

EDITORIAL

Dear colleagues,

It is my great privilege to serve as the new Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Dental Hygiene*. The opportunity to continue the tremendous accomplishment of inaugural Editor-in-Chief Marjolijn Hovius is truly an honour. As we continue to move forward in development, my vision for the journal includes further cultivation of a focus on excellence in research in dental hygiene and to support the delivery of an even more prestigious publication with a deserved reputation. Such a vision is supported by strong peer review and I am delighted to present and welcome the new Editorial Team. My Associate Editors: Jean Suvan, Kajsa Abrahamsson, Maryann Cugini, Angela Fundak and Dagmar Slots represent expertise in a variety of aspects critical to the practice of dental hygiene across the globe. We will be supported by a new Editorial Board, who are warmly welcomed as key contributors for the development of the journal. As a collaborative group, we recognize the important role of this scientific journal to enable the flow of ideas, dissemination of research outcomes and broad diffusion of knowledge to all health professionals.

It is indeed a fortuitous and exciting time in the history of the profession of dental hygiene across so many aspects of health care provision. The Dental Hygienist profession is evolving in many countries with more colleagues successfully defending their PhD and Masters degree(s). This will undoubtedly result in more research within the field of dental hygiene and oral health sciences. For example, in my home country of Sweden, there is a comparatively large group of Dental Hygienists with a PhD. Consequently, a great variety of new and important research has been carried out within the discipline. Other countries where the profession of dental hygiene is mature such as North America, parts of Asia and Europe also enjoy the same academic recognition of the profession together with advances in clinical practice that support optimal patient care provided by outcomes from this research.

In addition to original research, the importance of regular systematic reviews to support clinicians in their decision-making process enables this journal to provide valuable reference to evidence based care. The systematic reviews that have been published recently in the *International Journal of Dental Hygiene*

were of a high standard and welcomed by colleagues across the globe. Therefore, I encourage your consideration to continuing this valuable work and invite the submission of systematic reviews as a critical component of this journal's commitment to excellence. The application of good research into clinical practice is necessary to deliver evidence based care, a requirement already existing today but even more important in the future. For example, the new guidelines for dentistry from the Ministry of Health and Welfare in Sweden are based on best available evidence indicating the importance of evidence based oral health science. The guidelines also emphasize areas where there is a lack of scientific evidence and this is specifically obvious in oral health education. This preventive aspect of the dental hygiene practice remains a considerable opportunity for further research contribution, which this journal welcomes as a critical factor that underpins continued wellness for our patients.

Recognition of dental hygiene practice that has evidence based care at the core of the decision-making process is further emphasized by the *International Federation of Dental Hygienists* (IFDH). As the official publication of the IFDH, the *International Journal of Dental Hygiene* (IJDH) supports the recent findings from the IFDH 2010 House of Delegates workshop, (IJDH 2010; 4: 313–316) promoting evidence based dental hygiene practice. I am very happy to endorse this recommendation from the IFDH House of Delegates as their findings reflect my vision for the journal with commendable professional synergy. Working closely with IFDH, we share the common goals of professional promotion that remains as an integral source of collegial development.

In conclusion dear colleagues, I look forward with great excitement to serve as Editor-in Chief of the *International Journal of Dental Hygiene*. I welcome your ongoing support and warmly invite the opportunity for continued dialogue.

I sincerely wish you all a happy new year in 2011.

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Editor-in-Chief

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