

Report from the IFDH Research Grant Programme Committee

Sponsored by Dentsply Sirona (Preventive).

Chairperson: Dr. Catherine Waldron

Committee Members: Doris Voortmans, Cornelia Schwiete, Antonella Abbinante

The purpose of this programme is to promote experience in the research process and dissemination of findings contributing to the dental hygiene body of knowledge. This grant program will provide small grants for students enrolled in dental hygiene graduate programs conducting thesis research. Students submit a mini-proposal for consideration. Small grants are awarded (maximum up to \$2000) and projects may not be fully funded. The programme has been running yearly since 2016.

The current committee have judged two years of grant submissions 2022 and 2023. All submissions are reviewed for any information that may identify the author or their affiliations and blind reviewed by two of the committee, and by a third if there is any disagreement, using an agreed rubric. The chairperson collates the results and sends them to the IFDH Director, and the results are announced in March of the following year.

In 2022 there were 8 submissions, one of which was excluded as it did not meet the submission criteria. Two awards were granted

- 1st place was awarded to Anna Ness from the University of Toronto for her submission entitled "Our Strong Children: The Role of Indigeneity on Oral Health and Nutrition of First Nations Children in Canada" and was awarded \$2300.00
- 2nd place was awarded to Thomas Knoors from the University of Amsterdam for his submission entitled "Common practices of dental implant maintenance amongst dental hygienists in Belgium" and was awarded \$800.00

The research was not undertaken for the 2nd place award project and the funding is in the process of being returned by the author.

In 2023 there were 5 submissions. Two awards were granted

- 1st place was awarded to Heuiwon Han from the Auckland University of Technology for his submission entitled "Responsiveness to child abuse and neglect: Roles for oral health practitioners" and was awarded \$2000.00
- 2nd place was awarded to Oh Run Kim from the University of British Columbia for her submission entitled "Immunohistochemical Expression of the LPS/TLR-4/NF-kB/PD-L1 Axis in Oral Premalignant and Malignant Lesion" and was awarded \$2000.00

The committee were disappointed in the number of submission both years and concerned that the number of submissions were continuing to drop. Following completion of the judging process in March 2024 the process was reviewed and suggestions for changes were made to the Board during an online meeting – Minutes attached.

New templates were developed for the cover sheet and proposal form and improved website information and guidelines for the authors were written. The launch dates were changed to suit students and clarification was provided in relation to who was eligible to submit. Suggestions were made in relation to how the programme could be promoted. Some clarifications were made in relation to what the awards could be used for.

Reported provided by Chairperson Catherine Waldron 8th May 2024.

