



Fast Forward

*a college update from A. Isabel Garcia, D.D.S., M.P.H.
Dean, UF College of Dentistry*



To: UF College of Dentistry,

In this edition of Fast Forward, I am pleased to focus on one aspect of our research mission - the very positive impact of the UFCD Faculty Seed Grant Program.

UFCD Seed Grant Awards

UFCD's Faculty Seed Grant Program provides support to collect sufficient preliminary data to submit a competitive application to the NIH, including K, R, P, U or other NIH grants, or to other organizations that utilize rigorous peer review as part of their award process. The primary goal of this grant program is to enhance extramurally-funded research conducted by our college investigators.

Full-time UFCD faculty members may request \$5,000 to \$20,000 per award for a one-year period. Proposal deadlines are rolling and applications are reviewed by the Research Committee at their next available meeting. Major factors considered in evaluation of an application include the project's significance, originality and feasibility; the qualifications of the investigator(s); the suitability of the environment; and appropriateness of the budget. The likelihood of securing future funding is a critical factor in the review process – proposals must show significant potential for securing external grants in the near future. The Office of Research commits up to \$75,000 per year to the Faculty Seed Grant Program. Dr. Robert Burne serves as the contact for the Seed Grant Award Program and can be reached at rburne@dental.ufl.edu. Application instructions are available at: <http://research.dental.ufl.edu/funding-opportunities/ufcd-funding-opportunities-2/>.

The Faculty Seed Grant program has had a remarkable impact on the college and its investigators. Since FY'09 a total of \$184,841 in internal funding has been awarded through this program. This very modest investment is associated with \$6,474,503 in external funding awarded through November, 2014. In large part, the success of the program is attributable to the quality of the science carried out by our faculty and to the rigorous and constructive evaluations provided by the Research Committee and its ad hoc reviewers. Faculty in Community Dentistry and Behavioral Science, Oral Biology, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Restorative Dental Sciences, Orthodontics and Periodontology, as well as their collaborators, have all benefited from this program. Funded projects have included mainly NIH R01s and R21s, but some corporate and foundation awards were also secured. Coupled with start-up funds, jump-start funding, pre-eminence funding and the bridge fund program, the UFCD Faculty Seed Grant Program has proven to be a critically important investment by the college in support of our research mission.

The next Fast Forward will focus on the self-funded DMD expansion program and its benefits to our students, our college and the state.

Hope you are having a great week!

Kind regards,
Dean Isabel Garcia

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