

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **AADOOCR Announces Recipients of the 2026 AADOOCR Student Research Day Award**

**Alexandria, VA, USA** – The American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (AADOOCR) has announced the 2026 recipients of the AADOOCR Student Research Day Award. The recipients were recognized during the Opening Ceremonies of the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the AADOOCR, which was held in conjunction with the 104<sup>th</sup> General Session of the International Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (IADR) and the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association for Dental Research on March 25-28, 2026 in San Diego, CA, USA.

The recipients are:

- Boluwatife Afolabi, University of Minnesota
- Brooke Atkinson, Virginia Commonwealth University
- Jonathan Banks, University of Illinois Chicago
- Alexandra Benak, Marquette University
- Emily Bone, Southern Illinois University
- Sarah Brock, Medical University of South Carolina
- Drew Cuba, University of Missouri-Kansas City
- Elissa Elmor, University of Washington
- Karen Eren, Rutgers University
- Gracie Groth, A.T. Still University, Arizona
- Blake Henkel, East Carolina University
- Daniel Kotait, University of Connecticut
- Elizabeth Manning, Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine - Illinois
- Sangmin Park, University of Pittsburgh
- Danial Pirooz, University of California, San Francisco
- Kirby Robertson, Indiana University
- Aarshvi Shah, Touro College of Dental Medicine
- Michael Troka, University of Pennsylvania
- Corban Ward, Roseman University of Health Sciences

The AADOCR Student Research Day Award is open to AADOCR Institutional Section members and awarded to the best presentation at the university research day competition. The award will consist of prepaid meeting registration and a monetary prize of \$500 to assist in travel to the AADOCR Annual Meeting or IADR/AADOCR General Session for a student who has an abstract accepted to present at the meeting.

### **About AADOCR**

The American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research is a nonprofit organization with a mission to drive dental, oral, and craniofacial research to advance health and well-being. AADOCR represents the individual scientists, clinician-scientists, dental professionals, and students based in academic, government, non-profit, and private-sector institutions who share our mission. AADOCR is the largest division of the International Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research. Learn more at [www.aadocr.org](http://www.aadocr.org).