



AADOOCR
American Association for Dental,
Oral, and Craniofacial Research

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 5, 2023

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AADOOCR Announces AADOOCR MIND the Future Class of 2023-2024

Alexandria, VA – The American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (AADOCR) is pleased to announce the program participants (mentees) for the **fourth cohort** of the AADOOCR Mentoring an Inclusive Network for a Diverse Workforce of the Future (AADOCR MIND the Future):



MIND the Future Cohort 4 Mentees and their research interests



Shaun Abrams
NIH/NIDCR, Bethesda, MD
*Craniofacial development,
anomalies, stem cell biology*



Jean Calvo
University of California, San Francisco
*Pediatric dentistry, dental education,
patient safety, individuals with
special needs*



Louise M. Dornelas-Figueira
University of Florida, Gainesville
*Oral Biology, microbiology,
clinical and translational Research*



Christina Graves
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
*Mucosal immunology, stress biology,
neuroimmunology, host-environment
interactions*



Kimberly Jasmer
University of Missouri-Columbia
*Salivary gland dysfunction,
Sjögren's Disease, xerostomia,
autoimmunity, immunology*



Isha Mutreja
University of Minnesota,
Minneapolis
*Biomaterials, tissue engineering,
anti-infective materials*



Mariana Reis-Havlat
University of Illinois at Chicago
*Cementum, aging, periodontics,
collagen, biomechanics,
protein biology*



Mauricio Sousa

Oregon Health & Science University, Portland
*Organs on a chip, tissue engineering, oral
biology, bone biology, biomaterials*



Caroline Szczepanski

Michigan State University, East Lansing
*Dental materials, polymer engineering,
adhesive technology, coatings and
interfaces*



Yan Wang

University of California, Los Angeles
*Oral microbiome, pediatric oral
health, oral health and HIV, oral
health disparities*

The participating mentors assigned to Cohort 4 are:

Marcela Carrilho – Midwestern University, Illinois
David Drake – University of Iowa, Iowa City
Jeffrey Ebersole – University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Margherita Fontana – University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Jill Kramer – University at Buffalo, New York
Yu Leo Lei – University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Ariadne Letra – University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Alireza Moshaverinia – University of California, Los Angeles
Carmem Pfeifer – Oregon Health & Science University, Portland
Reginald Taylor – Texas A&M University, Dallas

“AADOCR is once again joined by a group of exceptional young researchers to take part in the MIND the Future Program,” said AADOCR President Alex Vieira. “I am consistently impressed by the quality of the individuals we bring into the program each year, and I have no doubt we are looking at some of the future leaders of AADOCR in this group.”

In 2020, AADOCR was awarded a five-year grant of more than \$1.3 million by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) in response to FOA RFA-DE-19-007: NIDCR Mentoring Network to Support a Diverse Dental, Oral and Craniofacial Research Workforce. The grant project dates are March 2020 through February 2025 (Grant No. 5UE5DE029439). Principal Investigators for the grant are AADOCR’s CEO Dr. Dr. Christopher H. Fox, Dr. David Drake, Professor of Microbiology, University of Iowa and the Iowa Institute for Oral Health Research, and Dr. Effie Ioannidou, Department Chair of Orofacial Sciences, University of California, San Francisco School of Dentistry. The NIDCR program partner is Dr. Anissa Brown, Chief, Research Training and Career Development Program.

The primary goal of this NIDCR-funded program is to establish a mentoring network that will support a diverse pool of early career investigators, including individuals from diverse backgrounds (e.g., see [Notice of NIH’s Interest in Diversity](#)), in developing independent research careers dedicated to improving dental, oral and craniofacial health. Please see the [AADOCR Website](#) for more details.

The program will offer one year of educational activities and interactive opportunities between mentors and mentees to support the development of a diverse oral and craniofacial biomedical research workforce. Once the mentees complete the program in September 2024, they will continue as program alumni and will remain engaged in the program.

About AADOCR

The American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (AADOCR) is a nonprofit organization with a mission to drive dental, oral, and craniofacial research to advance health and well-being. AADOCR represents the individual scientists, clinician-scientists, dental professionals, and students based in academic, government, non-profit, and private-sector institutions who share our mission. AADOCR is the largest division of IADR. Learn more at www.aadocr.org.