

## Medical/Dental Student Research Day 2019

Congratulations to all the student presenters and their mentors at the 2019 Medical/Dental Student Research Day event which was held on Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup> to showcase their research efforts this past summer. The day-long event consisted of oral and poster presentations and a keynote address given by Dr. Raul Garcia entitled, "Does oral health matter?"



Dr. Garcia is Professor and Chair, Department of Health Policy and Health Services Research, Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine, Boston University and Immediate Past-President for the American Association for Dental Research.

Research Day participants. Photos: Tina Encarnacion



Thank you to the SDM judges who took time from their busy schedules to participate in this event: Drs. Arthur Hand, Aadarsh Gopalakrishna, I-Ping Chen, Alix Deymier, Rawan Sarsour and Takanori Sobue.

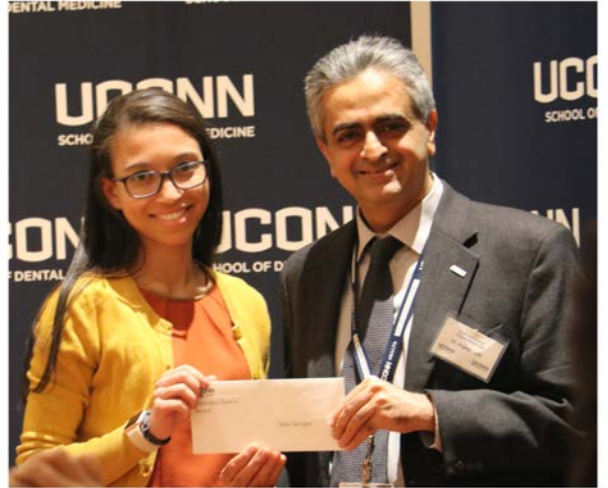
### In this Issue:

Research Day Awards	3
Faculty Recognition	5
Research Resources	7

Recent Grant Awards	8
Submitted Grants	9
Research Dean's Corner	10



Ethan Cope with Dr. Arteaga (Photo: Tina Encarnacion)



Elena Carrington with Dr. Lalla



Njeri Dodson with Dr. Hand



Dr. Tadinada with Kenneth MacCormac



Andrea Geffen with Dr. Arteaga



Dr. Tadinada with Laura Borodic

Award photos by Paul Debayon



Dr. Frank with Taleen Kalajian, John Gehlbach and Marina Zoghbi



Mr. Joel Monteiro (Dentsply-Sirona) with Ayesha Ejaz

## Student Research Day Awards

Congratulations to our student researchers and their mentors for their award-winning presentations at the Medical/Dental Student Research Day event held on February 25<sup>th</sup>:

<b>Dean's Award:</b>	Ethan Cope (mentors: Drs. David Banach, Steven Lepowsky) <i>"Antibiotic Prescribing in Outpatient Dental Practice"</i>
<b>Associate Dean's Award:</b>	Elena Carrington (mentors: Drs. Yu-Hsiung Wang, Frank Nichols) <i>"The Identification Of Serine And Phosphorylated Dihydroceramide Lipids On Extracted Human Primary Teeth"</i>
<b>Colgate-Palmolive Student Research Award:</b>	Kenneth MacCormac (mentor: Dr. Carol Pilbeam) <i>"Parathyroid Hormone Regulates RANKL and OPG in Primary Osteoblasts via Calcium and NFATc1 Pathway"</i>
<b>Dentsply-Sirona Student Clinician Award:</b>	Ayesha Ejaz (mentors: Drs. Sumit Yadav, Aditya Tadinada) <i>"Evaluation of the Reliability of a New Low Dose CBCT Acquisition Protocol in Diagnosing Impacted Canines: An Ex-vivo Imaging Study"</i>
<b>Gustave Perl Memorial Award:</b>	Evan Fox (mentor: Dr. Patricia Diaz) <i>"Evaluation of the Antibacterial Effect of the Chemotherapeutic 5-Fluorouracil Against Oral Microorganisms"</i>
<b>Johnson &amp; Johnson Research Excellence Award:</b>	Andrea Geffin (mentor: Drs. Effie Ioannidou, Ruchir Trivedi) <i>"An Analysis of Oral Health Related Quality of Life in end Stage Renal Disease Patients"</i>
<b>Omicron Kappa Upsilon-Phi Chi Chapter Award: (Basic Science Research)</b>	Steven Cosgrove (mentor: Dr. Frank Nichols) <i>"Recovery of Lipid 342 from Murine Bone Marrow Macrophages after Treatment with Lipid 654: a Potential Virulence Factor of Porphyromonas gingivalis"</i>

**Omicron Kappa Upsilon-  
Phi Chi Chapter Award:  
(Clinical Science Research)** Laura Borodic  
(mentors: Drs. Aditya Tadinada, Aadarsh Gopalakrishna, Christy Lottinger,  
Alan Lurie)

*"Reliability of Panoramic Radiographs in the Prediction of the Mandibular  
Third Molar Eruption"*

**Connecticut Holistic Health  
Association Award:** Yingying Zhang  
(mentors: Drs. Effie Ioannidou, Ruchir Trivedi)

*"Assessment of Clinical Periodontal Parameters on Inflammatory Burden in  
End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)"*

**Dental Student Research  
Society Award:** Njeri Dodson  
(mentor: Dr. Linda Cauley)

*"Altered Development of SMAD4-deficient Dendritic Cells"*



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

**UConn**  
SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

Each year dental students and residents at the UConn School of Dental Medicine conduct research projects under the mentorship of UConn Health Center 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

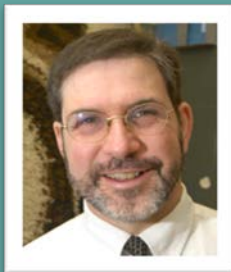
- Poster Presentations will be displayed in the Exhibit Hall
- Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. (**Dental Student Presentations**)
- Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (**Resident Presentations**)
- For more information about the meeting go to : <http://www.csdadentalmeeting.com>

**154<sup>th</sup> Annual  
CHARTER OAK  
DENTAL MEETING**



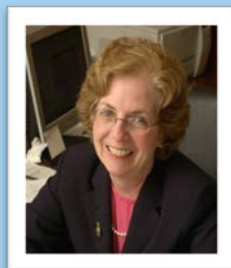
**May 8-10, 2019**  
Mohegan Sun

## Faculty Recognition



Congratulations to Dr. Mark Litt, who was recently awarded the SDM Outstanding Researcher Award. The award selection was made by a 3-person committee of SDM faculty which reviewed data on research funding and publications for 2018. Dr. Litt was also recently profiled in UConn Today:

<https://today.uconn.edu/school-stories/litt/>



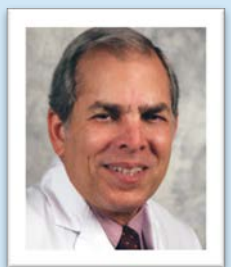
Congratulations to Dr. Susan Reisine, who was recently named a 2018 Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The full article can be found in UConn Today:

<https://today.uconn.edu/2018/11/two-uconn-faculty-named-aaas-fellows/>



Congratulations to Dr. Caroline Dealy and her UConn-based start-up company, DeMay Bio. The new start-up company was profiled in the February 4, 2019 edition of Hartford Business Journal:

<http://www.hartfordbusiness.com/article/20190204/PRINTEDITION/301319967/1043>



Congratulations to Dr. Jon Goldberg who was recently featured in a new website created by OVPR and University Communications to recognize UConn faculty and the impact of their work. Dr. Goldberg's work on FibreKor was highlighted in a previous "Featured Faculty".



Congratulations to Dr. Frank Nichols who was recently featured in the March 14, 2019 edition of UConn Today, "Bad to the Bone: Bacterial Lipids, Bone Loss, and Periodontal Disease."

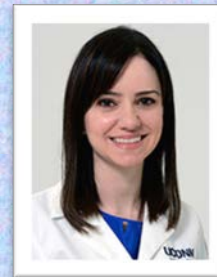
<https://today.uconn.edu/school-stories/bad-to-the-bone/>



Attending the Greater New York Dental Meeting were (from left) Nicholas Pray, Callan Donovan, Anjali Dinesh, Dr. Khabbab Bakhsh, Abraham Kwok, Ross Camiel, Erin Bibber, Ashley Pacelli, Dr. Jyoti Mago, Lily Etemad, Robert Morrin, Danielle Brainard and Samuel Roh.



Congratulations to Dr. Joy Chang, winner of the prestigious American Association of Orthodontic Foundation (AAOF) Harry Sicher Award. Her research was mentored by Drs. Sumit Yadav, Sangamesh Kumbar and Ravindra Nanda. Dr. Chang was funded by AAOF and has been invited to receive the award and present her research at the AAOF Annual Session.



Congratulations to Dr. Eliane Dutra who was recently awarded the James A. McNamara Orthodontic Faculty Fellowship Award by the American Association of Orthodontists.



Congratulations to Dr. Sumit Yadav who, for the second time, recently received the B.F. Dewel Memorial Research Award, the Most Meritorious Research Award by the American Association of Orthodontists.

## 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

Biostatistics Center, CICATS

[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 Dr. Lalla at [Lalla@uchc.edu](mailto:Lalla@uchc.edu), well in advance of your submission deadline.



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 so it may be included in our next newsletter!

## Recent Grant Awards

Congratulations to the following faculty on obtaining new funding:

### [NIH – R01](#)

**Dr. Frank Nichols** – “Porphyromonas gingivalis glycine lipids mediate bone loss through TLR2”

### [American Association of Orthodontists Foundation \(AAOF\)](#)

**Dr. Po-Jung Chen** (resident) / Sumit Yadav and Tannin Schmidt (co-mentors) – “Investigating PRG4 Re-expression as a Treatment for TMJ Degenerative Disease”.

**Dr. Eliane Dutra** – “The effects of intermittent administration of PTH and Alendronate on the mandibular condylar cartilage”.

**Dr. Jia Liu** (resident) / Sumit Yadav (mentor) – “Dynamic Transcriptome Changes during Orthodontic Tooth Movement in Rats”.

**Dr. Flavio Uribe** – “Dental microbiota composition of adolescent patients in fixed orthodontic treatment with and without white spot lesions: a cross-sectional study”.

**Dr. Sumit Yadav** – “Role of PTH in Mandibular Cartilage Chondrocytes De-differentiation”.

### [Align Technology, Inc](#)

**Dr. Flavio Uribe** – “iTero Intraoral Scan Accuracy; Full Arch Scan”.

### [UConn OVRP Convergence Awards for Research in Interdisciplinary Centers \(CARIC\)](#)

**Dr. David Rowe** – “Bed to Bench (BTB) Collaboration for Skeletal Research”.

## Upcoming Seminars – Mark your calendar

### Skeletal Biology & Regeneration Seminar

“The role of cell cycle activation in endogenous cartilage regeneration”

Roman Krawetz, PhD  
McCaig Institute for Bone & Joint Health  
University of Calgary

Friday, April 12, 2019  
Time: 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm.  
Friends Hall (AG-042B)



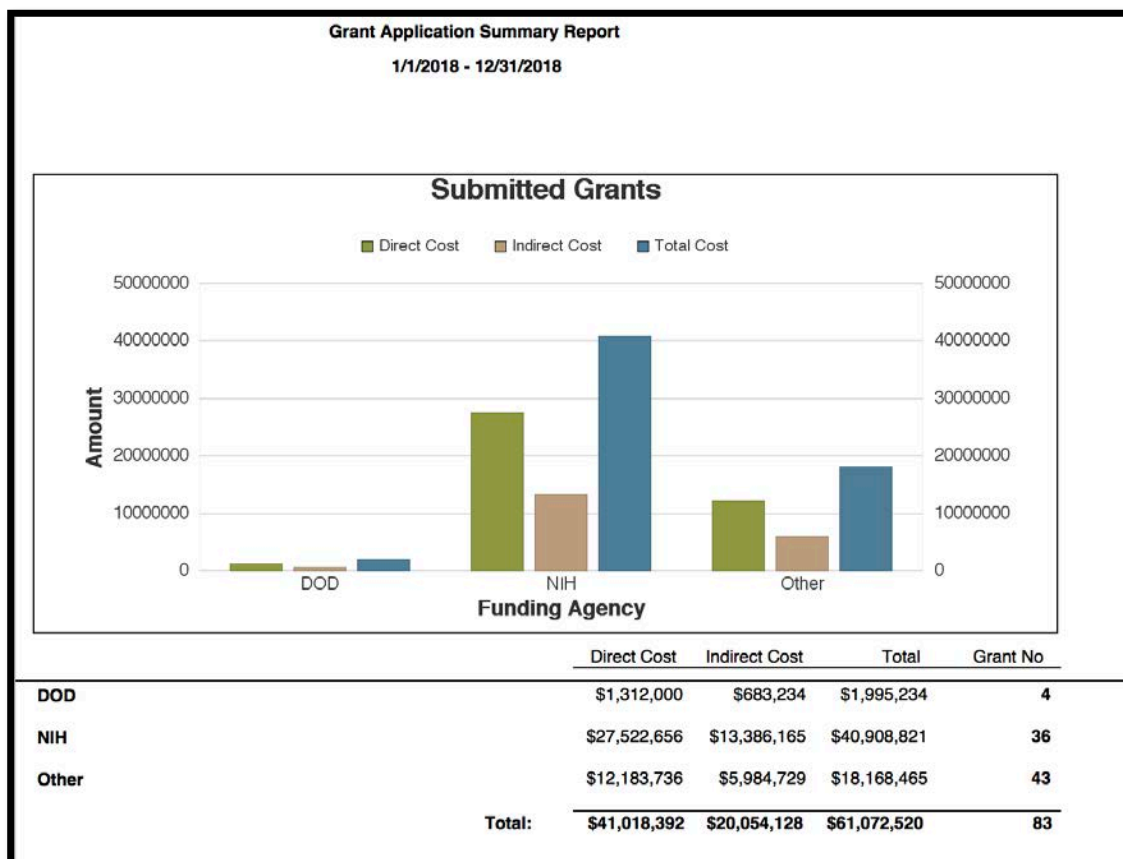
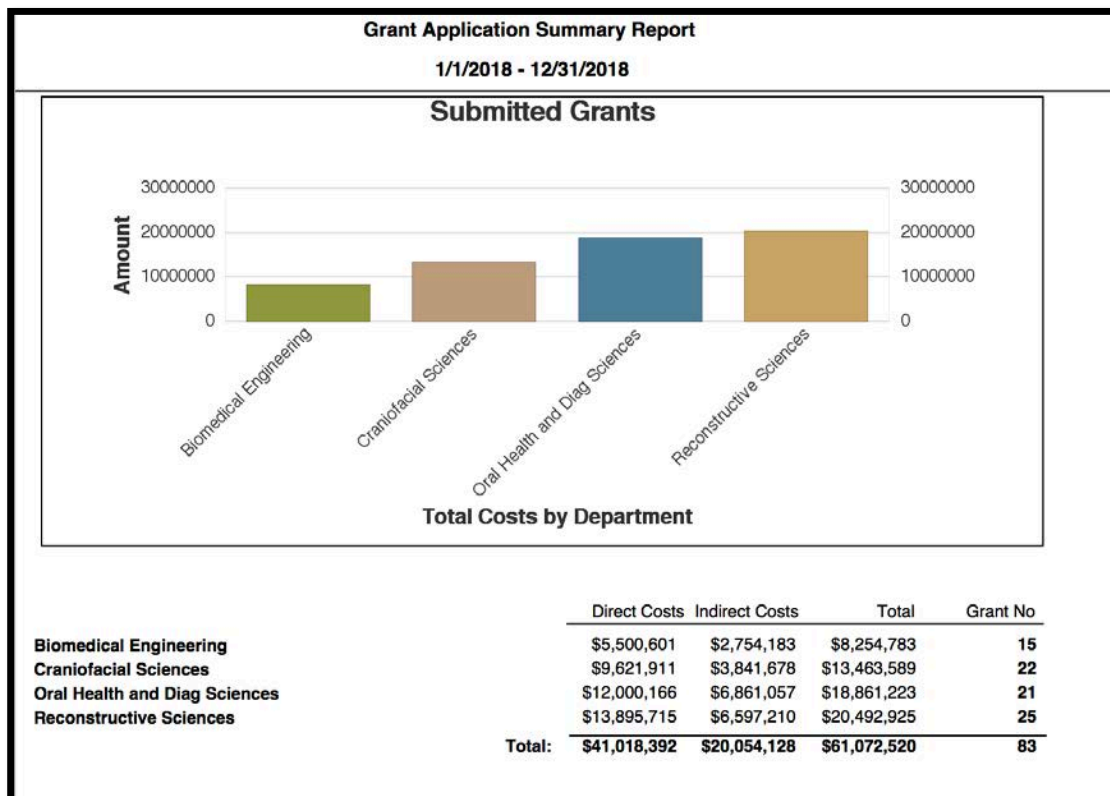
### Skeletal Biology & Regeneration Seminar

“Bone derived anorexigenic signals: from mice to humans”

Stavroula Kousteni, PhD  
Dept of Physiology/Cell Biophysics  
Columbia University

Friday, May 3, 2019  
Time: 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm  
Friends Hall (AG-042B)





## Research Dean's Corner

Dear Colleagues,

Happy Spring!

In this issue of the SDM Research Newsletter, we cover the recent Medical/Dental Student Research Day. Sixteen dental students joined their medical colleagues to present their research through oral and poster presentations. We also had a thought-provoking keynote presentation titled "Does oral health matter" by Prof. Raul Garcia (of course, the answer is YES- it matters a lot). I hope you enjoy seeing the pictures from the event and make time to attend this event next year to support our dental students. Congratulations to all the dental students who presented and thanks to their mentors. I also thank Drs. Aditya Tadinada, Arthur Hand, and Sarita Arteaga, as well as Lisa Ramsdell and Laura Didden for all their efforts in making this event a success.

Also in this issue we recognize several SDM faculty who have been in the news recently for their work. Special Congratulations to Prof. Mark Litt who recently received the SDM Outstanding Researcher Award!

Recent grant awards are listed on page 8. Congratulations to Prof. Frank Nichols on his recent R01 grant award. And kudos to the Division of Orthodontics for being awarded all 5 grants from their specialty foundation that they applied for!

Best wishes,

Rajesh V. Lalla, DDS, PhD  
Associate Dean for Research



### SDM – Research Office

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Dr. Rajesh Lalla - Associate Dean for Research

Dr. Effie Ioannidou - Director, Dental Clinical Research Center

Dr. Aditya Tadinada - Director of Student Research

#### Office Staff:

Laura Didden – Manager, SDM Research Office

Annmarie Martin, Lisa Ramsdell and Robin Tiso