

# Editorial

Rebecca S. Wilder, RDH, MS, Editor in Chief: Journal of Dental Hygiene

Katherine Zmetana, DipDH, DipDT, EdD, Scientific Editor, Canadian Journal of Dental Hygiene

## Growth of the Dental Hygiene Profession

Growth in a profession is connected to acquiring knowledge and dissemination of that knowledge to its members and the public. Dental hygienists from around the world met to learn from the experts, share their knowledge and plan for the future in October, 2011, at the 2nd North American/Global Dental Hygiene Research Conference held in Bethesda, Maryland, USA. Attendees traveled from many areas of the globe including the United States, Canada, Australia, Europe and Asia, representing dental hygienists from private practice, corporate entities, laboratory and clinical research, undergraduate and graduate dental hygiene programs and professional organizations, such as the American Dental Hygienists' Association and the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association. Particularly exciting for us was to see the future leaders of our profession - the dental hygiene graduate students representing several of the Master of Science degree programs. These students had an opportunity to learn from the experts in the fields of Dentistry and Dental Hygiene, Medicine and Public Health, among other fields, and to learn about



their professional journeys. Knowledge was shared and mentoring occurred, one of the hallmarks of a successful conference!

We are happy to share the proceedings of the 2nd North American/Global Dental Hygiene Research Conference through a joint collaboration between the American Dental Hygienists' Association and the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association. If you were at the conference, the proceedings will be a wonderful review of content discussed at the meeting. If you were unable to attend, please read the proceedings from cover to cover! The amount of knowledge in these pages is phenomenal!

As editors, we wish to extend a warm word of thanks to Dr. Ann Eshenaur Spolarich and Dr. Jane Forrest for their commitment to the dental hygiene profession and for the many hours it took to plan such a great conference. We hope to see you at the next conference!