



House of Delegates Virtual Business Meeting

MINUTES

September 6, 2025

1. Welcome & Attendance

IFDH President Jill Rethman called the meeting to order at 9.00 ET (15:00 CET). The President welcomed everyone and the Board of Directors were introduced.

Attendance was taken by Carmen Lanoway, Secretary:

Present online were delegates from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malta, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Regrets from Austria, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, and Sweden.

A quorum was reached.

2. Minutes Approval

The Minutes from the 2024 HoD Meeting in Seoul was approved and accepted as presented, motioned by Tammy Filpiak, Seconded by Cheryl Day.

3. Federation Update

- a. New and recent Initiatives were reviewed by Jill Rethman.
 - i. Membership has added Dental Therapists, Oral Therapists and Oral Health Therapists.
 - ii. Online Individual membership application is now available.
 - iii. We are fine-tuning education requirements based on the new categories added above.
 - iv. Fellowship program is in the final stages of development.
 - v. Education
 - 1. 4 White Papers are completed, with two more coming soon
 - 2. IFDH Fellowship Program - the Board will fine-tune the application.
 - 3. Global Report on Education is a new 2025-26 project involving all member countries, sponsored by Colgate.
 - vi. Advocacy:
 - 1. IFDH/EDHF plan to develop a new joint statement in the near future due to the challenges to our profession in the US and globally.
 - 2. A proposal for an Advocacy Committee for the IFDH was presented and the board is fine-tuning the details.
 - 3. Application to WHO as a Non-State Actor is being explored
 - vii. Worldwide
 - 1. IFDH was represented at the WHO Meeting in Bangkok by Jill Rethman. She participated in a plenary panel discussion and collaborative side event as the only dental hygienist on the meeting program.
 - 2. Jill was asked to edit and represent dental hygienists in an educational video developed by dental educational representatives around the world.

3. Jill was asked to co-author an article in the European Journal of Dental Education, published in Fall 2025.
4. IADR: IFDH is now an Institution Member.
5. Alliance for a Cavity Free Future: We will participate in their Annual Meeting in November.
6. We attended the EuroPerio in Vienna and met with EDHF and current and potential corporate sponsors.
7. Awards: Innovation award winners were announced this year.
8. Sunstar Awards will continue and be presented at ISDH in Milan.

b. Membership report was given by Peter Anas, Executive Director

- i. 30 Full Association members
- ii. 2 new Allied members, Poland, 2 other organizations
- iii. Individual members – 51
- iv. Representing over 80,000 DH, TH, OHT around the world

4. Country Reports – Group 1

Reports were given by Australia, Canada, Czech Republic and Germany.

5. Strategic Plan

Peter provided a summary of the updated IFDH Strategic Plan.

6. IFDH Business

Jill Rethman noted some key aspects of this meeting:

- Our second Virtual HoD meeting
- Duties of the Board
- Duties of the HoD
- Adding a virtual component for an In-person HoD Meeting. Jill reported that event registration

fees would increase significantly for both virtual and in-person attendees, as additional audio/visual features would need to be added, potentially lowering onsite attendance. It was also noted that we need more feedback on why people do not attend.

7. Country Reports - Group 2

Reports were given by Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea and Malta.

8. Program Updates

- **Surveys:** Peter noted that we have completed 11 surveys since 2019.
- **Impact Awards:** Jill announced the 2024 awards, sponsored by Colgate are awarded to:
 - Small Association: Belgium
 - Medium Association: Netherlands
 - Large Association: Canada
- **Social Responsibility Program:** Sharon Firedman Yaniv, Vice President thanked sponsor Dentsply/Sirona for their ongoing support. A video was played and she noted that the project application deadline is February 2, 2026.
- **World Dental Hygiene Awards:** Peter Anas thanked ongoing sponsor Sunstar and noted that the awards program is continuing with awards to be presented in Milan, 2026.

- **Innovation Awards:** Peter Anas thanked ongoing sponsor Haleon and noted that the awards program is continuing with 2025 awards to be presented in Milan, 2026.
- **White Paper Series:** Peter Anas thanked ongoing sponsor Haleon and noted that we are nearing the end of the first 3-year program and we have completed 4 papers, with 2 to be completed by the end of 2025, including Behavior Change and Oral Health for Medically Compromised Patients.
- **Research Grants:** Fouzieh Eliassy, President Elect and Board Liaison thanked ongoing sponsor Dentsply/Sirona and noted that the application deadline is October 15.
- **Global Report:** Jill Rethman noted that this new program will focus on the current state of preventive practices globally and the role of the DH/DT/OT/OHT. All association members will be asked to participate. She thanked sponsor Colgate.

9. Country Reports - Group 3

Reports were given by Nepal, Netherlands, Portugal, Singapore, Slovakia and Belgium.

10. Events

Jill Rethman reminded all of our upcoming events:

- **Global Oral Health Summit** - November 8th, virtual
- **HoD Business Meeting** - July 6-8, 2026, Lake Maggiore, Italy
- **International Symposium** - July 9-11, 2026, Milan, Italy. The website will be up on September 10th, and registration starts on September 15th. Abstracts start September 15th.

11. Country Reports - Group 4

Reports were given by South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States and Denmark.

12. Closing Statement

President Jill Rethman thanked all for their attendance at this meeting and looks forward to seeing them in Italy next July.

13. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:31 ET (18.31 CET).