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## Moving Forward...

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Winter is a wonderful time of year. The air is crisp and everyone is ready to learn again. Students fill college campuses and come with the excitement and anticipation of a new adventure. Are you ready for something new? I am excited about the winter edition of the *Journal of Dental Hygiene*. We are moving forward -beginning with this issue-with some fabulous new sections guaranteed to keep you abreast of the latest science.

Have you ever wondered how you are supposed to keep up with the literature in areas that are pertinent to clinical dental hygiene? Do you ever feel overwhelmed with everything that is available for you to read? How do you know what is really based on science and how it might affect your recommendations to your patients or students? I am pleased to introduce a new section called *Linking Research to Clinical Practice*. The purpose of *Linking Research to Clinical Practice* is to present evidence-based information to clinical dental hygienists so that they can make informed decisions regarding patient treatment and recommendations. Each issue will feature a different topic area of importance to clinical dental hygienists with a *BOTTOM LINE* to translate the research findings into clinical application. **Dr. Karen B. Williams** will be the ongoing author for this section. Dr. Williams is well qualified to present the evidence to you. She is a professor and director of the Clinical Research Center at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She received a certificate in dental hygiene and a bachelor's in education at The Ohio State University; a Master's in dental hygiene education at the University of Missouri-Kansas City; and a doctorate in evaluation, measurement and statistics at the University of Kansas. In addition to teaching and research, Dr. Williams has been active in clinical dental hygiene for over 30 years and in clinical research for 20 years. Her areas of specialization include research design and statistics, educational methods, dental product efficacy, health services and health outcomes research, oral manifestations of eating disorders, and clinical dental hygiene. We are so pleased that Dr. Williams has agreed to author this section of the journal. The first area of research that is presented is concerning a topic we have all heard about-adverse pregnancy outcomes and its relationship to periodontal disease.

Do you ever wonder about research that involves dental hygienists? *Research Focus* is a section you will want to read in every issue of *JDH*. The purpose of *Research Focus* is to highlight national and international research being conducted by or involving dental hygienists. Each issue will feature a different research program or activity authored by a different person. I am pleased to introduce the first issue of *Research Focus* authored by the well respected researcher **Dr. Ann Eshenaur Spolarich**. Dr. Spolarich received a certificate in dental hygiene from the University of Pennsylvania, a baccalaureate degree in dental hygiene from Thomas Jefferson University, and both a Master of Science in Dental Hygiene

and a doctorate in Physiology from the University of Maryland at Baltimore. Dr. Spolarich has conducted research at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, University of Maryland Cancer Center, University of Maryland Dental School, Philadelphia VA Medical Center, and the National Office of Veterans Affairs in Washington DC. She is Chair of the ADHA Council on Research and is also the ADHA liaison to the NIDCR Dental Practice Based Research Networks project, the focus of this first edition.

As someone who has made a career in academics, educational endeavors are an important focus of my professional life. ***Innovations in Education and Technology*** will feature short reports of innovative teaching applications and techniques as well as new technologies available for increased communication and learning in dental hygiene education. I invite any dental hygiene educator to share innovations in their program with others through this new initiative. The first author for *Innovations in Education and Technology* is a long time academician, **Ms. Jacquelyn Fried**. Ms. Fried received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and a certificate in dental hygiene from The Ohio State University. She also holds a Master of Science in dental hygiene from Old Dominion University. Ms. Fried is currently an associate professor and director of the dental hygiene program in the Department of Health Promotion and Policy at the University of Maryland Dental School. Ms. Fried is very well known for her research, didactic, and community activities related to tobacco. She conducted some of the original research on the dental hygienist's role in tobacco prevention and cessation. She is an active member of ADHA and serves on the ADHP and Tobacco task forces. She also chairs the Tobacco-free Special Interest Group for the American Dental Education Association. However, her newest interest areas are in the technological aspects of teaching and learning. This first edition of *Innovations in Education and Technology* will feature new innovations that have been implemented at the University Maryland Dental School in the area of technology.

Let me hear from you. Tell me how you like the new sections and what you want to learn more about. Email me at RebeccaW@adha.net

Have a happy and joyous 2007!

Sincerely,

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Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Dental Hygiene*