Fostering participation in dental research enriches the dental school experience by encouraging students to engage in scientific inquiry. Because dental research is vital to the growing demands of the dental profession, the Dental Student Research Fellowship Program was created to help provide funding to promote independent student research studies during the summer. MUSC Dental Student Research Fellows have received a variety of prestigious awards and continue to contribute to MUSC’s developing reputation as a research pioneer.

“My research fellowship greatly increased my understanding of the significant role research plays in my education and my professional career. The problem-solving skills I acquired during my fellowship will directly translate into my future clinical practice of evidence based dentistry.”

“—Jon Peterson, Class of 2013, President of the MUSC Dental Student Research Group and investigator of “Biomechanical characterization of porcine TMJ retrodiscal tissues”
Dentist Student Research Fellowships allow students to gain the real-world skills necessary to continue to pursue research throughout their professional careers, at a time in their education when they are able to focus solely on research. Participation encourages students to coordinate with their peers, local mentors, and institutional mentors to advance research and increase knowledge for the improvement of oral health.

A total of 15 students are selected each year to become research fellows at the James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine. Through research fellowships, our students have examined such questions as the oral effect of vitamin D deficiencies during pregnancy, when cleft palates are formed in the womb, and how immune leukocytes contribute to bone loss. Students gain faculty mentors and invaluable insight into the challenges facing modern dentistry.

In the past, fellowships were awarded through the National Institute of Health’s T32 training grant program which is, unfortunately, no longer available.

Please consider sponsoring a dental student research fellow through a contribution to the Dental Student Research Fellowship Fund. Any size gift is appreciated and multi-year pledges are welcomed. The cost to sponsor a dental student’s annual fellowship is $4,000. A research fellowship may be permanently endowed and named for $50,000.

For more information, please contact the Development Office at (800) 810-6872.