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Memo: Changes to the National Research Competition at ADHA's Center for Lifelong Learning at the Annual Session

With the recent revisions to the [National Dental Hygiene Research Agenda](#), ADHA is in the process of reviewing all of its research initiatives. As part of this process, changes are being made to the National Research Competition held at ADHA's Center for Lifelong Learning at the Annual Session. We believe these changes will better align dental hygiene research with the research being conducted in other professions.

At the upcoming 2017 Center for Lifelong Learning at the 94th Annual Session, ADHA will debut a new research category – the **Informative Poster Presentation**. Informative Poster Presentations are not original research – they may be literature or scholarly reviews – but are required to be presented in a poster format instead of a tabletop, tri-fold board format. Informative Poster Presentations will present the same content as Table Clinics, but are presented in a different layout (poster versus a tri-fold board). Posters are a format that ADHA feels better represent the quality of information being presented. This category is separate from the existing Research Poster Presentations, in which students are required to present original, independent research.

In 2017, the Informative Poster Presentations and Table Clinics will be judged as part of the same group, with a single 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize, along with Honorable Mention, being awarded amongst the two categories.

By 2018, Table Clinics will be completely phased out and will be replaced with the Informative Poster Presentation category.

Literature reviews or non-original research will continue to be presented; the only change is the layout in which the research is being presented. The change in format is an attempt to align our research competition with those conducted by other professions. Original, independent research will still be

presented as part of the Research Poster Presentations. Nothing has changed with the research posters.

ADHA is still in the process of finalizing the Rules & Regulations and application documents for the 2017 competition. Once they are completed they will be placed on the [ADHA website](#) and heavily communicated through various channels.

If you have any questions about the upcoming changes to the National Research Competition, please contact ADHA Director of Professional Development at sueb@adha.net.