Research Travel Program

In recent years, Tufts representatives travelled to Germany, California, Delaware and Australia to collaborate on dental research studies. Some of the projects involved research on glass ionomer restorative cements, bone grafting materials, antimicrobial agents, composite systems, impression and provisional materials, and tissue management devices. There are many opportunities to expand this program to other sites in concert with additional corporate sponsors.

Corporate research and development teams benefit greatly from the presence of talented student and faculty researchers in their labs. From sharing clinical perspectives and marketing ideas to collaborating on protocol design and execution, industry partners can find endless ways to utilize the skills of Tufts dental researchers during a week-long visit.

The program creates lasting relationships and future partnerships in both research and clinical dentistry. It also offers the industry sponsor opportunities to educate and inform current and future opinion leaders. Projects and programs are customized to meet the business objectives of the corporate host.

Industrial Appeal

Corporate research and development teams benefit greatly from the presence of talented student and faculty researchers in their labs. From sharing clinical perspectives and marketing ideas to collaborating on protocol design and execution, industry partners can find endless ways to utilize the skills of Tufts dental researchers during a week-long visit.

Educational Appeal

Tufts students and faculty value opportunities to visit the headquarters of leading dental manufacturers and conduct research with industry scientists. Rarely do dentists and educators gain insight into the multi-faceted and interdisciplinary world of dental product manufacturing. The TUSDM Research Travel Program offers educators, researchers and clinicians unique access to the industrial partners upon whose success they depend for their own professional achievement. The experience fosters understanding and shared information which benefits the participants, their patients, the Tufts community and the profession at large.

Summer 2016

Southern Dental Industries, Melbourne, Australia

“I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to travel with a fellow student to Southern Dental Industries main headquarters in Melbourne, Australia through the Travel Program. Not really knowing what to expect from the experience, I was amazed by the friendliness of those we worked with at the facility, the level of research we were able to accomplish and the beauty of the country. We gained invaluable insight into how dental materials (including the amalgam we use in the clinic) are made and worked first hand in testing products recently released to the market. We were on the cutting edge of a product that is just becoming popular in the United States and I have had some fun teaching faculty about the material when I returned to Tufts. We also had a great time exploring Melbourne, driving the Great Ocean Road and watching Australian Rules Football. Overall the trip was an invaluable experience that will make me a better clinician going forward and one that I will reminisce on for a long time.”

Tim Reichheld D’18

“I was delighted when I first found out that I would have the chance to work with 3M since we use many of their products in the pre-clinical and clinical settings. It was wonderful to have a chance to be able to participate in corporate research. I was pleased to see that many of the techniques and equipment used at 3M are also used at Tufts. This experience was absolutely wonderful and has increased my interest in dental materials.”

Alisha Anand D’18

3M Oral Care, Seefeld, Germany

“Having the opportunity to travel to Australia with a fellow peer was an extremely rewarding experience. We completed research in the area of hydraulic conductance and staining of dental materials. We worked alongside brilliant scientists and technicians while learning about the manufacturing and development of new dental materials. One of the best experiences was talking with researchers about how we as dentists use their products every day. When we were not completing our research projects we traveled all around the Melbourne area to visit the countryside and the city. We had a great experience at SDI and it was one of the most rewarding opportunities I have had at TUSDM. I highly recommend this program to anyone who has a passion for research and travel.”

Jacob Donohue D’17
### Summer 2015

**3M Oral Care, Seefeld, Germany**

“The Travel Research Fellowship has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my dental school experience. During the summer of 2015, I traveled with a classmate to Seefeld, Germany to perform a dental materials research project at 3M ESPE. In addition to completing a project evaluating the ease of handling of glass ionomer restorative materials, I worked alongside brilliant scientists and technicians and had the opportunity to explore the manufacturing and product development departments at 3M ESPE, a company whose products we learn about and utilize at TUSDM. I had no idea how much I was going to learn from this experience or how much I would be able to teach the scientists at the company about what is important about a given material to dental professionals. After work each day and on the weekends, my classmate and I traveled to the surrounding areas and immersed ourselves in the Bavarian culture. I highly recommend this program to any adventurous dental student with a passion for research, learning, and traveling. It is truly an unparalleled experience.”

Rachel Cohen, D’16

**Kerr Corporation, Anaheim, CA**

“I travelled to Kerr Corporation in Anaheim, CA with a fellow student, and it was one of the best experiences of dental school. Looking back, I can see how fortunate I was to perform research on the newest products and see first hand everything that goes into producing the materials we use on a daily basis. While at Kerr, I learned how products were created starting from the raw materials stage through the shipping stage. One gains a great appreciation for just how vast the profession is. On off hours, we had the opportunity to try great restaurants, go to Disneyland, drive to Los Angeles, and catch an Angels game. I highly recommend this experience to anyone who is interested in gaining a greater appreciation for dental materials, while having a blast.”

William Brown, D’16

**Dentsply, Milford, DE**

“The research travel program allowed me to experience the structure and methods of corporate dental research that I had never been exposed to previously. While working at Dentsply, I was able to interact with staff daily from multiple departments. I learned how ideas transformed into products and the magnitude of these products in dental offices. It was amazing to see how highly valued the dentists’ opinions were throughout the research process. Delaware also had beautiful sunsets and beaches to explore in the evenings! Michelle Ta, D’17

### Summer 2014

**DenMat, Lompoc, CA**

“I traveled to DenMat with another student to spend a week performing dental materials research through the TUSDM Travel Research Fellowship. While on site, I had the opportunity to work alongside scientists in the company’s Quality Control and Product Development departments and was able to observe the production of various dental materials and day to day functioning of the company. In the evening, we traveled to neighboring cities to take in the beautiful scenery and rich culture of the central California coast. We had a wonderful experience that allowed for both professional and personal development.” Rachel Cohen, D’16

**3M Oral Care, Seefeld, Germany**

“My research trip to 3M ESPE in Seefeld, Germany will probably be one of my best memories of dental school. I am so fortunate to have been given the opportunity to learn how research is performed in commercial laboratories and how materials are analyzed by the manufacturing companies. I highly recommend participating in this program to other dental students who are looking to expand their research experience while having lots of fun.” Jessie Reisig, D’16

The TUSDM research community welcomes inquiries from potential corporate partners. To learn more about the wealth of research resources available at Tufts, please contact Dental Research Administration:

Katie Dunn at 617.636.2745 or Katie.Dunn@tufts.edu