

# Just Phenomenal Hygienist

## THE JOURNAL OF PRACTICAL HYGIENE COMMENDS VALERIE STERNBERG-SMITH, RDH, BS

*The Journal of Practical Hygiene* recognizes Valerie Sternberg-Smith, RDH, BS, as this issue's Just Phenomenal Hygienist. Sponsored by Johnson & Johnson, the program honors hygienists who are extraordinary members of the profession.

Valerie holds a unique position in the practice of Dr. Robert Eskow, in Livingston, NJ, as an Implant Treatment Coordinator. The practice specializes in implant dentistry, periodontics, and oral medicine.

Valerie's surgical experience and general knowledge in implant dentistry led to an invitation to serve as a faculty member in the Implant Dentistry Department of New York University. She also holds an appointment in the Department of Dental Hygiene at NYU. She has published articles on implant maintenance and has lectured throughout North America on implant maintenance and ultrasonics in periodontics. Valerie is an Editorial Advisory Board Member for *The Journal of Practical Hygiene*, and has provided consultation and input on new product development for several companies in the dental industry, including Surgical Innovations and Premier Dental.

“Valerie is a phenomenal dental hygienist who rose to the forefront of her profession by having been proactive in educating herself on all aspects of implant dentistry.”

She has presented original research and development on instrumentation designed for implant maintenance. In addition, Valerie is one of only two hygienists to have been granted Active Member status in the Academy of Osseointegration and serves on its Allied Professional Staff Committee. She is also a member of the American Dental Hygienists Association and was a component president.

Valerie's commitment to the practice and to the profession has resulted in an extraordinary team approach to patient care. She has shared her knowledge with the community by encouraging other practices to integrate implant therapy, and is looked upon as an authority on implant maintenance and follow-up care. "Referral offices and patients call to speak with Valerie—not me—on all aspects of patient care," states Dr. Eskow. "She is the day-to-day resource in the practice for every facet of implant treatment. Valerie truly is unique and is a credit to the dental profession."

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JPH's "Just Phenomenal Hygienist"

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- Implant Treatment Coordinator, practice of Dr. Robert Eskow, Livingston, NJ
  - Faculty member, Implant Dentistry Department, New York University
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