

Carol King Award – Nominee, Jane L. Forrest, RDH, EdD

It is an honor to be nominated for the 2017 NJDHA Carol King Award for Advancing the Profession of Dental Hygiene. I have been a proud member of NJDHA for 37 years, although I moved to California 18 years ago. In advancing Carol King's theme of being able to practice as an independent contractor, I took it a step further. In 1981, I co-authored the article "Independent Practice: A Perspective for the Future," and later, on "Increasing Access to Quality Dental Hygiene Care: An Educational Model," which addressed preparing dental hygienists for independent practice.

In 1987-88 I was privileged to serve as the NJDHA president and afterwards as chair of several NJDHA committees. From 1985-88 I was a delegate to ADHA and chaired the ADHA Practice and Legislative Committee, prior to being elected as the ADHA Trustee for District II in 1988. 1988 continued to be a special year as I was among the first group to receive the ADHA/Warner Lambert Award for Excellence in Dental Hygiene.

While active in NJDHA and ADHA I taught at Thomas Jefferson University (TJU) and completed my doctoral degree that included developing a quality assurance curriculum model for dental hygiene programs. More recently, 2012-2016, I was a member of the ADHA Task Force for the Revision of the Standards for Clinical Dental Hygiene Practice and served as the ADHA representative on the ADA's Expert Panel on the Development of Clinical Recommendations on the Treatment of Periodontal Disease. Outcomes included clinical practice guidelines, many areas of which apply to dental hygiene practice.

My work has always focused on dental hygiene and looking at strategies to gain recognition as a primary care health profession. Recognizing we needed to strengthen our

science and research skills, in 1993 I was part of the TJU team that received a grant leading to the development of the National Center for Dental Hygiene Research and a Summer Institute Research program for dental hygienists and occupational therapists. Headed by a research mentor, teams of faculty and clinicians from universities throughout the U.S. attended a 5-day program to learn how to build a collaborative team, conduct theory-based research, and prepare proposals for external funding.

Parallel to this grant, I was part of the steering committee to establish the Oral/Dental Hygiene Research Group of the International Association of Dental Research. Following its formation, I served in several capacities including as president. I also worked to establish the group's award, which today is one of the most prestigious awards a dental hygienist can receive.

As director of the National Center, three additional interdisciplinary grants were awarded. The first one focused on establishing the DHNet, the electronic infrastructure of the National Center, and a second Summer Institute program to train the same teams in electronic communications to advance their research. The next grant was "Integrating an Evidence-Based Decision Making [EBDM] Approach into Curricula." Through this Summer Institute program faculty gained hands-on experience in applying EBDM principles and skills, and in teaching students how to become EB practitioners. The fourth grant was on enhancing culturally competent care along with another interdisciplinary Summer Institute program.

Although the federal funding source that once supported the grants I received no longer exists, the National Center has continued to receive support from several corporate entities. This has allowed us to sponsor three global dental hygiene research conferences with the fourth one scheduled for October 2017 in Ottawa, Canada. These conferences have been

personally gratifying by being able to bring together an international community of dental hygienists to share their research, explore commonalities and foster future collaborations. They have provided a unique opportunity for networking and providing workshops for novice and more advanced investigators to move our research and profession forward.

In addition to the global dental hygiene conferences, the focus of my contributions and achievements have been related to EBDM. I have presented several workshops at international, national and state meetings on this topic. Publications have included authoring/co-authoring the ADHA White Paper on Evidence-Based Decision Making in Dental Hygiene Practice, Education and Research, a series of articles on EBDM skills for dental and dental hygiene journals, two textbooks, and chapters on EBDM for other textbooks. EBDM is also the focus of my teaching and mentoring activities with students, residents and faculty. All these accomplishments would not have been possible without the many opportunities dental hygiene has afforded me. Dental hygiene continues to be the motivating force for continuing my life's work to help advance the profession.