

SDM Research Ranking

For the 4th year in a row, the UConn SDM is among the top 10 U.S. dental schools for research funding from the NIH. Please see the school rankings on Page 2 and the full story at the link below.

<https://today.uconn.edu/2024/03/uconn-dental-research-lands-in-top-10-for-4th-year-in-a-row/>



Medical/Dental Student Research Day

Our annual Medical/Dental Student Research Day event returned to an in-person event that was held on Friday, February 23rd with Dr. Lepowsky giving the opening remarks. The keynote address was given by Dr. Fei Wang, Professor and Director of the Institute for AI for Digital Health at Cornell University. Please see the list of student awardees on page 3 and the full story at the link below.

<https://today.uconn.edu/2024/03/research-day-returns-in-person-for-medical-and-dental-students/#>

In this Issue:

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|-------------------------------|
| 2 | Research Rankings | | |
| 3 | Student Research Day Award Recipients | | |
| 4 | Submitted Grant Applications | | |
| 6 | NIH Updates | | |
| 7 | Faculty Recognition | 11 | Research Resources |
| 9 | Staff and Trainee Recognition | 13 | Library Updates |
| 10 | Lisa Ramsdell Retirement | 14 | Research Dean's Corner |



Rankings of US Dental Schools based on Total Direct Funding Received from NIH for NIH FY2023

Rank	School of Dentistry	Award
1	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO	\$26,814,987
2	UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN ANN ARBOR	\$20,376,426
3	NEW YORK UNIVERSITY	\$19,945,857
4	UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA	\$16,875,855
5	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	\$16,516,758
6	UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA	\$13,864,352
7	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES	\$12,776,337
8	UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE	\$10,745,163
9	UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT	\$8,304,751
10	UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HLTH SCI CTR HOUSTON	\$7,777,299
11	STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK BUFFALO	\$7,238,403
12	OREGON HEALTH & SCIENCE UNIVERSITY	\$7,203,809
13	UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE	\$6,556,998
14	UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HLTH SCI CTR SAN ANTONIO	\$6,159,097
15	UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SEATTLE	\$5,855,209
16	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA	\$5,853,590
17	VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY	\$5,700,411
18	UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA BIRMINGHAM	\$5,469,031
19	UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH	\$5,291,631
20	UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO	\$5,143,475
21	UNIVERSITY OF IOWA	\$4,985,179
22	HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL	\$4,894,790
23	OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY	\$4,844,317
24	BOSTON UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CAMPUS	\$4,618,998
25	UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER	\$4,547,276
26	TUFTS UNIVERSITY BOSTON	\$3,774,791
27	RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY	\$3,522,766
28	COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES	\$3,378,826
29	UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA CHAPEL HILL	\$2,918,460
30	TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER	\$2,697,771
31	UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY	\$2,607,852
32	NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY	\$2,591,849
33	INDIANA UNIV-PURDUE UNIV INDIANAPOLIS	\$2,000,534
34	MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA	\$1,923,253
35	MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE	\$1,624,291
36	TEMPLE UNIVERSITY	\$1,599,920
37	UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER	\$1,197,293
38	CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY	\$1,108,260
39	UNIVERSITY OF UTAH	\$1,073,809
40	EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY	\$1,002,017
41	LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY	\$921,395
42	UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI KANSAS CITY	\$787,357
43	LOUISIANA STATE UNIV HSC NEW ORLEANS	\$715,013
44	UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE HLTH SCI CTR	\$661,309
45	AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY	\$640,434
46	MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY	\$542,599
47	UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MED CTR	\$362,533
48	TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY	\$348,275
49	HOWARD UNIVERSITY	\$133,800

Please note: This ranking is from the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research, based on NIH data. It lists total direct funding from all NIH Institutes and Centers and does not include sub-awards. These rankings are not adjusted for faculty size.

Dental Student Research Day Award Recipients and Mentors:

Dean's Award: Pasquale Cannata (Dr. Aditya Tadinada), and Michaela Murdock (Dr. Upendra Hegde)

Associate Dean's Award: Kavya Uddaraju (Dr. Frank Nichols)

Dentsply-Sirona Student Clinician Award: Luis Romero (Dr. Aditya Tadinada)

Connecticut Holistic Health Association: Morgan Lamb and Wesia Malik (Dr. Sharon Smith)

Horace Wells Award for Innovation in Dentistry: Nora Akila (Dr. Alix Deymier), Kainat Altaf (Dr. Ali Tamayol), Hebaq Elmi (Dr. Afroditi Pita), Vlad Ilies (Dr. Martin Freilich), and Vivian Van (Dr. Aditya Tadinada),

James and Ella Burr MacManus Award for Excellence in Dental Research: Thomas Perkins (Dr. Aditya Tadinada), and Lenka Serdar (Dr. Aditya Tadinada)

Dental Student Research Society Award: Erin Carroll (Dr. Aditya Tadinada), and Makara Sorel (Dr. Aditya Tadinada)

Gustave Perl Memorial Award: Peter Schwalm (Dr. Martin Freilich), and Sarah Vermette (Dr. Aditya Tadinada)

Excellence in Dental Research Awards: Mitchell Andrea (Dr. Martin Freilich), Sherill Brantley (Dr. Prazwala Chirravur), Cody Johnson (Dr. Foteini Touloumi), and Kathryn Kwochka (Dr. Alix Deymier).

Omicron Kappa Upsilon-Phi Chi Chapter Awards: (Basic Science) Princess Stark (Dr. Caroline Dealy), and (Clinical Science) Gavin McDonough (Dr. Dana Totir)

Colgate-Palmolive Student Research Awards: Thomas Acquista (Dr. Upendra Hegde), George Bloom (Dr. Marc Hansen), Desirae Lee (Dr. Sarita Arteaga), Max Marks & Lingli Zou (Dr. Niloufar Azami), Jadon Melecio (Dr. Lan-Lin Chiou), Sara Mozdierz (Dr. Dong Zhou), Ekene Nnadika (Dr. Takanori Sobue), and Evan Perlroth (Dr. Frank Nichols)

We would like to acknowledge our UConn SDM presenters at the IADR/AADOCR/CADR General Session held in New Orleans, LA in March.



Dr. Eric Bernstein
Gosia Fryc (mentor: Dr. Lurie)
Dr. Sierra Root
Dr. Roberto Vazquez-Munoz
Dr. Takanori Sobue

Pen to Paper – Submitted Grant Applications

The Research Office has submitted 100 grant applications for the School of Dental Medicine during the 2023 calendar year (1/1/2023 – 12/31/2023). We would like to acknowledge all those that have submitted applications during that time.

[NIH F31](#)

Yamin Liu

[NIH K99/R00](#)

Matthew Zambrello

[NIH R01](#)

Elias Chatah (subcontract)

I-Ping Chen

I-Ping Chen

Alix Deymier

Eliane Dutra (subcontract)

Efthimia Ioannidou

Ivo Kalajzic

Ivo Kalajzic

Ivo Kalajzic (subcontract)

Kshitiz

Kshitiz

Mark Litt

Mark Litt

Changchun Liu (subcontract)

Changchun Liu (subcontract)

Mina Mina

Frank Nichols

Frank Nichols (subcontract)

Frank Nichols (subcontract)

Ernst Reichenberger

David Rowe

Tannin Schmidt

Tannin Schmidt

Ali Tamayol

Ali Tamayol

Ali Tamayol

Ali Tamayol

Ali Tamayol (subcontract)

Ali Tamayol (subcontract)

Ali Tamayol (subcontract)

Ali Tamayol (subcontract)

Julie Wagner

Julie Wagner (subcontract)

[NIH R03](#)

Eliane Dutra

Rajesh Lalla (subcontract)

Sanja Novak

Vanessa Scanlon

Madhur Upadhyay (subcontract)

[NIH R18](#)

Robert Aseltine

[NIH R21](#)

Caroline Dealy

Caroline Dealy

Sanja Novak

Sanja Novak

Mohamadmahdi Samandari

Mohamadmahdi Samandari

Mohamadmahdi Samandari

Vanessa Scanlon

[NIH R24](#)

Peter Maye

[NIH R33](#)

Changchun Liu

[NIH R37](#)

Kshitiz

[NIH Supplement](#)

Patricia Hare

Mark Litt

Frank Nichols (subcontract)

David Rowe

David Rowe

Vanessa Scanlon

[NIH SBIR](#)

Tannin Schmidt (subcontract)

[NIH STTR](#)

Liisa Kuhn (subcontract)

[NIH U01](#)

Changchun Liu

[NIH U24](#)

Peter Maye

[NIH UG3/UH3](#)

Efthimia Ioannidou

[Alternative Research & Development Foundation](#)

Kshitiz

[American Association of Orthodontists](#)

Niloufar Azami

Caroline Dealy

Yueling Zhang

[American Heart Association](#)

Kshitiz

Yamin Liu

[American Society of Hematology](#)

Vanessa Scanlon

[ARPA-H](#)

Tannin Schmidt (subcontract)

Tannin Schmidt (subcontract)

[California Institute for Regenerative Medicine](#)

Kshitiz (subcontract)

[Department of Defense](#)

Alix Deymier

Ivo Kalajzic

Kshitiz

Kshitiz (subcontract)

Sanja Novak

Tannin Schmidt

Tannin Schmidt (subcontract)

Ali Tamayol

[eSea Grant](#)

Ali Tamayol (subcontract)

[Horizon Europe](#)

Changchun Liu (subcontract)

[National Institute for Undersea Vehicle Technology](#)

Tannin Schmidt (subcontract)

[National Science Foundation](#)

Caroline Dealy

Caroline Dealy (subcontract)

Alix Deymier

Ali Tamayol (subcontract)

Ali Tamayol (subcontract)

Ali Tamayol (subcontract)

[New York Stem Cell Foundation](#)

Wenqiang Du

[Northeastern Society of Orthodontists](#)

Niloufar Azami

Ye Jin An

[Prevent Cancer](#)

Kshitiz

[United States Department of Agriculture](#)

Mohamadmahdi Samandari

[Internal*](#)[Research Excellence Program](#)

Caroline Dealy

Changchun Liu

Peter Maye

Sanja Novak

Mohamadmahdi Samandari

*Since Internal grants not directly submitted through the SDM Research Office, information is based on what was reported to us by PI's.



NIH Guidance on Marking Changes in Resubmission Applications – Effective May 25, 2024

Notice Number: [NOT-OD-24-061](#)

This Notice informs the applicant community that, effective May 25, 2024, this guidance replaces previous guidance on marking changes in [Resubmission applications](#). The use of markups such as bracketing, indenting, highlighting, bolding, italicizing, underlining, margin lines, change in typography, font, or font color, or any other type of markup **should not be used to identify changes** in Resubmission applications.

Changes made to a Resubmission application should only be outlined in the Introduction attachment. The Introduction must include a summary of substantial additions, deletions, and changes to the application. It must also include a response to weaknesses raised in the Summary Statement. Unless otherwise indicated in the [Table of Page Limits](#), the Introduction may not exceed one page.

NIH Updates:

NIH Letters of Support

- Collect letters of support from your collaborators, key personnel, institution and other significant contributors.
- Familiarize yourself with the recommendations given in the SF424 instructions at [Letters of Support](#).
- The letters' text should demonstrate their commitment and summarize the agreements you have in place to support your proposed research project.
- The letters of support should clearly describe what type of support your collaborators will provide (e.g., reagents, animals, human samples, technology). Make sure to indicate whether the support is available to anyone on request or if your collaborator will provide it to you only. Our staff consider the latter point at they determine who may review your application without conflict.
- We strongly advise against collecting letters of support solely as endorsements of your reputation, expertise, or research plans.

NIH Foreign Subawards

Effective 01/02/2024 (date of required compliance 03/02/2024), subaward agreements must stipulate that foreign subrecipients agree to provide electronic access to copies of all lab notebooks, all data, and all documentation that supports the research outcomes at least once a year.

AT PROPOSAL, NIH expects letters of support in proposals from foreign investigators to indicate their awareness of these requirements and their willingness to abide by all requirements if an award is issued.

SPS asks that all foreign Co-I's include language in LOS

Faculty Recognition



Congratulations to Dr. Aditya Tadinada, the 2024 recipient of the Burton C. Borgelt/SCADA Faculty Advisor award which was presented at the AADOCR conference.

<https://today.uconn.edu/2024/03/tadinada-receives-national-recognition-for-student-mentorship/>



Congratulations to Dr. Robert Aseltine, recipient of the 2024 UConn Health Board of Directors Faculty Recognition Award.

https://today.uconn.edu/2024/04/2024-uconn-health-board-of-directors-faculty-recognition-awardee-is-dr-robert-aseltine/?utm_source=uconn-today-plugin



Congratulations to Dr. Liisa Kuhn for her patent-pending work with 3D printing to benefit breast cancer survivors:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JAVIptT-kcU>

<https://today.uconn.edu/2023/12/kuhn-develops-patent-pending-process-to-create-comfortable-prosthetics-for-breast-cancer-survivors/>



Congratulations to Dr. I-Ping Chen, recipient of the SDM Outstanding Researcher Faculty Award for 2023. The primary criterion for the award is the receipt of new and continuing major extramural funding during the year of record (FY23). The award includes a framed certificate and a monetary award.

Congratulations to Dr. Caroline Dealy and Dr. Liisa Kuhn, for their election to the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering.

<https://today.uconn.edu/2024/03/connecticut-academy-of-science-and-engineering-elects-12-new-uconn-faculty/>

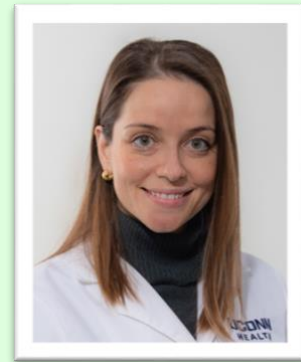


The journal, Nature Communications, reported findings from Dr. Changchun Liu regarding molecular diagnostics using a new and improved clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats (CRISPR) technology.

<https://today.uconn.edu/2023/11/researchers-improve-efficacy-and-efficiency-of-crispr-diagnostic-technology/>



Congratulations to Dr. Thomas Taylor, recipient of the George H. Moulton Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Art and Science of Fixed Prosthodontics and to Dr. Foteini Touloumi, recipient of the Claude R. Baker Faculty Award which were presented at the American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics meeting.



Staff and Trainee Recognition



Congratulations to Laura Didden (PAWS Award recipient) and to Caibin Zhang (nominated for the Peter Deckers award).



Connecticut State Dental Association in Collaboration with the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine Proudly Presents: The 2024 Dental Student & Resident Research Poster Session



Each year dental students and residents at the UConn School of Dental Medicine conduct research projects under the mentorship of UConn Health Faculty. These projects range from basic science experiments and clinical studies to translational research. The results of this work often lead to projects of greater scope and to publications in peer-reviewed journals. We are proud to invite you to this year's poster session where the students and residents will present the results of their research projects.

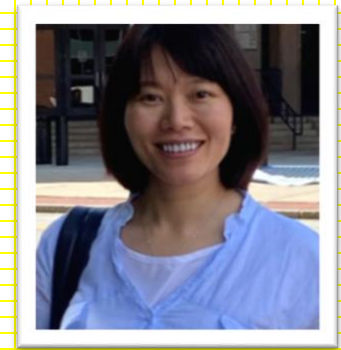
Come Support the Future of Dentistry!

Where and When: CSDA's Annual Charter Oak Dental Meeting at The Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, CT

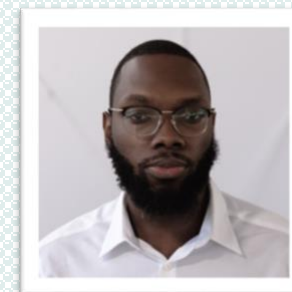
- Poster Presentations will be displayed in the Exhibit Hall
- Thursday, May 16th from 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. (Dental Student Presentations)
- Friday, May 17th from 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Resident Presentations)
- For more information about the meeting go to : <http://www.csdadentalmeeting.com>



Congratulations to Dr. Yamin Liu, (mentor: Dr. Kshitiz), recipient of an American Heart Association Fellowship Award.



Congratulations to Julia Clapis (mentor Dr. Nichols) and Eddyson Altidor (mentor Dr. Dealy), recipients of the Dean's Award at the 2023 SDM Student Research Day, who represented UConn at the Hinman Student Research Symposium held in Memphis, TN.



Unsung Hero of the SDM Research Office

In 2010, the School of Dental Medicine set off on a journey to establish a centralized pre-award office for all of the PI's in the SDM. The goal was to have consistent support and content experts to process and prepare pre-award duties. If there was a question, the PI's knew where to go and ask. If the office did not know the answer, they would find the answer for the PI so that they could concentrate on their science and not struggle with administrative tasks.

I was hired to oversee this task, and at the same time, Lisa Ramsdell was hired to assist and to help this process happen – and she did! For 14 years, Lisa and I have worked together on the goals of the original vision. The office has changed and has grown significantly over the 14 years.

One of the conditions to starting the centralized pre-award, was that our office would have to oversee and manage the institutional training grant from NIH. The training grant had bounced around with multiple administrators in the school throughout the years, and the school wanted it to find a permanent home. Lisa became a content expert on the training grant and has worked with a multitude of trainees over the years. Lisa became so familiar with the procedures of what is allowable and unallowable on the training grant, that Research Finance would reach out to her when they had questions and identified her as a resource when other departments in the Medical School started receiving their own training awards.

When administrators retired and were not replaced, if their job duties mentioned research, the responsibilities became a part of our office. In addition to the training grant, Lisa assumed the responsibilities for Student Research and for administering the SBR program. Lisa also gathers the information for our SDM Research Office newsletter and assembles the newsletter. Lisa takes pride in all the work that she does. Her work is thorough and accurate, and the results show. She juggles working for multiple leaders – Associate Dean for Research, Associate Dean for Graduate Research and Education, Director of the training grant, and the ever-changing Directors of the SBR program. Not an easy task!

When our office was created, we did not have a name per se, and we did not belong to a department. We joked about it all the time that we were administrators without a home. When Lisa and I attended meetings with Sponsored Programs and we had to sign in and add our department, Lisa started signing her name and then adding SDM Research Office. The name stuck and everyone started calling us the SDM Research Office and now you know where the name originated from.

Lisa and I worked alone in the SDM Research Office for 8 years before we began to expand our services to centralized post-award and added additional staff to our then small team. Six years later, our team now includes 7 members and Lisa plays an integral part. She will be missed by all!

We would like to wish Lisa the best as she retires effective June 1, 2024. Lisa has been at the Health Center since 1992 – the last 14 years of her career in the SDM Research Office that she helped build. Please join me in wishing her the best on her new journey called RETIREMENT! Lisa, you have worked hard, and you have earned this. THANK YOU and have the time of your life!!

Congratulations to you from your team – Annmarie, Brandon, Gina, Kamal, Caibin and me!

Laura



Research Resources

Students, residents, postdoctoral trainees and faculty at the UConn School of Dental Medicine (SDM) have access to a wide range of research resources through the School, UConn Health, and UConn Storrs campus.

Proposal Development Services

The SDM research community can access scientific editing and other proposal development services through arrangements at the School and University level. For scientific editing support, please contact Laura Didden at ldidden@uchc.edu. For proposal development services and proofreading services offered through the Office of the Vice-President for Research (OVPR), please see <https://ovpr.uconn.edu/services/research-development/services/>



Prospecting for funding opportunities

Pivot-RP is a comprehensive search engine and database for grant funding opportunities available through state, federal, corporate, non-profit, and foundation sponsors. All current UConn faculty, trainees and staff have access to this database through an institutional subscription. This enables you to identify potential funding opportunities, including research grants, as well as fellowships and training grants. It can be especially useful to identify funding opportunities from scientific societies, foundations, and other non-profits. You can also receive weekly alerts with relevant opportunities based on your profile. For additional information and to set up your account, please see this link: <https://guides.lib.uconn.edu/grants/Pivot>

If you would like SDM Research Office staff to help you look for funding opportunities, please contact Laura Didden at ldidden@uchc.edu

Grantwriting Training and Resources

Periodic training on grantwriting for various types of grants is offered by the OVPR. For details, please see: <https://ovpr.uconn.edu/services/research-development/grantwriting/>

Statistical Support

For statistical support for dental residents in Master's degree programs, please contact Dr. Chia-Ling Kuo at kuo@uchc.edu

For all other statistical support needs for SDM students, residents, and faculty, assistance is available through the UConn Statistical Consulting Services, through one of the following options:

1. Free Walk-In (Virtual): For quick questions about statistical issues that can be handled in a 20 minute consulting session. <https://statsconsulting.uconn.edu/walk-in-schedule/>
2. Free Ask Online: Alternatively, you can submit questions online using the submission form at the link below: <https://statsconsulting.uconn.edu/ask-online-sdm/>
3. 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 at the link below to request such assistance: <https://statsconsulting.uconn.edu/project-engagement-sdm/>

For any questions about support through UConn Statistical Consulting Services, please contact Dr. Timothy Moore at timothy.e.moore@uconn.edu

Internal Funding Opportunities

A variety of internal funding opportunities are open to SDM faculty including the Research Excellence Program, Convergence Awards for Research in Interdisciplinary Centers (CARIC) and the SPARK Technology Commercialization Fund. For details and deadlines, please see: <https://ovpr.uhc.edu/services/research-development/funding/>

Core Facilities

To see all the Core Facilities available to the SDM Research community, please visit: <https://core.uconn.edu/resources>. This page allows you to choose to see all the Core resources at UConn Health, as well as at the Storrs and Avery Point campuses.

Sample Language describing UCH Core Facilities: <https://medicine.uconn.edu/research/core-facilities/>

Health Center Research Advisory Council (HCRAC) programs

- Research Equipment support (includes repair/replacement support and new capital equipment support)
- Emergency Grant Program
- Exploratory Project Transition Award
- Travel Grants for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows

For information on the above programs, please see the HCRAC website at: <https://ovpr.uhc.edu/services/research-development/research-advisory-groups/hcrac/>

Lincus

Looking for collaborators at UConn? Try Lincus, which tells you which faculty at UConn are working on topics of interest to you. Log in with your UConn Net ID at: <https://lincus.uconn.edu/lincus/cas/landing>

Technology Commercialization Services (TCS)

TCS helps the UConn research community move their research towards practical application. For details, please see <https://innovation.uconn.edu/>

Additional Information

For more information and resources, please see the SDM Research Webpage at <https://dentalmedicine.uconn.edu/research/> and the OVPR Website at <https://ovpr.uhc.edu/>

UConn Health Sciences Library Updates

Did you know? The UConn Health Sciences Library has updated our library catalog to include Article Galaxy Scholar, a new system to get you quicker access to select articles.

Here's how Article Galaxy Scholar works within our catalog:

- Once you've typed into the search bar - title, author or keyword(s), you may only see an option to 'Check for Request Options.' Select that button.
- Click on 'UConn Health Network Logon Users' if you are a student, faculty or staff. Otherwise, select the appropriate option, sign on with your credentials if prompted.
- If the item is **available** through Article Galaxy Scholar, click the 'Request PDF' option. Your article will typically arrive within the hour to your email!
- If the title is not available through Article Galaxy Scholar, your next option would be an interlibrary loan (ILL) request, which will take one to three days.

Not bad for requesting a title!

Helpful Links:

- Access the library's [OneSearch Catalog](#)
- [OneSearch Catalog Help](#)
- [Article Galaxy Scholar Demo](#)



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

Research Dean's Corner

Dear Colleagues,

In this issue of the SDM Research Newsletter, we celebrate our School being among the top 10 US dental schools for NIH funding for the fourth year in a row. This achievement is especially notable considering the relatively small size of our school in relation to those ranked higher on the list. Furthermore, all 8 dental schools ranked higher are affiliated with one of the relatively few US universities with more than 1 billion dollars in annual research expenditures.

We also celebrate and recognize the accomplishments of our dental student researchers, which were proudly displayed at the recent in-person Student Research Day. Congratulations to all the student award winners and their mentors, listed on page 3. And a special shout-out to the Class of 2024!

Congratulations also to all the faculty and trainees who have received internal and external awards and are recognized on pages 7-9.

Last but not least, I want to recognize some of our staff in the SDM Research Office. Congratulations to Laura Didden for receiving her second PAWS award and to Caibin Zhang for being nominated for the Peter Deckers Award. I also want to thank Lisa Ramsdell for her notable service to our School and extend best wishes for her retirement years!

Best regards,

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

Office Staff:

Laura Didden - Manager, SDM Research Office

Annmarie Martin, Brandon Mulcunry, Lisa Ramsdell,

Gina Saccone, Kamal Sahoobah and Caibin Zhang