

Year	Award Winner	Research Topic
2003	Elisabeth R. Barton, PhD	Muscle repair enhancement by protein IGF-I in the masseter muscle of mice.
2004	Sunday O. Akintoye, BDS, DDS, MS	“Skeletal site-specific response of human bone marrow stromal stem cells to irradiation and preclinical therapeutic applications in osteoradionecrosis”
2014	Faizan Alawi, DDS	
2006	Fernando Segade, PhD	Connection between vitamin C and Glucose transporter 10 and arterial tortuosity syndrome.
2007	Claude Krummenacher, PhD	“Cellular Response to Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) Binding to its Receptor, Nectin-1”
2011	Patricia Miguez, DDS, MS, PhD	“Evaluation of Natural Cross-Linker Agents as Modulators of Muscle and Bone Growth Factors”
2011	Elisabeth R. Barton, PhD	“Evaluation of Natural Cross-Linker Agents as Modulators of Muscle and Bone Growth Factors”
2011	Jonathan Korostoff, DMD, PhD	“Defective Lysosome Maturation is Correlated with Chronic Periodontal Disease”
2011	Kathleen Boesze-Battaglia, PhD	
2012-2013	Hydar Ali, PhD	“Cross-Regulation of G Protein Coupled Receptor Signaling in Human Mast Cells”
2012-2013	Ricardo Walter, DDS, MS	“Development of a Novel Bisphenol A-Free Composite Resin Restorative Material”
2013-2014	Fusun Ozer, DMD, PhD	“Influence of PVN/MA copolymer on bacterial adherence to dentin and resin composite surfaces”
2014-2015	Claire Mitchell, PhD	“Differential effects of lidocaine and articaine on the survival and function of neurons”
2014-2015	Elliot Hersh, DMD, MS, PhD	
2015-2016	Dr. Manju Benakanakere	Nanoparticle-based strategies for HPV-associated oral squamous cell carcinoma treatment.
2015-2016	Dr. Baomei Wang	To understand the role of innate lymphoid cells in inflammatory diseases associated with a major immune deficiency (leukocyte adhesion deficiency) and develop rational therapeutic approaches.
2016-2017	Dr. Sunday Akintoye, Associate Professor, Dept. of Oral Medicine	Explore the application of mesenchymal stem cells and osteoanabolic therapy for prevention and remediation of osteoradionecrosis.
2016-2017	Dr. Bei Zhang, Postdoctoral Fellow, Dept. of Biochemistry	The expression of human coagulation factors in edible plant chloroplasts for treatment of life-threatening bleeding disorders and evaluation of post-translational modifications.
2017-2018	Dr. Geelsu Hwang Research Assistant Professor, Dept. of Orthodontics	Evaluate the potential efficacy of a highly specific and antibiotic-free strategy that can disrupt the cross- kingdom interactions to modulate the cariogenicity of the biofilm associated with severe dental caries.
2017-2018	Dr. Faizan Alawi, Associate Professor, Dept. of Pathology	The mechanisms that contribute to DNA repair and resumption of DNA replication following exposure to genotoxic stress.

2019	Manunya Nuth	A novel antiproliferative agent is demonstrated to sensitize the chemo therapeutic drug, cisplatin, for the effective killing of oral squamous cell carcinoma cell lines. For the consideration of the agent as a potential anticancer therapeutic, the proposal aims to examine the efficacy of the antiproliferative agent/cisplatin combination treatment in an animal study.
2019	Frances K. Mante	Joint replacements fail due to wear of metallic interfaces. Our research will investigate strategies for integrating cartilage onto opposing metallic joint surfaces to mitigate wear and consequently improve the performance of artificial joints.
2019	Rahul Singh, PhD, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Basic and Translational Sciences	“Affordable Therapeutic Protein for Oral Health”
2020	Cagla Akay-Espinoza, MD, Research Assistant Professor, Department of Basic and Translational Sciences	“Understanding the Causal Relationship between Periodontal Disease and Alzheimer’s Disease”
2020	Eugene Ko, DDS, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Oral Medicine	“Fire Trial: Wellbeing in the Burning Mouth Patient Population”
2021	Chenshuang Li, DDS, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine, Department of Orthodontics	“Establishing a Rat Model for Experimental Studies of Craniofacial Growth Following Cleft Lip and Palate”
2022	Flavia Teles, DDS, MS, DMSc, Associate Professor, Department of Clinical and Translational Sciences	Integrating omics-data via deep learning to predict periodontitis progression.
2022	Yuan Liu, DDS, MS, Research Associate, Division of Restorative Dentistry, Department of Preventive & Restorative Sciences	Association between early candida infection (oral thrush) and severe early childhood caries.
2023	Chider Chen, PD, Assistant Professor, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery / Pharmacology	A unique chondrocyte progenitor population maintains mandibular bone homeostasis.
2023	Qunzhou Zhang, PhD, Research Assistant	Optimization of gingival mesenchymal stem cell (GMSC)-derived extracellular vesicles for peripheral nerve regeneration.

	Professor, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	
2024	Myra F. Laird, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Basic and Translational Sciences	Multiscale Analysis of Longitudinal Human Dental Wear
2024	Chenshuang Li, DDS, PhD, Assistant Professor and co-clinical director of Orthodontics	Global Transcriptional Analyses of A Novel Type of Protein-Based Reprogrammed Cells
2024	Kyle Vining, DDS, PhD, Assistant Professor of Preventive and Restorative Sciences	Anti-cavity Metal Organic Framework Resin Composite
2025	Kathleen Boexze-Battaglia, PhD, Professor, Department of Basic and Translational Sciences	Effect of Western Diet on Retinal Lipoprotein Metabolism and Visual Function
2025	Kathleen Theken, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery/Pharmacology	Sex Difference in Post-Surgical Pain and Analgesic Response
2025	Marco Tizzano, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Basic and Translational Sciences	The Bitter Taste Signaling Pathway in Gingival Macrophages Participates in Anti-Inflammatory and Bone Repairing Responses
2026	Lauren C. Yapp, DMD, MPH	Oral Microbiome Changes in Children Placed on a Ketogenic Diet
2026	Wenjing Yu, DDS, PhD, DScD, DMD	The role of Gli1+ Chondroprogenitor Cells in Degenerative Temporomandibular joint (TMJ) Diseases