

DO YOU KNOW A DENTAL HYGIENE SUPERHERO?



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Jadina Yip, RDH, BSc(DH)

Burnaby, BC

Jadina (Jay) Yip began her dental hygiene career after graduating from the University of Washington (UW), Seattle, with a BSc(DH). UW provided a wide breadth of experiences that included complex hospital dentistry and community health rotations with intellectually/developmentally challenged populations. Work-life commenced with private general and periodontal practice, leading to work abroad in Switzerland where Jay toiled with the French language and skied. She then pursued community dental hygiene, coordinating the oral health program on the North Shore of Vancouver and volunteering in Southeast Asia and in South America.

Currently, Jay works at Vancouver Coastal Health on two community-based interprofessional teams. The teams of nurses, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech-language pathologists, recreational therapists, a dietician, psychologists, social workers, and rehabilitation assistants support adults with intellectual/developmental challenges and adults with acquired brain injury. The clinicians collaborate to meet the clients' complex health needs, which can include tube feeds, tracheostomies, and dysphagia. Advocating and implementing oral health care within the context of the overall health needs of the clients living in the community is demanding, brings out creativity, and keeps Jay sharp. Learning opportunities and navigating



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dental hygiene practice on highly specialized teams have enabled Jay to mentor third-year University of British Columbia (UBC) dental hygiene students in community dental hygiene practice and introduce them to vulnerable, underserved populations. Jay has also taught the third-year pathophysiology course at UBC as well as teaching and coordinating continuing education courses at Vancouver Community College. Jay's dental hygiene career path has been diverse and absolutely fulfilling, and she remains keen to advance the evolving practice of dental hygiene. Interests away from work include tennis, hiking, skiing, biking, travelling, and volunteering for Meals on Wheels on her bike, which is how Jay commutes in the city and to her client visits.



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