

## FAQS – World Dental Hygienist Awards program

### 1. What are the World Dental Hygienist Awards?

The Sunstar Foundation has established the World Dental Hygienist Awards to recognize dental hygienists who have made significant contributions to the dental hygiene field. They are presented every two years at the International Symposium on Dental Hygiene (ISDH).

### 2. What are the regional Awards of Distinction?

The Awards Of Distinction are regional awards – covering North America and Europe – established to recognize and celebrate impactful individual success stories by dental hygienists. Besides that, these two regional awards of distinction also act as a “qualification round” for our global World Dental Hygienist Awards (WDHA) program, as each winner will be automatically nominated for these global awards.

### 3. Who can submit applications to the World Dental Hygienist Award?

One of the new features of the updated program is that you can either nominate yourself OR a colleague, as long as you (or the person you’re nominating) are an officially registered dental hygienist. Are you from North America (USA & Canada), or Europe, and do you want to compete for the World Dental Hygienist Awards? Then you must first participate in the local distinction award of your region that is organized annually. If you are not from one of those regions, you can send in your nomination for the World Dental Hygienist Awards directly.

### 4. What are the World Dental Hygienist Awards categories?

There are six categories:

1. **Public Health** (Preventing and controlling dental disease while promoting dental health through organized community program.)
2. **Full Time Clinician** (Providing direct patient care 32+ hours per week. Full time position providing care in general practice, periodontal practice, geriatric patients, intellectual disabilities, specialty needs and mobile dentistry.)
3. **Academia** (Full time position with dental hygiene program educating and mentoring the dental hygienist of the future.)
4. **Entrepreneur** (Organizing and promoting a personal business to benefit the dental professional or dental patients.)
5. **New RDH graduated 5 years ago or less** (Recognizing those RDH who graduated in 2018, or after, focusing on making a difference in their community, with their patients, or in an entrepreneurial program).
6. **Research** (Authored a peer-reviewed research paper that was published not more than 3 years ago. Award in this category will be limited to only the lead author if multiple research authors exist.)

### 5. How do I submit my application?

The application is handled through the Sunstar Foundation website. These are the nomination forms for:

- a. The [World Dental Hygienist Awards](#)
- b. The [Sunstar/EDHF European Award of Distinction for Dental Hygienists](#)

c. The [Sunstar/RDH Award of Distinction](#)

**6. How does the nomination work?**

After filling in your details and choosing the right category, you are asked to answer four basic questions (150-350 words per answer) that inquire what you – or the colleague you're nominating – have done to elevate the dental hygiene profession. These nominations will be judged by an independent selection committee, and account for 50% of the total vote. In addition, you will be asked to record and send us a 1-minute video where you further explain your nomination. Your video will be published on SUNSTAR's YouTube channel to be judged by the general public, accounting for the remaining 50% of the total vote. Therefore, make it fun, and be creative!

**7. What is the deadline for the World Dental Hygienist Awards?**

The deadline to participate in the World Dental Hygienist Awards is January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**8. What can I win?**

A trophy will be presented for each category at the International Symposium on Dental Hygiene (ISDH). In addition, each recipient will receive \$1,500 prize money and reimbursement for their participation to ISDH, including full registration and coverage of travel costs.

**9. Who will judge my nomination and select the winners?**

Judging the nominations and selecting the winners is the sole responsibility of the independent selection committee, determined by the IFDH. To avoid potential conflicts of interest, members of the selection committee must disclose any personal or professional ties with entrants (e.g., as instructor, supervisor, dissertation committee member, or editor) to the other members of the committee. If a committee member does have such ties, she or he should not participate in judging. Selection committee members are not eligible for the awards.