



## EDITORIAL

In this edition of the *International Journal of Dental Hygiene*, it is with great pleasure that we present the scientific abstracts for the 19th International Symposium on Dental Hygiene, Cape Town, South Africa. As the first International Symposium on Dental Hygiene held in Africa, the broad variety of presentations truly represents the diversity of the host country, aptly named the 'Rainbow Nation'.

Numerous abstracts were submitted to be considered as part of this unique International Symposium on Dental Hygiene. This issue includes the abstracts for the keynote speakers, oral presentations and posters for your reference. There is a myriad of topics presented reflecting the broad concept of dental hygiene and the importance of many different aspects of the profession. The presenters also represent a great number of countries to further emphasize the extensive tasks and duties for the dental hygiene profession. For those of you who are not attending the symposium, the abstracts will provide an insight into key areas of discussion in the dental hygiene community.

New and established modes of practice are discussed during the scientific programme as represented by the abstracts included in this edition. The content covers the aspects of patient education and oral health promotion in regard to public dentistry and to different groups of people. The collaboration with other health professionals is discussed in nursing homes

as in other settings. The impact of oral health on general health and vice versa continues to provide interesting discussion as more scientific evidence is provided in the literature. Similarly, the critical role of the health professional in understanding the risk factors associated with oral cancer is a continuous area of vigilance. Caries prevention as well as dental caries' association with socio-economic factors and tobacco use will be elucidated, both antibiotics and probiotics in relation to oral health. Finally, several aspects of the dental hygienist profession and work-related issues will be explored and debated.

The successful applicants for the World Dental Hygienist Awards, generously sponsored by the Sunstar Foundation, will be presented at this symposium. For the first time since the inception of the World Dental Hygienist Awards, the research prize is given to the best paper published in the *International Journal of Dental Hygiene* over the last three years. This is a great honour for the journal, and we are proud to have such a great number of well-qualified authors.

On behalf of the *International Journal of Dental Hygiene*, I trust you will enjoy the scientific programme of the 19th International Symposium on Dental Hygiene together with the collegiality of the international profession of dental hygiene.

Kerstin Öhrn  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Copyright of International Journal of Dental Hygiene is the property of Wiley-Blackwell and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.