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The Journal of Dental Hygiene: Tried and True

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I have been reading the *Journal of Dental Hygiene* for almost 30 years. The *Journal* was initiated in 1926 so that means I have been reading it for almost a third of its existence! When I started out as a dental hygiene student, the *Journal* was called "*Dental Hygiene*." Later on in my career, it was changed to reflect its true stature as **The Journal of Dental Hygiene**. As a dental hygiene student, I did not think too much about what it all meant. After all, I was unsure about research and certainly had no idea about what it meant to be a peer reviewed publication. As I went through my graduate program in dental hygiene education, I began to see the value in a peer reviewed journal. It became clearer to me the importance of having my work appear in a publication that had been reviewed, critiqued, applauded, and yes-criticized by my peers. When my graduate class completed our thesis work-all of us wanted to publish our work in the *Journal of Dental Hygiene*. After all-it was *our* Journal and we wanted to support it and contribute to the dental hygiene research base. Numerous publications later and several years older-I still feel that way. I am always proud to see my work appear in the *JDH*.

Why is this Journal important to our profession? Research molds a profession. It adds to the scientific body of knowledge through the process of scientific inquiry. It means that we have unique information worth reporting to over a 120 000 dental hygienists and millions of health care professionals throughout the world. Although we have several publications in our profession, this one is the most important in my opinion because it is what sets us apart and elevates dental hygiene and hopefully what will take us to the next level. It is my intent to continue to do the work of my predecessors and make this *Journal* a true contribution to members of ADHA and to all who have a vested interest in oral health. It is my personal goal to have every member of our profession read every issue of the *Journal of Dental Hygiene*.

I am so honored to be the new Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Dental Hygiene*. I am in awe of those who have been in this position before me and have worked diligently to make the *Journal* what it is today-a well respected, peer reviewed research publication that is read by thousands of health professionals and held in high esteem by academic institutions

throughout the world. I want to personally and publicly thank Mary Alice Gaston, RDH, MS, for the time and energy she put into making the *Journal* what it is today. She worked tirelessly to bring us a high quality scientific publication. I intend to follow in her footsteps and maintain the integrity of the *Journal*.

The *Journal* will continue to focus on publishing first rate original research publications of basic, applied, clinical, health services, and educational research. We will continue to accept high quality literature reviews and seek to publish systematic reviews of interest to our profession. We will also continue to publish book reviews-which have been very popular over the years. However, it is a "new day" for the *Journal of Dental Hygiene*. Changes will come about with the *Journal* in the months to follow. Look out for some exciting additions starting with the fall edition. While the *Journal* is "*Tried and True*" my desire is to see it expand and grow as our profession is growing and changing.

I appreciate all the well wishes I have received from dental hygienists from all over the world and want to express my hope that you will always feel free to email me or contact me with any comments or suggestions you might have for **our** *Journal*. I will strive to make it the most professional publication in our profession and one that you will be proud to read and share with your colleagues. Thank you for the warm welcome as your new Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Dental Hygiene*.

Sincerely

Rebecca Wilder, RDH, BS, MS

Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Dental Hygiene