The Loma Linda Chapter for the National Student Research Group is proud to present this year’s new officers and supportive faculty advisors. Michael Knutson, SD’11, president; Kirollos Zakhary, SD’11, vice-president of public relations; Michael Hiersche, SD’11, vice president of technology; Nicole Whitney, SD’13, secretary; and Dan Niemann, SD’12, D3 class research representative. 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.

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.
This past July, I had an opportunity to attend the International Association of Dental Research (IADR) General Session in Barcelona, Spain as a student researcher. Every year, IADR sponsors an annual convention for dental researchers from all over the world to present the latest research in oral health science. As a fourth year dental student, I was honored by the invitation to represent my research group and conduct an oral presentation on the topic of “Electromechanical Luxation: An Application of Dynamic Loading in Tooth Extraction.” The opportunity to present our research to other fellow researchers was a personally rewarding experience. Attending the General Session has inspired me to continue dental research and has helped me realize the importance of international collaboration for increasing knowledge in the field of oral health science. During the event, I met individuals from many different countries and I was enlightened by the vast amount of quality research that is being conducted internationally every year. I feel very fortunate to have attended this international event and I would strongly encourage any dental student interested in research to apply for the upcoming 2011 General Session in San Diego, California.

STUDENT PROFILE: MICHAEL HIERSCHE

Michael Hiersche
Class of 2011

Upon beginning my third year at LLUSD I knew that I wanted to get involved in research in the area of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery as that was, and still is, the field which most interested me. With faculty mentors Dr. Tanaka and Dr. Lu, as well as fellow classmates Scott Arceneaux and Filip Orban, I began working on an OMFS related project. After presenting a detailed synopsis of our planned project to the school we were granted enough funding to ensure that our research could be effectively carried out. With our research complete I soon found myself in Gaithersburg Maryland at the American Dental Association’s 46th Annual Dental Students’ Conference on Research. While there I got to meet other dental students from all over the country who were also interested in research. We got to share ideas from different NSRG chapters across the country, present our current research projects, tour the Paffenbarger Research Center, and learn about ever present opportunities for research at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR).
**RESEARCH ACTIVITIES**

**LLUSD Research Day**
Nine winning groups of dental students and three winning groups of dental hygiene were generated from LLUSD Research Day on March 18, 2010. Research categories included clinical, educational, and laboratory.

**2010 CDA Convention**
Loma Linda students won ten of the sixteen available awards—three first, three second and one third (and three honorable mentions)—at this year’s CDA Table Clinic Competition on May 16, 2010.

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Peer-Reviewed Paper**

**Abstracts**

**2010 ADA Student Research Conference**
- Michael Knutson represented Loma Linda University at the ADA 46th Annual Dental Students’ Conference on Research in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

**UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**
1. **2010 Hinman Student Research Symposium**
   Dental students will present their research at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center’s national Hinman Symposium.

2. **AADR/IADR Poster Presentations**
   Multiple students will be presenting their research in San Diego during March of 2011.

3. **LLUSD Student Research Presentations**
   Dental students and dental hygiene students will present their research projects to faculty and fellow students at the end of March 2011 in the Centennial Complex.

**MORE INFORMATION**

If you have any questions or would like to become involved in any of the activities, you can find out more at our website. https://lluonline.llu.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp

We will continue to post updates and news about the Loma Linda University Chapter as well as any research opportunities for students. If you are interested in joining the Loma Linda chapter for AADR/NSRG, please feel free to contact Nicole Whitney, SD’13, at nmorris@llu.edu.

If you are interested in participating in a state, national, or international research event you may contact Dr. Mei Lu at melu@llu.edu

We currently have
- Student Research Projects
- Faculty Research Projects
- Journal Clubs

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- **March 16–19, 2011**
  AADR/IADR Student Research Group Competition, San Diego, CA.
  October 1, 2010
  Abstract submission deadline for IADR/AADR

- **May 12-14, 2011**
  CDA Table Clinic Competition in Anaheim, date TBD
  March 25, 2011: Deadline to register for CDA Table Clinic Poster Presentations.

**March 2011**

LLUSD Student Research Presentations

**May 2011**

ADA 47th Annual Dental Students’ Conference on Research
March 2011: Deadline to register for ADA 47th Annual Dental Students’ Conference