

**UConn School of Dental Medicine  
Reaches Highest Research  
Ranking in School History**

The Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research published their latest ranking of U.S. dental schools receiving funding from the National Institutes of Health. The SDM now ranks 8<sup>th</sup> among 67 dental schools having received \$9.40 million in direct funds from NIH in Fiscal Year 2020, up from its rank of 16<sup>th</sup> (\$5.37 million) in fiscal year 2019.

The link to the full article can be found here:

<https://today.uconn.edu/2021/03/school-of-dental-medicine-reaches-highest-research-ranking-in-school-history/>

**In this Issue:**

- 2 **Dental Student Research Day**
- 3 **CT State Dental Association Meeting**
- 4 **Recognition**
- 6 **New Grant Submission Deadlines**
- 7 **New NIH Requirements**
- 8 **Research Resources**
- 9 **Statistical Support**
- 10 **Research Dean's Corner**

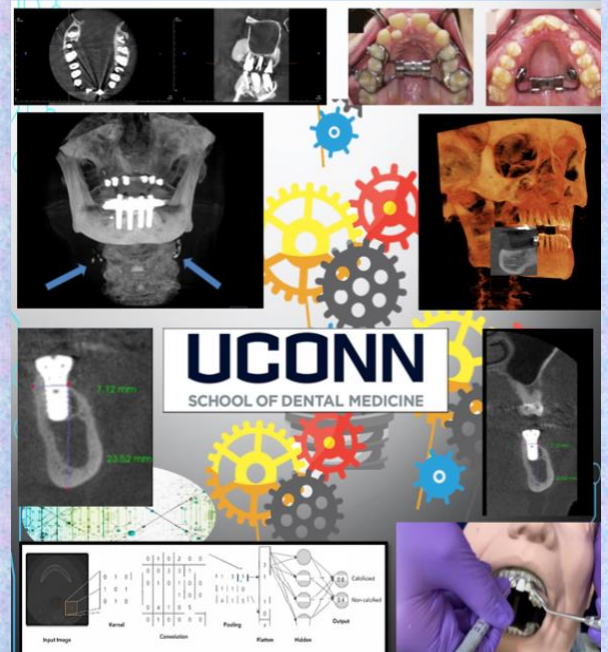
**Student Research Day 2021**

Another first for the SDM was our virtual Dental Student Research Day which was held on Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. All students who participated in summer research in 2020 were provided the opportunity to give an oral presentation of their research.

The keynote address, "Oral Manifestations of COVID-19 and the literature highlighting the importance of collaborative research" was given by Dr. Paul C. Edwards, from Indiana University School of Dentistry.

Thank you to the faculty judges: Drs. Eliane Dutra, Aadarsh Gopalakrishna, Arthur Hand, Alan Lurie, Tannin Schmidt, Takanori Sobue and Aniuska Tobin.

**DENTAL STUDENT RESEARCH DAY  
MARCH 1, 2021**



## 2021 Dental Student Research Day

We would like to acknowledge all the student presenters and their mentors for their hard work towards another engaging and successful event: Edward Amelemah (Dr. Yadav, mentor), Brett Bracco, Audrey Brigham, Emmanuel Hanjar and Reja Javed (Dr. Chatah, mentor), Jacob Burns (Dr. Nichols, mentor), Elyse Estra (Dr. Peterson, mentor), Catherine Florentine, Anna Kimberly (Dr. Lottinger, mentor), Jeff Hage (Dr. Frank, mentor), Breanna Irizarry (Dr. Tadinada, mentor), Michaela Matos (Dr. Gordon, mentor), John Nelson (Dr. Tadinada, mentor), Dan Nguyen (Dr. Sobue, mentor), Cameron Christiansen, Paul Nwokeji (Drs. Harrison & Watras mentors), Natasha Patel (Dr. Tadinada, mentor), Samuel Ratcliffe (Dr. Nichols, mentor), Basant Sallam (Dr. Arteaga, mentor), Emma Warren (Dr. Tadinada, mentor), Caroline Wilson (Dr. Tadinada, mentor), Julia Witt (Dr. Tadinada, mentor), Matthew Wittstein (Dr. Upadhyay, mentor).



Keynote Speaker:  
Paul C. Edwards, MSc, DDS,  
FRCD(C), MBA  
Senior Associate Dean for Academic  
Programs  
Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial  
Pathology  
Indiana University School of Dentistry  
Vice President, American Academy of  
Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology



Dr. Tadinada with John Nelson (recipient of the Dean's Award)

### Congratulations to Dental Student Research Day Award Recipients:

Associate Dean's Award:	Samuel Ratcliffe (Dr. Nichols)
Connecticut Holistic Health Assn Award:	Elyse Estra (Dr. Peterson)
Dean's Award:	John Nelson (Dr. Tadinada)
Dental Student Research Society Award:	Jeff Hage (Dr. Frank)
Dentsply-Sirona Student Clinician Award:	Emma Warren (Dr. Tadinada)
Gustave Perl Memorial Award:	Paul Nwokeji & Cameron Christiansen (Drs. Harrison & Watras)
Omicron Kappa Upsilon-Phi Chi Chapter Award:	Caroline Wilson & Julia Witt (Dr. Tadinada)



We would like to acknowledge the following CSDA poster presenters (and their mentors):

### **Students**

Edward Amelemah (Dr. Yadav)	Brett Bracco (Dr. Chatah)
John Bryck (Dr. Tadinada)	Lauren Cardarelli (Dr. Tadinada)
Cameron Christiansen (Drs. Harrison & Watras)	Madison Cohen (Dr. Lurie)
Elyse Estra (Dr. Peterson)	Catherine Florentine (Dr. Lottinger)
Bhavin Gupta (Dr. Pilbeam)	Jeffrey Hage (Dr. Frank)
Brianna Irizarry (Dr. Tadinada)	Michaela Matos (Dr. Gordon)
John Nelson (Dr. Tadinada)	Dan Nguyen (Dr. Sobue)
Natasha Patel (Dr. Tadinada)	Basant Sallam (Dr. Arteaga)
Emma Warren (Dr. Tadinada)	Caroline Wilson (Dr. Tadinada)
Julia Witt (Dr. Tadinada)	

### **Residents**

Dr. Sarah Abu Arqub (Dr. Yadav)	Dr. Po-Jung Chen (Dr. Yadav)
Dr. Rebecca Dresner (Dr. Yadav)	Dr. Kevin Hawthorne (Dr. Tadinada)
Dr. Varsha Kadyan (Dr. Tadinada)	Dr. Bilal Khan (Dr. Sanchez)
Dr. Min Kyeong Kim (Dr. Sanchez)	Dr. Shivam Mehta (Dr. Yadav)
Dr. Kavya Muttanahally (Dr. Tadinada)	Dr. Afroditi Pita (Drs. Sanchez and Thacker)
Dr. Anusha Vaddi (Dr. Tadinada)	Dr. Ke Wang (Dr. Yadav)

Congratulations to the CSDA Poster Award recipients:

### **Students**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Michaela Matos (Dr. Gordon)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Brett Bracco (Dr. Chatah)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Catherine Florentine (Dr. Lottinger)  
 and John Nelson (Dr. Tadinada)

Best Poster Presentation: Julia Witt (Dr. Tadinada)

### **Residents**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Dr. Po-Jung Chen (Dr. Yadav)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Dr. Shivam Mehta (Dr. Yadav)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Dr. Rebecca Dresner (Dr. Yadav)



## Faculty Recognition

Congratulations to Dr. Changchun Liu, recipient of the SDM Outstanding Researcher Faculty Award for 2020. Criteria for this award include the receipt of new and continuing major extramural funding and the number and quality of peer-reviewed publications during the year of record (FY 2020). The award selection was made by an ad hoc committee of 3 SDM faculty, based on objective data provided by the SDM Research Office.

(Photo: from left: Drs. Lepowsky, Liu, Escabi, Lalla and Kuhn)



Congratulations to Dr. Changchun Liu who recently licensed his "All-In-One-Dual CRISPR-Cas12a assay" to Vault Medical Services for commercial development. See UConn Today article: <https://today.uconn.edu/2021/03/uconn-developed-diagnostic-test-for-infectious-diseases-reaches-licensing-deal/>



Congratulations to Dr. Liisa Kuhn, who was awarded the 2021 Award for Service from the Society for Biomaterials and was recognized at the virtual Annual Business Meeting held April 21-23, 2021.



Congratulations to Dr. Sumit Yadav, who co-authored a paper with Dr. Sangamesh Kumbar, which was published in the European Journal of Orthodontics and has been chosen for the Beni Solow Award offered by the European Orthodontic Society.



Congratulations to Dr. Aditya Tadinada for securing a \$20,000 grant from the Connecticut State Dental Foundation to support SDM graduate student research.

### AADR Connecticut Section: Officers (September 2020 – August 2022)



President, Dr. Eliane Dutra



Secretary: Dr. Takanori Sobue



Vice-President: Dr. Aniuska Tobin



Treasurer: Dr. Tannin Schmidt

## Recognition



Congratulations to Dr. Ke Wang (Dr. Sumit Yadav, mentor), recipient of the Charles J. Burstone Research Aid Award from the American Association of Orthodontists Foundation.



Congratulations to Dr. Po-Jung Chen (Dr. Sumit Yadav, mentor), recipient of the American Association of Orthodontists 2021 William R. Proffit Resident Scholar Award; 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Basic Research Category.

Congratulations to the SDM Research Office staff who were recently recognized by Dr. Andy with the UConn Health PAWS Team Award. Please see details at [PAWS Awardees | Human Resources \(uconn.edu\)](#).



From left: Annmarie Martin, Kamal Sahoobah, Laura Didden, Lisa Ramsdell, Caibin Zhang, Robin Tiso and Brandon Mulcunry.



## New Grant Submission Deadlines Now In Effect

All applications for external grant support must be approved by the UConn Sponsored Program Services (SPS) before submission to the sponsor. In December 2020, SPS announced new deadlines for submission of grant proposals. As previously announced, these new timelines are being enforced by SPS since 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021. They are intended to allow adequate time for SPS to review the grant application and supporting documents to ensure a smooth and on-time submission. The SPS deadlines are represented in the graphic below:



### Full Business Days Before Submission Deadline

**>6 days:** PI provides application components to local grants administrator (or Faculty Services)

**5 days:** Complete application (plus *draft scientific components*) and *IPR* submitted to SPS

**5-2 days:** SPS reviews *proposal* and provides feedback

**2 days:** *Corrections made and all approvals in place*

**Noon day before deadline:** *Final proposal and PI authorization to submit to sponsor provided to SPS*

**1-0 days before deadline:** *Proposal submitted*

The above SPS deadlines pertain to when components of the grant application must be sent to SPS by the SDM Research Office. Therefore, to meet these SPS deadlines, we needed to establish earlier timelines for the various components to be completed by and/or provided to the SDM Research Office. This applies to all grant-related submissions (including progress reports), being submitted by faculty and trainees.

Effective 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021, the SDM grant submission timelines are as follows:

**As early as possible but no less than 21 business days before submission deadline:** Inform Laura Didden of plan to submit and begin working with her on a budget (28 business days if a subcontract is involved). Laura will provide you with specific internal due dates based on the sponsor due date.

**9 business days before submission deadline:** Provide the final Budget Justification and draft Abstract so that routing can start.

**6 business days before submission deadline:** Provide all remaining documents in near-final form (except the research section).

**9 am on the business day before submission deadline:** Provide final research section.

A sincere thanks to each of you for your understanding and cooperation with these new timelines. Please let us know if you have any questions.

## Important New NIH Requirement

For all applications and progress reports submitted for due dates **on or after May 25th**, new, updated Biosketch and Other Support forms will be required.

### Changes to the Other Support Format Page:

- The format page has been reorganized to separate funded projects from in-kind contributions.
- **A signature block has been added, for Program Director/Principal Investigator or Other Senior/Key Personnel to certify the accuracy of the information submitted. Each PD/PI and Senior/Key Personnel must electronically sign their respective Other Support form as a PDF prior to submission.**
- For Other support submissions that include foreign activities and resources, recipients are required to submit copies of contracts, grants or any other agreements specific to senior/key personnel foreign appointments and/or employment with a foreign institution as supporting documentation. If they are not in English, recipients must provide a translated copy. This supporting documentation must be provided as part of the Other Support PDF following the Other Support Format page.

### Changes to the Biographical Sketch Format Page:

- Section B "Positions and Honors" has been renamed "Positions, Scientific Appointments, and Honors".
- For the Non-Fellowship Biosketch, Section D (previously research support) has been removed.
- For the Fellowship Biosketch, Section D has been updated to remove "Research Support".
- As applicable, all applicants may include details on ongoing and completed research projects from the past three years that they want to draw attention to within the personal statement, Section A.

Additional information regarding Other Support, required supporting documentation, notifications of undisclosed information and other details may be found at: [NOT-OD-21-073](#). Information on Active and Pending Support is available on the OVPR SPS website at this [Link](#).



Have you received a recent award, accomplishment or have some interesting news to share with the SDM Research Community? Please forward your news to Lisa Ramsdell ([ramsdell@uchc.edu](mailto:ramsdell@uchc.edu)) so it may be included in our next newsletter!



## Research Resources

### Lincus Software

The Office of Vice President of Research has developed a software program for UConn faculty, staff and students that allows you to easily search the research topics and publications of our faculty. This requires the use of your Net ID and password to enter the system. Please try it out since it could be invaluable for helping you to locate existing equipment and expertise here at UConn that might further your own research. It's kind of fun because you get a map of who you have published with and a list of keywords associated with your research. To access the program: <http://lincus.uconn.edu>

### Center For Open Research Resources & Equipment (COR<sup>2</sup>E)

Looking for a piece of equipment or a Core service? Check out [core.uconn.edu](http://core.uconn.edu) for a listing of Core services and shared equipment available across our University.



### Statistical Support for Dental Residents in Masters Programs

Chia-Ling Kuo, PhD

Assistant Professor

Senior Biostatistician,  
Connecticut Convergence Institute for  
Translation in Regenerative Engineering

[kuo@uchc.edu](mailto:kuo@uchc.edu)

### Pre-submission Reviews of Grant Proposals

UConn has a contract with a research consulting firm called Hanover Research. They provide a range of services including pre-submission reviews of grant proposals and helping faculty incorporate feedback for resubmission. They work on one project at a time for the University so requests are prioritized based on strategic needs and deadlines. SDM faculty are encouraged to consider applying to utilize their services.

If interested, please email Laura Didden ([ldidden@uchc.edu](mailto:ldidden@uchc.edu)), well in advance of your submission deadline.

### Scientific Editing Support for Grants and Manuscripts



SDM has arranged for the Science Editors Network to provide scientific editing services to our faculty. These services will be available for both grants and manuscripts. This service is available to all faculty with primary appointment in the SDM, including research-focused as well as clinical faculty. There will be no financial cost to the faculty member/Division for this service.

The Science Editors Network is a group of scientific writing experts with PhD degrees in the biomedical sciences and related fields. Their editors are handpicked for their diverse research training and mastery of science communication. They have been highly recommended by multiple sources, including colleagues at UConn who have worked with them. Additional information is at <http://www.scienceeditorsnetwork.com/>

We also continue to have access to the services of Hanover Research, which has provided grant editing services to several SDM faculty over the last year, under a contract with UConn at the university level.

To avail of these scientific editing services, please contact Laura Didden at [ldidden@uchc.edu](mailto:ldidden@uchc.edu). We will track the usage of this service and faculty feedback to inform us of the need for additional or alternative methods of providing such support, including the potential hiring of a dedicated, in-house resource.



# UConn | SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

Effective **25 JANUARY 2021**, the UConn Statistical Consulting Services (SCS) will provide **FULLY SUPPORTED** statistical assistance to SDM projects as follows:

## FREE WALK-IN (Virtual)

For quick questions about statistical issues that can be addressed in a 20 minute consulting session:

[Walk-In Schedule](#) | [Statistical Consulting Services \(uconn.edu\)](#)

## FREE ASK ONLINE

Alternatively, you can submit questions online using the submission form at the page below:

[Ask Online](#) | [Statistical Consulting Services \(uconn.edu\)](#)

## FULLY SUPPORTED PROJECT ENGAGEMENT

If more in-depth assistance is needed, it will be supported by the SDM, if there is no funding available for the project. Please complete the form below to request such assistance:

[Full Project](#) | [Statistical Consulting Services \(uconn.edu\)](#)

## GENERAL QUESTIONS

Please contact [timothy.e.moore@uconn.edu](mailto:timothy.e.moore@uconn.edu) with any questions

This initiative is supported by the School of Dental Medicine.

In addition, the SCS is funded by Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR), Dean's Offices of CLAS and CAHNR, School of Pharmacy, Office of the Provost & The Department of Statistics, UConn



CORE

## Research Dean's Corner

Dear Colleagues,

I am happy to report that the SDM research program is doing extremely well, based on objective measures. We recently announced that the SDM now ranks 8<sup>th</sup> out of all 67 US dental schools in terms of overall direct research funding from NIH (all institutes and centers), significantly up from 16<sup>th</sup> in the previous year. It is especially note-worthy that this ranking of NIH funding is not adjusted for school size. Our School is ranked alongside and ahead of many larger and research-intensive schools.

More good news came recently from an OVPR report showing that for the first 9 months of the current fiscal year, the SDM received \$12.7M in new funding (total project value for all years of the grant). This compares to \$6.3M as the highest comparable amount in the prior 5 years. This report also shows that the SDM is making significant progress in terms of Technology Commercialization. In FY20 and FY21 to date, the number of invention disclosures and patents filed from the SDM are sharply higher compared to previous years.

I am also proud to note that the staff of the SDM Research Office were recognized by Dr. Andy with the UCH PAWS TEAM award in May 2021. As our research programs have grown, the research office staff have performed very well and they are highly deserving of this recognition. Please join me in congratulating and thanking them for their efforts.

Best wishes,

Rajesh V. Lalla, DDS, PhD

Associate Dean for Research



### **SDM – Research Office**

**263 Farmington Avenue**

**Farmington, CT 06030-3912**

Dr. Rajesh Lalla - Associate Dean for Research

Dr. Aditya Tadinada - Associate Dean for Graduate Research, Education & Training

Dr. Effie Ioannidou - Director, Dental Clinical Research Center

#### Office Staff:

Laura Didden - Manager, SDM Research Office

Anmarie Martin, Brandon Mulcunry, Lisa Ramsdell,

Kamal Sahoobah, Robin Tiso and Caibin Zhang