Penn Dental Medicine launches $36 million fundraising campaign

Penn Dental Medicine’s Leading the Profession: The Campaign for Penn Dental Medicine is being touted as its most ambitious fundraising campaign ever. At a special gala celebration recently, alumni, faculty, students, leaders, friends, and supporters joined University President Amy Gutmann, the School’s Board of Overseers, and other key administrators to launch the $36 million campaign is part of the University of Pennsylvania’s Making History campaign.

The Penn Dental Medicine campaign will raise new resources for creating state-of-the-art clinical care and teaching environments ($17.5 million), building endowed funds for faculty recruitment and retention ($13.5 million), and student scholarships ($4.5 million). The School already has a significant number of gifts and pledges – 67% of its goal – made to the campaign. Campaign Co-Chairs Dr. Matthew Olmsted, a fourth-year dental student at UNC-Chapel Hill, holds the award he received for placing third in the recent 2007 American Dental Association/DENTSPFI Student Clinician Research Program competition.

The judged competition, held during the ADA Annual Session in San Francisco, featured student representatives from 52 dental schools nationwide. Each participating student clinician had previously been selected through his or her individual school’s poster presentation competition.

Olmsted’s research project, in the category of clinical research/public health, was titled “Human Bite Force Production in Amelogenesis Imperfecta Patients and Their Family Members.” Amelogenesis imperfecta (AI) is a tooth disorder causing abnormalities in the development of enamel.

During a four-hour period, student clinicians stood with their poster presentations and gave oral presentations on their research to teams of judges.

“The judges are looking for professionalism, quality of research, creativity and presentation style,” Olmsted said. 

UNC student honored for research achievement

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