Fall 2022

Message from the WISN President

This year we had an opportunity to finally meet some colleagues in person during the AADOCR meeting in Atlanta, GA. A sense of normalcy is gradually returning to our lives, and we can now work enthusiastically towards the upcoming 2023 AADOCR and IADR in-person meetings.

It is time to make an effort to apply the lessons learned from the pandemic towards policies and initiatives that will support and increase women representation in the dental, oral, and craniofacial sciences leadership. A recent study published by our group demonstrated that institutional policies have a direct effect on mental health and well-being of female academicians. More information on our manuscript is presented below in this newsletter! We hope to see you in person in the upcoming AADOCR meeting in Portland, Oregon.

Sincerely,
Grace De Souza
WISN President 2022-2023

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We had a busy year with numerous WISN-sponsored sessions at the 2022 AADOCR meeting in Atlanta and IADR meeting in China, many of which were co-sponsored by additional scientific group(s)/network(s).

Below is a snapshot of WISN sessions presented at the meeting:

**Workshop:**
**WISN – bridging the gap!**
4 amazing speakers:
- Effie Ioannidou, UConn
- Maria Ryan, Colgate
- Marguerita Fontana, UMichigan
- Jessica Lee, UNC Chapel Hill

The symposium was organized in a way that speakers briefly spoke about their professional trajectories and then sat at tables to chat and answer questions from the attendees. There were 4 groups and all attendees had a chance to speak with the presenters. The room was fully booked (37 attendees!!) and the feedback from was excellent!

**Symposium:**
**Sexual Dimorphism in Oral Inflammatory Diseases**
4 amazing speakers:
- Effie Ioannidou, UConn
- Ariadne Letra, UPittsburgh
- Keith Kirkwood, UBuffalo
- Luciana Shaddox, UKentucky

The symposium focused on the implication of sex as a biological variable influencing the genetic, hormonal, and immunological responses of an individual to oral inflammatory diseases.

**Business meeting:**
WISN officers and members gathered to welcome new members, discuss past and current activities, and present the recipients of the WISN Research awards. This was a great opportunity to stay in touch with group members and to finally meet in person!
WISN publication in the Journal of Dental Education:

Perception of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions on dental researchers
Grace M. De Souza DDS, MSC, PhD, Tamanna Tiwari MPH, MDS, BDS, Christopher H. Fox DMD, DMSC, Patricia A. Miguez DDS, MS, PhD, Ariadne Letra DDS, MS, PhD, Maria L. Geisinger DDS, MS, Mangala Patel BSc, MSc, PhD, Luciana Shaddox DDS, MS, PhD, Effie Ioannidou DDS, BDS

We are proud to share that the results of a survey conducted by WISN in association with IADR have been published in the Journal of Dental Education! See some highlights of the study “Perception of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions on dental researchers” below:

- Higher productivity during the pandemic was reported by male researchers and those in senior career stages;
- Institutional support affected productivity of both, men and women;
- Young female researchers reported lower productivity despite longer work hours regardless of work location;
- Women reported being less comfortable about tenure and promotion and using performance indicators for salary increase after the pandemic restrictions.

The full manuscript can be accessed via the link below:
Perception of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions on dental researchers - De Souza - Journal of Dental Education - Wiley Online Library

WISN Spotlight:

Elena Calciolari, DDS (Italy), MS (Perio, Italy), PhD (UK, Italy)

Scientific Merit
Main Research Interests: Periodontology and Implant Dentistry. Characterization of the process of bone and periodontal regeneration in healthy and systemically compromised conditions.

Research Merit

Scientific Contribution:
Involved in writing evidence-based guidelines for the treatment of periodontitis (British Society of Periodontology).

Awards:
- Goldman Award for Clinical Research (2014)
- IADR Women in Science Distinguished Research Award (2018)
- BSODR President’s Prize (2021)
- IADR Joseph Lister’s Award for New Investigators (2021, 2nd place)

Other activities of WISN:

WISN has just started a new PODCAST with women leaders
WISN is working on a manuscript from the AADOCR symposium on SEX and GENDER DIFFERENCES IN ORAL HEALTH
WISN is contributing with IADR on a requested response to the NIH ORWH Strategic Plan
Session Proposals for AADOCR Annual Meeting 2023
2022 WISN Awards
Congratulations to the 2022 awardees:

DISTINGUISHED FEMALE MENTOR
Maria Ryan, DDS, PhD
Vice President, Chief Clinical Officer
Colgate Palmolive Company

DISTINGUISHED FEMALE RESEARCHER
Lakmali Silva, BSc, PhD
Post-doctoral fellow
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland, USA

PROMISING TALENT AWARD
Lakshmi Balraj, DMD, MSc
PhD candidate
Maastricht University
Netherlands

The awards were presented virtually during the WISN business meeting at IADR.

AWARDS WERE SUPPORTED BY: