

NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association

December 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kristy Garrett RDH, BS

These first few months as IDHA President have been busy, fabulous, nerve wracking, and exciting all at the same time! I was thrilled to see everyone that attended Annual Session in September, and missed those of you that were unable to come. We had wonderful speakers with up to date, comprehensive topics. The vendors provided great information on the newest products and special offers during the convention. We hope you will be able to join us next year, on October 3rd and 4th for our 45th Annual Session.

We have been keenly following the State Board of Dentistry's proposals regarding dental assistants, and looking forward to working collaboratively with the State Dental Association to formulate some suggestions toward registration or certification.

I want to thank those hygienists who participated in decorating the tree IDHA sponsored for the Boise Festival of Trees. I know this is a busy time of year and your efforts are much appreciated.

We are excited that our ADHA President, Jean Connor, RDH, will be visiting Idaho in 2008. Plans are underway to have a great event with our students and to focus on legislative efforts.

As I live in the Idaho Falls area, it is great to have so many dedicated board members that live in the Boise area to cover all the events that are going on there. I am grateful for all of their hard work and support. IDHA is growing and becoming a significant organization in leadership. We want to welcome all our new members, and extend an invitation to those who wish to be a part of this strong organization. We can only be better because of you! You can contact me anytime at kgarrettid@aol.com or through the IDHA website at IDHA.org.

PRESIDENT-ELECT REPORT

Sally Kane, RDH, BSDH

Idaho Oral Health Summit: A Call to Action—the Dental Hygiene Perspective. The support I received from my fellow Idaho dental hygienists as I prepared and delivered our message at the Idaho Oral Health Summit on November 9th was overwhelming and appreciated. To hear your applause in that

ballroom, not once but several times, ignited my soul and gave me strength to move beyond my fear of public speaking. I was proud to share our perspective. It united us like never before and helped many people understand better. Here are some highlights from my presentation to at least 225 participants at the Summit.

After sharing the qualifications to become a dental hygienist and an extended access dental hygienist, three recommendations to improve access to care were presented by Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association:

- 1) Strengthen the public health infrastructure: Increase funding for a State Public Health Dental Director and a whole cadre of dental hygienists.
- 2) Encourage and foster creative collaborations like Give Kids a Smile day and the Van Buren Elementary School program.
- 3) Allow direct access to dental hygienists in all settings; and allow extended access restorative endorsed hygienists to provide care in private practice settings as well as limited access settings—not only to the under served as we are currently permitted to do. Hygienists are competent to provide care to all Idahoans of all economic circumstances by virtue of licensure.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of IDHA is to assist and serve individual members through active participation and promotion of the highest standards of the dental hygiene profession.

VISION STATEMENT

Enhance the profession of dental hygiene by improving professionalism, autonomy, access to oral health care, and the relationship of oral health to total health.

- Professionals representing the highest standards of practice to maintain the integrity of the profession.
- Promoting public awareness by providing quality oral health care to individuals in private and alternative practice settings, including underserved populations.
- Promoting higher educational standards and increased educational offerings to keep pace with the demands of an ever changing population.
- Increasing public awareness of services provided by dental hygienists.



NEWSLETTER

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Please send your Newsletter reports, articles, pictures, advertisements, questions, etc. to: vanessa@idha.org. All submissions should include the author's name, credentials and contact information. We reserve the right to edit submissions.

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From the breakout sessions it seemed that our Association would also support increased funding for Medicaid for pediatric dentists (Medicaid is now called Idaho Smiles). Many of them cannot afford to provide care to children with the most severe forms of oral disease because they require special management or hospital care. Without financial assistance from our government or charitable agency they may be forced to turn these children away.

I look forward to meeting with the Idaho State Dental Association and others to build a consensus to improve the oral health delivery system. Scope of practice issues for dental assistants and dental hygienists were discussed. A model for a midlevel oral health provider was presented and I was encouraged to hear support from consumers and community and migrant health center leaders for this master's level provider.

Most hygienists are women with many family obligations and only work part time. The majority of hygienists are not interested in business or being an entrepreneur. We love education and providing patient care. Direct access to dental hygienists would allow us to practice in settings other than private dental offices, and generate income for facilities like hospitals, medical clinics, and other alternative settings. Without direct access and direct reimbursement our opportunities in alternative settings will be very limited. See our website (idha.org) for more information and a long list of states that currently permit direct access and/or Medicaid reimbursement to dental hygienists.

It's time to integrate oral health with total health, and there is no other professional more qualified to provide cost effective oral-disease management and anticipatory guidance to Idahoans in alternative settings. Idaho graduates an average of 75 dental hygienists every year. There are plenty of us to work with individual dentists, as well as to serve in alternative settings to reach the underserved and integrate oral health to overall health.

IDHA will continue to participate in the Idaho Oral Health Alliance (IOHA) and will attend the Summit follow-up meetings to continue to provide our input for the Idaho Oral Health Plan. For more information see our website (idha.org) or the IOHA site (www.idahooralhealth.org).



Sally Thomas, a dental hygienist supporter, at the IDHA table display at the IOHA Summit.

Unleashing Your Potential Workshop, Chicago, IL 2007

I recently went to the ADHA Headquarters in Chicago and met all the state dental hygiene association Presidents or President-Elects from around the Nation. We are an enthusiastic, supportive and dedicated group, and I could not have been more proud to represent Idaho. It is a new day at ADHA and I can't wait to share the exciting things that are happening in our association. Components, if you would like me to come and speak at one of your meetings I would be glad to set something up. Feel free to contact me if you are interested: salkane@msn.com. Happy Holidays to all.

2007 IDHA ANNUAL SESSION

Liz Nies, RDH, 2007 Chair

The 44th IDHA Annual Session was held in Boise this year at the Holiday Inn on September 14th and 14th. The event was well attended and was a big hit. This year every attendee received a canvas bag tote bag as part of their registration. The bags are a black canvas and have the IDHA purple logo on the front. These were important because you needed a strong bag to hold all your goodies and samples.

This year we had 26 exhibitors at our meeting. The exhibit room was full during the breaks and the vendors loved it. They were all very impressed by how we as professionals treated them and all said they would definitely attend in 2008. I want to thank all those in attendance who made them feel welcomed. Here is the list of exhibitors from Annual Session:

3M ESPE ▪ Heine USA ▪ Regence Blue Cross (Gala Sponsor as well) ▪ Dental R.A.T. ▪ Burkhart Dental ▪ Nature Sweet Life ▪ Schein ▪ Young Dental ▪ Designs for Vision ▪ Orasoptic ▪ Proctor and Gamble ▪ GC America ▪ Diabetes Awareness ▪ Special Smiles ▪ Hu-Friedy ▪ Patterson ▪ Eagle Physical Fitness ▪ Northwest Dental Sales ▪ Candlewell International ▪ Sunstar Butler ▪ Dentsply ▪ Phillips Sonicare ▪ ADHA

Our speakers were phenomenal, and they raised the bar of the quality of dental hygiene practice for those in attendance. Noel Kelsch presented on "Meth Mouth" and opened our eyes to what true infection control entails. Shirley Gutkowski presented on re-mineralization, saving the enamel. She also gave our students insight on the do's and don'ts of getting employed. Anne Guignon taught us about what we could see with eye enhancement equipment and gave a fantastic ultrasonic hands on course. IDHA's new lobbyist Roger Simmons gave us all some insight on our legislative process.

This year each attendee received a CD with all of the course handouts on them. This was a new technology for our association and I am please to let you know that I did not receive one complaint. This is a wonderful tool for all of us, because anything you need to find is just a click away. Thanks to all of you for having an open mind.

Our Gala was held at the Morrison Center and was a big success! Items were auctioned off and proceeds went to IDHF and HYPAC. I even auctioned of the watch I was wearing to help the cause. Thanks a lot to all who asked for the time the next day!

We had over 200 attendees at our event and were able to reach our goal of \$40,000 (IDHA raised \$16,000 profit). It is my hope that our annual session in 2008 will be even bigger and better than this one. Please mark your calendars for October 3rd and 4th 2008 in Boise at the Holiday Inn.

ORAL HEALTH SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS

Lisa Penny, RDH, BS

The Idaho Oral Health Summit, held November 9, 2007 in Boise, brought together 225 dentists, dental hygienists and others with an interest in improving oral health and access to dental care. Convened by the Idaho Oral Health Alliance and its partners, the Summit looked at key oral health issues in Idaho, current efforts, and potential solutions. The Summit focused on creating a shared vision through a broad based, collaborative approach.

Following presentations by nationally recognized speakers and State dental leaders, Summit participants broke into discussion groups around three issues: Access to Care, Policy and Funding, and Prevention and Dental Education. Priority issues identified by each group follow.

Next steps include development of a comprehensive oral health plan for Idaho. Development of the plan will be led by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

Access to Care

Priority Issues: 1) Effectively utilize the existing dental team by collaborating between dental and medical professionals and educators. 2) Present a united front between hygienists and dentists when going to the Legislature regarding access to care. 3) People understanding the importance of oral health literacy.

Policy and Funding

Priority Issues: 1) Leadership (state dental director), dental public health infrastructure, and lack of knowledge and value of dental health to overall health among policy makers and the public. 2) Medicaid reimbursement.

Prevention and Education

Priority Issues: 1) Provider education, (MD, RN, age 1 dental visit). 2) Preventive services (prenatal, well child). 3) Consumer education (schools, patients, media campaigns).

For more information, contact: Dr. Dan Watt, Chair, Idaho Oral Health Alliance dwatt@trhs.org, or Debra James, Oral Health Program Manager, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare jamesd@dhw.idaho.gov. You may also visit the IOHA website: www.idahooralhealth.org.

IDAHO DENTAL HYGIENISTS' FOUNDATION

Vanda Johnson, RDH, BS

The IDHF Board of Directors would like to thank the ACE component for the tremendous Annual Session. The speakers were terrific. It was obvious that a lot of thought and planning went into this year's Annual Session.

Thanks to all who donated items to the live and silent auctions and to those who purchased tickets for the jewelry raffle. The lucky winner of the sapphire earrings is Talisha Hansen. Your foundation benefited greatly from the auctions and raffle. The proceeds allow the foundation to provide funds for scholarships and community outreach programs. Jackie Fruendenthal from PVDHS was awarded \$750 at Annual Session and an additional \$250 later for the "Give Kids a Smile" program. Jackie also received the Community Outreach Award (\$100) for all of her efforts and commitments. Sandra Golay was also presented \$350 for her community outreach programs.

Sally Kane was presented the "Distinguished Service Award" and Susan Cameron received the "Professional Achievement Award." Every "Professional Achievement Award" is accompanied with a one year membership in ADHA. Susan donated this membership to a non-member.

This year \$3,500 in scholarships were awarded to students. The foundation regrets to report that we did not receive any applications for the "Degree Completion Scholarship." If you are considering returning to further your education in dental hygiene, please apply for this scholarship.

The foundation appreciates and thanks Jennifer Andrews-Kelley for her dedication and work in the Foundation and the IDHA Board. Immediate Past-President of IDHA usually serves on the IDHF Board, however since Kristin Jannuzzi-Pike has moved to Colorado and will only be a member of IDHA until January 1, 2008, Julie Slee has accepted the position for one year.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Susanne Jamison, RDH, Chair

In November, IDHA and ACEDHS decorated and donated a tree for the St. Al's Festival of Trees. ACE members decorated a beautiful tree entitled, "Happy Holidays to All and to All Good Oral Health." We adorned the tree with toothbrushes, floss, tubes of toothpaste, and topped it with a beautiful tooth fairy! The tree was auctioned off and the proceeds will benefit a charity of the purchaser's choice. Thanks to Francis Family Dental of Kuna, who purchased our tree; to IDHF for sponsoring our tree; and to the volunteers who helped out: Jeanette Bullock, Michelle Bowden, Liz Nies, Amanda Nies (Liz's daughter), Susanne Jamison, Sally Kane, Kristy Watson, and Vanessa Hanser. This was a great opportunity to increase the public's awareness of IDHA and to reach out to our community.

One of the main objectives of the Community Outreach Committee is to expand access to dental services through community projects organized and/or conducted by local components. We aim to help IDHA be active this year with several outreach projects throughout the state. If you have any ideas and/or would like to participate, please contact me, Susanne Jamison: 208.468.3179. I absolutely encourage you to reach out—even if just for a few hours—and be an active part of our wonderful association. There are six active components throughout the state so there will be plenty of opportunities to get involved!



(l to r) Jeanette Bullock, Michelle Bowden, Amanda Nies, Liz Nies, and Susanne Jamison.

ISBD REPORT

Jan Simpson, RDH

The Idaho State Board of Dentistry (ISBD) met October 12 and 13 in Boise. We had a long discussion about statewide dental assistant certification. It is a complicated and controversial issue that needs to be addressed and will continue to be an important agenda item in upcoming meetings.

ISBD has a proposed rule change before the 2008 legislature concerning fee increases for dentists and dental hygienists. If it passes, biennial license fees will increase as follows: dental hygiene active licenses up \$35 to \$175; DH inactive licenses up \$10 to \$90; dentists' active licenses up \$75 to \$375; and inactive licenses up \$20 to \$170.

The ISBD is also considering changes in requirements for continuing education credits for dentists and dental hygienists. IDHA presented a proposal in July that would limit the number of CE credits obtained online. The ISBD will meet again in Boise January 11-12.



I want to thank all of my dental hygiene friends for your cards, prayers, and concerns since the death of my husband, Steve. I am truly blessed to be a part of such a caring and supportive group of colleagues. Jan Simpson

HYPAC REPORT

Kandi Garland, RDH, Chairperson

My name is Kandi Garland and I became IDHA's HYPAC Committee Chairperson last spring. HYPAC is the dental hygiene political action committee which raises funds for legislative efforts on behalf of IDHA. I have been working closely with the current board members and our new lobbyist, Roger Simmons, to understand the history and future goals of IDHA. I am very excited to take on this position and am looking forward to meeting more IDHA members.

The most recent Annual Session HYPAC fundraising event included a morning sleep-in and fitness stretching event lead by Eagle Physical Therapy. Those in attendance received water bottles and HYPAC t-shirts as well as a great poolside workout. Those who chose to sleep in also received t-shirts. There was also a fundraising auction at the Friday Night Gala. These events raised almost \$1500. Thanks to all who supported HYPAC. Planning is underway for next year's events.

IDHA held its annual Committee Kickoff in October, and it was very exciting to participate in the strategic planning process. Each committee set goals for the next year. Stay tuned for some exciting fundraising events from HYPAC.

HYPAC donations are accepted all year long, so you don't have to wait until Annual Session to contribute. Think about having a HYPAC fundraiser at your next component meeting. Your contributions are greatly appreciated! Donations can be sent to me at: 1854 Whitewater St. Pocatello, ID 83204. You may contact me at: garlkand@isu.edu
THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Carolyn Brammer, RDH-EA, Oral Health Program Coordinator

With the new school year under way, we have been very busy! This fall we gave oral health education to 12 elementary school classrooms and 2 pre-school classes. Oral Health presentations were prepared and presented by Apollo College DH students, who gave out "goody bags" (with toothbrushes and other items) thanks to funding from Regence Caring Foundation for Children. The students from Apollo College also assisted with fluoride varnish clinics at all the FCF Head Start locations, where classroom education and "goody bags" were also distributed. The Head Start FV project was also funded by Regence Caring Foundation for Children. Through these projects we have been able to provide oral health education to 700 children and Fluoride Varnish applications to 343 Head Start children. We want to thank Regence Caring Foundation for their support of these projects.

We partnered with Brookdale Dental in Boise and Regence Caring Foundation in providing a "Free Dental Day" in October. This dental office, their staff, and volunteer dental

hygienists treated the dental needs of 49 uninsured children. Over \$11,000 worth of dental services were provided. We want to thank the volunteer dental hygienists: Anne Hill, RDH, Megan Ranstrom, RDH, and Michelle Williamson, RDH, for their hard work and "making a difference"!

We are very excited to announce that we were the fortunate recipients of a "Ronald McDonald House Grant." We received just over \$13,000 to update, improve, and/or replace the equipment in our "Meridian Smile Clinic." This school based sealant clinic will operate inside of Meridian Elementary School and serve the underinsured children of that school. We hope to have it up and running shortly after the first of the year.

On November 9, 2007, the Idaho Oral Health Alliance presented an "Idaho Oral Health Summit" in Boise. All of the clinical staff from the Oral Health Department at Central District Health attended and participated in this meeting. It was an engaging and informative meeting.

We continue our efforts to educate the community and health care workers on the prevention of dental disease and the importance of oral health care during pregnancy.

We wish you all the very best during this holiday season!



Twenty eight uninsured children received dental screenings, sealants, and fluoride varnish treatments at a free dental clinic held in Twin Falls on November 3. The project was a partnership between the Regence Caring Foundation, South Central District Health, and the College of Southern Idaho Dental Assisting Program. Total value of the services received by the children participating was estimated at \$1,900.

Special thanks to volunteer dental hygienists: Shelly Stanger, Abbie Aullman, and Sandee Golay.

For more information on the Regence Caring Foundation dental program for uninsured children, contact Idaho coordinator Kathy Ellis at 1-866-938-0084.

IDHA EMAIL LIST

Get the most up to date information by joining the IDHA email list, open to all Idaho hygienists. Contact Susan Cameron, IDHA Executive Director at 208.882.2787 or scameron@moscow.com. Be sure to provide your name, email address, phone number, and mailing address. IDHA members should also contact ADHA Membership Services, at 1.800.243.2342 or member.services@adha.net. Please include your name, ADHA membership number, mailing address, phone number, and email address.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Liz Nies, RDH, Co-Chair

This year IDHA has Co-Chairs for the Membership Committee: Samantha Kenney and Elizabeth Nies. Each component needs 1 representative to work with us to increase our membership numbers. We have 2 components represented so far: ACE—Kelly Campbell Burton, and Magic Valley—Starr Thompson. We still need someone from the following components: North Central Idaho, North Idaho, Portneuf Valley and Upper Snake River.

It is our goal as a committee to contact each of our members via telephone to find out what we can do for them, and to encourage involvement in our organization on any level and any amount of time. We also want to contact non-members of our organization to educate them on the importance of membership. It is vital for our association to have a majority of Idaho hygienists as members so we can show that we represent our profession.

As you read through this newsletter, you will realize that our profession is at risk. In states across the nation the dental hygiene profession is being devalued—there are now many states permitting scaling assistants; and the American Dental Association (ADA) has created a midlevel practitioner known as the Community Dental Health Coordinator, which would basically do what public health dental hygienists have done for years, but without our comprehensive education.

Please consider being a part of our committee. Contact me if you are interested or would like more information: Lizabiz_2000@yahoo.com or 208.866.4271.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Vanessa Hanser, RDH-ER, BSDH

The IDHA Public Relations Committee is looking for new members. We need skilled communicators and good representatives for IDHA... or those interested in learning. We also welcome anyone who is willing to help behind the scenes by communicating your Component activities with the PR Committee, constructing media release packets, etc.

Please share this information and help build our committee. Contact Sally: 208.861.6185, salkane@msn.com; or Vanessa: vanessa@idha.org.



SHARE YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

IDHA would like to hear about your community service and volunteer events. We would like to share your stories and may be able to provide information about potential grant opportunities for your future projects. For more information, visit our website, www.idha.org, or email vanessa@idha.org.



The Idaho Oral Health Alliance (IOHA) is a group dedicated to improving the general health of Idahoans by promoting oral health and increasing access to preventive and restorative dental services. Go to the IDHA website for more information about the IOHA and to apply for membership—it's only \$15: www.idha.org.

DELTA DENTAL SEEKING DENTAL STAFF

Delta Dental of Idaho's Community Outreach program is seeking three staff: a Dental Hygienist, Dental Assistant and Clinic Assistant to conduct dental sealant clinics in south central Idaho schools serving low-income families. Clinics serve 2nd, 3rd, 7th, and 8th grade students. Work schedule is 2 days per week. Some travel required and must be able to lift mobile equipment. Visit www.deltadentalid.com for more information. Send resume & salary history to hr@deltadentalid.com. Equal opportunity employer.

APOLLO COLLEGE

Dr. David C. Reff, DDS

Presently there are 90 students in the DH Program: 30 Freshman-1, 28 Sophomores, and 32 Seniors.

31 students took the WREB anesthesia boards at Eastern Washington University September 5-9. 30 passed. Our first time passing rate is 97.46%.

26 Seniors from the class of August 2007 took the WREB clinical boards at Eastern Washington University September 5-9. 26 passed. Our first time passing rate is 95.36%.

27 Seniors from the class of August 2007 took the National Dental Hygiene Board examination on July 17 at Apollo College. All 27 passed. Our first time passing rate is 98.43%.

Neleen Powell, a Senior in the graduating class of December 2007, won a \$2000 scholarship from SWIDS.

On August 1, 2007, Dr. David Reff, DH Program Director, added the DA Program to his job description. He took over a program with 130 students and 5 full time faculty.

A table clinic presented by four seniors from the class of December 2007, won the first ever table clinic contest at the IDHA Annual Session held in Boise September 14 and 15, 2007. The topic was using saliva to detect cancer.

On Saturday September 29, 2007, 13 seniors and 1 DH faculty (Gwen Kido) participated at the stand-down for homeless veterans. They screened 67 patients. Ms. Kido was able to obtain Valley Ride bus passes for free transportation to the Apollo College DH Clinic. The clinic already provides free treatment to all patients.

ACEDHS

Liz Nies, RDH, President

This year has gotten off to a slow start for our component. ACE was in charge of Annual Session in September and our officers were worn out from getting it all together. Our first board meeting of the year was on December 5th and we have a better idea of what will be happening this year. Annual Session will be in Boise again in 2008 so our component will only be offering 2 to 3 programs to assist our state association in greater participation at Annual Session.

We are also planning to get more involved in our community and hope to offer CE credit for volunteer events. We will be collecting unwrapped toys at our next meeting since we were unable to collect in December for the holidays. There is always a need for donations so we will get a jump on next year. Please consider getting involved so that our association can do more within our community. It not only helps those we reach out to have better lives, but allows those that give to have better professional lives too. If you wish to take your professional life to the next level please contact me: Lizabiz_2000@yahoo.com or 208.866.4271.

MVDHS

Lacy Merrill, RDH, BS, President

This has been a very productive year for the Magic Valley component. Members participated in several community-service events from public health fairs and screenings to dental sealant clinics. Our component offered several interesting continuing education topics including, "Women's health Issues," "Common Pharmaceuticals," and "Oral Surgery Concerns and Osteonecrosis" to name a few. Participation in your local component is an inexpensive and easy way to earn CE credits and stay connected to your colleagues. If you have not contacted your local component I invite you to do so—check the IDHA website (idha.org) for more information.

MVDHS has several new graduates in the area, including myself. I would like to congratulate these individuals and encourage them to convert their membership and remain active in IDHA. Current members please welcome your new colleagues to the profession.

Congratulations go out to our own Sandee Golay who was recognized as Dental Hygienist of the Year by the Idaho State Dental Association (ISDA). Along with her continued commitment to quality oral health care for her patients, Sandee has spent numerous hours of community service teaching oral health classes as well as manning public health fairs. Way to go Sandee!

Coming up the 8th of January, the ADA is sponsoring a dinner meeting in Twin Falls to address the new Idaho Meth Project. The project is being modeled after the Montana Project which has seen much success. I encourage you

all to join in this partnership to help educate oral healthcare providers so we may do our part to fight this epidemic. As healthcare providers we must form alliances with others to foster healthier and stronger communities. Remind your dentists and save this date to come together for the future of our community. For more information, contact me: laceymerill1743@msn.com or check out our website: idha.org. For information about the Idaho Meth Project, go to: www.idahomethproject.org/.



Vanda Johnson, RDH (left) and Sandra Golay, RDH (right) present a Sonicare toothbrush to a Health Fair participant, Ray Chaplin (center).

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Liz Nies, RDH

2008 will be a busy year for the Legislative Committee. Our goal is to meet with all Health and Welfare Committee members to inform them about our profession. It has come to our attention that many Legislators do not know about our education standards, what we are qualified to do, and how we can help our state with the access to care crisis. We have met with Dr. Tim Thompson, Idaho State Dental Association (ISDA) President, and are working with them to solve the access to care problem together. ISDA will be active this year in lobbying for increased Medicaid reimbursement; re-establishing the State Dental Director position and hiring a qualified dentist who specializes in public health; doing away with sales tax on dental materials; and other issues. During our meetings with the Health and Welfare Committee members, we are showing support for these ISDA concerns.

Our committee is co-chaired by Elizabeth Nies and Samantha Kenney, and we need one member from each component to help us meet with Legislators from their area.

- We currently have the following components covered: ACE and Magic Valley.
- We need at least one member from the following components: North Central Idaho, North Idaho, Portneuf Valley, and Upper Snake River.

Our Lobbyist will set up the meetings with Legislators and attend them with you. We also will have information for you to use during the meeting. Let your passion shine and join our committee today. Please contact me: Lizabiz_2000@yahoo.com or 208.866.4271.

ISU DEPARTMENT OF DENTAL HYGIENE

Kathleen O. Hodges, RDH, MS, Professor & Department Chair

Undergraduate Program

The students are very busy with their classes, clinical education and community service learning opportunities. The annual Give Kids a Smile (GKAS) Day is scheduled in Pocatello at the Idaho State University Clinic on February 22nd and 23rd. We expect the event to be as successful, if not even more successful, than last year's event. Grant money received by Jacque Freudenthal, RDH, MHE from IDHA for this worthwhile cause is being used to purchase instruments to provide quality oral health care.

In addition, the Student American Dental Hygienists' Association is busy initiating and participating in service projects to raise awareness of oral health needs and to serve the underserved. Funding for these projects is partially provided through the grant money received from the American Dental Hygienists' Association and Tom's of Maine for last year's GKAS Day. Lastly, the National Board examination is scheduled for March 25th and students are preparing.

The faculty is very busy as well. Program goals for this semester were to update the department's five-year strategic plan and to embark on a course review process for the curriculum. Currently, the full and part-time faculty and recent graduates are participating in a course review process whereby the first semester courses are reviewed and recommendations are made for future changes to the curriculum. The course review process is being undertaken to keep the curriculum leading-edge and contemporary. This process will continue, semester by semester, until all courses are reviewed.

The faculty is also working on student centered activities, research endeavors, development of the Idaho Oral Health Institute (IOHI) initiative, and the Capital Campaign for raising funds for the IOHI. Additionally, the students and faculty will conduct the annual alumni Phonathon on February 10th and 11th for the purpose of raising money for ISU and the department. The faculty and students thank you in advance for donating "back" to your alma mater. The money is always used wisely on new equipment to enhance the students' education.

Graduate Program

Twenty-two students are currently enrolled the program and one new student has enrolled for this spring. Currently, five students are involved in their thesis work. Topics range from clinical ultrasonic instrumentation to technology related to dental hygiene education to cultural health beliefs. Linda Boyd, Ellen Rogo and Ann Wetmore, a current graduate student, will present a Faculty Development Workshop entitled Electronic Portfolios to Assess Student and Program Outcomes at the 85th American Dental Education Association Annual Session in Dallas, Texas from March 29th to April 2nd, 2008.

The Master of Science in Dental Hygiene (MSDH) program is offering online continuing education courses that are targeted for public health dental hygienists as well as educators. More information can be found on the MSDH website: www.isu.edu/dentalhy. Please contact me with questions or comments: hodgkat1@isu.edu or 208.282.2744.

NCIDHS

Amy Larson, RDH, President

The NCIDHS component enjoyed two continuing education presentations this fall that attracted hygienists from Lewiston and Moscow, Idaho, as well as Colfax, Clarkston and Pullman, Washington.

In October, Vonne Cunningham met with us to discuss the Velscope, an oral cancer detection tool (for more information, see Velscope's website: www.velscope.com).

In November, Dr. John Morrison, DMD, of Palouse Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, PA, spoke with us about Bisphosphonate-Related Osteonecrosis of the Jaw (BRONJ). There is an interesting article about BRONJ from the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons at: www.aaoms.org/press_releases.php?id=51.

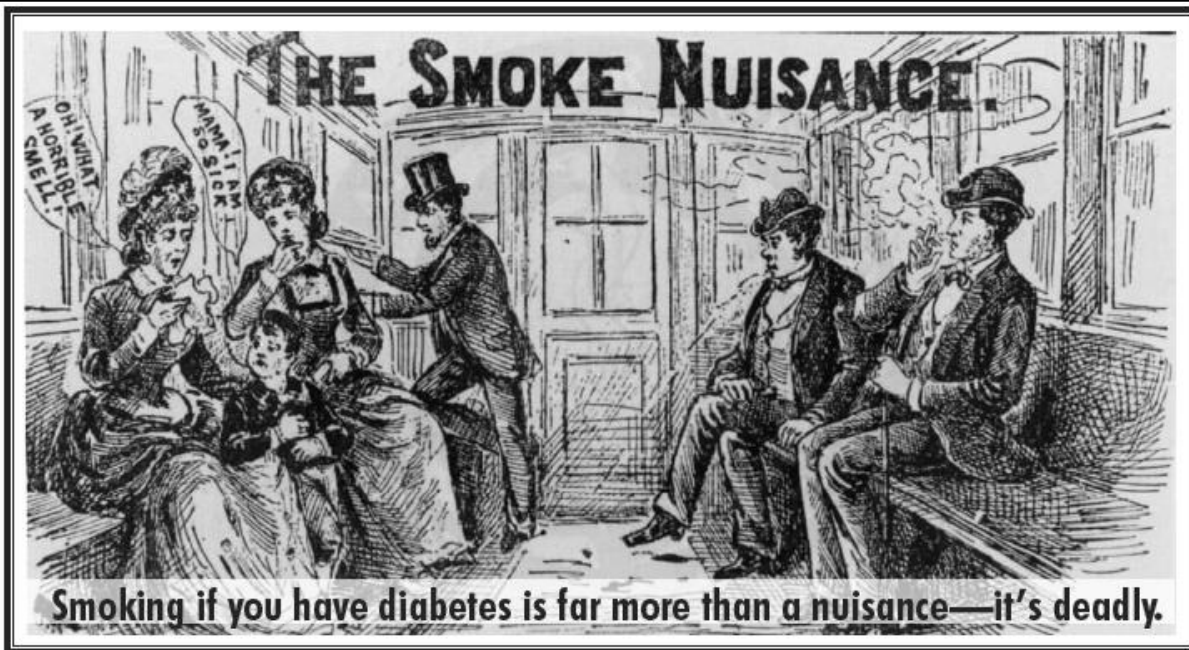
Our meetings will resume the first Thursday of every month starting again in February. For more information, see idha.org.



The following is a selection of announcements from the American Academy of Pediatrics Newsletter—for the complete release or to sign up to receive it, see their website: www.aap.org/commpeps/doch/oralhealth/pedsCare.cfm.

Give Kids A Smile Sign-up Now Available

A one-day event like Give Kids A Smile isn't a cure-all; it's a wake-up call. People shouldn't have to depend on charity for basic dental care. It's time for politicians, parents and others who care to work together toward a solution. Give Kids A Smile is meant to accomplish two things, help children get the dental care they so desperately need AND raise awareness that our children deserve a better health care system that addresses their dental health needs. Give Kids A Smile is an annual centerpiece to National Children's Dental Health Month and is observed every year on the first Friday in February, while NCDHM is celebrated during the entire month of February. National Children's Dental Health Month focuses on providing oral health education to all children despite their economic status. Give Kids A Smile was designed to provide education, preventative. Information about the program and signing up is available online at: www.ada.org/prof/events/featured/gkas/index.asp.



If your patients with diabetes smoke, they need your help to quit.

People with diabetes who smoke:

- Are twice as likely to have circulation problems that can lead to amputation.
- Have a high risk of permanent vision loss or blindness.
- Are more likely to get serious gum disease.

The Idaho Diabetes Prevention and Control Program is asking for your help. Call or e-mail us today to receive a free *Project Filter Healthcare Providers' Quit Kit* and easy-to-read patient brochures about the risks of smoking if you have diabetes. Call 208-334-4961 or e-mail us at calomenj@dhw.idaho.gov.



Photo courtesy of United States National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health

Seal America: The Prevention Invention

The National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center is pleased to announce that Steps 5 and 9 of the second edition of "Seal America: The Prevention Invention" have been updated. Step 5 (Funding) now includes more strategies for securing and sustaining program funding. Step 9 (Referral and Follow-Up) provides further information on identifying resources for follow-up care and establishing dental homes for students that participate in school-based dental sealant programs. Seal America is an online manual designed to assist health professionals in initiating and implementing a school-based dental sealant program to help prevent tooth decay in children. It is available at: www.mchoralhealth.org/seal.

Boom Times for Dentists, but Not for Teeth

(New York Times—Oct 11)

For American dentists, times have never been better. The same cannot be said for Americans' teeth. With dentists' fees rising far faster than inflation and more than 100 million people lacking dental insurance, the percentage of Americans with untreated cavities began rising this decade, reversing a half-century trend of improvement in dental health. Previously unreleased figures from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that in 2003 and 2004, the most recent years with data available, 27 percent of children and 29 percent of adults had cavities going untreated. The level of untreated decay was the highest since the late 1980s and significantly higher than that found in a

survey from 1999 to 2002. For middle-class and wealthy Americans, straight white teeth are still a virtual birthright. And dentists say that a majority of people in this country receive high-quality care. But many poor and lower-middle-class families do not receive adequate care, in part because most dentists want customers who can pay cash or have private insurance, and they do not accept Medicaid patients. Access article online at: www.nytimes.com/2007/10/11/business/11decay.html?bl&ex=1192248000&en=b698745fe9b69c4d&ei=5087%0A.

Tories Ponder Hygienist Options

(Dentistry; United Kingdom—Oct 4)

The Conservative Party is investigating proposals to 'free up' dental hygienists to allow them to practice in the high street without the need for referrals. Mike Penning MP, who was recently appointed the party's spokesman for dentistry, said he hoped to launch his party's response to the government's 'fatally flawed' contract later this year. But he revealed to Dentistry that he wanted to 'look into freeing up dental hygiene' as part of a drive to increase access to health services. Mr Penning said dental hygiene work 'tends to be done inside a dentist's surgery'. Changes to the law in July 2006 enabled hygienists to set up stand-alone high street practices – but patients are still required to obtain a referral from a dental surgery before they can be assessed or receive treatment. Since the reforms, just a handful of dedicated

(continued on page 10)

dental hygiene practices have opened across the country. Access article online at: http://dentistry.co.uk/news/news_detail.php?id=822.

US Faces Shortage of Pediatric Subspecialists
(Kaiser Daily—Sept 26)

Despite an increase in the number of specialty pediatricians over the past decade, there is a nationwide shortage of pediatric subspecialists, particularly in rural areas, the Houston Chronicle reports. According to the American Board of Pediatrics, about 1,200 freshman fellows were enrolled in pediatric subspecialties in 2006 -- about twice the number enrolled in 1997 -- but the number of available pediatric subspecialists is not enough to meet the growing demand for their services. Ralph Feigin, chief physician at Texas Children's Hospital, said, "The numbers are minuscule," noting, "We need one-third more subspecialists in general than we have, but that number varies markedly from specialty to specialty." According to pediatricians, lengthy training without pay required of subspecialists has contributed to the shortage. Giuseppe Colasurdo, chief physician at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital and chair of pediatrics at University of Texas Medical School-Houston, said, "Unless you're committed to an academic career, most people prefer to end their training after three years and go into general practice and make some money." Specialists can undergo up to 10 years of medical school, residency and training before being paid, "which isn't always feasible for doctors trying to support a family," the Chronicle reports. Access article online at: www.kaisernet.org/daily_reports/rep_hpolicy.cfm#47771

Dentists Smile on Sugarless Gums' Impact
(USA Today—Sept 25)

Wrigley has convinced the powerful American Dental Association (ADA) that consumers can chew gum and fight cavities at the same time. Today, the world's biggest chewing gum maker will announce it's received the ADA seal for its Orbit, Extra and Eclipse sugarless gums. No chewing gum has ever received the coveted seal, which denotes it provides an oral health benefit. It's found on Crest toothpaste and Listerine mouthwash and about 400 other products. The seal will be a focal point in ads for the three brands and on packages. "What consumers want from a chewing gum isn't just flavor or fresh breath," says Martin Schlatter, Wrigley's marketing chief. "They also want oral health." ADA executives say no payment is involved for the seal, but that it charges fees to defray the program's cost. Wrigley paid \$36,000 (\$12,000 each) to submit the three gums for scrutiny. It will pay a \$2,500 annual "maintenance" fee to use the seal. In addition to the fees, Wrigley spent \$26,000 to sponsor the program for the ADA's annual meeting this week in San Francisco and \$6,000 for exhibit space. Wrigley also has bought \$19,000 of ad space in ADA publications and contributed \$25,000 to an ADA Foundation health-screening program. Access article online at: www.abcnews.com/Health/Dental/story?id=3647234&page=1.

Dentists, Consumer Groups Debate ADA Seal on Gum
(ABC News Sept 26)

The American Dental Association's decision to bestow its seal of acceptance on Wrigley's sugar-free gum products is drawing fire from some consumer advocates who say the dental health benefits implied by the endorsement are still unclear. Still, dentists say that attainment of the seal is no small matter and that sugar-free gum has been shown to live up to the distinction. The seal, usually reserved for products such as toothpaste, dental floss and toothbrushes, will now be displayed on packages of Orbit, Extra and Eclipse, which have been clinically proven to help prevent cavities, reduce plaque acid and strengthen teeth. It will be the first time the seal will be used for such products. But, the fact that the company, at least partially, funded some of the studies — along with the large sums of money the company paid to the ADA to submit its products for approval — have some second-guessing the validity of the seal.

"What does the seal really mean?" asked Dr. Peter Lurie of the Health Research Group at Public Citizen, the nonprofit consumer advocacy group. "If it had been an FDA-style approval, we would know what studies had been done and we would be able to scrutinize them for ourselves. Because this study has been done privately, we have no way of knowing the clinical benefit." Access article online at: www.abcnews.com/Health/story?id=3650113&page=1.

Could Your Child's Baby Teeth Save Lives?
(NewsCenter 5-Boston—Sept 18)

When you think about a child losing baby teeth, you may picture them putting it under their pillow. But scientists say parents should consider removing those teeth just before they fall out. Your child's tiny, pearly whites may hold big promise. "What it is, is a promise for the future," said Dr. Corine Barone, a pediatric dentist from Marblehead, Mass. Scientists have found that baby teeth are a terrific source of stem cells. They believe those stem cells could someday cure diseases. "There's a potential for curing, helping and aiding Parkinson's, osteoporosis, even heart repair," said Barone. Barone said every parent should consider preserving their child's baby teeth. She said the tooth should be pulled to extract stem cells to ensure the maximum number is preserved. Barone also said the best time to do this is in a dentist's office, when the tooth is loose, but before it's hanging by a thread. Access article online at: www.thebostonchannel.com/asseenon5/14143140/detail.html.



GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY CLINIC

Garden City Community Clinic needs volunteer dentists, hygienists and assistants. Please contact Monica Hyde, volunteer coordinator: 385-5200, or download the volunteer form on our website at www.genesisworldmission.org.



We are looking for Dental Hygienists and Dentists to volunteer for

The Healthy Athletes Special Smiles Screenings

for

**The World Invitational in 2008
& World Games in 2009!**

*Great opportunity to get the whole office involved for an amazing
Team building experience!

Volunteer Information

- Invitational Winter Games 2008- Tuesday February 26th & Wednesday February 27th in Boise, Idaho
- World Games 2009- February 7th – 13th in Boise, Idaho
- No cost to attend any sporting event
- Required to attend two 4-hour shifts, with food provided for each shift.
- Shift hours are: Tuesday and Wednesday from 8am-12pm; 12pm-4pm; and 4pm-8pm.
- Required: Volunteer Application, fingerprinting at the World Game Headquarters- (no cost), background check, and special venue trainings. Download an application at: www.2009worldgames.org
- Uniforms: Each volunteer will be given a fleece vest, ski jacket and hat. Other shirts will be provided for Special Smiles in addition to the Special Olympic uniform
- An In-Kind service write-off is available to offices that close their practice for volunteering.
- C.E. Credits: A Dentist will receive 1 C.E. credit for every 2 hours of volunteered time, up to 5 C.E. credits. A Dental Hygienist will receive 1 C.E. credit for every 2 hours of volunteered time up to 7 C.E. credits.

For more information please contact:

Amy Haugen RDH, MA
Special Smiles Director
World Games Committee
Cell: #208-724-1932
haugena@cableone.net

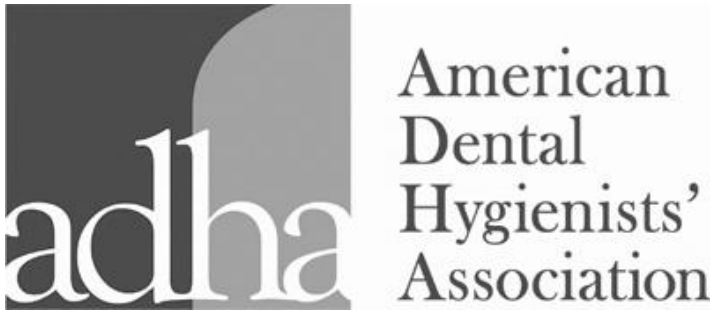
Jennifer Clayton RDH
Special Smiles Director
World Games Committee
Cell: #208-919-8416
jenavia55@msn.com

TERRY REILLY HEALTH SERVICES

Terry Reilly Health Services (TRHS) is a community based non-profit corporation which is dedicated to providing quality comprehensive health care to populations facing barriers elsewhere. TRHS is funded through federal grants, private donations, and other variable sources.

The Terry Reilly dental clinics provide high quality, respectful care to all, with fees based on patients' ability to pay. Services are available on a discounted fee basis, in accordance with family income for patients who might not otherwise have any access to oral health care. Many of the clients served at the Terry Reilly clinics are low income, working poor, and homeless who may not have the option to receive their treatment elsewhere.

If you, or a hygienist you know are willing to give your time and skills to the clinic, please contact Janet Garlick at 208.562.8387 or trueleo@netscape.com.



ADHA UPDATE

ADHA Responds to NY Times Article, "Boom Times for dentists but Not for Teeth"

The October 11th issue of the NY Times featured an excellent article on the state of oral health care in the US entitled "Boom Times for dentists but Not for Teeth." ADHA President Jean Connor, RDH submitted a letter to the editor in response to the article which can be found on our website: www.adha.org/news/10152007-nytimes.htm

New Portability Resource from ADHA!

Considering a move? Whether you're moving across the state or across the country, the ADHA community offers you contacts in your new locale that can help you find work. Our online resources and staff supply you with information on state licensing. So if you are moving soon, or if you know of another dental hygienist who is, please check out our new website page devoted exclusively to assisting you in acquiring a dental hygiene license in another state. In addition to general information, the page has direct links to each state's board of dentistry website. Please don't hesitate to contact the Division of Governmental Affairs at ADHA at gov.affairs@adha.net should have any questions. www.adha.org/portability/index.html

Congratulations 2007 Graduates!

Don't worry, you aren't alone! While the transition from academia to practice may seem daunting, the ADHA community is here to help, support and guide you through this exciting time! Simply by staying connected to ADHA you will have access to a network of dental hygienists across the country that you can turn to for advice, mentoring and yes, even fun!

All it takes is a few simple steps. Simply visit www.adha.org and login to your membership record and click the "Convert Now" link. By completing the information and providing your dental hygiene license number, you will change your membership from Student to Active and secure your place in the ADHA community! If you have any questions, contact the Division of Member Services at member.services@adha.net or 1-800-243-2342, press 1.

Online Membership Renewal

As a member of the ADHA community, you have access to all of the resources needed to keep you up to date in the profession of dental hygiene. With busy schedules, however, it's easy to put off routine tasks. But maintaining your connection to ADHA is easier than ever with our online membership renewal at www.adha.org!

Survey of Dental Hygienists in the United States

The American Dental Hygienists' Association has launched a new multi-year initiative to become the preferred source for data and information on all aspects of the Dental Hygiene profession in the United States.

AskAdviseRefer Enjoys Continued Success

On October 25, Carol Southard, Smoking Cessation Initiative (SCI) Consultant, presented a poster presentation at the National Tobacco or Health Conference entitled "Nationwide Effort by Dental Hygienists to Promote Smoking Cessation." The poster was viewed by hundreds of participants and tobacco experts from all over the country many of whom expressed their appreciation to ADHA for modeling an effective and efficient cessation intervention as many had adopted the AskAdviseRefer approach into their own practice.

At that same conference, Carol also presented on the ADHA SCI as part of a panel moderated by Dr. Steven Schroeder, director of the Smoking Cessation Leadership Center. On November 3, Carol presented the same ADHA SCI PowerPoint at The International Society for the Prevention of Tobacco Induced Disease. Following the presentation several nurses and doctors from places as disparate as Thailand and Canada inquired as to the implementation of the AskAdviseRefer model. With the overwhelming success of AskAdviseRefer, ADHA has influenced tobacco cessation practice among all health care professions both nationally and abroad.

For more information on ADHA's Smoking Cessation Initiative, please visit www.askadviserefer.org.

Webcasts on AskAdviseRefer

Please visit the AskAdviseRefer website to access and view two new webcasts. The first is "Smoking Cessation Practice Guidelines for Registered Dental Hygienists" presented by Carol Southard. The second is "Tobacco Cessation Protocols for the Dental Practice" presented by Austin Risbeck. Both of these webcasts were produced through the grant funding received from the University of California – San Francisco, Smoking Cessation Leadership Center.

OHRC Offers Web-based Continuing Education

The National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC) is pleased to announce the availability of a new Web-based continuing education (CE) course, Special Care: An Oral Health Professional's Guide to Serving Young Children with Special Health Care Needs. Four CE credits through the ADHA will be awarded upon successful completion of the course. This CE course contains 5 Modules and is free of charge. The course is available at www.mchoralhealth.org/SpecialCare.

Call for Submissions

Are you interested in serving ADHA on a national level? Please complete a bio-data form (available at adha.org) and submit it to irenej@adha.net or karenc@adha.net.

Dental Hygienists' Toothfairy Campaign

Pediatric dental disease continues to be the #1 chronic childhood illness in America. That is one reason why the American Dental Hygienists Association is partnering with the National Children's Oral Health Foundation (NCOHF) to reach out to America's most vulnerable children and their families in a cooperative effort to end this painful, debilitating and preventable disease.

I am very excited to join other leaders in the dental hygiene community in support of the Dental Hygienists' Toothfairy Campaign, an historic collaborative effort that, with your help, will raise funds and awareness to eliminate childhood dental disease.

A contribution to the Toothfairy Campaign is a great way to celebrate National Dental Hygiene Month. Our community continues to be a leader in the effort to develop solutions to this national health crisis. A strong show of support to the Toothfairy Campaign will help thousands of children and show our strong and deep commitment to this underserved population.

I am so proud of the dental hygiene community because each time we are asked we take the lead on these important issues. I know this time will be no exception. No contribution is too small, so please give what you can. Thank you in advance for your generous contribution - the children truly appreciate your help! —Ann Battrell, RDH, MSDH, ADHA Executive Director. Go to: www.adha.org/downloads/enews/RDH_Call_to_Action.pdf

Call 1.800.559.9838 or visit www.toothfairycampaign.org.

20th Annual Meeting on Special Care Dentistry

Join SCDA at the 20th Annual Meeting on Special Care Dentistry, March 14-16, 2008, in San Antonio, Texas, for a clinically-focused program with didactic and hands-on sessions covering a variety of topics pertinent to pediatric care, such as:

- Music and the Special Needs Patient: A Noteworthy Practice Model
- Prophylactic Antibiotics Redux –Yes, No or Maybe
- Incorporating Implants into the Special Needs Practice
- Treating Fearful Patients with and without Cognitive Impairment: A Healing Art
- Outpatient Sedation Modalities for Patients with Special Needs

Registration will be live this Winter! Visit www.SCDAonline.org for event details.

Hygienist Infection Control Survey

ADHA requests your participation in the following research survey being conducted by Nancy Goodwin, CDA, RDH, BS. This study is in keeping with the National Dental Hygiene Research Agenda and will help unleash your potential to provide the best care you can to your patients. Should you have any questions or comments, please contact Nancy directly at 706-583-2812 or via email at ngoodwi@my.wgu.edu.

As a part of graduate research, Nancy is conducting a nationwide survey of dental professionals. The goal of the research is to discover the actual infection control practices of dental professionals across the country. The survey link below is being sent to thousands of dental hygienists and dental assistants. It will only take a few minutes of your time; results will be completely anonymous and will be used to develop a research project and subsequent articles that may be submitted to professional journals.

To participate, first go to the dental hygienists' link and complete the survey. Second, please forward the links to dental assistants that you know both certified and not certified. This will help the results better reflect the population of assistants who are practicing in the United States. The Surveys will be open thru December 25, 2007.

Dental Hygienists: www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=ISJ5ht7FiIII3ezL9nk_2brg_3d_3d

Office Trained Assistants: www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=LQwqGupKcheNVB131JWYBQ_3d_3d

School Trained Assistants: www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=9OmISAcEWUKooGmdn8lRxx_3d_3d

Thank you again for your participation in this important research!! —Nancy Goodwin, CDA, RDH, BS, Western Governor's University.

ADEA Releases Article on Workforce

The American Dental Education Association recently developed an association report, "Emerging Allied Dental Workforce Models: Considerations for Academic Dental Institutions" which was published in the November issue of the Journal of Dental Education. The report describes the various workforce models being developed including the Community Dental Health Coordinator (CDHC), the Oral Preventive Assistant (OPA), the Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner (ADHP), and the Dental Health Aide Therapist (DHAT) and their stage of development. The report specifically states that the current oral healthcare system is insufficient "to meet the needs of disadvantaged groups and is disproportionately available depending upon certain racial, ethnic and socioeconomic factors within the U.S. population." "ADEA recognizes the need for the extended employment of allied dental professionals, as it is one way to improve access to oral health care," said ADEA President James Q. Swift, DDS.

The ADEA Association Report published in the November 2007 Journal of Dental Education can be obtained by contacting ADEA by phone at 202-289-7201 or by visiting the website at: www.adea.org or www.jdentaled.org.

ADHA 2008 Annual Session

- Save the date: June 18-25, 2008

Annual Session 2007 in New Orleans was filled with excitement as ADHA launched the new brand! Networking, friendship, community outreach and education topped the highlights of our weeklong experience.

Albuquerque 2008 promises to be even more exciting! Building off the new brand, the Annual Session is undergoing a major overhaul. The focus for 2008 is on YOU!

The 2008 event has been created to Unleash Your Potential by...

Empowering You - Offering leadership courses, community outreach program and the tools you need to make the difference in your career and life!

Developing You - Extensive CE programming that includes individualized tracks for Clinicians, Educators and a NEW Lifestyles offering to develop you as a dynamic individual.

Supporting You - Creating a community environment full of mentorship, networking with colleagues and reconnecting with long-time friends.

The 2008 program will offer the educational component of the Center for Lifelong Learning during June 18-21, followed by the Annual Session Business Meeting portion, June 22-25. The schedule will now create the opportunity for all to attend the cutting edge CE programming and the business meeting event ~ this really will be 2-events-in-one! Go to adha.org for more information.

Helpful Information on MRSA Infections

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) infection is caused by Staphylococcus aureus bacteria, also known as "staph." In addition to methicillin, this infection is resistant to common antibiotics such as oxacillin, penicillin and amoxicillin. Staph infections, including MRSA, occur most frequently among persons in hospitals and healthcare facilities. MRSA can be fatal if left untreated.

MRSA infections that occur in otherwise healthy people who have not been recently (within the past year) hospitalized or had a medical procedure (such as dialysis, surgery, catheters) are known as community-associated (CA)-MRSA infections. These infections are usually skin infections, such as abscesses, boils, and other pus-filled lesions.

Staph bacteria are generally harmless unless they enter the body through a wound. Even when this occurs, if the person is healthy it tends to only cause a skin infection. Those most susceptible to more serious illness include the elderly, the sick and others with weakened immune systems.

The estimated number of people developing a serious MRSA infection (i.e., invasive) in 2005 was about 94,360; this is higher than estimates using other methods. Approximately 18,650 persons died during a hospital stay related to these serious MRSA infections.

About 85% of all invasive MRSA infections were associated with healthcare, and of those, about two-thirds occurred outside of the hospital, while about one third occurred during hospitalization. About 14% of all the infections occurred in persons without obvious exposures to healthcare.

For more information on how to prevent MRSA, please visit: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_mrsa_prevention.html
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_mrsa_ca_prevention.html

ADHA Responds to CODA Call for Comments

In response to a call for comments by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), the ADHA recently proposed changes to the Accreditation Standards for Dental Hygiene Education. A letter written by ADHA past-president Marge Green to CODA, along with the changes ADHA proposed to the Accreditation Standards, can be found on the Members Resources section of adha.org.

Accessing the Journal of Dental Hygiene Online No Longer Requires Registration with Ingenta.

In order to make the Journal of Dental Hygiene more accessible, members can link directly to the Journal through the Members section of the ADHA Web site. To view Journal articles, please log in to the Members section of the ADHA Web site and click on the Members Resources link. Scroll down to the Journal of Dental Hygiene link, which will take you directly to a list of all the available issues online. If you have any questions, please contact Journal of Dental Hygiene Staff Editor Katie Barge: 312.440.7381 or katieb@adha.net.

ADHA AWARDS

Know somebody who deserves to be recognized for their hard work and dedication? ADHA, in conjunction with a number of sponsors, is offering you the opportunity to nominate them! Take a look at adha.org for awards which are currently available and check back later for the many more to come. Nomination materials and more information for all awards available on ADHA's website: adha.org.

2008 Johnson & Johnson/ADHA Awards

Additional forms the nominator and nominees are available for download. Ten (10) copies of the entire document must arrive at ADHA no later than January 7, 2008.

2008 Distinguished Service Award

The Discus Dental / ADHA Distinguished Service Award recognizes outstanding achievement and dedication to the profession of dental hygiene. January 16, 2008 deadline.

ADHA and Procter & Gamble announce Dental Hygiene Educator of the Year Award.

ADHA understands the value a quality education. That's why we're seeking your assistance in identifying a full-time dental hygiene faculty member who contributes to and is dedicated to providing high quality education to dental hygiene students. Application Deadline: February 1, 2008.

ELIGIBILITY:

Individuals should be nominated by a professional peer, a student, alumni, and/or the director of the program or dean of the school. Nominees must be an ADHA member, be a full-time or part-time (no less than 15 contact hours per week) faculty member at either an accredited dental hygiene program (289), in a dental hygiene degree-completion program (58), or in a Master of Science degree program in dental hygiene (15). A listing of recognized programs can be found at www.adha.org.

If you would like to nominate an educator, the complete award criteria can be found at www.adha.org/downloads/2008_ed_of_the_year.pdf. We appreciate your valuable assistance! If you have any questions, please contact LaQuetia McReynolds at education@adha.net or by phone at 312.440.6784.

2008 Irene Newman Professional Achievement Award

The Irene Newman Professional Achievement Award recognizes current ADHA members who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in advancing the art and science of dental hygiene. Applications must be postmarked by February 15, 2008.

2008 Alfred C. Fones Award

The Alfred C. Fones Award is to recognize a current ADHA member who has contributed significantly to the profession of dental hygiene. Applications must be postmarked by February 15, 2008.

2008 ADHA/Crest® Oral-B Esther Wilkins Future Leader Award

This award was created to recognize dental hygienists who exhibit a strong commitment to the dental hygiene profession and have demonstrated leadership in the American Dental Hygienists' Association within five years of graduation from an accredited dental hygiene program. Applications must be postmarked no later than March 3, 2008.

Crest/ADHA Award for Clinical Dental Hygienists

This program recognizes and honors clinical dental hygienists that make a difference in the lives of their patients/clients. March 3, 2008 deadline.

Colgate/ADHA Community Outreach Award

This component award program recognizes the volunteer efforts of ADHA components and individuals who have conducted significant community outreach programs that focus on preventive oral health care. March 3, 2008 deadline.

Nominations for ADHA Delegate to the International Federation of Dental Hygienists (IFDH)

Nominations are now being accepted for the position of delegate to the International Federation of Dental Hygienists (IFDH). The duties of IFDH delegates are:

- Attend the IFDH meeting and submit a liaison report
- Submit an annual report to ADHA for review
- Prepare articles for publication

The term of appointment is six years. The following criteria serve as qualifications for the position:

- Experience in the IFDH
- Experience in the international and oral health organizations/agencies
- Commitment to international health endeavors
- Support for the policies of IFDH
- Having served as a member of the ADHA Board of Trustees
- Time commitment to the term of office

Names to be considered by the ADHA Board of Trustees should be submitted by February 15, 2008, 5 p.m. CST. Nominations may be accompanied by a curriculum vitae and a short statement in support of the applicant's qualifications. Go to: www.adha.org/enews/12122007.htm.



Unleashing your Potential.



NEWSLETTER

PO Box 7682
Boise, ID 83707

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Volunteer opportunities, including Special Smiles at the Special Olympics.

IDHA Committee & Component Reports

DH School Reports

Legislative News and ISBD Update

2007 Idaho Oral Health Summit Information

ADHA Update

and much more...

SAVE THE DATE

Join us at the 2008 IDHA Annual Session on October 3 & 4 at the Boise Airport Holiday Inn.

We will have great speakers and exhibitors, and Dr. Esther Wilkins will be there!

Watch our website for upcoming information: idha.org.



THE NEXT IDHA NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
IS SATURDAY, MARCH 29TH, 2008.

Check out the IDHA website:
www.idha.org