

## THE RETURN OF THE WORLD DENTAL HYGIENIST AWARDS

International oral healthcare company Sunstar has announced the return of the World Dental Hygienist Awards (WDHA), after a three-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. First established in 2007, the WDHA recognises and honours the work and accomplishments of dental hygienists who have made significant contributions to the dental hygiene field.

Wanda Fedora, President of the International Federation of Dental Hygienists (IFDH), said: 'IFDH is proud to continue its involvement with Sunstar since the very beginning of this valuable programme in 2007. The only global meeting place for dental hygienists – the International Symposium of Dental Hygiene (ISDH) – has provided a unique and

appropriate setting for the excitement when these distinguished awards are announced.'

Ahead of the WDHA, which will take place in 2024, a new regional Award of Distinction has been created in partnership with the European Dental Hygienist Federation (EDHF) to celebrate the achievements of European dental hygienists. The European Award of Distinction is now open for nominations with Sunstar and the EDHF calling for entries from qualified dental hygienists. Hygienists can either nominate themselves or a colleague, as long as they, or the person they are nominating, are officially registered dental hygienists.

Dr Gitana Rederiene, President of the EDHF said: 'This award recognises and

honours the work and accomplishments of dental hygienists who have made significant contributions to the dental hygiene field and the impact on promoting oral health to society.'

The deadline for the Award of Distinction programmes is 31 March 2023. All nominations across six categories will be judged by independent selection committees; details on the prizes can be found on the website. Each winner will automatically qualify for the International Symposium on Dental Hygiene (ISDH) in Seoul, South Korea, in 2024 where the WDHA ceremony will be held.

Dental hygienists can find out more by visiting <https://www.sunstar-foundation.org/en/awards/world-hygienist>.

## WHY DO DENTAL NURSES STAY IN DENTISTRY? SHARE YOUR VIEWS

The British Association of Dental Nurses (BADN) Dental Nurse Recruitment & Retention Survey, conducted on behalf of Dr Debbie Reed RDN, former BADN Chair, Fellow of the College of General Dentistry (CGDent), and Director of Studies in Advanced and Specialist Healthcare and Course Director of the MSc in Advanced and Specialist

Health in Global and Lifelong Learning at the University of Kent, is now live.

Dr Reed said: 'The aim of the study is to provide understanding, by establishing a body of knowledge about the current state of the RDN [registered dental nurse] workforce within the UK from the perspective of RDNs. As such, it is the intention to share the results of the study with the dental nurse community and associated stakeholders. This information then can be used to inform decisions regarding the measures most appropriate when seeking to retain and encourage RDNs to continue to contribute as part of the dental workforce within the UK. The questionnaire is anonymous, and I would



urge all current and former dental nurses to participate.'

'I am delighted to be working with BADN on this survey because it is essential to gain insight into the dental nurse community at this time of uncertainty, and to gather that insight taking an ethically approved, methodologically sound research approach.'

The survey is open to all current RDNs, as well as those who have left the profession recently. One of the aims of the survey is to find out why former RDNs have left the profession, and what could be done to persuade them to return.

To take part visit [www.badn.org.uk/retentionsurvey](http://www.badn.org.uk/retentionsurvey) by midnight on 20 March.

## BECOME A DENTAL AMBASSADOR FOR YOUR REGION

The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd) has a network of over 50 Dental Ambassadors across the UK and internationally covering the Mediterranean and North Africa, Middle East, East & South-East Asia.

In the UK and Ireland, there are three different types of Ambassador for each region:

- Early Careers Dental Ambassadors
- Dental Team Ambassadors
- Dental Specialty Ambassadors.

RCSEd dental ambassadors:

- Represent their dental community
- Give something back to their profession
- Shape and influence the direction of the sector
- Build their network and develop their skills.

There are currently vacancies for Dental Ambassadors across 14 UK geographical areas. For more information and to find out how to apply for a Dental Ambassador role, visit: <https://www.rcsed.ac.uk/faculties/faculty-of-dental-surgery/dental-ambassador-recruitment>.