



# Florida & The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research



FY20 Total Funding: **\$12,601,510**

Number of Institutions Funded: **7 (Florida Atlantic University; Florida State University; Mayo Clinic Jacksonville; Nova Southeastern University; University of Central Florida; University of Florida; University of South Florida)**

Number of Grants Awarded: **41**

Number of Congressional Districts with NIDCR Grants: **7**

## Improving Florida's Oral Health Through NIDCR Funding:

- Researchers at the University of South Florida are studying the oral microbiome and its connection to systemic diseases, including periodontal disease, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. By understanding the relationship between these diseases, researchers can identify improved interventions, potentially decreasing the public health burden, and advance our knowledge on the oral microbiome's connection to systemic health.
- Probiotic therapy, a treatment in which naturally occurring beneficial microorganisms prevent harmful bacteria growth, holds tremendous promise for control of oral diseases. University of Florida researchers have identified a new strain of oral bacteria that may minimize cavity-causing bacteria. The study will elucidate the mechanisms that probiotics use to prevent dental caries and guide the development of effective probiotics, while enhancing the overall quality of oral health risk assessments.
- Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus (KSHV) is a tumor virus that is the causative agent of Kaposi sarcoma (KS), the most prevalent AIDS-associated malignancy. KS often manifests in the oral cavity, the major site for KSHV shredding and transmission. Florida State University is currently conducting research to understand how the virus evades the host antiviral defenses. These findings will help identify intervention strategies that could contribute to the development of cancer therapies.

