UCLA School of Dentistry gets $5M from NIH to train future leaders in oral health research

In recent years, faculty at the UCLA School of Dentistry has been expanding the traditional boundaries of dentistry through groundbreaking multidisciplinary research that has led to major advances in everything from stem cell science to saliva diagnostics.

Now, a $5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research will allow the school to continue these pioneering efforts by creating a comprehensive research training program to help cultivate the next generation of dentist–scientists and oral health researchers.

The grant — now in its fourth cycle and third renewal since 1997 — establishes a pipeline that transforms dentists into leaders in science and research who will advance the oral health field and the dental profession. And while prior grant cycles allowed only U.S. citizens and permanent residents to participate in the training programs, the new five-year grant for the first time enables foreign dentists to benefit from the NIH funds.

“This grant renewal is exciting because it allows us to open up the trainee positions to an international pool of dentists,” said Dr. David Wong, the school’s associate dean of research and the Felix and Mildred Yip Endowed Professor in the division of oral biology and medicine.

“This grant echoes the overall culture and environment of the UCLA School of Dentistry, as we are known throughout the world as a leader in academic excellence, and many talented foreign dentists come here to obtain a PhD or do postdoctoral training.”

The grant-funded program includes a number of training tracks, including a dentist–scientist program designed for dentists pursuing a doctoral degree who can subsequently go on to postdoctoral work with the intention of becoming research-committed faculty members. Additional tracks are designed for individuals pursuing a PhD or postdoctoral training and focus on grooming future oral health researchers.

Trainees accepted into the programs will be mentored by current UCLA School of Dentistry faculty members in four areas in which the school has centers of excellence: oral cancer and cancer biology, bone biology and bioengineering, microbiology and immunology, and stem cell and regenerative medicine.

“This grant is an unprecedented opportunity for dentists who have the desire to go on to become researchers and scientists,” said Dr. No-Hee Park, dean of the UCLA School of Dentistry. “Some of our past trainees who have come out of previous NIH grants are now full-time faculty members whose work is impacting the oral health field on a regional, national and even international level.”

The UCLA School of Dentistry is dedicated to improving the oral health of the people of California, the nation and the world through its teaching, research, patient care and public service initiatives.

The school provides education and training programs that develop leaders in dental education, research, the profession and the community, conducts research programs that generate new knowledge, promote oral health and investigate the cause, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of oral disease in an individualized disease prevention and management model, and delivers patient-centered oral health care to the community and the state.

(Source: UCLA School of Dentistry)
Dr. John Russo created and prepared the scientific program for the Orlando World Congress. A diversified and international faculty will honor this World Congress, he said. The complete scientific program is as follows:

**Thursday, September 20**

Afternoon session host: Dr. John Russo 12:45 to 1 p.m. — Opening comments, Drs. Kenneth Judy, Jon Suzuki and John Russo 1:20 to 1:30 p.m. — Dr. Michael Pikos “Alveolar Ridge Regenerative Strategies - Augmentation Prior to Implant Placement” 2:00 to 3 p.m. — Dr. Richard Kraut “Predictable Horizontal and Vertical Bone Augmentation of the Alveolar Ridges” 3:30 to 3:50 p.m. — Break with exhibitors 4:30 to 4:50 p.m. — Dr. Jon Suzuki “Clinical Advancements in Implant Regeneration Surgery” 5:00 to 5:30 p.m. — Ulrich Hauschild: “The Standardization of Computer-Aided Implant Surgical Process Visualized on Complex Cases”


**Friday, Sept. 21**

Morning session host: Dr. Thomas Ford 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. — Dr. Craig Misch: “Emerging Trends in Methods and Materials for Bone Augmentation” 9 to 10 a.m. — Dr. Edwin McGlumphy: “The Edentulous Maxilla: Questions and Answers to Current Implant Controversies” 10 to 10:30 a.m. — Break with exhibitors 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. — Dr. Robert Marx: “The Effective Use of (rhBMP-2) in Ridge Augmentation; Crestal and Lateral Ridge Regenerative Strategies” 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. — Dr. Jeremy Mao: “Regenerative Dental Products: Science Fiction or Reality” 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. — Lunch with exhibitors

**Saturday, Sept. 22, 2012**

Afternoon session host: Dr. Scott Ganz 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. — Dr. Alan Feiner “Subcrestal Implant Placement to Optimize Soft-Tissue Esthetics – Controversy and Practicality” 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. — Dr. Fred Bergmann “Current Protocol of Bone and Soft-Tissue Management in the Atrophic Alveolar Ridge for the Long-Term Esthetic and Functional Outcome” 3:30 to 4 p.m. — Break with exhibitors 4 to 4:45 p.m. — Dr. Scott Ganz “A Comparison of Interactive Software Applications in Assessing the Reality of Anatomy: Diagnostics and Implant Planning Accuracy” 4:45 to 5:30 p.m. — Dr. Ady Palti: “Soft Tissue Management for Esthetic Results with Modified Abutments. A New Concept for the Daily Practice.” 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. — Dr. Mariano Herrero Climent “Surgical Decision Making in Esthetic Implant Dentistry” 6 to 6:30 p.m. — Dr. Konstantinos Valavanis “Perimplant Tissue Design: Parameters and Key Factors for Optimum Esthetics” 6:30 p.m. – Closing comments, Drs. Jon Suzuki and John Russo

A large number of sponsored pre-congress courses will be offered on Thursday morning, Sept. 20.

The event’s Gold Sponsors, DENTSPLY IMPLANTS and MIS, will provide hands-on courses.

Dr. John Kim, and his sponsor, DENTSPLY, will wow attendees with his course on “Surgical Decision Making and Soft-Tissue Esthetics.” He will provide a hands-on workshop on “Solving the Challenges of Bone Graft Construction. Successful Grafts with Stem Cells, StemVie Matrix, Growth Factors.” Attendees at this course will receive anatomic take-home models, DVD movies of bone marrow aspiration technique and a sterile sample of StemVie Matrix.

Dr. Carl Misch will discuss “Controversies in Implant Reconstruction. Hands-on Workshop.” The hands-on segment will include models for socket grafting, connective tissue grafting and free gingival grafting.

Dr. Dennis Smiler and NUBONE will provide a hands-on workshop on “Solving the Challenges of Bone Graft Construction. Successful Grafts with Stem Cells, StemVie Matrix, Growth Factors.” Attendees at this course will learn the guidelines that determine implant number and the treatment planning for multiple missing teeth. Dr. Louie Al-Faraje will focus on the minimally invasive implant phenomenon in his lecture for 3M ESPE on “Small-Diameter Implants: Treatment Options and Indication for Fixed and Removable Prostheses.”

Dr. Leonard “Lenny” Linkow will provide a historical examination of and a prognosis for the future of the implant field in his course on “Implant Dentistry: What Was, What Is and What Probably Will Be,” organizers said. Linkow’s course will evaluate where we are today with all materials and techniques, educations and programs worldwide.

One of the event’s main podium speakers will feature Drs. Jon Suzuki, Rick Ferguson, Michael Pikos, Scott Ganz and John Russo. Several sessions will feature Drs. Jon Suzuki, Rick Ferguson, Carl Misch, Kostas Valavanis and Scott Ganz and Joyce Milulis, Emily Duross, Seon Jaromillo, Laura News and Sarah Lucas.

**Corrections**

Do you have general comments or criticism you would like to share? Is there a particular topic you would like to see articles about in Implant Tribune? Let us know. e-mail us at feedback@dtstudyclub.com. We look forward to hearing from you! If you would like to make any change to your subscription (name, address, etc.) please send us an e-mail at database@dental-tribune.com and be sure to include which publication you are referring to. Also, please note that subscription changes can take up to 6 weeks to process.