ireland under the previous board.

We began 2023 with our new budget in place and our first group of Research Award recipients decided. We reviewed our strategic plan that was created in 2019 and decided to revisit it to see where the global oral health community might dictate some fine tuning.

Throughout 2023 and 2024 we continued to work with P&G to develop surveys to determine the baseline of opinions and interest of dental hygienists. Our topics included Oral hygiene instruction practices and orthodontic hygiene. In 2023 a white paper was released based on seven previous surveys; "Evidence based self care recommendations matter. Findings from IFDH Global Surveys."

Our Board met in person in Cologne, Germany in March of 2023 to hold our strategic planning session and a board meeting as well. President Elect Jill and I attended the International Dental Show (IDS) and spoke with 21 companies to build our potential sponsor base.



Winners of one of our newest awards, the Impact Awards, sponsored by Colgate, were decided in Germany but not released until we were all together in September 2023 at our HoD Interim Meeting.

Stemming from discussions during the Strategic Plan, we initiated a new program – a series of six white papers with dental hygienists as the key authors. The series will explore the Role of the Dental Hygienist in Prenatal and Child Oral Health, Behavioural Change, Aging and Oral Health, Oral Care for the Systemically Challenged, Sustainability as it relates to Oral Care and finally Cost Effectiveness of Prevention. This is a huge endeavour and is sponsored by Haleon. We now have 5 papers in some level of process and publication of the papers should start as early as this summer.

I received a number of invitations to prepare presentations for our members and other organizations over the spring of 2023. I was happy to send greetings and an introduction to the IFDH to both Israel and Slovakia for their national conferences. I was also very pleased to be asked to present on “Prevention as it Relates to Sustainability” at the FDI Summit on Sustainability in June of 2023.

July was a very busy month with a personal visit to the ADHA conference (USA) and the KDHA conference (S. Korea) with only 36 hours between landing and taking off again. Thank you to both countries for their hospitality and friendship.

The Association for Dental Education in Europe (ADEE) held a conference in the United Kingdom and our Immediate Past President, Corrie Jongbloed Zoet was able to attend on our behalf. Corrie has also been attending the meetings of the European Oral Health Platform in The Netherlands and keeping us abreast of their actions and plans as well.

After a somewhat relaxing August we all met virtually for the Inaugural Interim House of Delegates meeting. Seeing your friendly faces on the screen and hearing of the accomplishments gave us that boost to energize ourselves and keep steering the ship.

Our involvement with the Alliance for a Cavity Free Future (ACFF) continued with our President Elect representing us at their meeting in October 2024. We are involved with advocacy and representation in ACFF, the EOHP, the WHO Oral Health Action Plan, and the Immediate Past President, President Elect and President have represented us with these organizations.

In October I was again delighted to prepare a presentation to virtually join the South African Oral Hygienists Association at their conference and to join my home country colleagues, in person, at their Summit. I’ve been so active internationally that I haven’t had time to see my Canadian friends and it was like chicken soup for the soul.

On the heels of the Canadian conference, we held a very successful Virtual Global Oral Health Summit on “Motivation, Inspiration and Guiding Actions for Dental Hygienists” in early November. Through



our generous sponsors Haleon, Colgate, Dentsply and Crest Oral B, we were able to waive any attendance fees and over 600 people registered.

As the year came to a close, our Research Committee was busy reviewing the applicants for the 2023 research grants, our Social responsibility committee was actively promoting the Social Responsibility Awards campaign; Teaching Teachers, Health Care workers and Mothers, our Membership committee was diligently discussing the dental therapist associations as members topic, our social media committee was continuing to bring you the news as it happens weekly, and our education committee was updating our links on our website to keep us current. This federation has grown so much over the past 10 years and our committees have become vital to our operations. Thank you all for your commitment and time.

The New Year was rung in with lots of enthusiasm and expectation as we planned our final months to Seoul. Your Local Organizing Committee and Scientific Committee have been dedicating countless hours to ensuring our ISDH is a huge success. This is the first time an ISDH has been held in Asia since 1995, almost 30 years. They are planning an outstanding event for us to remember. I know your time there will be a highlight in your career.

We began 2024 with our budget in place, and our strategic plan as a guide. Looking to our future and our leadership; 3 members of our board attended the International Women in Leadership in Oral Health Conference in New Orleans, USA. To avoid needing more travel the Board held its in-person meeting in conjunction with the leadership conference and we were also able to attend a few functions of the IADR event and meet with sponsors.

The World Dental Hygienist Award Committee came into full swing in the winter of 2024 and worked with Sunstar to decide on the 6 winners that will be celebrated in Seoul. Our Social Responsibility Committee made some difficult decisions from 16 amazing programs and the first Innovation Awards were decided. So many dental hygienists doing so many wonderful things. It makes us proud to be their colleagues.

My virtual presence was requested for spring conferences in Slovakia, Slovenia and Norway and I was more than happy to prepare videos for their events. How nice it would be to be able to visit you all in person but it just isn't realistic. I thank you for the opportunity to be there in spirit.

The planning of the House of Delegates Board meeting for 2024 has been ongoing throughout the past year. Our development of motions, reports and a Leadership Workshop has kept us busy, working on your behalf. Some new items of interest will be a President pin to identify our President and Past Presidents when they are in professional settings.



Our presence in the Global Oral Health Community is why we are a Federation. We come together to build a strong voice, as a collective representation of our associations. Being visible in the Oral Health community builds on our visibility and develops our relationships. Our 30 members represent over 90,000 dental hygienists and we hope to see that grow.

Prevention is our core value and bringing all prevention-oriented health care providers together is a positive step to the future of oral health. It will be the catalyst to seeing prevention become the primary goal of governments and oral health organizations.

Throughout the term we have been in communication with our members through social media platforms Facebook, X, Instagram and You Tube, also WhatsApp and our quarterly eNews and email updates. A big Thank You to our Social Media committee and our staff for their continued attention to current communication.

The work of our Federation is ongoing, twelve months of the year. We have added three new awards since 2022: the Impact Award, The Innovations Award and The World Dental Hygienist Award. There are ongoing activities with Social Responsibility Awards and our Research Grants. All of these are made possible through the generous donations of our sponsors Haleon, Colgate, Sunstar, Proctor and Gamble - Crest & Oral B, and Dentsply. Working together with these companies is enabling us to bring our message of prevention globally. A sincere Thank You to each and every one of them for your support.

As I close, please allow me to thank the people that make this happen. To our members who have given of their time to manage our committees while working actively in their own country associations. A huge Thank You to our Executive Director Peter Anas and his staff at Anas Marketing & Management for their day-to-day operations and continued support of our members' needs.

To my Board of Directors Jill, Fouzi, Donna and Sharon I owe a deep debt of gratitude for your support and involvement in our decisions and deliberations over the past 2 years. We have learned a lot about each other, shared our news, our passion, and opinions and worked together for the current needs and future of the International Federation of Dental Hygienists. Working together so closely for these two years will keep us friends for years to come.

The 2022-2024 term has been a successful time for the IFDH and I submit my report for your consideration.

Wanda Fedora RDH

President IFDH 2022- 2024