



Laura L Iorio, Ajax, Ontario

It is my great pleasure to nominate Laura L Iorio, BSc, RDH, for the honour of Dental Hygiene Superhero! I have known Laura for several years, having met at various continuing education courses and events. I also had the privilege to be her course instructor when she completed her Bachelor of Science degree in oral health promotion.

Laura is totally dedicated, and the following account demonstrates that she is a marvellous ambassador for the dental hygiene profession, who models exceptional client care. She is committed to educating and empowering her clients to embrace the “oral health for total health” motto. She is so deserving of this honour because of her remarkable career and numerous, multifaceted contributions to oral health and total health.

Laura has worked in clinical dental hygiene for 40 years, including many years in periodontology. She still works one to two days per week in clinical practice. Her excellent care makes her exceedingly popular with her clients.

Laura works at the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Toronto, where for the last 30 years she has been sharing her expertise with future dentists as a clinical professor. She teaches dentistry students periodontal treatment planning, debridement, and oral health counselling. She was also a faculty member at Durham College and Oxford College in their dental hygiene programs, serving as a clinical instructor and teaching theory, including pharmacology, anatomy, physiology, histology, embryology, and business principles. Laura remains in touch with her former students and generously continues to be a mentor and clinical trainer for dental hygienists.

Laura has also contributed to the dental hygiene profession in other ways. She was a clinical evaluator with the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario for 18 years, including one year as the chief clinical evaluator. Through her work in sales and education with Micrylium, Laura has contributed to providing effective, safe, non-toxic infection control solutions for the dental, medical, veterinary, farming, and esthetics industries, to keep their clients, workers, animals, and the environment safe.



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Laura has also worked in sales and education for Colgate, presenting at conferences and dental hygiene school curriculum programs. In addition, she made a great contribution to Dentsply Sirona as a conference presenter on ultrasonics and pain management systems, and authored the article, “Professionally Applied Fluoride—Made Easy,” in 2018.

Laura is currently a dental recruitment specialist. She has connected dental professionals to their dream jobs, using her background as a dental hygienist to help candidates find their ideal position. She also helps employers find their dream staff (dentists who utilized her recruitment services speak very highly of her). In addition, she gives presentations to graduating dental hygienists and dental assistants on what to expect in the industry regarding the newest trends, how to prepare for their interview, what to ask for in contracts, and salary expectations.

Laura has also made time to further her education, completing her Bachelor of Science degree in oral health promotion at O’Hehir University in 2020. This year she will be presenting her research on Prevora chlorhexidine varnish at the International Federation of Dental Hygienists’ symposium in Dublin, Ireland.

Laura’s past volunteering experience includes a teaching mission in 1995, funded by the Baltic Provinces and Canada, to further dental education for women in Latvia. She accompanied Bonnie Borins, Debbie Daniels, and Melissa Crawford. She says she found this to be such a rewarding and life-changing experience.

Just when you think Laura couldn’t possibly fit in any other accomplishments, she has been a volunteer for the Gift from the Heart (GFTH) charity for the past seven years. Laura is currently vice-president of operations for GFTH, managing the logistics of their events such as their national day of giving and free dental days, assisting the president with day-to-day operations, and giving presentations to groups on social responsibility. Laura is passionate about this work. She says, “Unfortunately in Canada, there are so many people who face inequalities in accessing essential oral health care services. We know oral health leads to overall health. I feel that oral health should not be a privilege, but a human right.” This puts Laura’s career philosophy and mission in a nutshell: it is the driving force behind all of her professional endeavours. She is truly a Dental Hygiene Superhero in every way!



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