



Committee Members

Ellen Bol, The Netherlands
Hanan Abdallah, United Arab Emirates
Shaymaa Alrify, United Arab Emirates
Wendy Stewart, Canada (Chair)

Board Liaison

Jill Rethman, USA

Additional Judges

Fouzieh Eliassy, Sweden
Donna Paton, UK
Sharon Friedman, Israel

Purpose

Since 2007, IFDH and the Sunstar Foundation have joined forces to present the World Dental Hygienist Awards to recognize Dental Hygienists who have made significant contributions to dental hygiene science, or to patients, the community and the general public. The Awards aim to recognize Dental Hygienists who have made significant contributions to the dental hygiene field in a wide variety of areas, such as research, education, patient care, public health, or the general public.

Activities

October 2022

It was confirmed that Wendy Stewart, Canada, would be Chair of the Committee, along with Jill Rethman, IFDH President Elect, as Board Liaison.

February 2023

Committee members were polled and a social gathering was booked for March 2023.

November 2023

Committee members were asked to send a video of themselves smiling and waving for a video that was later compiled for the IFDH social media holiday calendar.

January 2024

W. Stewart received notification from J. Rethman and Peter Anas, IFDH Director, that it was time to start the judging process. The committee has 5 judges, and felt that an additional 3 would be helpful so the IFDH Board was appointed to the committee as well.

February 2024

A meeting was set for February 16, 2024 to unite the judges, to review the purpose of the awards, and to answer any questions about the process.

Our mandate was to select a total of six winners from the six different categories: Public Health, Full-time Clinician, Academia, Entrepreneur, New RDH, Research. Six award winners were selected for this process from Europe and North America, and additional entries were submitted from Africa, Asia, Latin America, Oceania.

We had a total of 25 nominations- 12 auto-nominations from Sunstar's previous Awards of Distinction program in the USA/Canada and Europe, and 13 nominations from the rest of the world. Their written nominations are what the committee judged, and this accounted for 50% of the total vote. The other 50% came from the 1-minute videos on the Sunstar YouTube channel. The committee's votes were due on March 25, 2024, ahead of the 2024 WDHA winner announcement on April 1, 2024. Completed rubrics were due to W. Stewart who tabulated the results by checking the math and inputting the data into the final results table. Wanda Fedora, IFDH President, then verified the results and the suggested list of winners was sent to Peter Anas, IFDH Director.

March 2024

Feedback from the judges was gathered. Suggestions for the future include:

1. Elimination of the "Other" category in the judging criteria. It is a vague criteria, and could lead to subjective, versus objective point allocation.

2. Judges should be from as diverse a background as possible, and be reminded that regulations, roles, and scope of practice is very different both between countries, and within countries.
3. Conflict of interest should be declared if the candidate has a relationship with any of the nominees. It is acceptable to judge if you know a nominee, or have watched them do a presentation, but if you have a friendship with a nominee, you should withdraw.

Finally, I would like to thank my Committee, and the judges for all their hard work judging these phenomenal candidates from around the globe!

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Stewart
World Dental Hygienist Award Committee Chair
Former House of Delegates representative, Canada
Past-President, Canadian Dental Hygienists Association