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## **ADHA Research on Display!**

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One of the most exciting aspects of the ADHA Annual Session is the presentation of research posters by our current members and student members. This year was no exception. In this issue of the *Journal of Dental Hygiene* you will find 23 abstracts that were presented by our researchers in dental hygiene. For many years, those of us involved in oral health research have been pushing for investigations that will increase our visibility and promote the National Dental Hygiene Research Agenda. All professional groups have their own body of knowledge so for dental hygiene to be considered a true profession, we too, must have our own research. The research poster session at ADHA is one platform for displaying our research.

I am particularly proud to say that my institution contributed to the presentations at ADHA Annual Session. For several years, I have had at least 1-2 graduate students who have presented their research (based on their thesis topics) at the research poster session. This year is no exception. In addition to the 2 students who presented from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, we had representation from the following graduate programs in dental hygiene: Texas A&M Health Science Center Baylor College of Dentistry; University of Missouri-Kansas City; Idaho State University; University of Tennessee Health Science Center; Old Dominion University; and the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

In addition to the graduate students who presented, we have numerous faculty members from across the country who are involved in exciting investigations that will improve the way we teach or practice dental hygiene-all in an effort to improve the oral care of the public. I wish to highlight the efforts of institutions such as The Ohio State University College of Dentistry Dental Hygiene, Western Kentucky University, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, University of New England, New York University College of Dentistry, and Armstrong Atlantic State University.

Another exciting part of this issue of JDH is the publication of the winning paper of the ADHA/Sigma Phi Alpha Journalism Award Competition. The award is intended to honor a student who has written a review or original research paper that contributes to the dental hygiene body of knowledge and is of the quality to be published in the *Journal of Dental Hygiene*. Students enrolled or within 6 months post graduation from a baccalaureate, degree completion BS program, masters, or doctoral level program were eligible to apply. All of the papers were to be linked to the National Dental Hygiene Research Agenda. The recipient of the award received \$1000 and had her paper published in the *Journal of Dental Hygiene*. The winner of this year's competition is Amy Neussl, RDH, BS, a 2007 graduate of the baccalaureate program at the University of Bridgeport, Fones School of Dental Hygiene. Amy's article is titled, "Mouthguards in the American Hockey League." We would like to commend Amy for her paper and hope to see more from her in the future. Also, a special thanks to Johnson & Johnson for their support of the Journalism Award. Honorable mention was extended to Elizabeth Onik, RDH, BSDH, a 2007 graduate of the Master of Higher Education Administration program in the Graduate School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh, for her manuscript, "Missing Persons: African Americans in Dental Hygiene".

As we start this new academic year, I want to acknowledge all of the educators and administrators across the country who are teaching in our 280+ programs. The students who participated in the research poster presentations did not do it alone. I know from experience the amount of time and energy it takes to mentor and develop a student to be able to conduct research, present it at a national meeting and then proceed to publish the work in a professional journal. We have a wonderfully dedicated group of academicians in dental hygiene who are not only improving the knowledge base of our dental hygiene students but they are also contributing to the dental hygiene body of knowledge with their own scientific investigations.

Finally, I want to extend a special tribute to Katie Barge, our manager and staff editor in the Communications Division at ADHA. When I began my tenure as editor of the JDH in January 2006, Katie was there to organize the process and keep me on task. I was immediately impressed with her maturity and skill-even though she was barely out of college! Katie will begin a new adventure in her life soon. In October, Katie and her husband, Chad, will set out for The Kingdom of Tonga where they will spend 2 years working as Peace Corp volunteers. I have no doubt that she will exert the same skill, maturity, and fun as she has at ADHA. Thank you, Katie, for your dedication to the ADHA and the *Journal of Dental Hygiene*. We will miss you!

Have a great fall!

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