

Mourning the Loss of a Dental Hygiene Pioneer

February 2, 2016 (Ottawa, ON) — The members, board, and staff of the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA) extend their deepest condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of inspirational dental hygiene educator, researcher, and author, Margaret (Peggy) Walsh, who passed away at the end of January 2016.



Dr. Walsh graduated with a Bachelor of Science in dental hygiene from the University of California School of Dentistry in San Francisco (UCSF) before obtaining a Master of Science in dental hygiene from Columbia University and a Doctorate in Education from UCSF. As a professor in the Department of Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences at UCSF for more than 37 years, her passion and commitment to the dental hygiene profession never wavered, and she was instrumental in shaping generations of dental hygiene clinicians and researchers. Dr. Walsh's work with the late Michele Darby on the development and assessment of a human needs conceptual model for dental hygiene practice was published in the *Canadian Journal of Dental Hygiene* and the *Journal of Dental Hygiene*. Their dynamic collaboration also resulted in the publication of *Dental Hygiene: Theory and Practice*, a textbook now in its fourth edition, which remains the foundation upon which most dental hygiene education programs in North America are based. In 2010, Dr. Walsh launched a master's program in dental hygiene at UCSF; its graduates are now continuing her legacy of excellence in teaching, research, and leadership.

Dr. Walsh was internationally recognized for her studies on smokeless tobacco use and cessation strategies, and was a significant contributor to the Inter-Organizational Research Collaboration Meeting held in Bethesda, Maryland, in conjunction with the North American/Global Dental Hygiene Research Conference in October 2014. The ideas and strategies generated from that meeting guided the direction of CDHA's soon-to-be-released dental hygiene research agenda and key priorities for the future of dental hygiene research. Dr. Walsh received numerous awards over the course of her distinguished career, including most recently the 2014 Esther Wilkins Dental Hygiene Lifetime Achievement Award. Her passing is a huge loss for our profession and the dental hygiene community. A celebration of Dr. Walsh's life will be held at a later date at the UCSF Parnassus campus.

Serving the profession since 1963, CDHA is the collective national voice of close to 27,000 registered dental hygienists working in Canada, directly representing 17,500 individual members including dental hygienists and students. Dental hygiene is the sixth largest registered health profession in Canada, with professionals working in a variety of settings, including independent dental hygiene practice, with people of all ages, addressing issues related to oral health. For more information on oral health, visit www.dentalhygienecanada.ca

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