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Explorations

John C. Greene Society Newsletter

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello and welcome to another exciting year in research at UCSF! This year, we have already been amazed by an incredible Research and Clinical Excellence Day. The D0 research fellows demonstrated their work ethic and scientific savvy while the D2 research fellows were able to show the culmination of their hard work from the last year they spent in lab. Congrats to all our winners! Their work is featured in detail in this newsletter. Congrats to Dr. Cristin Kearns, our Mentor of the Year for her work with Thanh Tieu.

Looking forward as a student run research group, the John C. Greene Society aims to make research accessible for any dental student who wishes to be involved. As a DDS/PhD student, my passion lies in research. I believe that the skills developed in the lab carry over to clinical practice and make for the strongest dentists possible. Research, especially at UCSF, is a pinnacle of our training. As dentists, it is critical to be able to evaluate current research and practice evidence-based dentistry to meet the highest standard of patient care. I strongly encourage every dental student to take advantage of the plethora of research opportunities presented to them and begin to expand their critical thinking, communication, and writing skills.

We hope through the events detailed below, we can bridge the gap between clinical practice and basic science and clinical research. The group aims to create a network of dental student scientists who empower each other to dig deeper, ultimately pushing their classmates to peer behind the scientific curtain and begin their own research journey. Our elective, which runs in Fall and Winter, introduces students to current work happening at the School of Dentistry and gives them an opportunity to network and engage with research faculty. Our Winter events schedule focuses on support for the D2 research fellowship, a year-long program that gets students into the lab 10-12 hours a week to perform their own research project under the guidance of faculty, postdoctoral scholars, and graduate students. In the Spring, we pivot towards how we can use research to empower our practices, with workshops in evidence-based dentistry and research during residency.

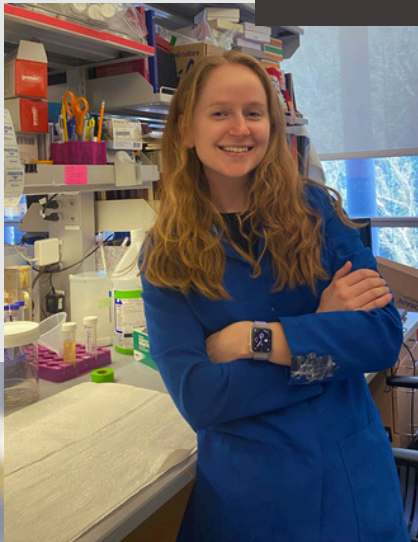
I am looking forward to yet another stimulating year of dental research ahead of us, thanks for joining us!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessi Cook". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

JGS PRESIDENT

DDS X PHD HIGHLIGHT

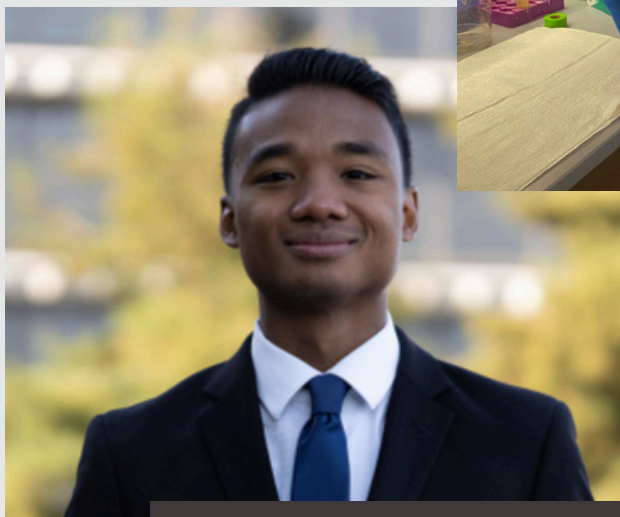
JESSICA COOK, D2



I completed my PhD with Ophir Klein in 2023. My thesis work focused on classifying oral mucosal fibroblasts, specifically throughout the process of wound healing. We identified an AXL+ fibroblast population that plays a critical role in the amazing scarless regeneration that occurs in the oral cavity. We were able to activate this population in skin wounds and induce quicker wound healing and restructuring of the wound bed, identifying this population as a potential target for therapeutics aiming to reduce wound healing and scarring burdens on patients.

WHY RESEARCH?

I decided to pursue research because I enjoy the challenge and excitement of science. Being at the forefront of discovery is incredibly satisfying. As much as I enjoy the daily life of clinic, I enjoy playing a small part in driving the field of dentistry forward via basic science.

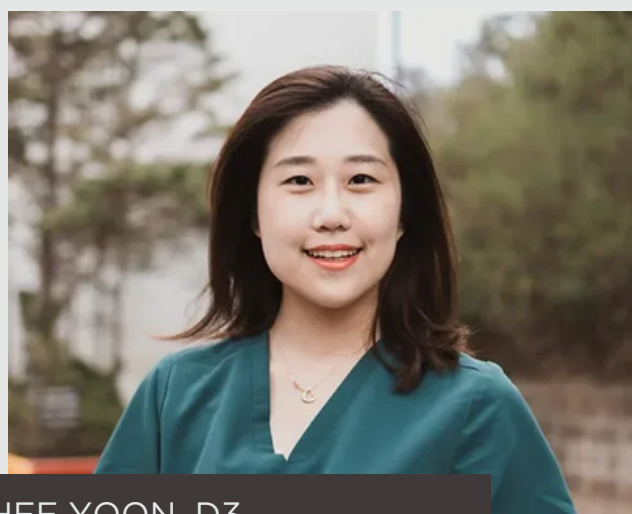


DARNELL CUYLEAR, D2

My PhD research focuses on developing biomaterials for targeted drug delivery that enhances tissue healing and regeneration. I initially designed calcium phosphate nanoclusters to prevent orthodontic relapse, and then I optimized the use polyethylene microrods to improve long bone fracture repair. While these projects may address distinct challenges, both highlight the transformative potential of materials science in advancing patient care.

WHY RESEARCH?

My journey into biomaterials began during my undergraduate years, where I was curious to explore science beyond the classroom and strengthen my foundation for a dental career. As a first-generation dentist and scientist, navigating this path was unfamiliar territory. Thankfully, a remarkable mentor encouraged me to pursue innovative research projects, such as improving drug delivery systems for colonoscopy preparation, and introduced me to the dentist-scientist community. Those experiences ignited my passion for combining science, mentorship, and technology to create solutions that have a real impact on patients' lives. This work has been deeply fulfilling and continues to shape my vision for how biomaterials are fundamental for oral health.



JIHEE YOON, D3

Bone is a constantly remodeling tissue that undergoes change in matrix and structure through the coordination of osteoblasts, osteoclasts, and osteocytes. The Alliston Lab focuses on osteocytes, the cells embedded within the bone matrix, and how these cells contribute to bone mechanical and structural properties. Given my interest in molecular and cellular biology, my thesis research investigated the role of microRNA-181a/b-1 in osteocyte cellular processes and overall bone health. My co-authors and I discovered the control of osteocyte metabolism by miR181a/b-1 in vitro as well as the sexually dimorphic role of miR181a/b-1 in long bone morphology and mechanical behavior (Yoon et al., 2023).

WHY RESEARCH?

Although the journey of trying to understand the unknown can be daunting and endless at times, the process of discovering the unknown and contributing to the knowledge of the field is intellectually stimulating and extremely rewarding.

DDS X PHD HIGHLIGHT

TONY QU, D1



At the core, I am interested in what makes us all look different from each other—namely, what genetic factors shape the face and what goes wrong in birth defects such as cleft lip/palate and Down syndrome. In one project, we discovered a novel population of cells at the tips of facial prominences in mice and humans, which are arrested in the cell cycle and mediate facial fusion under normal conditions but become dysregulated in craniofacial disorders. In another project, we are investigating the role of calcium signaling, particularly the Down syndrome-related Calcineurin/NFAT axis, in facial outgrowth across species from mammals to avians.



AMEERA HAQUE, D1

As a dual-degree student at UCSF and an alumni of the UCSD Pre-Dental Society, my goal is to become a clinician-scientist bridging the gap between research and clinical care, with a focus on improving oral health in underserved communities. Through my academic and extracurricular experiences, I've witnessed how research, clinical practices, and access to care can improve patient outcomes. During my time at UCSD I also did clinical research with Huntington's Disease patients and their families where I noticed dental care for these patients, and many others with more complex medical comorbidities, was often overlooked. I believe we can bridge these gaps through patient centered, interdisciplinary care, and more rigorous research into oral biology and disease.

WHY RESEARCH?

At UCSF, I became interested in developmental biology and studied the cellular basis of tooth development using the mouse as a model. One of the long-term goals of basic science research is to uncover fundamental motifs of development and regeneration. In the dental context, such mechanisms that could enable fine-tuning of morphogenesis to create endogenous dental tissues would transform the landscape of clinical practice.

LEA SEGDHI, D3



Ultra-processed cereal grains comprise >50% of the Western diet, and increased evidence of periodontitis has been correlated to ultra-processed food consumption. However, the underlying mechanism of this is not well understood. Populations that consume a pre-agricultural diet alternatively have decreased incidence of periodontal disease, even in the absence of modern oral hygiene. My research seeks to identify how ultra-processed food consumption impacts states of oral microbial composition and phenotypes of periodontitis. Interestingly, we have observed that decreased fiber content and reduced diet texture (both characteristic of the ultra-processed foods) promotes dysbiotic changes in the oral microbiota, as well as morphological and immunological phenotypes of periodontitis.

WHY RESEARCH?

My goal as a scientist is to uncover the natural mechanisms by which diet shapes the oral microbiota, and to ultimately leverage such findings into new means of oral disease prevention strategies that are impactful and affordable at a large scale.

Primary Skeletal and Dental Dimensions in Impacted Maxillary Canines

Alison Altman¹, Nathan Young², Snehlata Oberoi²
¹UCSF School of Dentistry, ²UCSF School of Medicine, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery

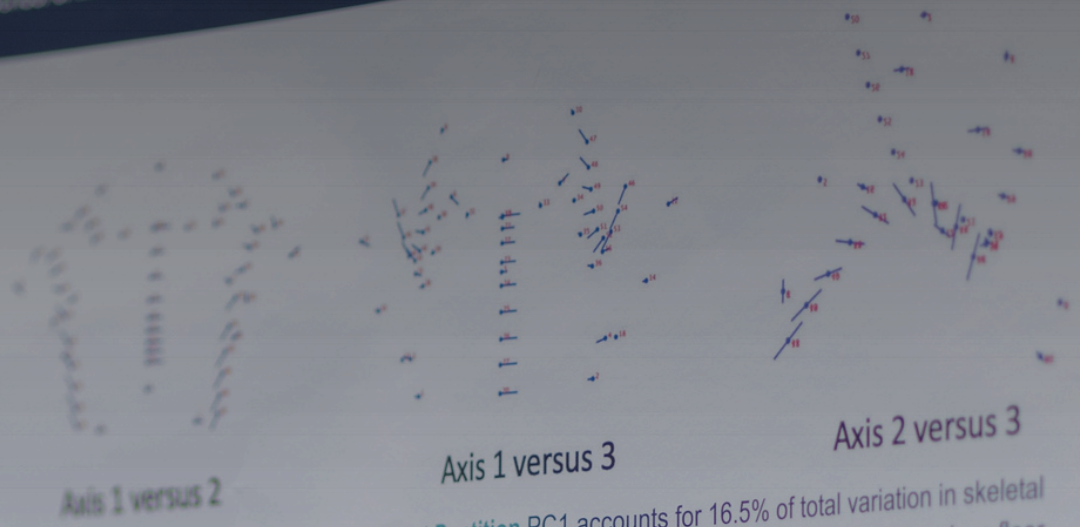


Figure 2. PC1 of Maxillary Structures without Dentition PC1 accounts for 16.5% of total variation in skeletal structure. There is a shift towards the side of the impact on axis 1 versus 2, as well as a shift of the sinus floor towards the occlusal plane on axis 1 versus 3.

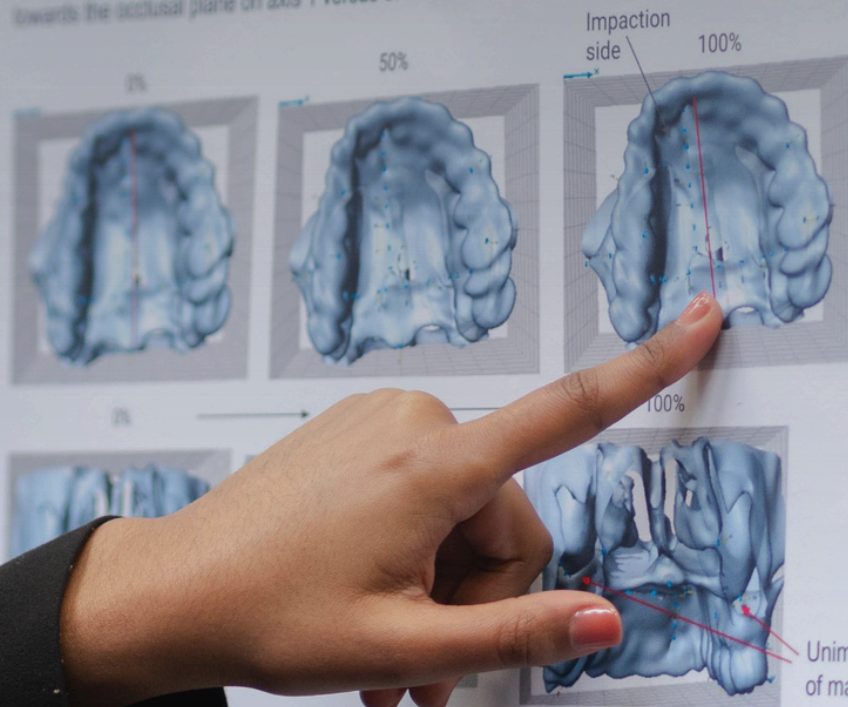


Figure 3. Warp of Max from PC1

On the side of impact there is a miniaturization and shift of the midline towards the side of impact as well as a lowering of the sinus floor.

Unimpacted side shows expanding of maxilla on the distal aspect.

UCSF

RESEARCH AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE DAY

A LOOK INTO UCSF'S 2024 RESEARCH DAY

BY KAIT CASTILLO, CLASS OF 2027
& JOSH CHEN, CLASS OF 2028

Research and Clinical Excellence Day, or RCED for short, is a longstanding tradition at the UCSF School of Dentistry. In line with the university's strong emphasis on discovery and curiosity, this year's 21st rendition of RCED served as a proud display of the cumulative scientific effort in our community. Consisting of poster, speaker, and clinical case presentations, a wide variety of departments and academic perspectives were represented. Presenters encompassed predoctoral to postdoctoral students, faculty, all the way to residents. Within this cohort, we saw topics ranging from public health investigations of social determinants of health to translational research and basic science characterizations of gene functions.

The morning started off with remarks from both Dean Michael Reddy DMD, DMSc, and Sarah Knox, PhD, an assistant dean for science research at UCSF. Both presented the keynote speaker of the day, Tara L. Aghaloo, DDS, MD, PhD, who gave a presentation on "Bone therapeutics: translational findings with clinical applications." Dr. Aghaloo, professor of the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery department at the UCLA School of Dentistry, highlighted pertinent info about osteonecrosis of the jaws (MRONJ), peri-implantitis, and how to implement new technologies and research in a clinical setting.

The day included various talks from residents, dental students, and research associates during the poster session and during morning/afternoon talks. During the auditorium talks, predoctoral students presented their projects to attendees.



D3 Ansen Lai showcasing his work at RCED



“

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER, TARA L. AGHALOO, DDS, MD, PHD,
STARTS OFF THE MORNING TALKS AT 2024 ANNUAL
RESEARCH AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE DAY**

The variety of topics covered were immense, ranging from public health oriented findings such as Medicaid coverage in California, to clinical findings which evaluated endodontic treatment follow up. Other research projects included lab findings into infrapatellar fat pad size on PFJOA (patellofemoral joint osteoarthritis), as well as comparative biology of jaw adductor muscles, and more.

Following morning presentations, RCED also included lunch poster presentations hosted at Millberry Union. More than 50 posters and projects were highlighted that day, as presenters stood by their posters. Dental students, faculty, and attendees all roamed the hall as presenters excitedly answered questions and explained their projects. These posters and presentations were evaluated earlier by a faculty panel, which went into consideration for the announcement of the annual winners of RCED.

With the conclusion of the poster session, Dr. Christopher Hernandez, PhD, restarted oral presentations and introduced the speakers for the afternoon. From this group of dental students and distinguished faculty, attendees learned about the effect of calcium phosphate nanoclusters on collagenous structures, the standardization of dental assisting skills, and more.

To round out the day, Dr. Caroline Shiboski, DDS, MPH, PhD, recipient of this year's Outstanding Clinician Award, recounted her journey in dentistry, describing how she came from Paris to San Francisco. In this talk, she stressed the importance of interprofessional engagement, a key tenet of UCSF's philosophy.

Running full circle, RCED welcomed back a familiar face in Dr. Knox, PhD, who gave the closing remarks for the day, congratulating the award winners and giving thanks to all presenters for their contributions to our community.

OUTSTANDING CLINICIAN AWARD:

DR. CAROLINE SHIBOSKI

DDS, MPH, PHD



Dr. Caroline Shiboski presenting her presentation to fellow students, faculty, and researchers during the afternoon session of RCED.

The Outstanding Clinician Award is presented every two years to individuals who have demonstrated exceptional excellence as a clinician.

This year, John C. Greene Society holds the privilege of awarding Dr. Caroline Shiboski, DDS, MPH, PhD.

Dr. Shiboski is a Professor in the Department of Orofacial Sciences at UCSF School of Dentistry. She earned her DDS from the Université René Descartes in Paris, as well as an MPH and PhD in Epidemiology from the University of California, Berkeley. A certified Diplomate of the American Board of Oral Medicine, Dr. Shiboski has been a faculty member at UCSF since 1994. Throughout her career, she has secured numerous NIH grants and contracts, with her research focusing on the epidemiology of oral manifestations associated with immune dysfunction.

UCSF 2024 ANNUAL RCED MENTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

DR. CRISTIN KEARNS
DDS, MBA



Dr. Cristin Kearns, mentor to D3 student Thanh Tieu, accepts the award of Mentor of the Year from UCSF and John Greene Society.



Every year at Research and Clinical Excellence Day, the John C. Greene Society awards a research mentor who serves as a supportive advisor to predoctoral students and their research projects.

This year, it was with great pride the Mentor of the Year award was given to Dr. Cristin Kearns, DDS, MBA. Dr. Kearns has worked closely with third year dental student, Thanh Tieu, and was ecstatic to accept such an award.

Dr. Kearns was the supervising mentor for Thanh Tieu's project, which examined the establishment of the Sugar Research Foundation (SRF) in 1943 and the commercial entities associated with the sugar industry. As a part of the Division of Oral Epidemiology & Dental Public Health at UCSF, Dr. Kearns' own research in particular focuses on the effects of the sugar industry.



Winner: Research Associate Category

Kevin Lu (Mentor: Dr. Stefan Habelitz)

Winners: Resident Category

1st Place: Dr. Katherine Tse

2nd Place: Dr. Miranda Yip

3rd Place: Dr. Michele Lodolo

Winners: Postdoctoral Category

1st Place: Dr. Arvind Arul Nambi Rajan

2nd Place: Dr. Chan Hee Mok

3rd Place: Dr. Nathan Griffin

Winners: Graduate Category

1st Place: Minyoung Kim (Mentor: Dr. Erica Hutchins)

2nd Place: Ameera Haque (Mentor: Dr. Ophir Klein)

3rd Place: Tony Qu (Mentor: Dr. Licia Selleri)

RCED 2024 AWARD WINNERS

1st Place: Ernst Newbrun Award for Research Excellence

Paolo Orobia (Mentor: Dr. Stefan Habelitz)

2nd Place Predoctoral Category:

Anny Yang (Mentor: Dr. Jean Star)

3rd Place Predoctoral Category

Jotham Sadan (Mentor: Dr. Jeffrey Bush)

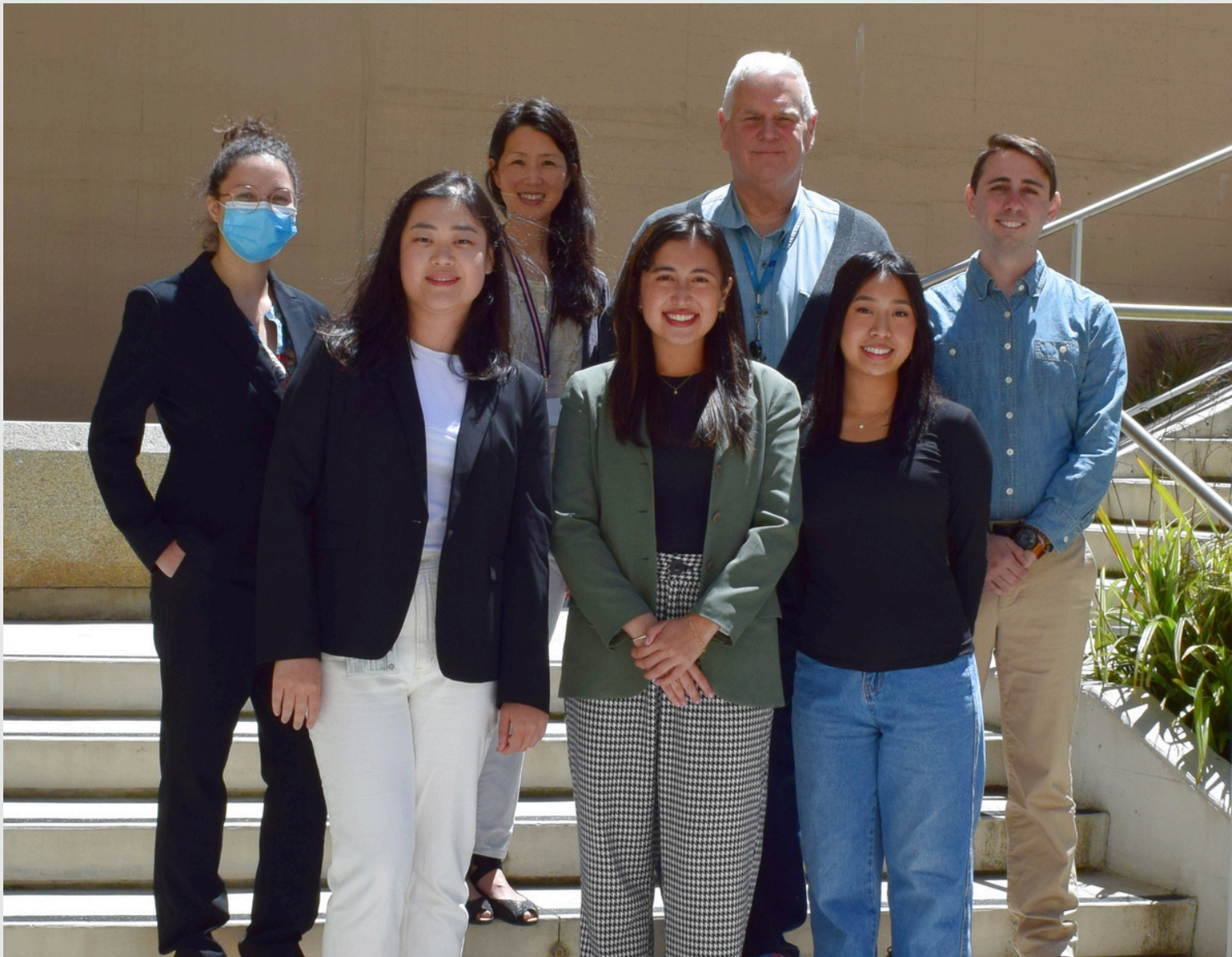
People's Choice Award:

Tony Qu (Mentor: Dr. Licia Selleri)



UCSF'S 2024

D1 SUMMER FELLOWSHIP RESEARCHERS



*The current D1 summer fellowship research students,
H. Berry, Yilin Piao, Hannah Mora, Madalyn Phan, Jotham Sadan
Pictured with coordinators Dr. Lisa Berens & Roger Mraz.*

MADALYN PHAN

Project: *The efficacy of whiteboards in predoctoral dental group practices*

Mentor: *Dr. Diana Nguyen, DDS*

What excites you about research?

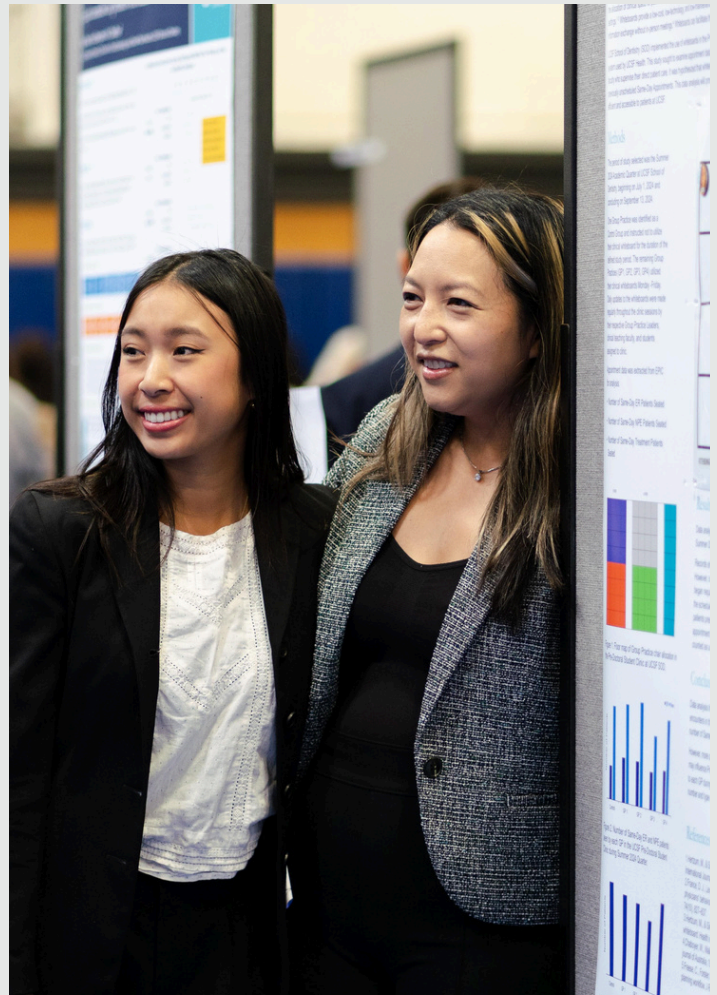
I knew I wanted to continue doing research in dental school due to my undergraduate research experience. Research is one of the most enriching experiences I've had because I've developed many technical and soft skills. It's exciting to conduct experiments and find solutions to unexpected problems! I also love that research isn't a linear process. I've developed discipline and tenacity, having to spearhead initiatives and embrace failure. I also enjoy engaging in scientific discussions at conferences and applying findings in the clinical setting.

How would you summarize your research?

This study evaluates the efficacy of whiteboards in predoctoral dental group practice efficiency at UCSF School of Dentistry. We tracked the number of Same-Day emergency (ER), New Patient Exam (NPE), and previously unscheduled Same-Day patient encounters that occur during each clinic session.

What was the big takeaway from your project?

Data analysis from this study helps us understand how whiteboards contribute to the number of patient encounters in the PreDoctoral Student Clinic at UCSF. Whiteboard usage appears to be an effective means of increasing the number of Same-Day ERs and NPEs that may be seen by predoctoral dental group practices.



Madalyn Phan (left) with Dr. Diana Nguyen (right)

What are the next steps for your project?

A more detailed and in-depth analysis of appointment scheduling is recommended to evaluate other variables, such as the number of clinical teaching faculty assigned to each group practice during each session, scope and level of experience of student providers and supervising faculty, and specific number and type of procedures performed in each appointment. Ultimately, we aim to unveil what methods are effective in predoctoral dental group practices to increase efficiency and productivity, thus improving patient outcomes.

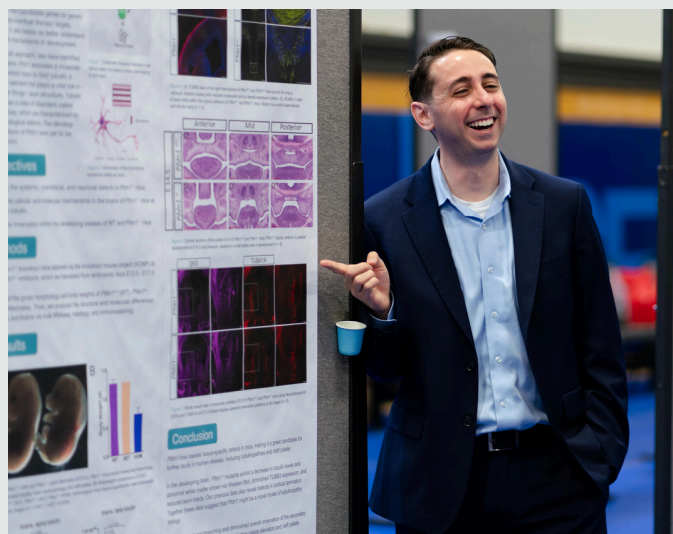
JO SADAN

Project: *Pfnd1 loss results in neurological and craniofacial malformations in mice*

Mentor: *Dr. Jeffrey Bush, PhD*

What encouraged you to get involved in research?

Research has been part of my life for a while now—I worked as an assistant in an organic chemistry lab in my undergrad, then for almost two years as a research technician for USC's Center for Craniofacial Molecular Biology. Once I got into UCSF, I decided I wanted to try my hand at driving my own project, and after reaching out to a few professors for the summer research fellowship, Dr. Bush here at UCSF gave me the opportunity to do so.



Jo Sadan presenting his poster at RCED

What excites you about research?

To me, research work scratches an itch that dentistry sometimes can't (and vice versa)—as a dentist, your work most often centers around improving the lives of individuals, and you can very clearly see your impact on people. In research, you don't always get to see the effects of your work, but it has the capability to change the way dentists and doctors treat their patients worldwide. Also, being at such a high caliber institution has given me the chance to work with some of the smartest scientists I've ever met, and I find it really motivating.

How would you summarize your research?

As a primer, the majority of craniofacial birth defects like cleft palate occur without a known genetic cause. This makes them difficult to screen for during pregnancy and gives us few therapeutic targets to work with. However, if we want to test certain gene mutations or understand what they do, we can't do so with humans, so mice are our next best option.

I'm studying a mouse line with a gene mutation that hasn't been thoroughly studied in humans, and our work has shown that this mutation causes cleft palate. Right now, we're focusing on characterizing the neuronal and craniofacial changes that happen alongside this defect with the hope of better understanding why it happens, and eventually translating our results to the clinic. In essence, we're potentially adding another gene to the bank which expecting mothers can screen for, while also learning more about the fundamentals of palate development and mutations.

Do you have any advice for people who are interested in research?

1. Shop around for a PI you really jive with and a method of investigation that excites you. UCSF has so many PIs in so many fields doing so many different kinds of investigations that it's guaranteed you can find one that checks most of your boxes.
2. Treat it the same way you'd treat a class like PRDS (sim lab): it has a major learning curve and you won't be good at first, but if you stick with it and put in the work, the rewards are huge.

H. BERRY

Project: Understanding nerve-secretory tissue interactions in the inflamed salivary gland

Mentor: Dr. Sarah Knox, PhD



How would you summarize your research?

I am interested in an autoimmune disease called Sjögren’s syndrome. My research was on Aire-knockout mice, since there aren’t many mice models for Sjögren’s syndrome that look specifically at the salivary glands. My lab mate has done research on the lacrimal glands using Aire-knockout mice and I wanted to see if they could also be used as a model in the salivary glands too.

What was your biggest takeaway and what are your next steps?

Aire-knockout mice can be used as a new model for Sjögren’s syndrome. There is an increase in immune cell infiltration and a decrease in functional innervation. For next steps, I want to look at other processes of Sjögren’s syndrome in the Aire-knockout mice and try to find out what is going wrong. Eventually, I’d like to find a regenerative treatment or even a cure.



H. Berry not pictured

What did you learn by participating in the D1 summer research fellowship?

I discovered how fun and frustrating research can be. I learned the full process of immunofluorescence staining from anesthetizing and killing mice to taking images on expensive, high quality microscopes. I also learned the importance of teamwork in research and asking for help.

YILIN PIAO

Project: Effects of Runx2 isoforms on osteogenesis and jaw length

Mentor: Dr. Richard Schneider, PhD



Yilin Piao not pictured

What did you learn by participating in the D1 summer research fellowship?

I've come to understand that research demands careful planning and a strategic approach. It's essential to acknowledge that setbacks and failures are part of the process and can sometimes feel like falling into a black hole. However, maintaining optimism and patience is crucial to overcoming challenges and ultimately making meaningful progress.

How would you summarize your research?

Investigating the morphological changes in jaw length and identifying the target genes involved when the osteogenic transcription factor Runx2 is over-expressed in chicken embryos.

What excites you about research?

The opportunity to engage with incredibly intelligent yet humble individuals. It's truly inspiring to witness how scientists openly share their expertise and collaborate across disciplines, fostering an environment of mutual learning and innovation.

What encouraged you to get involved in research?

As a lifelong learner, I have spent many years absorbing information. However, my aspiration is to become a scientist—not just a consumer of knowledge, but a producer of it. I want to uncover new insights and contribute to the body of knowledge through my own discoveries.

Do you have advice for people interested in research?

"Engage with labs to assess the level of support and collaboration they offer. Identify the specific research skills you want to develop, ensuring that the projects and environments you choose align with your personal and professional growth goals."



HANNAH MORA

Project: Effects of phosphorylation of Ser-16 in human amelogenin self-assembly

Mentor: Dr. Stefan Habelitz, PhD

How would you summarize your research?

My research is on the organic formation of enamel. We work specifically with the protein amelogenin which is a protein that serves as scaffolding for enamel crystal formation. My research was trying to understand the purpose of the phosphorylation on one of the amelogenin amino acids, and how it aids in the crystallization of enamel.

What was your biggest takeaway from your project?

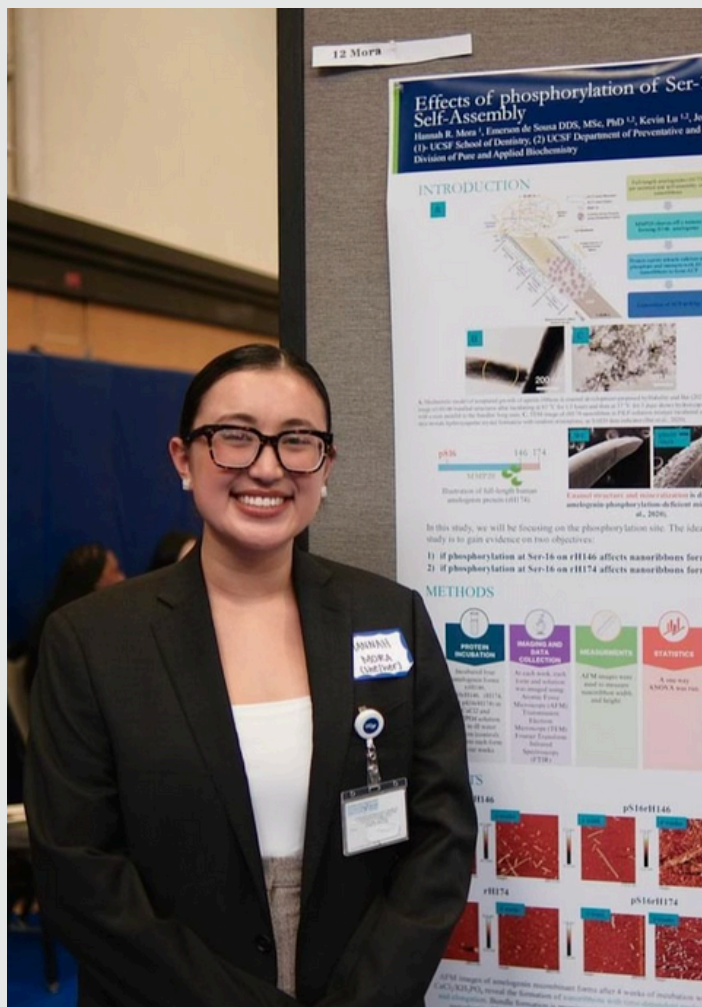
The biggest takeaway was that phosphorylation does have an affect on the formation on amelogenin nano ribbons.

What are the next steps for your project?

We are doing more analysis on the nanomechanical interactions between the phosphorylated and nonphosphorylated versions of amelogenin. We also are starting to test the interactions of the cleaved and full length amelogenin.

What did you learn by participating in the D1 summer research fellowship?

I was able to learn how research works at UCSF, and I also learned so much about the writing behind research. We were able to have workshops on how to write abstracts, posters, and presentations at conferences which was such a supportive experience.



Hannah Mora with her poster at RCED

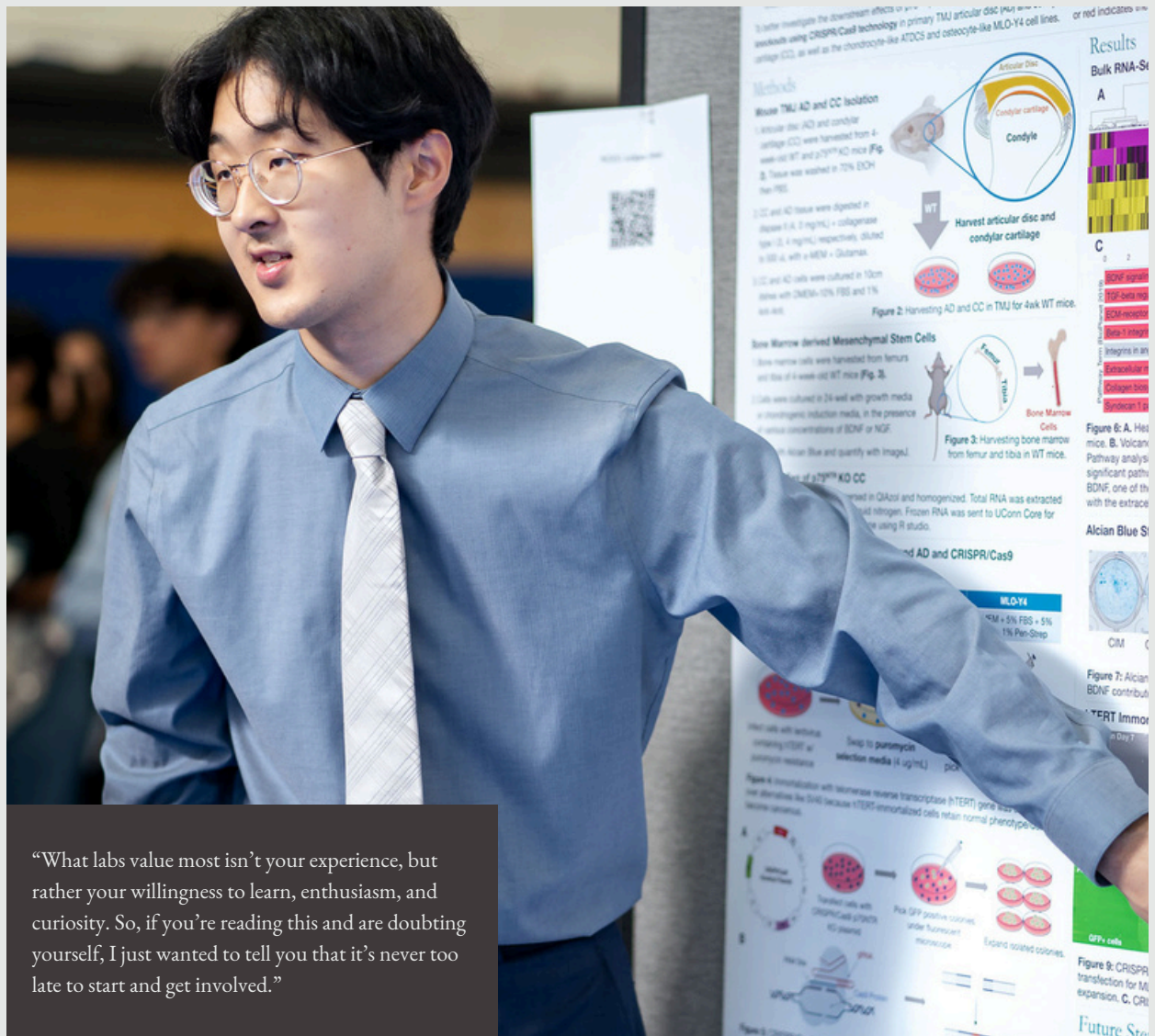
What excites you about research?

I love that everything we do is novel and you're working on trying to find an answer to something that has never been answered.

What encouraged you to get involved in research?

I did research in organic chemistry and immunology in undergrad, and I really loved it. I knew that I wanted to get into research at UCSF because of the positive experiences I had at my university, and I loved the idea of being able to be a research clinician.

TAKING THE LEAP INTO RESEARCH



As a born-and-raised Seattleite, moving across the country to Boston University for undergrad was naturally anxiety-inducing. My mind buzzed with all the usual worries:

“What are my roommates going to be like?”

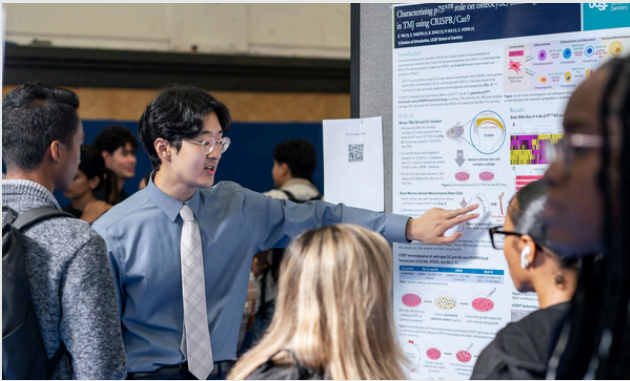
“Will I survive the cold winters?”

“Can I even cook?”

But while those questions are standard-issue worries for any college freshman, one fear stood out above the rest: research.

In the weeks following my high school graduation, my mom told me stories about freshman who emailed research labs months in advance, securing coveted research positions before they even set foot on campus. She encouraged me to follow in their footsteps, to be best prepared for college. Online forums only made it worse. As I scrolled forums, I saw post after post which described students who struggled to perform research in undergrad or regretted not starting research earlier to bolster their applications for medical or dental school.

BY ERIC YIN
CLASS OF 2027



Research, it seemed, was the golden ticket—essential, yet impossibly intimidating.

The problem? I hadn't done any research in high school. Unlike some of my peers who had logged hours in labs, I felt behind before I even started. Every story I read only made the idea of sending a cold email more daunting. What if no one wanted me? What if it was too late?

Eventually, at the urging of my parents, I sent a single email to the Naya Lab at BU. Just one. I wasn't optimistic, but to my surprise, they replied almost immediately—and they welcomed me with open arms. My relatively easy acceptance into a research lab stood in stark contrast to my perception of research labs as intimidating and difficult to enter. When I first started, I assumed I was just lucky. The longer I have worked in the lab with my PI, however, the more I have realized that professors aren't gatekeepers searching for perfect résumés; they're mentors who want to foster curiosity and teach the next generation of scientists. Many of whom got their own start as eager students with no experience, just like me.

Now, years later and as a student at UCSF, I've seen this pattern repeated over and over. Friends and classmates have shared similar stories of how intimidating it felt to send those first emails—and how, more often than not, their fears were quickly dispelled when labs welcomed them in. What I realized is that the fear of applying is a bigger obstacle than any lack of qualifications.

Since I sent that first email, research has become more than just a line on my résumé. It taught me how to think critically, how to ask big questions, and how to collaborate with brilliant minds. It introduced me to mentors who've shaped my academic journey and peers who've inspired me to pursue academia. It is not hyperbolic to say that my cold email to the Naya Lab in the Fall quarter of my freshman year was one of the most important decisions of my life, fundamentally influencing my career choice and sending me down the path towards where I am today.

In conclusion, at both BU and UCSF, I've met professors who are eager to bring in students, even those starting from scratch. What labs value most isn't your experience, but rather your willingness to learn, enthusiasm, and curiosity. So, if you're reading this and are doubting yourself, I just wanted to tell you that it's never too late to start and get involved.



JGS EVENT TIMELINE

SEPT 2024:

POSTER AND ABSTRACT WORKSHOP FOR RESEARCH

NOVEMBER 2024:

FALL SOCIAL

JANUARY 2025:

D2 RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP INTRODUCTORY SEMINAR
HOW TO FIND A SCIENTIFIC MENTOR LUNCH AND LEARN

FEBRUARY 2025:

FELLOWSHIP PROPOSAL WRITING WORKSHOP

MARCH 2025:

PEER REVIEWING WORKSHOP
AADOCR CONFERENCE IN NYC

APRIL 2025:

EVIDENCE-BASED DENTISTRY LUNCH AND LEARN

MAY 2025:

RESEARCH TO RESIDENCY LUNCH AND LEARN STUDENT PANEL

— JGS FALL 2024 ELECTIVE

— JGS WINTER 2025 ELECTIVE

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ELENA SACCHETTI, CLASS OF '28

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

On behalf of John C. Greene Society (JGS) & the newsletter committee, I am happy to present this year's fall edition of our quarterly newsletter, Explorations. This edition, we wanted to emphasize the various achievements and research of the DDS x PhD student researchers and the D1 Summer Fellowship researchers. The previous pages showed a culmination of my fellow students' hard work and their passion into research and their projects.

In addition to research highlights, this newsletter also focuses on UCSF School of Dentistry's annual Research and Clinical Excellence day (RCED), the future events that JGS will host this year, and how to take that leap into research. The goal of JGS is to be an avenue for students to intertwine research and education together and help individuals overcome that fear of jumping into research. With a multitude of upcoming club events and possibilities one can do with research here, I hope this newsletter and JGS itself can help alleviate that fear gap.

I would like to thank my Jr. Newsletter editors, the JGS board, my fellow students who helped contribute to this newsletter, and various faculty and researchers who helped make this newsletter possible. Advancing the field of dentistry is a cumulative effort, and this newsletter features students' strides towards that common goal. I am excited to share and celebrate the accomplishments of such student researchers at the UCSF School of Dentistry.

In gratitude,



Kait Castillo, Class of 2027, Senior Newsletter Editor



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SPECIAL THANKS TO

LISA BERENS, DDS, MPH
ROGER MRAZ

COVER ILLUSTRATION DRAWN BY
ISABEL MOH, CLASS OF 2028

FALL NEWSLETTER

The John C. Greene Society was founded in 2002 under the mentorship of Dr. John S. Greenspan and Dr. John C. Greene, who were instrumental to the dental school's rise to prominence as a premier research institution.

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JOHN C. GREENE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Explorations