

Foreword

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On behalf of Procter & Gamble Professional Oral Health, we are pleased to support the Proceedings from the 3rd North American/Global Dental Hygiene Research conference as a special supplement to the Journal of Dental Hygiene. Our relationship with the National Center for Dental Hygiene Research & Practice has been in place for many years and we are proud to have provided three educational grants to support the North American/Global Dental Hygiene Research Conferences. As a company, we are working to help advance the profession of dental hygiene around the world and we are committed to research and development initiatives that are relevant to the prevention of oral diseases.

We believe that in order to deliver the best oral health prevention and patient care for the world's consumers that the foundation needs to be science based. The National Center for Dental Hygiene Research & Practice shares similar goals with their mission to promote the public's oral health by fostering the development, implementation and the dissemination of oral health research; establishing an infrastructure to support dental hygiene research; and strengthening the scientific foundation for the discipline of dental hygiene.

The conference continues to bring together the international dental hygiene research community, with original research being presented by dental hygienists from Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, Portugal, South Korea and the United States. The level of scientific exchange is impressive, with a wide range of topics and methodologies used to study problems of direct significance to dental hygiene practice and education. In addition there continues to be a large group of dental hygiene students from both undergraduate and graduate dental hygiene programs. It is essential to continue to fuel their energy and enthusiasm as they are a critical part of the research infrastructure going forward.

For those that had the opportunity to attend the conference, we hope you enjoy revisiting the great research you learned about and discussed. Importantly, for those who were unable to join, we trust that these Proceedings will help you get a sense of the depth and breadth of topics covered and learn something new from your colleagues. We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the tireless work of Drs. Jane Forrest and Ann Spolarich in bringing these research conferences to life!