

Annual DENTSPLY/ADHA Graduate Research Student Awarded



Left to right front row: Caryn Solie, RDH and president of ADHA, Cheri S Podruzny, RDH, MSDH and first place winner, Jennifer A Pieren, RDH, BSAS and the second place winner, Susan Jones, RDH, BS, MS third place winner, and DENTSPLY CCO, Dr. Linda Niessen. Back Row from left to right: Merri Jones, RDH, Lorraine Fuller, RDH, BS, MSc, Naeema Al Bulushi, RDH, BSc, Kristofer Adkins, RDH, MSDH, Melanie V Taverna, RDH, Julie D Sutton, RDH, BSDH, MS, and Elizabeth O Car, RDH, MDH.

Three years since its inception, and the DENTSPLY/ADHA Graduate Dental Hygiene Student Research program continues to thrive. In June, the 2011 awards presentation took place at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee. Chief Clinical Officer, Dr. Linda Niessen, and DENTSPLY Professional Clinical Education and Marketing Associates were in attendance to honor the 10 nominees from 10 schools. Dr. Niessen noted, "It is a great pleasure to honor the 2011 participants for their achievements as dedicated and enthusiastic scholars in their respective schools. This joint program between the American Dental Hygienists Association and DENTSPLY International celebrates student research and fosters the profession's next generation of dental hygiene faculty and leaders."

The purpose of the program is to promote dental hygiene research by supporting one graduate dental hygiene student from each accredited graduate dental hygiene program offering a Master of Science Degree in Dental Hygiene and related disciplines (as identified by the ADHA) to present his/her research at the ADHA Center for Lifelong Learning(CCL) at Annual Session. The program provides graduate dental hygiene students with the opportunity to participate in and conduct research, allowing student clinicians an opportunity to compete for awards and recognition. The research or clinical findings are presented in a poster presentation format that includes a hypothesis, methods and materials, results, discussion and a conclusion.

The 2011 award winner is Cheri S. Podruzny, RDH, MSDH, of Eastern Washington University who presented *The Predictive Validity of Critical Thinking Skills on Dental Hygiene*

Student Performance. Podruzny receives an expense –paid trip to the American Dental Association (ADA) Annual Session in Las Vegas, Nevada, to present her research at the Student Clinician Research Program in October 2011.

“It was an honor to represent Eastern Washington University in the DENTSPLY/ADHA Graduate Dental Hygiene Student Research program. The program format provided a stimulating competitive poster session and incorporated many fun and exciting opportunities to network with other hygienists involved in the research process. It was rewarding to share the results of my study and inspiring to explore other ongoing contributions to the body of knowledge guiding our profession. I thank DENTSPLY/ADHA for a memorable experience and look forward to presenting my research poster at the ADA convention in October,” Podruzny said.

A past 2009 student noted the impact the program has had on their professional life, “It has given me a sense of the future of our profession and what it takes to move a profession forward - which is research. The competition itself was amazing to participate in; I was honored to be a part of this process. I look forward to publishing my research, something I never thought I could do before.”

The 2012 DENTSPLY/ADHA Graduate Student Research Program will take place at the 2012 ADHA Annual meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, in June, 2012.