



Prestigious Awards and Grants Support Dental Hygiene Research in Canada

Ottawa, July 20, 2009 — The Canadian Foundation for Dental Hygiene Research and Education (CFDHRE) is proud to present two prestigious awards to researchers working to expand the existing body of knowledge of the profession, and to announce its inaugural Doctoral Research Award in the area of dental hygiene.

The Master's Award, launched in partnership with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), marks the first time that CIHR funded a grant specifically for dental hygiene research. Selected through a highly competitive award process for the exceptional quality of her submission, Carole J. Charbonneau received funding in the amount of \$17,500 for her project entitled "Cultural Competency Education in Dental Hygiene." According to current evidence, ethnic minorities and First Nations people experience poorer oral health and general health outcomes than the general population. The findings of Ms. Charbonneau's research will improve the way dental hygienists practice client-centered care and will ultimately reduce the oral health disparities that currently exist in Canada.

The annual CFDHRE Peer Reviewed Grant was awarded earlier this summer to Sandra J. Cobban, whose project entitled "A Systematic Review of Interventions to Improve Daily Mouth Care for Residents of Long-Term Care Facilities" received funding in the amount of \$7,000. For the past two decades, studies have documented that many seniors in long-term care suffer from oral diseases that have a debilitating effect on their overall health. Given the mounting evidence for links between oral disease and systemic diseases such as heart disease and diabetes, improvements in oral health status take on greater importance for those who may be already compromised by other medical conditions. When findings of Ms. Cobban's innovative study are implemented by dental hygienists in clinical practice, seniors will experience a reduction in pain and oral disease.

CFDHRE is Canada's only foundation dedicated exclusively to dental hygiene research and education. Formed in 2004, CFDHRE has since raised and awarded more than \$88,000 in grants to dental hygienists for research projects to help advance clinical practice, dental hygiene education, and oral health outcomes. Support generously contributed through financial donations helps CFDHRE build the capacity to seek other partnerships, such as the Doctoral Research Award announced last week.

In partnership with CIHR, CFDHRE is delighted to award funding of up to \$66,000 over a period of up to 3 years in support of a dental hygiene research project developed by a registered dental hygienist pursuing a PhD degree. This groundbreaking award represents the first time that CFDHRE and CIHR have funded a grant specifically for dental hygiene research at the doctoral level.

For complete details regarding the Doctoral Research Award, and to learn more about CFDHRE, visit: <http://www.cfdhre.com>.

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