American Dental Hygienists’ Association, Dental Hygiene Profession
Saddened by the Loss of Irene Woodall, PhD

Chicago (April 23, 2015) — The leadership, members and staff of the American Dental Hygienists’ Association (ADHA), as well as those allied to the profession of dental hygiene, mourn the loss of dental hygiene educator, author, editor — and true pioneer — Irene Woodall, PhD. The effect that Irene has had on the profession and those practicing it each day is indelible, and her lasting influence on dental hygiene will never be forgotten. The ADHA offers its sincerest condolences to her family and friends.

“Irene Woodall personified what the profession of dental hygiene is to countless dental hygienists across the country and around the world. Her devotion to dental hygiene was an inspiration to all involved in the profession, and Irene’s insight and dedication was a driving force in the development and transformation of dental hygiene,” said ADHA President Kelli Swanson Jaecks, MA, RDH. “She challenged us to look beyond where we were and asked us to explore where we could go, both as individuals and oral care providers.”

Irene was an internationally recognized speaker and educator for continuing education courses, as well as dental hygiene program director at Kalamazoo Valley Community College and the University of Pennsylvania. Always an innovator, she explored the use of ultrasonic scalers compared to conventional hand instrumentation, and was an advocate for self-regulation by dental hygienists. She was a published author of numerous books, and served as the founding and senior editor of RDH Magazine for 12 years.

“Irene was an inspiration to generations of dental hygienists across the United States,” said ADHA Executive Director Ann Battrell, MSDH. “Her passion and vision for what the profession of dental hygiene could become was a driving force in its change and growth. Through Irene’s wit, charm and beautiful smile, she engaged all of us to pursue our goals and dreams.”
Irene passed away peacefully on April 22, 2015, in Chicago. She is survived by two daughters, Charlotte Resek and Amanda Woodall, son-in-law James Resek, and three grandchildren, Evan, Linus, and Dean Resek; as well as brothers Richard and William Zimmerman, and sister-in-law Lori Zimmerman.

Visitation will be held on April 26, 2015, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Cooney Funeral Home, 3918 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago.

Contributions can be made in her name to the ADHA Institute for Oral Health Irene Woodall Graduate Scholarship Fund.

About the American Dental Hygienists’ Association
The American Dental Hygienists’ Association (ADHA) is the largest national organization representing the professional interests of more than 185,000 dental hygienists across the country. Dental hygienists are preventive oral health professionals, licensed in dental hygiene, who provide educational, clinical and therapeutic services that support total health through the promotion of optimal oral health. For more information about the ADHA, dental hygiene or the link between oral health and general health, visit the ADHA at www.adha.org.

About the ADHA’s Institute for Oral Health
Founded in 1957, the ADHA Institute for Oral Health is the philanthropic foundation to advance professional excellence in dental hygiene education and research. Working for the dental hygiene community, the ADHA Institute for Oral Health provides opportunities for academic achievement through Scholarships and Fellowships, resources to advance the professional field through Research Grants, and support for dental hygienists to improve the public’s health through Community Service Grants. For more information, visit http://www.adha.org/institute-for-oral-health.