SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE
CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

Summer Research Opportunities for Dental Students: 2025

- http://dental.case.edu/research

(click on student summer research on the menu)
On the website, look for items marked 2025

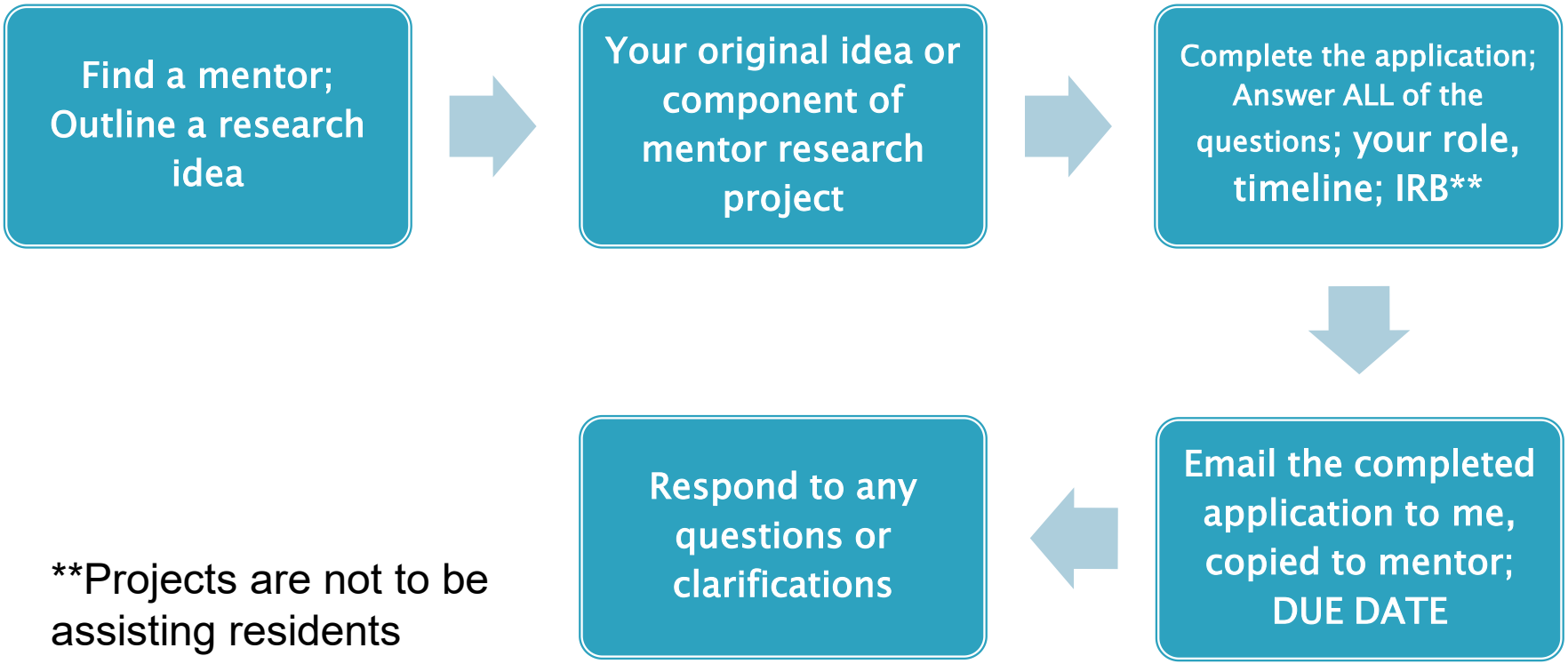
Summer Research at SoDM: D-CODAS: Design, Collect, Organize, Describe, Analyze; Share

- participate in the process of scientific investigation;
- gain first-hand knowledge and experience with the methodology required for research;
- collect, analyze and interpret the project data under the guidance of their faculty mentor;
- present findings at local/national meetings

Program Structure

- 8-week, full-time commitment to project work
- No outside, full-time work
- Where the work is conducted depends on mentor; must have at least one SoDM mentor
- Surveys, basic science, pre-clinical (materials), chart review
- **Attend the 2-3 summer research meetings**
- **Shared projects are discouraged; share stipend, share travel money**
- **Submit interim**(June,30) and final (July 30) progress report, documenting benchmarks.

General Steps to Apply



**Projects are not to be assisting residents

DUE DATE is mid-March; immediately after Spring break

Summer Research– Application

- **Complete an application; see website for application details & format ; email submission to me, mentor must be copied on email.**
- **Address all of the questions on the application Your role, timeline. Provide details on the Methods, how / where will the work be conducted, how will you analyze the data collected.**
- **The applications will be reviewed by members of the Research Committee.**
- **You may be asked for details/clarification**

Your Responsibilities

- **Complete the project activities**; honor your time commitment. Communicate with mentor.
- Attend and participate in the seminars
- Get help with specific topics such as survey construction, data collection forms, etc.
- Update and submit Progress Template
- Let me know if you are having issues; delays of any kind; need to unexpectedly leave during the summer;

Mentors

- Faculty will be notified that students are seeking mentors
- No more than 2 students per mentor; ASK your mentor, check with me
- Mentors will evaluate and sign off on your progress;

A good student mentee:

- identifies his/her needs and presents them to his/her mentor.
- is open-minded and ready to try the mentor's advice.
- makes explicit requests for help.
- is honest and able to bring up any issue
- respects and appreciates the mentor's effort

What makes a successful project?

- Scope –all or mostly accomplished by Aug 1.
- Having a dental school mentor – outside collaboration is permitted but careful that your project does not solely depend on outside activities that are out of your control…..
- Your interest & persistence
- Letting me know if you are having problems, or delays

Human Subjects Research

- **Special seminar about IRB submission and requirements in January for those interested in summer research**
- Submit IRB documents as needed (human subjects approval)– start ASAP
- ****Any project that requires IRB review will require you to complete the CITI (human subjects protection) certificate. Online course – free.**
  - See dental school website; Research; Research Support; Credentialing & Certification –scroll down to CITI program, Initial Certification, GROUP 2
- **Before final project approval, you will need to provide**
  - Evidence of CITI course completion
  - IRB application submitted, if needed
  - If project is already approved, you need to be added on the IRB if using identifiable information.

Summer Stipend

Summer Stipend Amount and number TBD

Paid in 2 installments; July 31 and August 31. 2nd payment after progress reports and mentor signs off .

Progress benchmarks:

Before June 30 and 1st payment: Lit review and background, expanded from the application; IRB if required; Develop a data collection tool; a draft data entry database; Progress report

Submit final report for second payment.

Key Points for 2025

1) At this time, funding is not guaranteed, but strongly anticipated for at least 10 spots
2) Even if you choose to complete a project with no support, you still must complete an application.
3) Clinic-based projects are unlikely, but not impossible.
4) The most likely projects to consider will be lab-based work, anonymous surveys, secondary data analysis; a chart review; if the mentor has a currently active IRB to which you would be added.
5) You must complete the human subjects training (online and free – takes several hours) and fill out a conflict of interest form for any human subjects project.
6) The process for selecting representatives for national meeting (funded travel) will be a Fall (October, 2025) at a SCADA Poster competition
7) See the Student Research Page for information. https://case.edu/dental/research/student-research

Presentations

SCADA is the student research award; the award is a trip to the national dental research meeting to represent the CWRU dental school.

To be considered for the SCADA award: present at Fall (October, 2025) SCADA poster session here at CWRU. SCADA awardee must submit abstract and attend AADR in March 2026.

- **You are expected to give an ORAL presentation at Professionals Day in March 2026**

- **The expectation is that a project is completed so that students can present at a national meeting.**

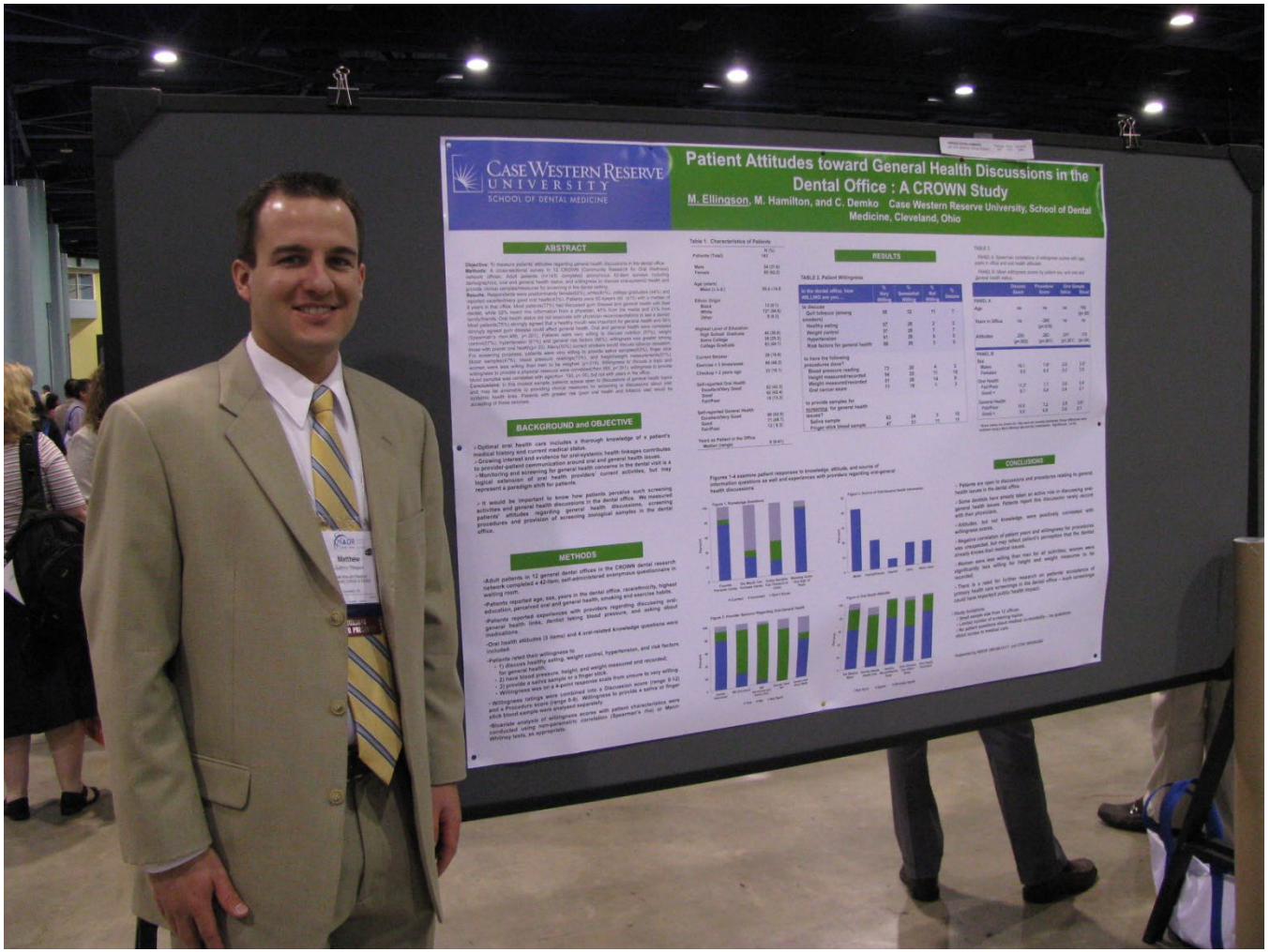
Travel

Travel; there is typically 3 travel spots plus the SCADA award travel.

The SCADA winner receives external travel support

Special projects in oral pathology or TMJ

I hope to update this information; competitive travel award


CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE
Patient Attitudes toward General Health Discussions in the Dental Office : A CROWN Study
M. Ellingson, M. Hamilton, and C. Demko Case Western Reserve University, School of Dental Medicine, Cleveland, Ohio
ABSTRACT
BACKGROUND and OBJECTIVE
METHODS
RESULTS
CONCLUSIONS

FAQs

1. Off campus project? No

2. When conducted?

   generally, mid-May through July 30; some flexibility;

3. Shared projects?

   Maybe, BUT any stipends will be reduced/shared. Two students only. If there is travel money, it will only be for one person or also shared. Project responsibilities for each individual should still be clearly outlined.

2026 AADOCR

- March 2026: San Diego
- Other possible meetings: ADEA, NOHC (public health);

QUESTIONS?

There were a few questions at the end;

Q: Can I help a resident or D3/D4 with a project? A: not as a funded, summer project. If you want to help for experience, that is up to the resident's faculty adviser.

Q: How do we find mentors? A: I will be sending an email to faculty to remind them you are looking. I will compile a list of names who are are interested/available and pass that along, but feel free to approach anyone. Look on school website for faculty interests; have some idea of what you are interested in . I will also try to get interested faculty to make a brief presentation in January to interested students.

Q. Can I continue the research past the summer? A: There is no formal, funded program after the D1 summer, but you are always welcome to continue. That is dependent on your time/availability as well as your mentors. But yes, a number of students have continued a project or taken on another project.