Fall 2023
Message from the WISN President
We, the WISN board members, are continuously committed to working towards a better future for women in the dental, oral and craniofacial sciences. With this newsletter, specifically, we want to hear from you! What can we do to reach out to women in need of support? Can you think of any topic that should be discussed, or that women should receive training on, to boost their career progress?
In gender gap discussions, a term that has been often brought to the conversation is “sorority”. According to dictionaries, “sorority” is a club of women, united for a social purpose. Bring it to 2023 and the question is: how can we demonstrate sorority towards one another? How can we support our female colleagues and friends? Maybe a reference letter? Maybe a nomination to an award? Maybe a quick e-mail to check how they are doing? Start today – practice sorority towards other women that may be struggling more than you can imagine! Let’s make this a better world to all of us!
We hope to see you in person in the upcoming IADR meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana.
Sincerely,
Grace De Souza
WISN President 2023-2024

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WISN sponsored several sessions and proposals at the 2023 AADOCR/CADR Annual Meeting & Exhibition in Portland, OR and 2023 IADR/LAR General Session & Exhibition in Bogota, CO. Many of these were co-sponsored together with other scientific group(s)/network(s) in a framework of collaboration.

**AADOCR Meeting Highlights**  
**– Portland, March 2023**

A snapshot of WISN sessions presented at the meeting:

**WISN – Bridging the Gap! workshop**

We had 4 amazing speakers:
- Jennifer Webster-Cyriaque (NIDCR)
- Flavia Pirih (UCLA)
- Simone Duarte (ADASRI)
- Mary McDougal (UBC)

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 (65+ attendees!!) and the feedback was excellent!

**Symposium:**  
**Diversity, Equality, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) in Dental Education Research**
- Eleanor Fleming
- Nathalia Garcia
- Effie Ioannidou
- Nick Jabukovics

**Other IADR 2023 WISN sponsored proposals:**
- Assessing Oral Health Disparities Through a Nationally Representative Survey
- Discussing Animal Models of Bone/Dentin Regeneration with Students and Scholars
- High-resolution Oral Biology and Periodontics Research: single-cell technologies
- The Two-way Street Running between Research and Clinical Practice

**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!
Strategic planning Mission and Goals:

After our recent strategic planning, as a result of our revised mission and goals, a survey was developed to foster collaboration among WISN members:

- The survey was distributed to all the WISN members that expressed their interest in being contacted for research collaboration.
- A total of N = 40 WISN members replied to the survey (97.5% were involved in academia).
- Members could exchange their email address to promote future research collaboration and network.

Title of the respondents to the survey, expressed in percentage.

Different areas of expertise of the respondents to the survey.

WISN Spotlight:

Maisa Omara, BDS, MPH

As a PhD candidate in Public Health at University of Vienna (Austria), Maisa has already received 2 awards from WISN. The first as “Promising Talent” (2021), and now the “Distinguished Female Researcher” with her manuscript Lessons learned from the first steps of implementing value-based oral health care: a case study from the Medical University of Vienna (J. Evid-Based Dent Practice, M. Omara, T. Stamm and K. Bekes).

Main Interests: Epidemiology and Dental Public Health. She is also a temporary consultant for WHO on leading epidemiological tasks and trainings in Yemen, Sudan, Lebanon and Jordan. She previously (2010-2014) acted as the focal point for International Health Regulations (IHR), including performing all IHR support activities, such as assessment and implementation of the IHR core capacities, Egyptian Ministry of health and population.

So far, she has published over 28 manuscripts looking at metrics and recommendations for health-related quality of life of children and adults.

Future WISN Activities

- Mentoring workshop to honor the impact of Dianne Rekow as a mentor to so many of us!
- Symposium on salary and negotiation for academicians in various fields and career stages
- WISN is contributing with IADR on a requested response to the NIH ORWH Strategic Plan
- WISN is working on a manuscript from the AADOOCR symposium on sex and gender differences in oral health
2023 WISN Awards
Congratulations to the 2023 awardees:

DISTINGUISHED FEMALE MENTOR
Ana Bedran-Russo, DDS MS PhD
University of Illinois Chicago, College of Dentistry, USA

DISTINGUISHED FEMALE RESEARCHER
Maisa Omara, BDS, MPH
Medical University of Vienna, Austria

PROMISING TALENT AWARD
Yao Yao, PhD
University of Michigan, School of Dentistry, USA
Yasmin Jaber, MD
Faculty of Dental Medicine, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

The awards were presented during the 2023 IADR/LAR General Session & Exhibition (Bogota, Colombia). Don’t miss the deadline to apply for our awards! Applications are due on December 15th 2023.
Check out our award types here: https://www.iadr.org/awards?_page=1&keywords=&_limit=10&topic=102

AWARDS SUPPORTED BY:

https://www.iadr.org/2024iags
Stay tuned for additional WISN sponsored sessions & activities at the 2024 AADOCR/IADR!

We want to hear from you!
Do you have suggestions for future events? Click on the link below or use the QR code to answer a simple 2-question survey to help us build the 2025 meetings!
https://forms.office.com/r/69fFGqr6GU

Questions? Send us an e-mail: grace.desouza@louisville.edu

IADR - Women in Science Network