Joyce Kwok (Pui Ling)

In 2000, after many years as a dental therapist, Joyce left her family in Vancouver to attend the School of Dental Hygiene at the University of Manitoba. She graduated in 2002 with a diploma in dental hygiene, and went on to obtain her bachelor’s degree in dental science (dental hygiene) from the University of British Columbia in 2009.

Joyce embraces her busy but colourful life as a registered dental hygienist, both locally in a periodontal practice and in her independent mobile practice in long-term care facilities. She volunteers to meet the oral health needs of the general public in her community and underprivileged people overseas.

Niagara College

The graduating dental hygiene class at Niagara College, together with their instructor, Jennifer Turner, celebrated National Dental Hygienists Week™ by creating fact sheets on human papillomavirus and oral cancer; pamphlets on safe sex and oral health, and on smoking cessation; information booths on oral hygiene, toothbrushes (including a toothbrush swap), and on what to expect during a dental hygiene appointment, either in a private dental practice or with an independent practitioner. The students interacted with hundreds of excited participants in all age groups throughout the afternoon while sharing important information on oral health.

Colin Cook & Oxford County Public Health Oral Health Team

The Oxford County Public Health Oral Health Team consists of three dental hygienists, two dental assistants, two support staff, a dentist consultant, and a program manager. The team was eager to involve the community in its Oral Health Month campaign, and used school visits, public events, and social media to engage their community as well as other health units and their respective communities. Team members are proud of the success of this promotion and hope to educate greater numbers in their community in future years.

Julie Farmer

Julie is currently enrolled in the thesis-based Master of Science Dental Public Health degree program at the University of Toronto. Her interests include promoting access to care and providing oral health education for marginalized populations and the general public through clinical practice, community involvement, and public policy advocacy. Her current research activities involve qualitative analysis of the role of dental hygienists in reducing oral health disparities in Canada, and quantitative research on the magnitude of oral health inequalities in Canada and the United States.

Susan Young

Susan is the winner of the inaugural CDHA Oh Canada! Readers’ Choice award for her article, entitled “Connecting with Dementia Clients,” which was published in the Fall 2013 issue of the magazine. Susan is a 1989 graduate of Algonquin College in Ottawa. She worked full time in private practice for many years and now divides her time between private practice, part-time teaching in the dental hygiene degree program at the University of British Columbia, and running her company, Dental Hygenix, which provides mobile dental hygiene care. She is thrilled to be a member of one of the first dental hygiene study clubs in British Columbia which is still going strong 18 years later. In a previous life she completed 25 marathons and four Ironman triathlons.

Zul Kanji

Zul holds a full-time position as a clinical assistant professor in the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of British Columbia (UBC), and is the Years 1 and 2 curriculum coordinator in the dental hygiene degree program. He was instrumental in integrating UBC’s Interprofessional
Education Passport program into the curriculum last year, which requires dental hygiene students to participate in interdisciplinary study with students from nursing, dietetics, medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and midwifery. Zul believes that the purpose of education is to prepare students to educate themselves. He is passionate about fostering confidence, critical thinking, independent study, and research use abilities in his students while providing a safe learning environment open to freedom of thought without fear of judgement or failure.

CDHA Global Health Initiative Award, National Category (sponsored by SUNSTAR G•U•M)
Sue Lighthall

Sue graduated as a dental hygienist from the University of Toronto and was licensed to practice in BC in 1966. She has been a member of the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association and the British Columbia Dental Hygienists Association (BCDHA) and its component societies, and has served on the local executives and the BCDHA Board throughout her career. Although she has worked primarily in a general practice, she has also worked in public health, taught at Camosun College (Victoria, BC) in its certified dental assisting program, and worked in a periodontal practice. She has been happy to see the huge change in oral health over the years, which she attributes strongly to the profession of dental hygiene.

CDHA Global Health Initiative Award, International Category (sponsored by SUNSTAR G•U•M)
Pauline Leroux

Since 2011, Pauline has volunteered abroad to assist vulnerable populations living in Ethiopia, Kenya, Nicaragua, and Peru. Her most recent outreach project involved travel to Peru with the Kindness in Action organization for seven days. Each day, arriving by boat, Pauline set up the dental care clinics under outdoor canopies, in school classrooms, and community centres. Pauline embraces the journey of planning and working with other health care professionals towards a common goal. She says that the opportunity to connect with children and families while providing dental hygiene care is a humbling experience and has changed her forever. In 2015, Pauline plans to return to Peru to serve the communities in the Sacred Valley.

CDHA Leadership Award (sponsored by DENTSPLY)
Airra Custodio

Airra comes from Richmond, BC, and is a graduate of the University of British Columbia’s dental hygiene entry-to-practice program. During her four years of study, Airra was always inspired to exceed expectations, particularly if her achievements would be of benefit to her peers and to the wider community. As a peer mentor and a dental hygiene community coordinator, Airra’s compassion, courage, and initiative compelled her to pursue her goals and aspirations of improving equity and equality for all. She has always believed that every person has a right to access oral health care with respect and dignity, and hopes to instill in others a sense of social responsibility and inspire them to become leaders in their communities for generations to come.

CDHA Oral Health Promotion Awards recognize the promotion of oral health and the profession of dental hygiene, in practices, schools, and the community through creative initiatives.

CDHA Visionary Award is for a student enrolled in a master’s or doctoral program related to dental hygiene who has contributed significantly to the advancement of the dental hygiene profession.

CDHA Oh Canada! Readers’ Choice Award celebrates the important role that Oh Canada! authors play in the knowledge translation of best practices in dental hygiene. Four articles are selected annually as finalists by the editor. CDHA members then vote on their favourite to determine the winner.

CJDH Research Award not awarded in 2014.

CDHA Excellence in Teaching Award is given to a dental hygienist who is a CDHA member and educator in a Canadian dental hygiene program, in recognition of excellence in teaching contributions, innovations, and educational leadership.

CDHA Global Health Initiative Awards are for registered dental hygienists who have committed to volunteering as part of an initiative to provide oral health related services to persons in a disadvantaged community or country.

CDHA Leadership Award is awarded to a student currently enrolled in a dental hygiene program who has contributed significantly to his or her local, academic or professional community through involvement and leadership.
2014 Canadian Dental Hygienists Association
CDHA Board Awards

CDHA Life Membership Award
Salme Lavigne

Salme was the founding director of the dental hygiene program at Confederation College (Thunder Bay, ON); associate professor & chair at Wichita State University; professor & director of the School of Dental Hygiene (University of Manitoba); and is currently completing her PhD in community health sciences (College of Medicine, University of Manitoba). Salme holds a diploma in dental hygiene (University of Toronto), a bachelor’s degree in biomedical anthropology (Lakehead University), and a master’s degree in dental hygiene education (University of Missouri-Kansas City). She has served as president of the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association and as commissioner with the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada. She received Alumni of Distinction Awards from the University of Toronto and the UMKC School of Dentistry. Salme currently resides in White Rock, BC.

CDHA Distinguished Service Award
Jacki Blatz

Jacki Blatz is a registered dental hygienist in Fort Saskatchewan, AB. She graduated from the University of Alberta’s dental hygiene program in 1985. Jacki has worked in family dental practices and specialty periodontal practice, and was one of the first dental hygienists to open an independent dental hygiene practice in Alberta. Jacki has been active in her profession, serving on the board of directors of the College of Registered Dental Hygienists of Alberta for 8 years, including a two-year term as president (2006–2008), and on the board of directors of the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association for 5 years, where she was president from 2009–2010. Jacki is active in her community and continues to volunteer in her profession. She is an advocate for women in business and for independent dental hygienists, believing that all Canadians should have choices in who provides their oral health care and benefit from increased access to care in non-traditional practice settings.

CDHA Award of Merit
Carole Whitmer

While visiting St. Vincent de Paul Centre with her College of New Caledonia students in 2004, Carole saw a need for pain relief and basic dental care. Using her advocacy, research, and organizing skills, and with the help of a local dentist and support from the local MLAs, Carole was able to establish the Prince George Emergency Dental Outreach Clinic (EDOC). A partnership between the Prince George Native Friendship Society and Northern Interior Health, the EDOC operates with local dental community volunteers and a part-time coordinator. The EDOC has provided pain relief (mostly extractions), dental hygiene services, and basic restorative treatments to over 500 patients including inner city school children. The clinic has partnered with a local denturist to supply partial and complete dentures to over 40 clients, and provides educational opportunities for dental hygiene students. Carole has provided leadership, communication, and administrative support for the clinic since its inception, and continues to do so, always looking for more opportunities and volunteers!

CDHA Award of Merit
Bev Woods

Bev graduated from Durham College as a dental hygienist in 1985 and has been living the dream ever since. Bev’s passion to help those less fortunate in her community prompted her to open her own dental hygiene clinic, Leading Edge Dental Hygiene, in 2009. She reached out to other dental hygiene business owners in Ontario and asked them to join her by providing dental hygiene care to anyone who could not afford it on one very special day. She named this event “Gift from the Heart” day. What started as a local act of kindness was soon being gifted through the hands of registered dental hygienists all across Canada. Saturday, February 7, 2015, will mark the 7th consecutive year of helping Canadians to access dental hygiene care through this heartfelt campaign.

CDHA Award of Merit
Anne Caissie

Anne graduated from CEGEP John-Abbott College in 1989. She worked in general dentistry practices in New Brunswick for 13 years before joining a periodontal practice in 2003, where she remains. Anne strongly believes that dental hygienists have to participate actively in their provincial and/or national association in order to maintain their professionalism. She has held many positions on the board of the New Brunswick Dental Hygienists Association. She was the dental hygienist representative on the New Brunswick Dental Society for 5 years prior to the Royal assent of the Act Respecting the New Brunswick College of Dental Hygienists. She has continued her education in the profession in obtaining certification in local anaesthetics in 2011 and self-initiation in 2013. She is presently working in periodontics at the Atlantic Implants and Periodontics in Dieppe, NB and she shares her knowledge by teaching dental hygiene at Oulton College in Moncton, NB. Anne Caissie will continue to work and share her passion for the wonderful profession of dental hygiene for many years to come.