UConn SDM maintains Top 10 Research Ranking

For a second year, the UConn SDM has ranked 8th among all 68 US Dental Schools based on NIH research funding. This ranking does not take into account the number of faculty per school. Please see the full story at the UConn Today link below.

https://today.uconn.edu/2022/03/another-record-breaking-year-for-the-uconn-school-of-dental-medicines-research-program/

Medical/Dental Student Research Day

The annual Medical/Dental Student Research Day was held virtually on February 23rd to showcase the 2021 summer research performed by our 2nd year dental students. We would like to thank the students and their mentors for their hard work. The keynote address was given by Dr. Manisha Juthani, Commissioner of the CT Dept. of Public Health. We would like to acknowledge our judges for the event: Drs. Ajay Dhingra, Eliane Dutra, Aadarsh Gopalakrishna, Arthur Hand, Alan Lurie, and Takanori Sobue. The students were judged on their presentations. A photo and list of the awardees is shown on page 3.

In this Issue:

3 Student Research Day Awardees
4 Faculty and Trainee Recognition
7 AADOCS Presenters
8 Submitted Grant Applications
10 Research Resources
12 Research Dean’s Corner
### Rankings of US Dental Schools based on Total Direct Funding Received from NIH for NIH FY2021

Rankings from the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research, based on NIH data.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>School of Dentistry</th>
<th>Direct NIH Funding FY2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO</td>
<td>$22,033,043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN</td>
<td>$20,379,062</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA</td>
<td>$15,612,277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA</td>
<td>$15,305,630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA</td>
<td>$11,665,314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES</td>
<td>$11,188,982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>NEW YORK UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>$11,150,883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT</td>
<td>$9,388,853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE</td>
<td>$7,553,193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>BOSTON UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CAMPUS</td>
<td>$6,415,119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA</td>
<td>$5,951,418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>OREGON HEALTH &amp; SCIENCE UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>$5,908,767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE</td>
<td>$5,900,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>TEXAS A&amp;M UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCE CTR</td>
<td>$5,791,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA BIRMINGHAM</td>
<td>$5,346,531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HLTH SCI CTR SAN ANTONIO</td>
<td>$5,054,983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>$4,871,686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF IOWA</td>
<td>$4,824,786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>TUFTS UNIVERSITY BOSTON</td>
<td>$4,812,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK BUFFALO</td>
<td>$4,617,158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>$4,451,262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HLTH SCI CTR HOUSTON</td>
<td>$4,329,441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH</td>
<td>$4,231,058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER</td>
<td>$4,181,866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO</td>
<td>$4,157,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES</td>
<td>$4,106,437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON</td>
<td>$3,848,713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>$3,508,821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY</td>
<td>$3,193,384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL</td>
<td>$2,702,678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA CHAPEL HILL</td>
<td>$2,588,979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>$2,275,447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA</td>
<td>$1,669,123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI KANSAS CITY</td>
<td>$1,079,348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>$918,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>$892,597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>TEMPLE UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>$783,393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER</td>
<td>$728,848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>LOUISIANA STATE UNIV HSC NEW ORLEANS</td>
<td>$552,725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MED CTR</td>
<td>$517,936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>INDIANA UNIV-PURDUE UNIV INDIANAPOLIS</td>
<td>$480,635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>TEXAS A&amp;M UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>$324,886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF UTAH</td>
<td>$228,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE HEALTH SCI CTR</td>
<td>$228,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>$173,016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>$151,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO MEDICAL SCIENCES</td>
<td>$75,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: This ranking is based on total direct funding from all NIH Institutes and Centers for NIH FY2021 and does not include sub-awards. These rankings are not adjusted for faculty size.
Dental Student Research Day Awards

Congratulations to the SDM Student Research Day award recipients and their mentors:

**Dean's Awards:** Jane Conway (Dr. Tadinada) and Maayan Schmidt (Dr. Upadhyay)

**Associate Dean's Award:** Jay Dalal (Dr. Deymier)

**Dentsply-Sirona Student Clinician Award:** Samantha Sheppard (Dr. Tadinada)

**Connecticut Holistic Health Association Award:** Anthony Perez-Pino (Dr. Kurup)

**Dental Student Research Society Award:** Katherine Peccerillo (Dr. Deymier)

**Gustave Perl Memorial Award:** Arvene Golbazi (Dr. Dutra)

**Judges Special Award:** Nathalia Hernandez (Dr. Tadinada)

**Omicron Kappa Upsilon – Phi Chi Chapter Awards:**
   - (Basic Science) Ryan Higgins (Dr. Setlow)
   - (Clinical Science) Caroline Thomas (Dr. Tadinada)
Faculty Recognition

Congratulations to Dr. Mina Mina who was selected to receive a 2022 AADOCR Presidential Citation recognizing her significant contributions to AADOCR and to dental, oral and craniofacial research.  https://today.uconn.edu/2022/04/faculty-receives-presidential-award-from-leading-dental-research-organization/

Congratulations to Dr. Effie Ioannidou, elected Vice President of the American Association of Dental, Oral and Craniofacial Research.  https://today.uconn.edu/2021/12/uconn-professor-and-researcher-named-vice-president-of-the-american-association-for-dental-oral-and-craniofacial-research/

Dr. Ioannidou was also selected as a Fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).  https://today.uconn.edu/2022/01/four-from-uconn-named-fellows-by-aaas/

Congratulations to Dr. Ali Tamayol and his laboratory on their research on the development of bio-inks for 3D printing of implantable scaffolds for regenerative medicine applications.  https://today.uconn.edu/2021/12/uconn-researcher-finds-inspiration-in-the-refrigerator/

Congratulations to Dr. Robert Aseltine, recipient of the SDM Outstanding Researcher Award for 2021, presented by Drs. Lepowsky and Lalla.

Photo: Connie Cantor
Congratulations to Dr. Changchun Liu for a recent article in UConn Today highlighting his development of a home COVID-19 Test. [https://today.uconn.edu/2022/01/uconn-researchers-home-covid-19-test-comparable-to-pcr-accuracy-selectivity/#](https://today.uconn.edu/2022/01/uconn-researchers-home-covid-19-test-comparable-to-pcr-accuracy-selectivity/#)

Congratulations to Dr. Po-Jung Chen (Dr. Yadav mentor) who was selected as one of eight finalists for the AADOCR Joseph Lister Award for New Investigators.

Dr. Chen also recently received the Thomas M. Graber Award of Special Merit from the American Association of Orthodontists.

Congratulations to Dr. Shivam Mehta (Dr. Yadav mentor) who was the recipient of the Thomas M. Graber Award of Special Merit from the American Association of Orthodontists.

Congratulations to Dr. Douglas Peterson who was recently recognized internationally for his work in Oral Medicine and Oral Oncology.


Welcome back Dr. Vanessa Scanlon! Dr. Scanlon is a new Assistant Professor in the SDM Center for Regenerative Medicine and Skeletal Development. Please see her introduction below:

[https://medicine.yale.edu/news-article/whyicellbio-special-meet-dr-vanessa-scanlon-phd/](https://medicine.yale.edu/news-article/whyicellbio-special-meet-dr-vanessa-scanlon-phd/)
Trainee Recognition

Congratulations to Shakthi Boobalan who secured a UConn Summer Undergraduate Fellowship (SURF) award to conduct her honors thesis research in the lab of Dr. Vanessa Scanlon this summer.

Congratulations to Emma Warren (Dr Tadinada, mentor and Dr. Vaddi, collaborator), who recently placed 2nd at the SCADA student competition in the Basic and Translational Science Category.


Congratulations to Dr. Ahmad Ahmida, (Dr. Yadav mentor) the first place winner of the 2021 Second Annual Northeastern Society of Orthodontics NSEO Cup.

Congratulations to John Nelson (Dr. Tadinada mentor), 2021 SDM Dean’s Award recipient, who presented his research at the Hinman Student Research Symposium.

Congratulations to Samuel Ratcliffe (Dr. Nichols mentor), 2021 SDM Associate Dean’s Award recipient, who presented his research at the AADOCR annual meeting last month.

Congratulations to Jonathan Leonard (Drs. Freilich and Taxel mentors), recipient of an Osseointegration Foundation travel grant award.
AADOCR Presenters

The American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research held its annual meeting in Atlanta last month. We would like to acknowledge our presenters:

Dr. Eric Bernstein

John Bryck (Dr. Tadinada mentor)

Dr. Maryam Buholayka (Dr. Tadinada mentor)

Dr. Po-Jung Chen

Dr. Vaibhav Gandhi

Arvene Golbazi (Dr. Dutra, mentor)

Dr. Effie Ioannidou

Samuel Ratcliffe (Dr. Nichols, mentor)

Dr. Shivani Suvarna

Emma Warren (Dr. Tadinada, mentor)
Pen to Paper – Submitted Grant Applications

The Research Office has submitted 86 grant applications for the School of Dental Medicine during the 2021 calendar year. We would like to acknowledge all those that have submitted applications during that time period.

**NIH K99/R00**

Wenqiang Du

**NIH R21/R33**

Julie Wagner

**NIH R01**

Robert Aseltine
Robert Aseltine
I-Ping Chen
I-Ping Chen (subcontract)
Anna Dongari-Bagtzoglou (subcontract)
Ivo Kalajzic
Ivo Kalajzic
Ivo Kalajzic
Ivo Kalajzic
Mark Litt
Mina Mina
Tannin Schmidt
Tannin Schmidt
Tannin Schmidt
Tannin Schmidt
Ali Tamayo
Ali Tamayo (subcontract)
Ali Tamayo (subcontract)
Sumit Yadav
Sumit Yadav
Sumit Yadav
Sumit Yadav
Sumit Yadav (subcontract)

**NIH Supplement**

Peter Mayo
David Rowe
David Rowe

**NIH STTR**

Ali Tamayo (subcontract)

**NIH T90/R90**

Mina Mina

**NIH U01**

Rajesh Lalla
Changchun Liu

**NIH U54**

David Rowe

**NIH UG3/UH3**

Effie Ioannidou
Sumit Yadav
Sumit Yadav (subcontract)
Sumit Yadav (subcontract)
Sumit Yadav

**NIH UH2/UH3**

Sumit Yadav

**Department of Defense**

Tannin Schmidt
Ali Tamayo

**Environmental Protection Agency**

Changchun Liu (subcontract)
American Association of Orthodontists Foundation
Po-Jung Chen
Po-Jung Chen
Eliane Dutra
Madhur Upadhyay (subcontract)
Sumit Yadav

American Diabetes Association
Sayed Alireza Hassani Najafabadi

American Heart Association
Kshitiz

Arthritis National Research Foundation
Sanja Novak

Arthrex, Inc
Caroline Dealy

American Society for Bone and Mineral Research
Eliane Dutra

Chateaubriand Fellowship
Stephanie Wong (Alix Deymier)

Good Food Institute
Mohamadmahdi Samadari

ITI Straumann
Martin Freilich

Northeastern Society of Orthodontists
Ke Wang

New Harvest
Mohamadmahdi Samadari

Novartis
Tannin Schmidt

UCHU Biosensors
Flavio Uribe

Internal*

Research Excellence Program
Dashzeveg Bayarsaihan
Dashzeveg Bayarsaihan
Caroline Dealy
Kshitiz
Ivo Kalajzic
Peter Maye
Peter Maye
Frank Nichols
Tannin Schmidt
Ali Tamayol

*Since not directly submitted through SDM Research Office, information is based on what was reported to us.
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/

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.uchc.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.uchc.edu/services/research-development/research-advisory-groups/hrac/

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 https://ovpr.uchc.edu/

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) so it may be included in our next newsletter!
Dear Colleagues,

Happy Spring! I hope this season brings you rejuvenation and optimism.

In this issue, we celebrate our School maintaining its top 10 ranking for research funding among all US dental schools. These rankings are based on total direct research funding from NIH. This is especially notable considering the relatively small size of our faculty in comparison to some of the other schools in the top 10 (listed on page 2). Thank you to all of you for your hard work and support for our research efforts.

We also celebrate and recognize several students, residents, and faculty, who have been recognized for research-related accomplishments at the local, national, and international levels. The list of accomplishments on these pages is truly impressive and demonstrates the exceptionally high caliber of our research community.

Please also take a minute to review the research resources available to you, listed on pages 10 and 11. This includes scientific writing support for grants and manuscripts, as well as statistical support. We are always looking to enhance the support we offer to the SDM research community. Stay tuned for an announcement about help with finding new funding opportunities, coming in the days ahead.

Best wishes,

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