Welcome to the MSRG!

Being president of the MSRG has been my most satisfying and stimulating experience in student groups to date. I know you will enjoy reading about the unique opportunities our student group provides. I am very proud of what our leadership has done so far. Enjoy!

-Co-Founder & Past President
David Nedrelow

CASECATS
The MSRG offers a unique opportunity to hone your skills as an informed clinician.

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JAMES BROWN PRESENTS
Our Journal Club meets monthly and covers various publications and study designs with a faculty expert!

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SPRING RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM
In the spring, a panel of experienced clinicians and specialists covered practice-based research.

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“I am excited to support our School of Dentistry’s MSRG. It is essential that all practicing dentists understand research, evidence-based dentistry and the science behind every process and procedure. The MSRG adds inestimably to our success in that endeavor.”

-Dean Leon Assael

THE MINNESOTA DENTAL STUDENT RESEARCH GROUP

The Minnesota Dental Student Research Group (MSRG) is comprised of students concerned with clinical dentistry and research at the University of Minnesota. High-impact programs, including CaseCATs, James Brown Presents Journal Club, and the Spring Research Symposium, have made this group a model of student leadership at the School of Dentistry.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

- To Promote Science and Research in Dentistry.
- To Seek out New Colleagues and Research Networks.
- To Advocate on Behalf of Our Members at the State and National Level.
- To Provide Educational Experiences and Unique Opportunities.
- To Encourage Members to Engage in Research Activities.
- To Advance the Scientific Practice of Dentistry.
It’s important that we get into the habit of learning to see what the research says when making our treatment decisions. Since there are so many options, and dentistry is ever-changing, we need to stay updated on what the current literature says. At the same time, we must not jump on every new piece of information that comes out. We must see what actually has been substantiated over a longer period of time in the literature.

- Anthony Schwigel, ’14
“James Brown Presents” MSRG Journal Club

What a unique name, right? The “James Brown Presents” Journal Club is a monthly meeting hosted by the MSRG. At each meeting, dental students gain confidence in systematically critiquing scientific papers on relevant clinical topics. Students are successively introduced to the basics of study design, key study methods, and basic statistics. Ultimately, members are trained to grade studies using common evaluation scales, checklists, and domain-based rubrics.

The Journal Club is popular with students as well as faculty members. Attendees can hone their skills in critical appraisal while keeping updated on current literature. There is an average of approximately 22 students and four faculty members at each session—sometimes the Dean himself!

During the Journal Club, a student presenter introduces a topic and provides an overview of a relevant, recent article. The presenter focuses on the design and statistical aspects of the study and leads the critique following the presentation. Students and faculty in attendance are encouraged to review the paper beforehand, answer discussion questions, and grade the study. Student participants often ask for insight and critiques from the expert faculty members. In turn, faculty members provide a summary of current literature and directions for the future.

Check out the wide variety of interesting topics!

Dr. Sanket Nagarkar, co-founder of James Brown Presents Journal Club

2013 Topics:
- Periodontal Therapy and Pre-Term Birth
- Dental X-Ray and Meningioma
- Implants vs. Endodontics
- Bonding and Sealants
- Cone-Beam in Orthodontics
- Articaine vs. Lidocaine
- Incomplete Caries Excavation
- Ultra-short Implants
- Hall Technique
- Preventive Care in Dentistry
- Oral Cancer Screening
- Novel Restorative Materials
- Tooth Loss and Quality of Life
Second Annual Spring Dental Research Symposium

Thirty students and guests from the MSRG enjoyed a private viewing of the Weisman Art Gallery, followed by a catered dinner and discussion with six speakers. The panel focused on the current state and future direction of evidence-based dentistry, practice-based research and how it relates to dental students and private practitioners. This event gives students the opportunity to interact with leaders in the field of dentistry on a personal level outside of the normal confines of the academic setting. The Annual Symposium is a great opportunity for networking and an enjoyable evening at a fantastic venue.
Fall Seminar

The MSRG hosted the First Annual Fall Research Seminar in November. Fourth-year dental student Kyle Holmberg discussed his path in research, beginning with his undergraduate experience and extending to his recent year at the National Institutes of Health. He also encouraged dental students to pursue careers in academics and research.

Lunch & Learns

In the spring, the MSRG provided a Lunch & Learn about the National Dental Practice-Based Research network. The Midwestern hub of this network is located at Health Partners in Minneapolis, MN. Dr. Neil Johnson, DDS/MD, spoke about the network, its successes and shortcomings, and how individual private practitioners can become involved.

Poster Workshop

Many members of the MSRG have traveled nationally and internationally to present their research projects. The School of Dentistry sponsors D1 and D2 Summer Research Fellows to present their work at a variety of conferences throughout the nation. To help students prepare for the big day, the MSRG provides a workshop at which upperclassmen provide poster-making tips, offer advice and feedback, and share their conference experiences.

3M Tour

In April, members of the MSRG took a tour of the Research & Development department of 3M ESPE in Woodbury, MN. Students toured the labs and received a private presentation by the leaders of lab groups responsible for developing the latest 3M dental materials.

Don’t miss these great events next year!
Kyle Holmberg

“love life-long learning and forging positive relationships.”

Kyle spent a year doing research at the NIH!

Nicknamed a “game-changer”, Kyle Holmberg completed three years of dental school before heading to Dr. Mathew Hoffman’s lab at the NIH. After completing a year of basic science research, he was the recipient of both the AADR and IADR 2013 Hatton awards. We welcomed him back in the fall as the speaker of our First Annual Fall Research Seminar!

My career goals have drastically shifted since when I applied to dental school. Back then, I viewed dentistry as a job, and was more interested in having time for hobbies and other interests. It wasn’t until I became involved with research through the Summer Research Program and the Minnesota Dental Student Research Group (MSRG) that I saw that a career could be much more.

Fueled by such positive experiences in research at Minnesota, my pursuit of science led me to take a leave from dental school to participate in the NIH Medical Research Scholars Program (MRSP). The MRSP is a fully funded, twelve-month research training program in basic science, translational, and clinical research with intramural investigators at the NIDCR/NIH.

My training in both clinical care and scientific research has impressed upon me the need for clinician-scientists to better understand disease and improve patient-care outcomes. I aspire to be an innovator at the intersection of research and clinical practice on the forefront of transformative changes in medicine and dentistry.

Deciding to go to dental school was a means to an end. My future plans are about embracing my passions for improving care for my patients through scientific advancements. I will make the best of my opportunities through clinical practice, research, teaching, life-long learning, and forging positive relationships.

Kyle received the both the AADR and IADR 2013 1st Place Hatton Awards.
As a student that has not done research since undergrad, I was not terribly interested in the MSRG at first, as I had done no research in dental school. However, after listening to many in the clinic that were talking about the journal club, and the desire that I have to continue my learning after dental school, I went to a journal club meeting and I was hooked. Even as a non-researcher up to this point, I have recognized the importance of being able to critically appraise the dental literature, and the MSRG provides a pivotal outlet for students interested in learning what is on the cutting edge of evidence-based dental practice.

-Dr. Aaron Bumann, ’13

The journal club is a great place for students to come and learn how to think critically and evaluate new knowledge. For the rest of our careers we will need to continue learning about our profession.

-Dr. Jason Leet, ’13

“I was impressed with the way in which the group carefully and systematically evaluated the research using a review template that standardized the process. Student clinicians are very capable of reviewing the literature and arriving at their own opinions.”

-Dr. Gary Hildebrandt

“I think it's the best thing since sliced bread. It’s an important student-led initiative that needs to be continued and even expanded to include more students. These types of activities help ensure that dental students deliver care to their patients according to evidence-based principles right from the start.”

-Dr. Bryan Michalowicz

“The Journal Club has helped bridge the gap between clinical dentistry and research for students at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry through teaching and encouraging critical appraisal. The lessons learned through dissecting high and low-quality evidence will make us better clinicians.”

-Dr. Andrew Knofczynski, ’13

Journal club is a great way for students to interact with faculty in a facilitated setting on a peer-level basis. Not only does the “James Brown Presents” Journal Club examine the validity of information presented, but it sets students up for future success when evaluating new techniques and old dogmas in dentistry.

-Dr. George Hauser, ’13

MSRG members have a wide variety of interests and backgrounds. We are active participants in many activities in the School of Dentistry. Our programs offer unique opportunities to think outside the box, learn from fellow students, and get more from our dental education!
Officers

**Founding Members [2011-2012]**

President: David Nedrelow c/o 2013  
Vice President: Kyle Holmberg c/o 2013  
Treasurer: Sanket Nagarkar c/o 2013

2012-2013

President: David Nedrelow c/o 2013  
Vice President: Eric Strand c/o 2013  
Treasurer: Jeff Pumper c/o 2014  
Journal Club Chair: Sanket Nagarkar c/o 2013  
Membership Chair: Colleen McShane c/o 2013  
Spring Symposium Chairs: Xu Han c/o 2014, Matt Yu c/o 2015  
Member-at-Large: Lan Pham c/o 2015  
Web Designer: Claire Kuo c/o 2014

2013-2014

President: Colleen McShane c/o 2015  
Vice President: Matt Yu c/o 2015  
Treasurer and Membership: Michael Mittelsteadt c/o 2016  
Secretary: Abbie Wesley c/o 2016  
Journal Club Chair: Yetunde Fasoro c/o 2014  
Spring Symposium Chair: Xu Han c/o 2014  
CaseCATs Chair: Tony Schwigel c/o 2014  
Member-at-Large: Kyle Holmberg c/o 2014  
Web Designer: Claire Kuo c/o 2014

INTERESTED IN JOINING OR A LEADERSHIP POSITION?

Join the incoming officers as member, committee member, or chairperson and enjoy a satisfying journey with the MSRG! Email msrg@umn.edu for more information.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The leadership of the MSRG would like to give special acknowledgment to our faculty advisor, Dr. Joel Rudney, for his consistent support and advice. We also extend a thank you to Dr. Sven Gorr for his administrative support for our programming.

We thank Dr. Todd Thierer for his support of the “James Brown Presents” Journal Club. He is a valuable resource when critically appraising dental research.

We thank Dean Leon Assael for his contributions to and attendance of our events.

The MSRG thanks the Comprehensive Care Clinic Directors for their support of the CaseCAT initiative and their collective willingness to serve as mentors for student participants. Drs. Todd Thierer, Karin Quick and Jorge Perdigão graciously contributed to the judging of the CaseCATs. Thank you to Dr. Sheila Riggs, Gina Dugan and the dental engineering department who helped integrate awareness onto the clinic floors.

We thank the School of Dentistry Council of Students and the staff of the Office of Student Affairs for their support of the Spring Dental Research Symposium and their general support of our initiatives throughout the year.

The leaders of the MSRG thank the student members of the MSRG who contributed greatly to the success of our events. We specifically thank the following members for facilitating Journal Club meetings:

Jason Leet, ‘13
Michael Ahn, ‘13
Yetunde Fasoro, ‘14
Chad Larson, ‘13
Kyle Holmberg, ‘14
Michael Capp, ‘15
Kyle Danielson, ‘14
Raylien Chao, ‘15
Stephanie Zastrow, ‘15