Amira Baker of Howard University recently received first place in the ADA annual session’s ‘Student Clinician Program’s Clinical Application and Technique’ category.

The purpose of her research project, titled, ‘Mechanical Properties of Various Dental Rubber Dams,’ is to determine whether or not there is a significant difference in the tensile strength, percent elongation, and tear-strengths of three commercial dental dams by weight and type.

Baker said the award is ‘an immense honor’ and feels the didactic learning and in-depth review of current dental literature are critical in keeping current with contemporary treatment protocols and the scientific principles on which they are based.

‘Continued research can only expand this much needed knowledge,’ Baker said. Pleased to represent Howard University, she expressed appreciation for the support provided by her co-clinician, Takeisha Presson, and faculty adviser, Dr. Tadasha Culbreath.

This year’s ADA Student Clinician program included dental student participants from 51 U.S. dental schools competing in the table clinic research contest. Additionally, SCADA winners from 14 international countries presented their research findings.

The International Association of Student Clinicians-American Dental Association was formed in 1959. The program concept was developed by the late Dr. Harold H. Hillenbrand, Executive Director Emeritus of the ADA, and the late Mr. Henry M. Thornton, Chairman Emeritus of Dentsply International. They were seeking to establish a program that helped stimulate an interest on the part of dental students and educators in the fields of dental research and dental science.

Today, there are 16 national annual SCADA Programs, all financially sponsored by DENTSPLY International. The number of participating dental schools has greatly increased and the level of student participation has multiplied.

In Baker’s words, ‘Dentsply, SCADA and the ADA continue to give young clinicians the opportunity and support to engulf themselves in dental research and be recognized for it on a national level. Have been fortunate to have been given this opportunity and hope that those who have made this possible know they are truly appreciated.’

Amira M. Baker, second from left, with Dr. James B. Bramson, left, executive director of the ADA, George R. Rhodes, vice president of professional relations and corporate communications, and Robert L. Kittredge, DDS, chair of council on ADA sessions.