Dear Colleagues,

I hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy under the current circumstances. Over the past couple of months, your student research group has worked immensely to put on some amazing events such as board games night, student/faculty mixers, meetings with NCOHR director to name a few. We hope that you attended these events and found them to be valuable. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the SRG Executive, Heather Good and Dr. Maryam Amin for their efforts in ensuring all students have an amazing research experience at the School of Dentistry.

SRG had planned some exciting events on campus over the next couple months. However, with the current situation, we are working on hosting some virtual events instead. One such event is our annual town hall where we are looking forward to hearing from you directly. Lastly, best wishes for the rest of the semester and please take good care of yourselves.

Pranidhi Baddam
Student Research Group President

This year’s SRG events have been a great blend of fun and networking. We hosted two Summer Research Mixers, an SRG kickoff complete with samosas and board games, a CADR-NSRG webinar watch party, and hosted Dr. Alain Moreau for his NCOHR Town Hall. Here are just a few photos of the faculty and students of Dentistry in action:
I am proud to have participated in the Summer Student Research Program two summers in a row.

My first summer research project was with Dr. Sharon Compton and Dr. Ava Chow looking at Admission Criteria for Canadian Dental Hygiene Programs. My poster won the Best Educational Poster Award and I got the opportunity to present at the Canadian Dental Hygiene Association’s National Conference in St. John’s, Newfoundland! At the conference, I was invited to publish a short communication in the Canadian Journal of Dental Hygiene which we are currently working on.

My second research project was with Dr. Maryam Amin looking at Perceived Self-efficacy and Oral Health Outcomes Among Adolescents with Ethnic Backgrounds. This project was a completely new experience for me as it required going out into the community to collect data. I was able to interact with different cultures and learn about them. Currently, I am collaborating with my supervisor and her team to develop a poster to show-case our findings for the 2020 Day of Dentistry.

My advice to anyone considering research while in the DH or DDS programs would be to go for it! It is such an amazing way to learn about the field that you are in. You learn so many new skills that you would not otherwise have exposure to like data collection and analysis, making posters, public speaking, doing literature reviews, and so much more. Also, summer research looks great on resumes and allows opportunities for graduate studies. The best part of summer research for me was the opportunity to travel and present my poster in another province. I felt like I was representing my school and program which was a rewarding experience. My final advice to anyone interested in summer research would be to attend the SRG mixers and ask questions of supervisors about their projects, time commitment, and expectations. Get involved in a project that interests you – you won’t be disappointed that you did.
This February, just before Valentine’s day, we welcomed Dr. Alain Moreau to the University of Alberta. Dr. Moreau is the Director of the Network for Canadian Oral Health Research (NCOHR). NCOHR is an organization supporting research in oral health across Canada, with a specific focus on benefiting the health of all Canadians.

NCOHR has a close relationship with our University, both in supporting our researchers and students. Many of our students have been awarded CADR-NCOHR Student Research Awards to aid in their travel to IADR. In addition, the U of A Department of Dentistry SRG is currently the only student research group supported by NCOHR.

As students at the University of Alberta, we have the unique privilege of paving the way for new student research groups across Canada.

Dr. Moreau visited us on a stop during his Town Hall tour. We enjoyed an informative and motivational presentation on NCOHR, a progress update on an NCOHR-funded project by Wasif Qayyum, followed by a dynamic graduate student meeting.

The SRG thanks Dr. Moreau for joining us and sharing his experiences as a researcher and Director of NCOHR. Stay tuned for future collaborations with NCOHR!
2019/20 SRG Executive committee.
Front row: Dominic, Linnet (Secretary), Maryam, Pranidhi (President), Daniela (Vice President)
Second row: Julia, Umar (Treasurer), Simran, Raisa
Not pictured: Karen

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