



ROUND TABLE TOPICS – presentation descriptions

IPAC I-SPY: Spotting Risks

Michelle Aube-Simmonds, RDH | Maxill, Fanshawe College, ODHA Board Member

In the early years of practice, Infection Prevention and Control decisions are often influenced by routine, time pressure, and workplace habits. Developing IPAC leadership requires the ability to quickly recognize risk, distinguish between evidence-based standards and assumption-driven practices, and respond with clarity and confidence. IPAC I-SPY: Spotting Risks is an interactive, image-based roundtable session designed to strengthen early-career Registered dental hygienists' ability to identify compliance gaps and apply evidence-informed solutions in real time. Participants will analyze a series of realistic clinical IPAC images reflective of everyday practice environments.

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Identify visible IPAC risks within common clinical environments.
2. Apply evidence-based reasoning to determine appropriate mitigation strategies.
3. Strengthen confidence in making defensible IPAC decisions in early practice settings.

Volunteering and Oral Health Outreach Opportunities

Dr. Sanjukta Mohanta, Watermelon Dental

Learn about different volunteer opportunities and how it improves your life, not just those you serve. Dr. Sanjukta Mohanta volunteers locally at Filling the Gap Dental Outreach and internationally with 1000 Smiles in the Caribbean helping people who cannot afford dental care. She volunteers with the Ontario Dental Association (ODA) and is on the board of the Canadian Association of Public Health Dentistry. She

serves remote Indigenous communities with the ODA's Remote Areas Program.

Your Finances and Financial Literacy

Jeff Chapman, CFP, CHS | G.E. Chapman Financial Services Inc.

This session will provide an overview of different options for managing your finances, RRSP planning, TSFA planning, critical illness insurance, and more. Attendees will also have the opportunity to ask any questions related to personal finances.

Dental Hygiene Practice Ownership (Independent Practice)

Dezarae Aldridge, RDH | Dental Hygiene with Dezarae, ODHA Board Member

Are you considering opening your own dental hygiene practice? There's a lot to think through when undertaking this career journey, but it doesn't have to be overwhelming. Join Dezarae to ask your questions and discuss the ins and outs of business ownership, including initial steps and considerations for being a practice owner, mobile vs. clinic-based formats, resources available, and more.

Myofunctional Therapy Q&A

Joe Siegfried, RDH | Kingsmill Dental Hygiene

Join an interactive round-table discussion designed specifically for registered dental hygienists interested in learning more about myofunctional therapy and its growing role in oral health care. Attendees will learn about education/training to be able to include myofunctional therapy in practice, how to incorporate it into your practice, and career opportunities. This will also be an opportunity for group discussion and Q&A.

RDH Career Paths - Becoming an Educator and Advanced Degrees

Cristina Gullo, MS, BS, RDH, DA | Conestoga College, Fanshawe College

Join presenter Cristina Gullo as she provides an overview of her journey through completing her dental hygiene program and master's degree, how she arrived at her teaching career, as well as what led her to decide to pursue a PhD. Bring your questions if you are thinking of continuing your education and are considering a career in education.

RDH Career Paths – Public Health

Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry

Working in public health brings a focus on community oral health rather than individual clients, and can involve population-level screenings and impact on public health policies to reduce oral health inequities and improve access to care. Join this session to learn more about this career path.

RDH Career Paths – Orthodontics

Renata Albonese, RDH | Canadian Academy of Dental Health and Community Sciences, ODHA Board Member

Curious about what it's really like to work in orthodontics? Join Renata for an interactive roundtable discussion about one of the many exciting career paths available to dental hygienists. Drawing on more than 30 years in dentistry, as a dental assistant, registered dental hygienist, clinical educator, and practicing orthodontic dental hygienist, Renata will share her journey into orthodontics, discuss the education and skills that can help you build a career in the specialty, and offer practical insights from both the classroom and the clinic.

Bring your questions, your curiosity, and your enthusiasm, we'll have an open conversation about orthodontics, career opportunities, and the realities of working in this rewarding specialty.

Distance Education and Research

Jennifer Barkans, RDH | Ohio State Online

Distance education can be a practical way for registered dental hygienists to enhance credentials and complete a degree without having to relocate. Presenter Jennifer Barkans will provide an overview of her experience with completing her undergraduate and master's degrees online, and will discuss some of the research she has been conducting related to the Canadian Dental Care Plan.

Keeping the Spark Alive: Fueling Your Professional Fire Through Learning and Connection

Amy Currie, RRDH | President, ODHA Board of Directors

Amy Currie, President of ODHA's Board of Directors, and previous board member, speaks with experience about how to keep your enthusiasm throughout your career, the value of networking, staying engaged with your professional associations, advocating for yourself and pursuing your areas of interest.

Introduction to Interim Stabilization Therapy

Kim Lawrence, RDH | Southern Ontario Dental College

Those interested in the use of interim stabilization therapy (IST) are invited to join presenter Kim Lawrence for an overview of IST (clinical application, indications, limitations), CDHO scope of practice related to temporary restorations, real-world applications, and more.

Navigating CDHO's Quality Assurance Program

Kathleen Bokrossy, RDH | rdhu

Maintaining your Quality Assurance Portfolio is essential to maintaining your standing as registered dental hygienists, and can be intimidating to new graduates and more experienced dental hygienists

alike. Kathleen will present the different QA path options, discuss how to prepare, maintain and submit your portfolio, review the SMILE Portal and provide answers to your questions.