



## SDM's Dr. Ashu Sharma Receives 20-21 UB's Exceptional Scholar/Teaching Innovation Award



Dr. Ashu Sharma, Professor, Department of Oral Biology

SDM's Dr. Ashu Sharma is one of the 2020-2021 recipients of UB's Exceptional Scholar/Teaching Innovation Award – Sustained Achievement.

Sustained Achievement recipients are selected based on their body of work over a number of years. The award is not meant to serve as a lifetime achievement honor, but rather as recognition for outstanding performance in a recent segment of a scholar's career.

"For over two decades, Dr. Ashu Sharma has demonstrated sustained excellence as an exceptional scholar in the area of oral microbiology and immunology. Dr. Sharma has a long record of outstanding research documented by his remarkable bibliography of published work in excellent peer-reviewed biomedical journals, receipt of numerous peer-reviewed grants from prestigious funding agencies including 22 years of continuous support from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research and his mentorship of a cohort of outstanding young scientists and students. The impact of his work is demonstrated by his nearly 3000 citations, as well as invitations to lecture at prestigious universities and scientific meetings." Joseph J. Zambon, Dean, School of Dental Medicine.

Congratulations to Dr. Sharma on receiving this prestigious award.

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## Orthodontic Resident Wins First Place at 2021 American Association of Orthodontics Resident Virtual Conference



Dr. Moufida Abufarwa, 3rd year resident, Department of Orthodontics

Third-year orthodontic resident, Dr. Moufida Abufarwa, received the William R. Proffit Resident Scholar Award. She was named first place in the category of clinical research. The award was given at the virtual 2021 American Association of Orthodontists Orthodontic Resident Research Competition.

Orthodontic treatment in a number of patients has an unfavorable side effect with the formation of white spot lesions (WSIs.) Dr. Abufarwa's research interest has been focused on methods for prevention of WSLs. The current project used extracted teeth to show that applying MI varnish after acid etching the enamel surface, as would normally be done when orthodontic brackets are bonded, can significantly reduce enamel demineralization.

Application of the varnish after etching notably increased efficacy relative to applications of the varnish to enamel that had not been etched. The varnish contains fluoride and other remineralizing ions that combat the demineralizing process.

"Winning feels great, but that is not the point! What matters is the opportunity to share ideas with people who appreciate this area of research the most, satisfying my passion for advancing knowledge on this topic, and my desire to represent the University at Buffalo as a way to give back," stated Dr. Abufarwa.

"Becoming an orthodontist has been my lifelong dream. I am thankful to UB Department of Orthodontics for fulfilling my dream! I enjoyed being a resident and applying my education to patients in the clinic. Also, I want to express my gratitude to my research mentor Dr. David Covell, Jr., chair, Department of Orthodontics, and committee members Drs. Rosemary Dziak, professor, Department of Oral Biology and Amal Noureldin, professor, Texas A&M College of Dentistry, Department of Public Health Sciences for their help. Thank you!"

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Abufarwa for winning this award.

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If you have any news you would like to share, please contact Kelli at [natale@buffalo.edu](mailto:natale@buffalo.edu).

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