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Dental Board of Qld awards \$70,000 in research grants

The Dental Board of Queensland has awarded over \$70,000 in research funding to seven projects aimed at improving health outcomes in dentistry.

Board Chair Ralph Neller said 2008 was the first time the Board had provided funding for research, after consulting in 2007 with registrants and key interest groups on its *Strategic Plan 2008 – 2012*.

“The Board is responsible for developing programs and undertaking research relevant to the profession and the continuing professional education and training of registrants,” Dr Neller said. “The Board is totally funded by registrant fees and it is satisfying to invest in research that will benefit the profession of dentistry and the Queensland community using this health service.”

In July 2008, the Board called for applications for research funding for projects with the potential to contribute significantly to dental practice in Queensland and improve health outcomes. Funding was available to all levels of researcher experience, from novice to experienced researchers.

“It’s particularly pleasing to see so many of the recipients are novice researchers. The Dental Board of Queensland is supporting these young researchers at the start of their careers, while maximizing the return their work may offer to the community and the profession,” Dr Neller said.

The successful recipients of Dental Board of Queensland grants funding in 2008 are:

- \$20,000 for the project *Acid tooth wear: a guide for oral health professionals* in the Early Career Researcher category, submitted by Farid Khan and William George Young, who are in private practices in Brisbane;
- \$10,000 for the project Pulsed laser ablation of smear layers in root canals in the Novice Researcher category, submitted by Raghad Hmud and Bill Kahler of the School of Dentistry, University of Queensland;
- \$10,000 for the project *A controlled study of the oral health of twin children* in the Novice Researcher category, submitted by Sue Taji and Kim Seow of the School of Dentistry, University of Queensland;

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- \$10,000 for the project *Oral colonization of mutans streptococci in infants using real time PCR* in the Novice Researcher category, submitted by Margaret Pukallus, Kim Seow, Phil Bird, and Trevor Holcombe of the Logan-Beaudesert Oral Health Services, Queensland Health;
- \$10,000 for the project *Preventative strategies for early childhood caries from antenatal to age 24 months* in the Novice Researcher category, submitted by Kathryn Plonka, Kim Seow and Trevor Holcombe of the Logan-Beaudesert Oral Health Services, Queensland Health;
- \$8,887.45 for the project *A controlled longitudinal study of caries prevention in children aged two to four years* in the Novice Researcher category, submitted by Stephanie Salanitri, Kim Seow and Trevor Holcombe of the Logan-Beaudesert Oral Health Services, Queensland Health; and
- \$1,800 for the project *Changes in the saliva and plaque parameters as measured by commercially available saliva and plaque sampling products in a defence population* in the Novice Researcher category, submitted by Nicholas Cusack and Gregory Mahoney of the School of Dentistry, University of Queensland.

“The Dental Board of Queensland congratulates all recipients of the 2008 round of the research grants program and looks forward to receiving an update on progress by the project team around mid-2009,” Dr Neller said.