

DENTSPLY Recognizes the 2008 Student Clinicians of the American Dental Association

On October 18, 2008, DENTSPLY International hosted the 49th Annual ADA/DENTSPLY Student Clinician Research Awards Program and Reception. The awards program was held in San Antonio during the 2008 ADA Annual Session.



Caption: The 2008 American Dental Association/DENTSPLY Student Clinician Participants

The Student Clinician Research Program was initiated in 1959 to commemorate the centennial of the ADA in New York City, as a joint venture between DENTSPLY International and the American Dental Association. Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, then Executive Director of the ADA and Mr. Henry M. Thornton, then President of DENTSPLY International launched the first program in New York City to encourage student research and participation in organized dentistry. Over 5,000 students have participated in this program which today includes students in 36 countries. The Student Clinician Research Program has evolved from a table clinic presentation in which the students demonstrated a new technique to poster presentations where the students present the results of their clinical, basic science or public health research.

The scientific presentations are divided into two categories – Basic Science Research and Clinical Science / Public Health Research. Three awards are presented in each category for first, second and third place. The 2008 ADA/DENTSPLY Student Clinician Research Program winners are:

Clinical Science / Public Health:

1. Rita Y. Chuang - University of Southern California presenting "*Late Maxillary Protraction: Novel Treatment Modality for Cleft Lip and Palate Patients*"
2. Todd W. Walker - Tufts University presenting "*Effect of Adhesive System and Composite Type on Dentin Bonds*"
3. Nejay P. Ananaba - University of Michigan presenting "*Liberian Middle School Students' Oral Health and Quality of Life*"

Basic Science Research:

1. Neil A. Robertson - University of Pittsburgh presenting “*Multi-Lineage Differentiation Potential of Pericytes Isolated from Human Dental Pulp*”
2. Poonum Bharal - Virginia Commonwealth University presenting “*Transcriptional Response of Mouse Fibroblasts to Porphyromonas Gingivalis Infection*”
3. Estee P. Wang - Harvard School of Dental Medicine presenting “*Potential Role of a Zinc Finger Transcription Factor in Cerebral Cortical Development*”



2008 Student Clinician Winners

Back row: Nejay Ananaba (University of Michigan) and Neil Robertson (University of Pittsburgh). **Front row:** Estee Wang (Harvard School of Dental Medicine), Rita Chuang (University of Southern California), and Poonum Bharal (Virginia Commonwealth University). Not pictured is Todd Walker (Tufts University).

Dr. Linda Niessen, VP and Chief Clinical Officer for DENTSPLY, served as host for this year's Awards Program. Dr. Niessen congratulated the participating 2008 Student Clinicians from the 54 U.S. Dental Schools and 12 International Dental Schools. Dr. Niessen stated, “These men and women of science are clearly contributing to the generation of new knowledge which serves as the foundation for the profession of dentistry. Our goal at DENTSPLY is to create healthy smiles throughout the world. This goal depends on scientific advances and technical innovations. As a result, we are honored to support the research efforts of these student scientists.”

Ms. Taryn Consani, a 2008 SCADA participant from the University of the Western Cape in South Africa, expressed her appreciation by stating, "Being sent to the national competition and ultimately being sent to the international meeting has not only been a huge honor for me but also has opened many opportunities for my future."



2008 International Student Clinicians attending the ADA in San Antonio, Texas

Following the awards program, DENTSPLY hosted a reception in honor of this year's participants and all members of SCADA. DENTSPLY Executives, Managers, Scientists, and Professional Services Associates were in attendance to congratulate the students on their exceptional research efforts.

Upon presenting research at their national research program, these talented students are invited to join SCADA (Student Clinicians of the American Dental Association), an alumni association for former student clinicians. Members of SCADA serve as judges for future Student Clinician Research Programs held in conjunction with the ADA Annual Session. SCADA also annually awards fellowship funding for eligible members' graduate education and honors a faculty advisor. To learn more about SCADA, visit the website www.scadaresearch.org.