

## Previous Winners of the Dental Health Foundation Bursary to the Oral Health Promotion Research Group

- **2019**

The winner of the 2019 Bursary was Rachel Cafferky and the bursary was presented by Ms Etain Kett, Public Affairs and Communications Manager, Dental Health Foundation to Marion Jones (on behalf of Rachel). Rachel's project was 'Youthful Smiles, going the extra mile' 'Youthful Smiles- going the extra mile' is a train the trainer style approach that hopes to empower TY (transition year) students in Kerry to improve their oral and general health through a series of workshops. It will also give them the opportunity to become advocates for oral health and general health among their peers and wider community. They will be tasked at the end of the workshops, to carry out an oral health education presentation for their peers and/or wider community. They will carry out their task using evidence based recommendations which they will learn through the workshops. Using a framework of a templated powerpoint the students will be expertly guided through their oral health presentation by oral health professionals. This programme hopes to improve oral health literacy among the students and wider community, empower the students and community to take their health into their own hands and create a supportive environment in secondary schools for both oral and general health.

- **2017**

Dr Caroline Marron, Dr Brigid Harney and Dr Colette Kelly. Their project entitled **Oral Health Education for New Parents** aims to provide a brief oral health intervention among new parents to reduce the incidence of early childhood caries (ECC). The project involves creating an evidence-based caries prevention patient information leaflet aimed specifically at new parents. A patient-centred oral health education session will be carried out with new parents at their child's 3, 7 and 18 month developmental checks in primary care centres in Dun Laoghaire, Irishtown and

Wicklow Town. Parents knowledge and awareness of oral health will be assessed before and after the intervention. A clinical oral examination at the child's 18-month developmental check visit will also be carried out.

Evidence has shown that targeting expectant and new mothers with health promotion information is a good opportunity as they have increased motivation to improve the health of their babies and therefore are more receptive to advice. The project is an opportunity to target this population group to reduce the incidence of ECC and that it has the potential to be expanded and developed further in the future.

- **2016**

Dr Una McAuliffe, winning entry "Fluoride varnish efficacy in preventing dental caries in high risk children following treatment under dental general anaesthesia: a prospective study".

- **2014**

Dr Darshini Ramasubbu. Dr Ramasubbu developed a programme which uses smart phone technology to deliver oral health information. It promises to be a very exciting development in oral health promotion in Ireland.

- **2012**

Drs Sharon Curtin and Hassan Ziada from the Cork University Dental School and Hospital, Anna Trace from the School of Applied Psychology in UCC and Dr Evelyn Crowley from the HSE Cork North Lee. The winning entry is entitled "Motivational Interviewing Level 1 Training for Dental Clinicians".

- **2011**

Mary Carr Dental Health Educator(Oral Health) HSE- North East collected the Bursary Award for 2011 for the entry entitled 'Tooth Led Teens' which aimed to increase an awareness of oral health within the school environment. As SPHE is a compulsory subject in all schools, this programme provides an opportunity for the promotion of good oral health of children attending post primary schools in Cavan, Meath and Louth. A special award from the Dental Health Foundation was also made to Kellie O'Shaughnessy, Dental Hygienist, in recognition of her work submitted for the Bursary in 2011.

- **2010**

Dr Caoimhin MacGiolla Phadraig, collected the award for the winning entry of the 2010 Bursary. Dr MacGiolla Phadraig gave a presentation of the project 'Train the Trainer An Oral Health Training Kit'. He went on to outline how to deliver Oral Health training in the Intellectual Disability Residential Care Setting.

- **2007**

Winners were Marie Sheehy and Siobhan O'Shea with the support of their Principal Dental Surgeon Dr John Llewelyn Jones.

Their study evaluated an oral health promotion programme for 1st year students in secondary schools. This pilot study conducted in four secondary schools of West Kerry adopted a series of five processes in planning, implanting and evaluating an oral health promotion programme for 1st year students. It strived to establish evaluation as its core element and the principles of persuasive communication in its delivery.

The results indicated that the approach had a significant and positive impact upon oral health knowledge and attitude of the recipients. They concluded that the approach should be tested upon other oral health promotion initiatives.