

SDM Research Office Strengthened

The School of Dental Medicine Research Office has been restructured with the addition of two staff members. Annmarie Martin and Robin Tiso have joined the SDM Research Office. With this move, the Research Office has assumed responsibility for all post-award grants management for the Department of Reconstructive Sciences, including the Center for Regenerative Medicine and Skeletal Development. The Research Office will continue to be responsible for pre-award grants support for the entire SDM and post-award management of the NIH T90/R90 and HRSA training grants. As part of this restructuring, Laura Didden has been promoted to a Business Services Manager. She will serve as the Manager of the SDM Research Office, with other research office staff reporting to her. In turn, she will report to the Associate Dean for Research Dr. Lalla, who leads the SDM Research Office. We present below brief profiles of the staff in the SDM Research Office. We look forward to working with you!



Laura Didden has been at UConn Health since 2005 and joined the School of Dental Medicine in 2007. In 2010 when centralized pre-award was introduced to the SDM, Laura came to the Research Office as an Administrative Officer and with the help of Lisa Ramsdell, created what we have known as the Pre-Award office.

In 2011, Laura became a Certified Research Administrator (CRA) in hopes of better serving the faculty members with their grant needs, and is here to help you with your grant proposals, budget preparation, progress reports, NIH approvals and various other tasks. Laura is looking forward to working with the faculty and staff on post-award needs also.

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Annmarie Martin has been at UConn Health since 2001 and joined the SDM in the Center for Regenerative Medicine & Skeletal Development in 2012. Annmarie has over 15 years' experience in post-award grant management assisting investigators in their day-to-day management and needs of the grant.

Moving forward, Annmarie will continue with post-award grant management, but will also be cross trained in pre-award to have the skills and knowledge in both pre and post award management to better assist our faculty.



Lisa Ramsdell joined UConn Health in 1992 and worked over 17 years in the Division of Human Genetics and Cytogenetics Laboratory before transferring to the School of Dental Medicine in 2010.

Initially hired to assist with grant preparation in the newly formed Pre-Award office, her role has evolved to assisting trainees and managing the T90/R90 training grant, supporting all aspects of Student Research activities, and providing administrative assistance to the Skeletal Biology & Regeneration graduate program. As a Connecticut Notary Public, she is available to assist faculty, students and staff with documents requiring certification.



Robin Tiso began her career at UCH in 2001 in the Emergency Dept. after working as the ED Admitting Dept. Team leader at Bradley Memorial Hospital for eleven years. She joined the SDM staff back in 2008, working in the newly formed Center for Implant & Reconstructive Dentistry. In 2012, she moved on to the Department of Reconstructive Sciences. There she worked with Dr. David Rowe and colleagues by providing administrative fiscal support and budgetary fund/grant management.

Robin proudly holds a B.S. degree, where she graduated with high honors, and is the recipient of three PAWS awards from UCH. She is delighted to be now be working with Dr. Rajesh Lalla, Laura Didden, and the enthusiastic and capable staff of the SDM Research office. She looks forward to meeting all the team members of the SDM and will continue to offer her full financial administrative expertise support to its staff.



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.



Congratulations to **Dr. Akanksha Srivastava**, Prosthodontics resident (mentor: Dr. Bidra), who placed 3rd in the poster session at the American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics (AAMP) meeting held October 28-31, 2017 in San Francisco, CA.



Congratulations to **Dr. Robert Slauch**, Prosthodontics resident (mentor: Dr. Bidra), who placed 3rd in the poster competition at the American College of Prosthodontists 2017 Annual Session held November 1-4, 2017 in San Francisco, CA.



Congratulations to **Michelle Llinas**, 4th year dental student (mentor: Dr. Kelly), who placed 1st in the predoctoral poster competition at the American College of Prosthodontists 2017 Annual Session held November 1-4, 2017 in San Francisco, CA.



Congratulations to **Emily Keller**, 2nd year dental student (mentors: Drs. Dieckhaus and Tadinada), who recently received the 2017 Provost's Award for Excellence in Public Engagement:

<https://engagement.uconn.edu/2017-provosts-awards-for-excellence-in-public-engagement/>



Please also see an article which appeared in the November 16, 2017 edition of UConn Today:
<https://today.uconn.edu/school-stories/uconn-dental-student-serves-studies-in-guatemala/>



Congratulations to **Bailey Proff** (mentor: Dr. Tadinada), a 3rd year dental student who received the Carl Misch Award for Excellence at the Greater New York Dental Meeting which was held on November 26, 2017 in New York, NY.



Congratulations to **Lora Manley** (mentor: Dr. Kelly), a 3rd year dental student, who was a finalist in a new ADA research competition with her paper, "Novel Ceramic Surface Treatment To Enhance Restoration Durability". The John W. Stanford Award is in its third year, to encourage research related to the use or development of dental standards, given by the Standards Committee on Dental Products and the Council on Scientific Affairs.



Congratulations to the following students and residents who presented at the Yankee Dental Congress Meeting held January 25-27, 2018 in Boston, MA.



Dr. Armaghan Ahmad, Oral & Maxillofacial Radiology resident, (mentor: Dr. Tadinada)



Dr. Khabbab Bakhsh, Oral & Maxillofacial Radiology resident, (mentor: Dr. Tadinada)



Callan Donovan, 2nd year dental student (mentor: Dr. Tadinada)



Dr. Jyoti Mago, Oral & Maxillofacial Radiology resident, (mentor: Dr. Tadinada)



Dr. Sunil Mutalik, Oral & Maxillofacial Radiology resident, (mentors: Drs. Tadinada and Sanchez)



Nicholas Pray, 2nd year dental student (mentor: Dr. Tadinada)



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PROSTHODONTICS NEW ENGLAND MEETING

Congratulations to Prosthodontics Chief Resident, **Dr. Mitchell Persenaire** (mentor: Dr. Bidra), for winning 3rd place in the oral presentation competition at the ACP New England Meeting held December 1, 2017 at Tufts Dental School in Boston, MA.

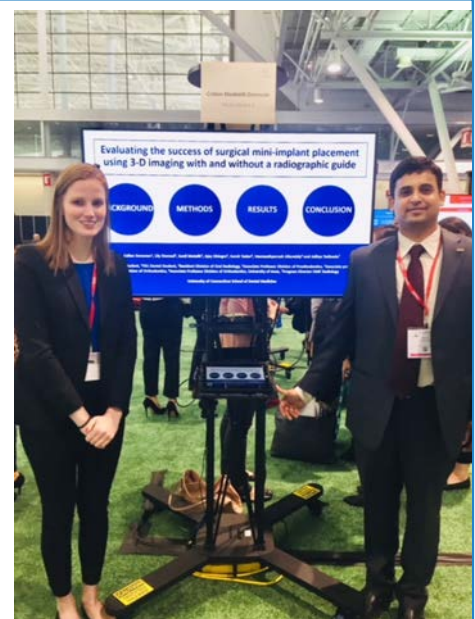


HINMAN STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Congratulations to **Lauren Gormer**, a 3rd year dental student (mentor: Dr. Kuhn), who received an award for Most Outstanding Presentation in Basic Science Research at the 23rd Hinman Student Research Symposium, held November 3-5, 2017 in Memphis, TN.



Dr. Franklin Garcia-Godoy, Dr. Kathleen Robinson, President of the Thomas P. Hinman Dental Society, Lauren Gormer and Dr. J. Stansill Covington, III.



Congratulations to Callan Donovan and mentor Dr. Aditya Tadinada, for placing first in the Dental pre-doctoral poster competition at the Yankee Dental Congress meeting.

Faculty Spotlight



Dr. Mina Mina was recently awarded the distinction of Fellow from the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), in recognition of her contributions to science and technology, scientific leadership and extraordinary achievements across disciplines. She will be recognized on February 17, 2018 during the Fellows Forum at the 2018 AAAS Annual Meeting in Austin, TX.

Congratulations on this prestigious honor!



Congratulations to **Dr. Aditya Tadinada** who has recently been named the Editor of the Connecticut State Dental Association's (CSDA) quarterly publication, The Communicator. To read the full CSDA press release:

<http://www.csda.com/about-us/news/press-release-details/2017/10/17/new-editor-chosen-for-ct-state-dental-association-publications>

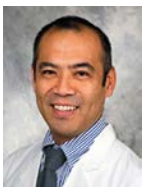


Dr. Tadinada takes over from our own **Dr. Joseph Picuch**, who held the position of Editor for the past 10 years.



Dr. Frank Nichols was recently featured in the November 30th edition of UConn Today for his research which found that fatty molecules linked to heart disease may come from the bacteria in your mouth. To read the full article:

https://today.uconn.edu/2017/11/bacterial-fats-not-dietary-ones-may-deserve-blame-heart-disease-2/?utm_source=launchdistribution&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=monthly_email



In November, 2017, **Dr. Takanori Sobue** was awarded the Peter J. Robinson Award for Junior Faculty. This is an annual School of Dental Medicine award that recognizes significant accomplishments in the areas of scholarly research and teaching. Congratulations!



Dr. Frank Nichols was an invited speaker at the SDM Research Seminar series. His presentation, "Pathogenesis of Chronic Periodontitis: Role of Novel Bacterial Lipids", was held on January 22, 2018.

Upcoming Events



SDM Research Seminar Series:

Please mark your calendars to join us for our next seminar:

Monday, March 26, 2018



Dr. Emily Germain-Lee

“Rare Bone Disorders: From Bedside to Bench and Back Again”

Friends Lecture Room (AG 042B)

Time: 12 – 1 pm

Medical & Dental Student Research Day 2018



SAVE THE DATE
Monday, February 26th, 2018

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
NOON | Academic Rotunda
“Hormonal Regulation of Stem Cells and Lineage Development”

David Breault, M.D., Ph.D.

David T. Breault received his BS from Trinity College (SJA) and his MD/PhD from the University Connecticut School of Medicine and the Graduate School, followed by clinical and research training at Yale-New Haven Hospital, Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, where he is a Clinician Scientist. He is a Principal Faculty member of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute and a Member of the Harvard MIT Health Science and Technology Faculty. His research focuses on understanding the hormonal regulation of stem cells and their lineage development, particularly as applied to tissue regeneration and repair. In 2011, he was a recipient of the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers, the highest honor bestowed by the United States government on science and engineering professionals in the early stages of their independent research careers.

TALKS 9:00-11:45 AM | Academic Rotunda
POSTER SESSION 2:00-5:00 PM | Academic Rotunda

Forward any questions about this event to:
cmcnally@uconn.edu

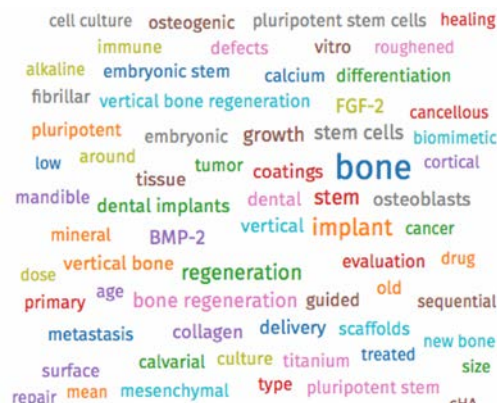


Support provided by the Irwin H. and Martha L. Lepow Visiting Professorship Fund, the UConn Health Discovery Fellowship Fund, and the Hartford Medical Society

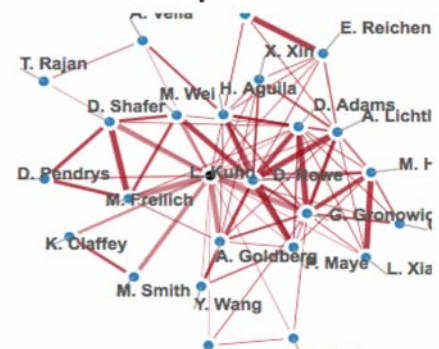


The Office of Vice President of Research has developed a software program for UConn faculty, staff and students that allows you to easily search the research topics and publications of our faculty. This requires the use of your Net ID and password to enter the system. Please try it out since it could 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 as shown below. To access the program: <http://lincus.uconn.edu>

Lincus Program



Faculty Co-Authorships



Research Resources

Clinical Research Support Program (CRSP)

To encourage and support increased clinical research activity by SDM faculty, a new initiative has been developed to support unfunded clinical research projects.

Program Benefits

Subject to the processes and limitations described below, the following institutional resources may be made available for SDM faculty wishing to conduct unfunded clinical research:

1. Research Assistant support to help with IRB and other administrative processes involved in clinical research.
2. Staff support to help with using axiUm for clinical research projects
3. Waiver of DCRC chair fees for unfunded projects requiring a dental chair

Note: Support of chairside assistance or related dental assisting functions will not be part of this program.

Process

SDM faculty requesting support are asked to submit a research protocol as well as details about resources requested in a fillable form. The submission will be reviewed by a committee consisting of the Associate Dean for Research, Senior Associate Dean for Education and Patient Care, and Director of the Dental Clinical Research Center. The committee may consult with other parties as needed to help with review of the submissions. The results will be communicated in writing to the Principal Investigator. If resources are awarded, the Principal Investigator will be asked for an annual report describing progress and outcomes including abstracts, publications, conference presentations, grant applications etc. as well as continued resources requested for the following year, if any.

Limitations

1. This support is intended only for investigator-initiated projects for which there is no funding available. It is not intended to subsidize industry-initiated projects or projects having industry or other support.
2. Staff support is subject to availability of the relevant staff members.
3. Dental Assistant support is restricted to administrative processes and does not include clinical dental assisting or related clinical functions.
4. It is the Principal Investigator's responsibility to ensure that all regulatory approvals are in place before any clinical research activity takes place.
5. No waiver of clinical care fees will be considered.

For the application form or any questions, please contact Dr. Lalla at lalla@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, well in advance of your submission deadline.



Squaredlabs

(<https://squaredlabs.uconn.edu>), a subunit of COR²E (<https://core.uconn.edu>), is launching a **new pilot service specifically for the purpose of creating high quality research journal cover art.**

So - the next time your paper gets accepted and the journal sends out a request for cover art, please refrain from opening Powerpoint and contact me instead. I will get you in touch with our phenomenal team of student illustrators who will work with you to create something both informative and beautiful. And best of all, COR²E is subsidizing it entirely (at least for the time being) so it won't cost you a thing! The plan is to eventually also provide this service for journal/grant figures, but for now we are starting with cover art.

Daniel Schwartz, Ph.D.

director, center for open research resources & equipment (COR²E)
associate professor, department of physiology & neurobiology

core.uconn.edu squaredlabs.uconn.edu
schwartzlab.uconn.edu
c: 617.686.6392

Statistical Support for Dental Residents in Masters programs:

Chia-Ling Kuo, PhD

Assistant Professor

Biostatistics Center, CICATS

kuo@uchc.edu

Pen to Paper – Submitted Grant Applications

During the first 6 months of FY18, the Research Office has submitted 17 grant applications for the School of Dental Medicine. This does not include the internal grant application submissions. We would like to acknowledge all those that have submitted applications between July – December, 2017.

<p><u>NIH R01</u> Angela Bermudez-Millan (subcontract) Sumit Yadav Sumit Yadav Patricia Diaz Ernst Reichenberger David Rowe</p> <p><u>NIH R03</u> Sumit Yadav</p> <p><u>NIH R15</u> Ivo Kalajzic (subcontract) Peter Maye (subcontract)</p> <p><u>NIH R21</u> Dashzeveg Bayarsaihan</p> <p><u>NIH R00</u> Sumit Yadav (subcontract)</p> <p><u>NIH U01</u> Rajesh Lalla (subcontract)</p> <p><u>NIH STTR</u> J. Robert Kelly (subcontract)</p>	<p><u>DOD</u> Caroline Dealy Caroline Dealy</p> <p><u>AAOF</u> Niloufar Azami (Sumit Yadav – mentor) Eliane Dutra Sumit Yadav</p> <p><u>Fund for Science</u> Caroline Dealy</p> <p><u>IADR</u> Rajesh Lalla</p> <p><u>Intramural Funding:</u> <u>UConn Health Research Excellence Program</u></p> <p><u>Stimulus</u> Caroline Dealy Ivo Kalajzic</p> <p><u>Convergence</u> Tannin Schmidt</p>
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NIH Statement on Article Publication Resulting from NIH Funded Research

([NOT-OD-18-011](#)) National Institutes of Health

Research Dean's Corner

Dear Colleagues:



In this issue of the SDM Research Office Newsletter, we report on two new initiatives aimed at supporting and enhancing the research activities of the SDM research community. Firstly, we have implemented a major re-structuring of the SDM Research Office, as reported on pages 1-2. We welcome Annmarie Martin and Robin Tiso, who have joined our office, which will now also provide post-award grants support to the Department of Reconstructive Sciences. As part of this re-structuring, Laura Didden has received a well-deserved promotion and will serve as the Manager of the SDM Research Office. I thank Laura for her strong work ethic and loyalty to the SDM. I also want to acknowledge Lisa Ramsdell, who is primarily responsible for these newsletters, in addition to her other responsibilities with the T90/R90 training grant, student research, and Skeletal Biology and Regeneration graduate program. All in all, our expanded team is ready and excited to serve you!

Another new initiative is the Clinical Research Support Program, described on page 7. This will provide in-kind support for unfunded clinical research projects, including help with IRB submissions, assistance with using axiUm for clinical research, and waiver of DCRC fees for projects requiring a dental chair. The goal of this program is to encourage and support increased clinical research activity by SDM faculty. In turn, this should lead to increased research training opportunities for our students and residents, as well as conference presentations, publications, and extramural funding opportunities. On pages 3-4, we highlight the excellent work our students/residents and their faculty mentors are already doing representing UConn in various scientific venues. This new program will further support such research efforts and raise the research profile of our School to even greater heights.

I gratefully thank all those who contributed to the development of these two initiatives, too numerous to list here. However, I must mention Dean MacNeil, without whose support these initiatives would not have been possible.

Sincerely,

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. 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