



EDITORIAL

In the previous issue of the International Journal of Dental Hygiene (IJDH), we shared abstracts from some of the papers and presentations that were presented during the 19th International Symposium on Dental Hygiene (ISDH) held in Cape Town, South Africa, 14–17th August 2013. We are pleased to provide the remainder of the abstracts in this issue to complete the scientific programme reference. The 19th ISDH scientific programme represented a myriad of interesting discussion topics that continues to recognize the professional status of dental hygiene across the globe. The IJDH presented a session entitled ‘Floss or Lie – How to read a scientific paper’ as a timely reminder of the importance of critical analysis in the assessment of scientific literature. Together with the Associate Editors, I believe it is important to discuss the interpretation of findings for any reader and even if a paper has been thoroughly reviewed, there are always possibilities for alternative interpretations. The session attendance exceeded all expectations with appreciative feedback indicating that the topic is of great interest for many readers. At the request of the attendees, the IJDH will continue to provide this programme discussion to encourage readers who seek to develop their skills in critical analysis as an integral component of practice as a registered health professional.

A frequent presenter at the ISDH meetings was not there. It is with great sadness that I announce the loss of a truly

inspiring health professional, Dr. Sandy Cobban RDH PhD who passed away earlier this year. Dr. Cobban was one of the authors in the very first issue of the IJDH and has since published some nine articles. The research she performed and published was of great importance for both the development of the profession of dental hygiene and for the evolution of the discipline dental hygiene. Her contribution has moved the profession in a very positive direction, and her contribution to research has broadened our knowledge extensively, for example her presentations on ISDH meetings about evidence-based practice, scoping reviews and secondary analysis. Since 2011, she was also a member of the Editorial Board of the IJDH. As such, she always performed excellent reviews, very thorough and precise in time, which helped the authors to improve the manuscripts, resulting in better publications. Dr. Cobban was a great role model for any researcher and any Dental Hygienist. We have lost a great colleague, and our thoughts are with Dr. Cobban's family and friends.

So, dear colleagues, I look forward to continue to provide valuable scientific knowledge reference to your clinical practice, developments in education and global insight into the rewarding challenges that present to us as Dental Hygienists.

Kerstin Öhrn
Editor-in-Chief

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