

## Sigma Phi Alpha (International): an invitation to the International Community

Sigma Phi Alpha is the national honor society of the dental hygiene profession. Membership in Sigma Phi Alpha is comprised of elected dental hygiene educators and of graduates from accredited dental hygiene programmes with high scholastic achievement. The purpose of Sigma Phi Alpha is to promote, recognize and honour scholarship, leadership, and service among dental hygiene students and graduates of dental hygiene programs.

The Honour Society was founded in 1958 by members of the Section on Dental Hygiene Education of the American Dental Education Association. It is the vision of Sigma Phi Alpha to enhance the dental hygiene profession's role and image in the delivery of quality healthcare to the public. Thereby the Honour Society encourages members to contribute to the advancement of the dental hygiene profession.

Sigma Phi Alpha strives to stimulate scholarship, professional accomplishment, and exemplary service in the field of dental hygiene in order to enhance the profession's role in health care. The Honour Society recognizes individual scholastic achievement through scholarships. Specifically, Sigma Phi Alpha goals include:

- Promoting scholarly educational programmes for dental hygienists at meetings and conferences.

- Providing scholarships for undergraduate and graduate dental hygiene students.
- Developing scholarships to support chapters.
- Selecting and recognizing honorary and corporate electees who contribute significantly to the Honour.

Sigma Phi Alpha, the dental hygiene honor society initiated in the US welcomes recognized schools within the International Federation of Dental Hygienists member countries to join the organization. Currently, Sigma Phi Alpha is the national honour society. It is the vision of Sigma Phi Alpha to enhance the dental hygiene profession's role and image in the delivery of quality health care to the public around the world. Sigma Phi Alpha invites country members to initiate chapters of Sigma Phi Alpha so that individual members of the International Federation of Dental Hygienists can become members. Our hope is that Sigma Phi Alpha will become the International Dental Hygiene Honour Society.

Please contact the Sigma Phi Alpha International Liaison, Christine Nathe at [cnathe@salud.unm.edu](mailto:cnathe@salud.unm.edu) or at the University of New Mexico, Division of Dental Hygiene, 2320 Tucker NE, Albuquerque, NM 87131 USA for more information.

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