

DELTA DENTAL FOUNDATION

An affiliate of Delta Dental of Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana

Faculty Research Grant

Contribution Request

It has been recognized by the affiliated Delta Dental of Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana for more than a decade that it has a legitimate interest in fostering research related to oral health, especially research which could have direct clinical application with significant potential for reducing treatment costs along with improving oral health. To that end, a portion of the Delta Dental Foundation's (DDF) budget each year is allocated for dental research grants. The Research Screening Committee has been established within the DDF to act as a review body for research applications.

FACULTY RESEARCH GRANT GUIDELINES:

1. Priority will be given to projects that focus on issues related to the delivery and financing of oral health care, including those which could have direct clinical application with significant potential for reducing treatment costs along with improving oral health.
2. Consideration will be restricted to researchers from the dental schools in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana.
3. Priority will be given to two types of studies:
 - a. Pilot or feasibility studies which are likely to enhance the investigator's chance for long-term funding from other sources
 - b. Complete projects considered to be of interest to Delta Dental, for which other sources of funds are traditionally not available
4. Studies of interest to Delta Dental include:
 - Research in the cost/benefit of preventive and treatment procedures for the two major dental diseases—caries and periodontal disease
 - Studies that evaluate the outcome of preventive and treatment procedures
 - Studies that consider the cost/benefit of including various procedures as dental benefits
 - Development of risk assessment criteria
 - Retrospective studies or those involving analysis of existing data should be considered, rather than long-term follow-up studies (in order to reduce the years required to obtain data)
 - Studies involving individual proprietary products are considered the manufacturer's responsibility, and normally will not be funded
 - Research likely to result in patents or copyrighted materials will not be funded
5. Funding up to \$30,000 will be considered.
6. Overhead charges to eligible institutions will be limited to eight percent.
7. Contributions toward salaries for investigators with faculty appointments will be limited to 10 percent of the investigator's salary.

These guidelines are intended to encourage investigators to develop a long-term view of support for their research, and to encourage use of DDF funding to promote the development of high-quality research in selected areas that can compete successfully for support from other sources. They are also intended to provide for the funding of high-quality research that may be of more local interest, and therefore may be at a disadvantage in competing for funding at a national level.

RESEARCH PROPOSALS:

Proposals should include the following:

- A curriculum vitae for the principal investigator
- Documentation of the validity of indices used for measurement
- References to support all assertions
- The common terms for proprietary names
- Diagrams as necessary to provide clarification for reviewers who are not experts in the field

Proposals will be reviewed by the Research Screening Committee and ranked according to:

- a. Relevance of the project to the priorities of Delta Dental
- b. Technical excellence
- c. Budget considerations

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Since funds available for grants are limited, the review process will attempt to select the proposals for funding that will make the best use of the available funds. Pilot projects, and on-going department projects will be considered. Partial funding may be approved, dependent on reasonableness of the budget and availability of funds.

Multi-year proposals are acceptable, but funding will not be approved for more than one year at a time. In areas of research where other sources of funding are usually available, a plan for seeking other support for subsequent years will be expected as part of the initial proposal.

Except in special circumstances such as those described in 3.b., on the first page, investigators should not seek full funding from the DDF for projects where other sources are available.

A report and results should be provided at the end of the funding period, and at least once per year for multi-year projects. After completion of a study and submission of a final report, the principal investigator may apply for up to \$1,000 toward the investigator's travel expense to present the findings to a meeting of the International Association of Dental Research or the American Association of Dental Research.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Research proposals will be reviewed once each year. Proposals are due by April 15 each year. Proposals will be reviewed by the DDF's Research Screening Committee. Awards for April submissions will be announced in July.

If you have questions or would like additional information concerning Faculty Research Grant applications, please contact the DDF:

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ABOUT THE AWARD SPONSOR:

The Delta Dental Foundation is the philanthropic affiliate of Delta Dental of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and North Carolina. Its purpose is to fund educational and research projects in dentistry and to promote the oral health of the public.