

# SDM Shout Out

Weekly News Updates for SDM Faculty, Staff and Students

## UB Dental Students Receive New York State Academic Dental Centers Scholarships



Sumayyah Ahmed,  
Class of 2022



Ankita Garg,  
Class of 2023



Karleigh Volk,  
Class of 2022

Scholarships have been given to three SDM dental students, Sumayyah Ahmed, 'D4, Ankita Garg, 'D3 and Karleigh Volk, 'D4, from the New York State Academic Dental Centers (NYSADC) Scholarship. The scholarship is directed at addressing oral health disparities within the state.

The New York State Academic Dental Centers (NYSADC), is a consortium of the six dental schools in the state, committed to improving access to dental care for people with special needs, particularly those with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

This one-year scholarship covers tuition and fees up to \$42,000 for the 2021-2022 academic year. The scholarship is designed to provide financial support and a pathway to further education and training for pre-doctoral dental students and residents who are committed to treating people with I/DD. Scholarship recipients will commit to treating this under-served population in New York State for one year following the completion of a residency program.

During the scholarship year, recipients will be invited to participate in educational opportunities to expand their knowledge of the unique needs of patients with I/DD and to connect with colleagues and potential mentors. Further, scholarship awardees will be encouraged to apply to the NYSADC Fellowship to Address Oral Health Disparities after completion of a residency program. This fellowship is an intensive one-year program in which fellows receive advanced training, provide direct clinical care to patients with I/DD and complete relevant teaching and/or research projects.

Upon completion of residency training and licensure in New York State, scholarship recipients will commit to working at a site in New York State with a significant I/DD patient population for one year. This service commitment could alternatively be fulfilled by providing part-time care at an approved facility over two years.

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## UB School of Dental Medicine Hits Record Number of DDS and IDP Applications



Luke Ramey, Associate Director of Predoctoral Enrollment Operations

**Fall 2022 will mark the largest predoctoral application pool in school history.** The DDS Program received over **2,300** applications (an increase of 3% from the previous year), and the IDP Program received **1,150** applications (an increase of 7% from the previous year).

Early tuition deposits indicate that the Class of 2026 will reflect notable increases in GPA and DAT scores. In addition to academic achievements, members of the incoming class have significant dental, research, volunteering, and professional experiences.

The Office of Student Affairs would like to thank all predoctoral admissions committee members and current students who assist with various aspects of the enrollment process (i.e. application review, interview day, etc).

Particular recognition goes to Luke Ramey, Associate Director of Predoctoral Enrollment Operations, who manages the day-to-day enrollment operations and implements strategies to increase efficiency and effectiveness of our holistic admission review process.

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## UB SDM's Research Finds Light Therapy May Accelerate the Healing of Skin Damage



Praveen Arany, Assistant Professor,  
Department of Oral Biology

Light therapy may accelerate the healing of skin damage from radiation therapy by up to 50%, according to a recent University at Buffalo-led study.

The research found that photobiomodulation – a form of low-dose light therapy – lowered the severity of skin damage from radionecrosis (the breakdown of body tissue after radiation therapy), reduced inflammation, improved blood flow and helped wounds heal up to 19 days faster.

The findings, published on Dec. 28 in [Photonics](#), follow prior reports on the effectiveness of light therapy in improving the [healing of burn wounds](#) and in [relieving pain from oral mucositis](#) caused by radiation and chemotherapy.

The research was led by Rodrigo Mosca, PhD, visiting fellow from the Nuclear and Energy Research Institute (IPEN) and the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, both in Brazil. Carlos Zeituni, PhD, professor at IPEN and the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, is a senior author.

“To our knowledge, this is the first report on the successful use of photobiomodulation therapy for brachytherapy,” said senior author Praveen Arany, DDS, PhD, assistant professor of oral biology in the UB School of Dental Medicine.

“The results from this study support the progression to controlled human clinical studies to utilize this innovative therapy in managing the side effects from radiation cancer treatments,” Arany said.

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