

# Newsletter

Loma Linda School of Dentistry / **SE.2012** / SUMMER EDITION



## NSRG Loma Linda Chapter Quadruples in Size

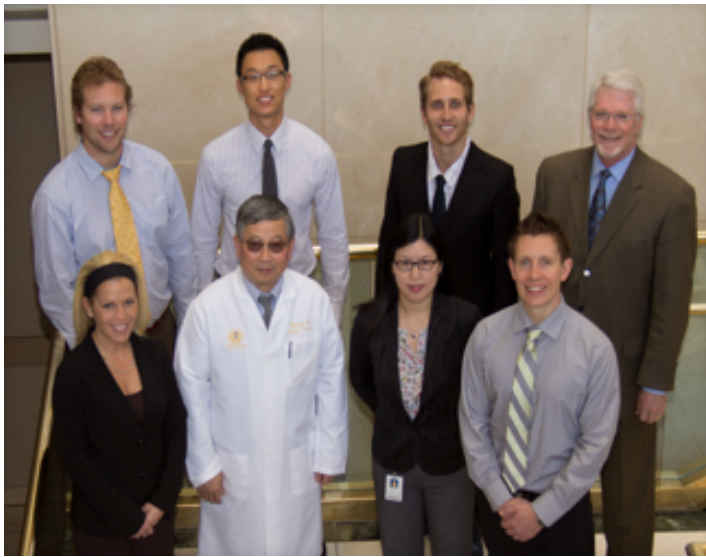
The goal of student research at Loma Linda University School of Dentistry is to help raise and maintain the quality of dental research and education by encouraging participation of dental, dental hygiene, graduate students, and dental school

faculty in research to improve oral health care. In addition research study encourages critical thinking skills and fosters

a better understanding of the scientific literature essential to the practice of evidence-based dentistry.

“ to help raise and maintain the quality of dental research and education by encouraging participation ”

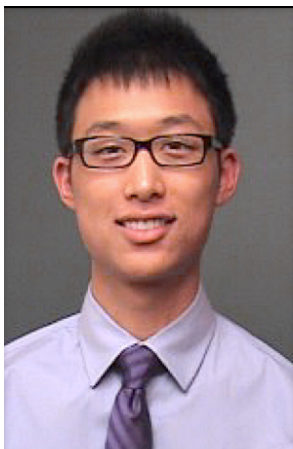
## Loma Linda Chapter for the National Student Research Group officers and supportive faculty advisors.



Nicole Whitney (SD'13) President  
Todd Wentland (SD '13) Co Vice-President  
Daniel Yang (SD'14) Co Vice-President  
Matt Enns (SD'14) Secretary  
Kevin Prates (SD'13) Public Relations Director  
Daniel Shaw (SD'15) Public Relations Assistant

These NSRG officers are working with faculty advisors Mei Lu, DDS, MS, PhD, associate professor, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery; Yiming Li, DDS, MSD, PhD, director, Center for Dental Research; and Ronald Dailey, PhD, executive associate dean for academic affairs, to improve the student research opportunities at LLUSD.

## STUDENT PROFILE [Daniel Yang]



To a dental student, the idea of doing research can be somewhat daunting. It can be difficult to figure out where to begin, who to talk to, and what topic to explore. As a D1 I had all those questions and more. Fortunately, that's when I was introduced to the Loma Linda NSRG chapter, which exists for the sole purpose of promoting student research and providing guidance throughout the process. Despite any previous research experience, I decided to take a leap of faith and began designing a study on the effect of resin coatings on the fluoride release of glass ionomers. The road to completion was a tough one and took nearly a year for, so it was a very rewarding feeling when the last data point was finally collected. I was pleasantly surprised at the amount of knowledge I gained not only about the properties of glass ionomers, but also in regards to the methodology and protocols of conducting a research study.

“I have absolutely no regrets about my decision to pursue research.”

The abstract was submitted to the American Association of Dental Research (AADR) and accepted for poster presentation at their annual conference. It was an amazing experience presenting on the main floor with hundreds of other researchers from all over the country. The amount of knowledge concentrated onto one convention floor was both overwhelming and inspiring. I also had the opportunity of representing Loma Linda at several NSRG meetings, where I was able to interact with dental students and faculty from institutions around the country and discuss many different topics pertaining to student research. In hindsight, I have absolutely no regrets about my decision to pursue research. The experience has broadened my view of the scientific process and shown me that research is so much more than a mere academic exercise. It is a systematic and methodical process that provides advancement in the field of dentistry, ultimately leading to a higher standard of care to our patients. I am grateful to be attending an institution such as Loma Linda, where student participation in research is both supported and encouraged. To any student interested in an area of research, I strongly suggest you start by joining our local NSRG chapter. You will find a dedicated group of students and faculty that will be an invaluable resource in your journey.





## LLUSD student researchers great day at CDA

Friday, May 4, 2012, was another great day for LLUSD student researchers at the annual California Dental Association meetings in Anaheim, California.

Of the sixteen LLUSD dental and dental hygiene student research teams that were awarded prizes during the School's March 15 student research presentations, half were awarded prizes by the CDA for their table clinics. Most notably, the School's dental student research teams swept first, second, and third prizes in the Clinical Category. LLUSD dental student researchers also took first and third prizes in the Scientific Category. And LLUSD dental hygiene students were awarded first and second prizes in the Research Category, with an Honorable Mention for the Community/Education Category.



Dentistry, Clinical, 1st place  
**Robert Judd, Kevin Murray, Timothy Matthews**

Comparative Analysis of Root Length  
 Using MRI and CBCT

MENTOR: Dr. V. Leroy Leggitt

**CDA Scientific Category, 1st place**



Dentistry, Clinical, 2nd place  
**Gregory Wright, Nicole Morris, Todd Wentland**

Rotational Force Required in  
 Uncomplicated Exodontia

MENTORS: Dr. Neal Johnson, Dr. Wayne Tanaka

**CDA Clinical Category, 2nd place**





## LLUSD student researchers great day at CDA - Awards Continued



Dentistry, Laboratory, first place  
**Brian Goodacre, Jason Mashni, John Yankee**

Effect of a Computer-Assisted Angulation Sensor in the Placement of Dental Implants

MENTORS: Drs. Charles Goodacre, Jaime Lozada, and John Won

**CDA Clinical Category, 1st place**



Dentistry, Laboratory, third place  
**Peder Nordberg, Rajesh Swamidass, Anthony Craig**

Measuring the Parallelism of Dental Implants Placed by Clinicians with Varying Degrees of Experience

MENTOR: Dr. John Won

**CDA Clinical Category, 3rd place**

## BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Loma Linda's National Student Research Group (NSRG) of the American Association for Dental Research (AADR) is here to help facilitate student opportunities for research in areas of interest to the student. We do our best to help match faculty mentors with students who are interested in the same field. Active involvement in research is strongly encouraged at LLUSD, especially for those students planning on pursuing additional training in a particular field post graduation.

LLU's NSRG is here to help do this for you. Right now is the time to notify LLU's NSRG of an area of interest as we are promoting the formation of study clubs in various fields where we have been notified by students of their desire to learn more or get involved. Aside from study clubs, your LLU NSRG helps interested students gain many travel opportunities, promotes networking with others from your school and other schools, and will facilitate research opportunities at a local, national, and international level. Please feel free to contact any one of your Loma Linda University School of Dentistry Chapter representatives and check out our website for more information.

