

# MONTAGE

WINTER  
2013



## TEAM "BRUSH FOR THE CURE" 2013 SUCCESS!

This year, the Manitoba Dental Hygienists Association joined tens of thousands of Canadians to participate in the October 2013 Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation CIBC Run for the Cure. We were one of the many teams who participated in a 1km walk or 5km run to help support the Foundation's dream and vision of creating a future without breast cancer.

Our team consisted of 34 participants, composed of students, faculty, staff and

instructors of the School of Dental Hygiene, and Dental Hygienists, along with their family and friends, from across the province of Manitoba. Together, we were fortunate to have raised a total of \$1,779.00.

All of the money that we raised will go directly towards helping fund, support and advocate for relevant and innovative breast cancer research, meaningful education and awareness programs, early diagnosis and effective treatment and a positive quality of life for those who are

currently living with breast cancer. To learn more about the work of the Foundation, please visit [www.cbcf.org](http://www.cbcf.org).

*(continued on page 7)*

### Inside this issue:

CDHA Corner	5
Dear Editor	9
Professional Development	12
Contest Winner	15



#### MDHA VISION

To be the collective voice of Manitoba Dental Hygienists in promoting the profession; cultivating partnerships with member-owners and other stakeholders and empowering our member-owners for the good of the profession and the public

#### MISSION STATEMENT

To advocate and promote the profession of Dental Hygiene; represent our member-owners, encourage lifelong learning and evidence based practice; and provide education & health promotion to the public. This includes:

- Acting as the collective voice, resource and advocacy body for Dental Hygienists
- Providing professional development and social networking opportunities
- Encouraging continued growth and development of the profession
- Creating public awareness of the profession of Dental Hygiene
- Providing opportunities for health promotion, education and community outreach

## MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



Hello everyone & happy holidays

Being used to all of the nice weather we have been having, this winter chill sure snuck up on me. I hope you are all getting ready to spend some time with family and friends and that the chill hasn't got you down.

MDHA has sure been up to a lot since our last Montage went out. We are currently in the process of hiring a new Executive Director, as Cynthia Wiebe has decided to step back from her role in the MDHA. We GREATLY appreciate all of Cynthia's help and guidance throughout her years with the association and we intend to keep her close by for additional support. Without Cynthia's help over the passed few months, Amanda, our Admin Assistant at 200-1215 Henderson Highway has been an amazing person to have on board with us. She has been very busy answering phone calls and returning emails, organizing our meetings, etc, etc. I am very optimistic about inviting a new personality onto our board as Executive Director and I can only hope for good things to come in the future for MDHA. We have a great group of ladies on board with us and it is definitely making my experience with the MDHA very rewarding.

The Annual MDA Convention is coming quickly. This year the MDA Convention Committee has decided to have separate fees for Non-MDHA Members, as the committee appreciates the support that the MDHA provides to the convention, in addition to sponsoring a speaker. The MDA Convention committee and the MDHA both they feel strongly that Dental Hygienists should support their provincial and national associations. Ondina Love, the Executive Director of the CDHA will be present at the MDHA's Business with Breakfast Meeting on January 24, 2014 to discuss the benefits of being a member of these associations. Unfortunately for Non-MDHA Members, only MDHA Members will be allowed entrance to the breakfast meeting. We encourage everyone to inform their non-member coworkers and friends about the awesome benefits of being a part of our association! If anyone has any questions about the pricing changes, it is asked that they contact the Manitoba Dental Association and speak to Linda or Rafi.

This year's MDHA sponsored speaker is Dr. David Sweet, discussing forensic dentistry in the Canadian Legal System on January 24 from 10-4:30pm. More information and registration for the convention is open (with early-bird pricing until December 13, 2013) and is available at [www.manitobadentist.ca](http://www.manitobadentist.ca) . Registration cannot be completed by calling our office. However, if you have any other questions or concerns, feel free to email us at [info@mdha.ca](mailto:info@mdha.ca).

Keep warm this holiday season! We don't want any damage from chattering teeth!

Best Wishes,

Stephanie  
President, MDHA

# MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT ELECT



There is nothing not to love about the fall season: the crisp cool autumn air, the colours of the ever changing leaves and the smell of fresh pumpkin pie. Though this year the coming of Fall permanently marked the conclusion of my commitments as a student, life only has continued to bring new challenges, opportunities, dreams and goals, both personally and professionally.

In early October, members of the MDHA Executive Board of Directors attended the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association National Conference in Toronto, Ontario. With all those in attendance, we together explored the theme, "Celebrating Our Roots, Our Wings", in honour of the 50th anniversary of CDHA and 100 years of the profession of dental hygiene.



We were fortunate to have a variety of presenters, on a wide range of topics, and exciting social events, which provided registrants with the opportunity to learn from and network with one another. Keynote speaker, Eva Grayzel, moved us to tears with her very passionate, emotional and intense recollection of her real life struggle to battle and survive oral cancer. Her message is such of extreme importance to our professional clinical practice and therefore, the MDHA is currently in the process of potentially arranging for a Continuing Education Program in the near future.



I had the privilege of attending my very first Presidential Meeting with the EBD members of our neighbouring provincial associations. I was purely in awe, as I began to finally have the full understanding of what it means to be part of my professional association. It allowed me to witness and share first handedly, not only of all the trials and tribulations, but all the successes and accomplishments, of a dedicated collection of individuals, all in pursuit of further professional advancement. This experience has only reinforced how important it is for one to give back to their profession, and even more importantly how imperative it is that an association such as this exists.

The conference was truly an experience of a lifetime; the opportunity for further knowledge, continued education, and newfound collegial friendships was irreplaceable. The upcoming 2015 CDHA National Conference will be held in beautiful British Columbia. Make plans to join us in Victoria, as I hope to see many of your familiar smiles there!



Winter is now fully upon us; the ground is covered with a fluffy white blanket of snow, Christmas lights sparkle along our streets and everyday it seems to get colder and colder... Brrr! As the holiday season steadily approaches, it is not only a time for sharing with loved ones, families and friends but for remembering those who are less fortunate. The MDHA is proud to be continuously involved as an active participant in the Christmas Cheer Board. We are currently collecting non-perishable food items at our office reception headquarters and are graciously asking for your support. Please contribute

*(continued on next page)*

(continued from above page)

**CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**  
INNOVATOR EXPLORER TRAILBLAZER DEFENDER REBEL VISIONARY INNOVATOR EXPLORER

With support from the Dr. Robert D. Glenn Trust Fund,  
the Faculties of Medicine and Dentistry invite you to

# MAKE THE CONNECTION

AT THE FIRST ORAL-SYSTEMIC HEALTH DAY

**Friday, February 7, 2014**

Part of the Bannatyne Campus Program, University of Manitoba  
2nd Floor, Basic Medical Sciences Building  
745 Bannatyne Avenue,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba



**JOIN US**  
to “make the connection”  
between oral and overall  
health, compelling us to  
rethink patient care.

**REGISTRATION  
DEADLINE:**  
January 26, 2014

**TO REGISTER**  
Please go to website:  
[umanitoba.ca/medicine/  
cpd/oshealthday](http://umanitoba.ca/medicine/cpd/oshealthday)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
Phone: 204-272-3143

For all healthcare  
and human  
services providers



**UNIVERSITY  
OF MANITOBA**

and help create a joyful and jubilant Christmas for those in need.

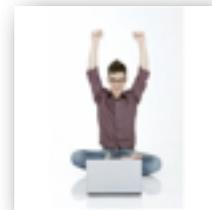
I am greatly looking forward to what the New Year has to offer, with all of its unknowns and the forthcoming endeavours of the MDHA! So here is to our past year together. Thank you for all the knowledge, the education, the life lessons, the support and everlasting memories. And here is to our bright and beautiful futures, openly welcoming and inviting us, to pursue and explore life’s newly awaited challenges, adventures and endless possibilities.

Merry Christmas, festive holidays and best wishes to you all and your families in this upcoming New Year!

Larissa Bubnowicz, B.Sc, RDH  
MDHA President Elect  
[larissabubnowicz@gmail.com](mailto:larissabubnowicz@gmail.com)

## CONTEST! MEMBERS IN THE COMMUNITY!

Part of MDHA’s Mission includes providing education and health promotion to the public – we couldn’t meet this objective without your dedicated effort.



Our members are doing a lot of great work and we want to highlight it – and say thanks! – to you for supporting community outreach initiatives.

Share your Community Outreach experience (either through MDHA or your own initiative) for a chance to win one of two gift cards for \$10 in each edition of the Montage!

Send a short write up of your experience (include pictures if you want) and send to [info@mdha.ca](mailto:info@mdha.ca).

\*Winning submissions will be randomly drawn and announced in the next edition of the Montage

## GOOD LUCK!!

See page 15 for winners!

# "CDHA CORNER"



Celebrating 50 years of  
CDHA  
& 100 years of the  
dental hygiene  
profession worldwide

## **Benefits of Professional Liability Insurance through CDHA/MDHA**

*Understanding the superior benefits of your CDHA/MDHA liability insurance*

Helen is a dental hygienist working in a local clinic. After years of practice without any formal client complaints or allegations of professional liability, Helen has recently been notified of a College investigation stemming from a complaint alleging unprofessional treatment. Specifically, Helen's former client is alleging that she behaved unprofessionally and provided poor dental hygiene treatment, which resulted in increased pain to her lip.

Although Helen maintains she did nothing wrong, anyone has the right to voice such concerns with a regulatory college. This is by far the most cost effective way for a client to lodge a complaint against a healthcare provider and clients are doing this. At least 60% of all dental hygienist liability claims are related to ethics violations, scope of practice concerns, or complaints involving legislation (for instance, breaches of privacy). The legal expense costs for defense alone can be crippling for an individual. Adequate defense protection through insurance will provide legal representation in the event of potential discipline such as suspension of practice.

Fortunately, Helen receives liability insurance coverage included with her annual MDHA/CDHA membership and is adequately covered. She has access to specialized legal representation protecting her interests throughout this process. The CDHA program provides superior coverage for regulatory complaints when compared to any other policy available to dental hygienists in Canada. It is also the only professional liability insurance program with specialized appointed legal counsel to ensure MDHA members are protected most when they need it.

With the CDHA program, Helen has access to the expertise of the most highly recognized legal firm in medical defense and professional liability in the country. Much like the largest national insurance programs provided to professionals such as Physicians, Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists, CDHA members now receive legal defense under the CDHA insurance program from Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP. In addition, and unlike any other liability insurance program, members have access to pro bono legal services from Gowlings for any potential claims.

Helen's legal representation is provided at no cost and without having to pay a deductible or any fees. She will also be able to re-coop more in lost wages compared to any other policy, as she attends meetings/hearings involved with this claim through the loss of earnings provision within the insurance policy. In this case, the total cost of defense was just over \$17,000; this was covered under Helen's CDHA insurance protection and she has been cleared by the college of any wrong doing.

*(continued next page)*

Superior legal defense and loss of earnings coverage are just two of the aspects of the CDHA program that contribute to making it the most secure and comprehensive coverage available to dental hygienists anywhere in Canada. After a review of the alternative insurance policies available in the marketplace, CDHA has identified several other key features and coverage that position the CDHA program above the rest:

*CDHA offers coverage that follows you 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and is not limited by province or place of work. Your policy will cover you for a claim arising in the workplace, but will also cover you when teaching or participating in a course, or when providing advice to someone outside of the employment setting.*

*The CDHA program is the only policy to provide an unlimited extended reporting period. All other policies available to dental hygienists impose an additional fee and or time limitation on the number of years a policy will respond to a claim after you have retired from practice or left the profession. Coverage is written on a claims-made basis. Consequently, this means that after you retire from practice, an extended reporting or tail period must be active to respond to any claim that is brought forth after your discontinuation of practice for an event occurring when you were practicing. Imagine being named in a lawsuit involving a young client six years after you retire. With all other professional liability insurance policies available to dental hygienists you would not have coverage for this – meaning you would be fully responsible for all costs, expenses and settlements.. While some programs offer the option of purchasing further or unlimited extended coverage for a limited time such as an additional 12 months, CDHA's is the only professional liability insurance plan that provides full coverage with no time limitation and at no additional cost. You can rest assured that you are covered today, tomorrow and through your retirement.*

*Most importantly, no other liability insurance available for dental hygienists has the backing of over 1/2 of all practitioners across Canada and has the national association advocating on their behalf. As a result, it continues to be the most cost-effective and comprehensive coverage available. What this also means for you as a policy holder is that CDHA can negotiate for specific coverage changes based on recognized needs of dental hygienists. CDHA plays an important advocacy role to ensure claims are managed and handled appropriately.*

*The purpose of insurance is to pay claims. With the CDHA program, participating dental hygienists can be confident that they will be properly protected and not caught in a policy loophole when coverage is actually needed.*

*This year CDHA joined several other Canadian associations in making the broker switch to BMS Group and the Healthcare Professionals Insurance Alliance. As a result, Members of CDHA will now also have access to the following new services and programs:*

- **Increased practice risk resources**, information tools, and educational seminars on practice risk, thereby aligning with CDHA's long-term strategy to help members manage risk.
- **Specialized legal protection.**
- **Future program structures that are built for members by members, not by a for-profit driven model**

*As a MDHA/CDHA member you can feel confident that you are covered by the best liability insurance policy available to dental hygienists in Canada.*

(continued from above page)

We encourage you to share this article with friends and colleagues who may have chosen to purchase a cheaper policy and who may not be aware of their policy's pitfalls and resulting outcome in the event you need to rely on this protection. Choosing a bargain priced liability policy may be one of the worst decisions they ever made. Contact us to learn why staying the course and growing the CDHA insurance program is now more important than ever.

Our insurance program continues to offer the best coverage at the most competitive rates in the industry, and it remains the only program designed by and supported by over half the profession. Don't be fooled by increasing profit driven products seeking an opportunity to cash in on the professions development. We take member protection very seriously and appreciate your ongoing support.

(continued from page 1)

This is a cause that is near and dear to many of our hearts, as many friends, family members and colleagues have been diagnosed and suffered with cancer. When we think about the estimated over 23, 000 Canadian women and men who will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year alone, we know that our continued participation, contribution and fundraising efforts are helping to create change to those statistics.

We are extremely proud of our fundraising accomplishments and our team involvement in this year's event. We only continue to truly look forward to our future endeavours of participation. On behalf of the MDHA, our sincerest gratitude and thanks to all who graciously extended their support through monetary donations.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you kindly!

Manitoba Dental Hygienists Association -  
MDHA Brush for the Cure Team

Submitted by Larissa Bubnowicz  
President-Elect - Manitoba Dental Hygienists  
Association



(Team Brush For The Cure 2013)



Andrea Moore O'Connor, BHE  
Product Specialist  
Cell: (204) 793-3866

---

For better dentistry

**DENTSPLY**  
CANADA

Cavitron® CAULK  
MIDWEST®

NASDAQ: XRAY

**DENTSPLY Canada Limited**  
161 Vinyl Court  
Woodbridge, ON L4L 4A3  
(905) 851-6060 Voice Mail #52217  
1-800-263-1437  
Fax: (905) 851-9809  
Email: aoconnor@dentsply.com  
www.dentsply.ca

NUPRO®

NEW

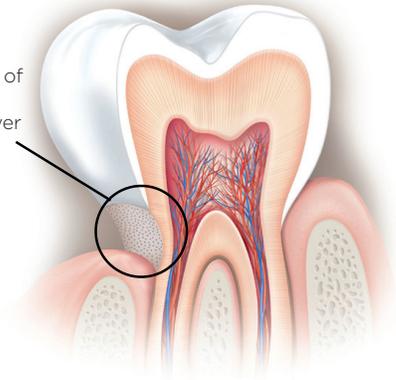
# DISCOVER A **NU** APPROACH TO COMFORT

## NUPRO® Sensodyne® Prophy Paste with NovaMin®

- Clinically proven immediate sensitivity relief that lasts up to 28 days with just one application<sup>1</sup>
- Cleans and polishes teeth and provides immediate and long lasting sensitivity relief in a single application<sup>2</sup>
- Unique NovaMin® calcium-phosphate technology
- Available in four flavors and two grits (polish and stain removal)
- Dye-free, Gluten-free, SLS-free<sup>3</sup>



NovaMin® releases the natural building blocks of teeth to help build an enamel-like mineral layer



For more information, call **1.800.263.1437**  
or visit [www.nupro-sensodyne.com](http://www.nupro-sensodyne.com).

**NUPRO®** **SENSODYNE®**  
PROFESSIONAL

POWERED BY NOVAMIN®

**Performance Meets Protection™**

#### Reference:

1. J.L. Milleman, K.R. Milleman, et al. Nupro Sensodyne prophylaxis paste with NovaMin for the treatment of dentin hypersensitivity: A 4-week study. *Am J Dent* 2012; 25: 262-268.
2. Data on file.
3. Sodium lauryl sulfate.

For better dentistry  
**DENTSPLY**  
CANADA

© 2013 DENTSPLY Canada. 161 Vinyl Court, Woodbridge ON L4L 4A3  
NUPRO® is a registered trademark of DENTSPLY International and/or its subsidiaries. Sensodyne® and NovaMin® are registered trademarks of the GlaxoSmithKline group of companies. SEN01-0512-1.3 Rev. 4

## "DEAR EDITOR"

November first ... what a great day to be able to go to an elementary school and talk to kids about good dental care! There I was at George McDowell school, the day after Halloween, talking to grade 1, 2, and 3 kids about taking care of their teeth, how to brush and floss, cavities, some good alternatives to all those Halloween goodies, and how to sensibly enjoy their treats. They were a great group of kids and we had a lot of fun together! Thanks so much to Mrs. Fries, Mrs. Takeuchi, and Mrs. McBride for inviting me to speak to their classes and to MDHA for providing toothbrushes for all the kids ... they sure were excited to get new toothbrushes!

Submitted by Heather Sirkovsky



*Wishing you a wonderful holiday  
season and that 2014 is filled with  
love, laughter, and every good thing!*

*Heather Sirkovsky*

*Community Outreach Committee*

**Merry Christmas**

## The Business of Dental Hygiene



Hello! My name is Patricia Blundon and I have been a Registered Dental Hygienist in Ontario for over 20 years. My recent Blog posting on CDHA's members' online community forum, titled "Hygienist Designed and Manufactured Clip Mirror™ by DH Essentials", talks about working in a non-traditional Dental Hygiene setting.

I am the sole owner and operator of DH Essentials™ where I designed and now manufacture and sell the Dental Hygiene Clip Mirror™ under a medical device establishment licence regulated by Health Canada. I also carry titanium dental mouth mirrors as well, which are fabricated exclusively for DH Essentials™ by Prodont-Holliger™ in France. (It was important for me to use only the best quality materials.)

One might ask Why? How? or What?, possesses someone to take this direction in her or his career? Others may say Who Cares! Well it's not for everyone but it was out of sheer necessity and frustration that the Clip Mirror™ came about.

More than 10 years ago on a *typical* day, with a *not so typical* patient I will call Patient Y (or WHY ME?), I began the arduous task of dental hygiene treatment. With lips pursed (both his and mine), I picked up my cavitron and began. Next with tongue protruding (just his), water flowing and visibility next to nil, I thought to myself "Why does this have to be so hard? If only there was a way to cavitron, suction and use my mirror all at the same time. And then I thought, envisioned really, a mirror attached to a saliva ejector.

So then, another question. Why not just make one? I can design this clip mirror, because who knows better than a hygienist what a hygienist needs. And then the desire and passion to make it happen, just took over.

The next step, really the first step, was to patent my idea. I won't bore you with the details but after hours of patent searching and research, I filed my first patent application. So there it was, patent application was filed and now I could find someone to buy my patent rights and pay a large royalty. But that never happened and I just waited, time flew by.

So, many years later with two little boys growing more independent, my mother passing away and the routine of home and work becoming well, *routine*. I needed some inspiration. So I decided to revisit the clip mirror.

I set out again to sell my Clip Mirror to a major dental supply company. They would not sign agreements to protect my intellectual property. It did not feel right. I e-mailed hygienists in the

(continued on next page)

business looking for advice and direction. One Dental Hygienist in particular took the time to personally call me and encourage me to go it on my own, like those hygienists before me who developed the Blue Boa™, the Dental Rat™ and the MirrorGear™. To that hygienist who took the time to call and inspire me I say “THANK YOU”. One phone call can and did change *everything*. So maybe, one article can inspire one of you to follow your own passion.

In my blog entry, I had mentioned that I found it very disheartening to see so many hygienists looking for work. Well, I am here to encourage you to look beyond those clinical settings and use your career and life skills to re-invent *your* practice of Dental Hygiene. Let the things that interest, inspire or challenge you, be the catalyst for change. You may need to open that Independent Practice or Mobile Clinic to reach those with limited access to Dental Hygiene care. Maybe you will design and sell your own instruments because who knows better than hygienists what our day is like. You might make a toothbrush that no child can resist or you may design custom oral hygiene travel cases in the shape of hockey sticks, pucks or soccer balls where retainers and mouth guards can be stored during sports play.

Be creative and think about a time when it would be neat to have....(this or that) and then use your innate talents and desires to create it. Envision Dental Hygienists teaming with Naturopaths, Chiropractors or Wellness Centers and being part of a team that embraces oral health as an integral part of comprehensive and complete health and well-being .... But don't stop there, Think Big!

Sincerely,



Patricia Blundon R.D.H.

Patricia Blundon R.D.H.

Owner/ Operator DH Essentials

E-mail: [info@dhesentials.com](mailto:info@dhesentials.com)

Website: [www.dhesentials.com](http://www.dhesentials.com)

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

On November 23, MDHA and MDAA partnered to bring "50 Shades of Something...Women's Sexuality and Aging" to our members. Thanks to the ladies at the MDAA office for asking us to join them in making this event a reality. Thanks to the 46 hygienists who took the time on that particular cold and early morning to come listen to our speaker Lois Greenhill from the Mature Women's Centre who is the only Certified Menopausal Practitioner in Manitoba.

The Centre that she works with was created to meet the health care needs of women as they move through the menopause transition. The Centre is unique in Canada because it utilizes a nurse managed health care service model. This model of care emphasizes health promotion and disease prevention. Women are referred by their general practitioner and are offered care through assessments, counselling and investigation.

Lois offered an evidence based lecture on the many needs of menopausal women but also paid attention to unique oral health issues as well. The information presented held a dual role for those present as it was intended to help both personally and as well as professionally. So, if you ever need more information about the mature woman go to [www.maturewomenscentre.com](http://www.maturewomenscentre.com) and you will find a great resource. Also if you want any of the studies she mentioned, email me, and I will give you Lois's contact information.

Karen Kiazzyk Kaatz

Professional Development Chair



*From all of us at  
The College of Dental  
Hygienists of Manitoba;  
Season's Greetings and  
Good Wishes for the New  
Year!*

Please note the CDHM office will be closed on the following days: December 24 at 12:00pm - December 27, 2013 inclusive and December 31, 2013 at 12:00 pm - January 1, 2014. (Regular business hours resume January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013: open: Monday-Thursday 9:00-4:00, closed: Fridays)

## **The Role of the Speech-Language Pathologist in Dysphagia Management in Long-Term Care**

MDHA Lecture Series #2: November 4, 2013

Kelly Tye-Vallis, M.S., S.L.P.

Kelly introduced us to the practice of speech language pathology (SLP), including its educational requirements and the feeding and swallowing policies within the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA) long-term care (LTC) facilities. Through her work with dental hygienists, she noted that she has learned how to recognize oral problems, how to administer basic mouth care and when a dental professional should be consulted. Most importantly, she has become a strong advocate for oral health promotion within LTC.

This evening presentation gave dental hygienists the opportunity to understand how SLPs assess, diagnose and manage residents in LTC with problems swallowing and choking, or dysphagia. Participants learned about the signs that indicate someone could be experiencing a swallowing problem, and had the unique opportunity to view moving X-ray films that showed the physiology of both normal and abnormal swallows.

So what is dysphagia? It is difficulty chewing or swallowing which may be the result of reduced muscle strength, reduced sensation, anatomical abnormalities, or decreased awareness of 'how to swallow' caused by a variety of health issues, such as stroke, cancer treatment or dementia. Two-thirds of the residents in long-term care have dysphagia, but it is also common in the general population and increases with age; 40% of individuals over 60 experience some degree of dysphagia. Half of those with dysphagia will aspirate foods and liquids, including saliva, into their lungs which puts them at risk for aspiration pneumonia, the #1 cause of death in long-term care. Kelly reported that the best predictors for pneumonia include: dependency for feeding, multiple medical diagnoses, smoking, being tube fed, dependency for oral care, number of decayed teeth and number of medications.

In LTC, SLPs assess the Resident's ability to manage food and swallow, train others on safe feeding strategies, including ensuring the food is set up properly, that the resident is alert, and that the rate and amount of food is appropriate. We participants had the opportunity to feed one another thickened liquids and puddings – being on the eating end was definitely a reality check experience!

Meals provide time to socialize and enjoy familiar foods; however, with dysphagia many residents no longer enjoy mealtimes and can be embarrassed in front of others when experiencing problems chewing and choking. A balance needs to be struck between what foods are safe, while at the same time promoting quality of life. The SLP interacts with the family to make food selection decisions that take into account preferences for managing life threatening events. For example, is the advanced care plan to resuscitate, provide medical intervention or focus on comfort?

Kelly recommended that oral health professionals should include questions during history taking regarding problems swallowing and choking. And, if the client is having difficulty managing liquids during treatment, dysphagia could be suspected, and a referral might be in order. Group discussion included cautions for clients with dysphagia: contraindication of ultrasonics unless a chairside assistant is available to suction and mouth rinses/washes posing a risk. Swallowing issues could necessitate placing the client in an upright seated position during treatment to decrease the risk of aspiration. And, as we dental hygienists know, working with caregivers and families to ensure good daily oral hygiene helps to reduce the bacteria load, particularly significant for those with aspiration.

The lecture reinforced for me and all those present that there is great potential for dental hygienists and speech language pathologists to collaborate interprofessionally to promote oral health and provide safe practice for those with dysphagia.

Kudos to MDHA's Professional Development Chair and Committee for organizing such an interesting lecture series, including this presentation that brought to light an important issue for many older adults.

Mickey Emmons Wener, RDH, BS(DH), MEd



**MDHA  
2013/14  
Professional  
Development  
Calendar**

**January 24,  
2014**

**Annual Mid-Winter  
Convention**

**Convention Centre,  
Winnipeg, MB**

**Presented by Dr. Davit  
Sweet O.C. DMD,  
Ph.D., DABFO, FICD,  
FACD**

**CSI Winnipeg:  
Investigating High  
Profile Cases**

**February 4,  
2014**

**7pm - 9pm**

**Faculty of Dentistry,  
Schwartz Theatre**

**Presented by Dr.  
Robert Schroth DMD,  
MSc, PhD**

**Caries Risk Assessment**

**\*MDHA Lecture Series**

**March 13,  
2014**

**7pm - 9pm**

**Faculty of Dentistry,  
Schwartz Theatre**

**Topic and Speaker TBA  
(chosen by you!)**

**\*MDHA Lecture Series**

**March 22,  
2014**

**10am - 1pm**

**Location TBA**

**Presented by Dr. David  
Clark, Bsc., DDS,  
MSc(Oral Pathology),  
FAAOP, FRCDC**

**Psychiatric Illness and  
Dentistry: Challenges  
to Oral Care (Manitoba  
Dental Hygienists Course)**

## **MDHA wants to hear from you!**

We are currently in the process of planning for next years professional development calendar and we need your help. MDHA would like to know which topics, speakers, courses you would be interesting in attending. Our goal it to provide YOU the member with a professional development calendar that will help you achieve your continued growth and development as a dental hygienist.

## **Members in the Community WINNER is:**

Raymond Wang!

Congratulations! You have won a \$10 gift certificate to Tim Horton's!

Thank you for supporting community outreach initiatives and sharing your experience!

You are doing GREAT work!

## **Employment**

Members, if you are looking for employment do not forget to check our website for job postings which are regularly updated. Just visit us at [www.mdha.ca](http://www.mdha.ca) and click on Employment Opportunities. Also contact us if your office needs to place a job posting at: [employment@mdha.ca](mailto:employment@mdha.ca).



### **Contact Information:**

#### **Office Address:**

200E-1215 Henderson Highway  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2G 1L8

Phone number:

204-981-7327

Website: [www.mdha.ca](http://www.mdha.ca)

Email:

[info@mdha.ca](mailto:info@mdha.ca)

Employment Postings:

[employment@mdha.ca](mailto:employment@mdha.ca)