

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Congratulations to our Spanish colleagues on the great success of the 16th International Symposium on Dental Hygiene. Over 700 delegates from 34 countries participated in the Symposium activities, which provided a forum for discussion of issues pertaining to dental hygiene, opportunities to exchange knowledge and information about the profession, its education and practice as well as promote professional alliances. Symposia offer the opportunity to network with our international colleagues and it was wonderful to catch up with so many past International Federation of Dental Hygienists (IFDH) House of Delegates and Executive members again. It is a sign of a strong dynamic Federation when so many past officials attend major functions.

We have welcomed two new member countries to the Federation, the Slovak Republic and Ireland. Congratulations are extended to them and we look forward to their participation in IFDH activities.

Congratulations must also go to our two new Honorary Life Members, Sue Lloyd and Angela Fundak who were acknowledged by the House of Delegates for their valuable contribution to the growth and development of the Federation. Sue, initially as a Delegate for the UK, then as Secretary and finally Administrator before her retirement in 2003. Angela, initially as Delegate for Australia, then as Secretary/Treasurer for 6 years. Their dedication and commitment to IFDH has been

invaluable and set the Federation on a firm footing for the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the new Executive Council for 2004–2007. President-Elect Marjolijn Hovius (The Netherlands), Vice-President Maria Perno Goldie (USA), Secretary Yael Carlin (Israel) and Treasurer Leah Littlejohn (Australia). They are a great team and I look forward to working with them.

During the next 3 years the IFDH standing committees and Executives will be working to achieve their goals within the framework of the 2004–2007 Strategic Plans. They are:

- To strengthen the professional profile of dental hygiene worldwide
- To increase IFDH membership in all eligible categories
- To strengthen collaboration with other organisations
- To promote the development of dental hygiene education programs and research worldwide.

Toronto, Ontario, Canada will be the venue for the 17th International Symposium on Dental Hygiene in July 2007. If you can take the opportunity to attend, you will not be disappointed – professionally or personally.

Sue Aldenhoven

President IFDH

E-mail: sue-s@chariot.net.au

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