

Additional information on Rabinowitz Award Winners

(As of Spring 2023)

Elizabeth Barton, PhD (2003)

Dr. Barton is a Professor at the University of Florida (2015 – present) where the Barton Molecular Physiology of Muscle Laboratory primarily investigates skeletal muscle repair after acute injuries. Between 2017 to the present, she authored 23 research papers, which have been cited 3142 times.

Sunday O. Akintoye BDS, DDS, MS (2004, 2016 - 2017)

Dr. Akintoye is an Associate Professor and the Director of the oral medicine research program in the Penn Dental Medicine Department of Oral Medicine. His areas of interest include rare bone diseases and their dental, oral and craniofacial manifestations, and possible reduction of head and neck cancer treatment complications. His honors include a 2015/2016 Fulbright scholarship (Faculty of Dental Science at the University of Lagos) and a Herschfus Memorial Award (2018) for his “outstanding service to the American Academy of Oral Medicine.” Dr Akintoye is a member of the board of trustees of the American Academy of Oral Medicine (2011 – present) and an editorial board member of the Bone Reports Journal (2021 – present). Dr. Akintoye is also a clinician with a practice in general dentistry and maxillofacial surgery.

Faizan Alawi, DDS (2004 and 2017 - 2018)

Faizan Alawi is the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (2017 – present) , Director of Oral Pathology Services and Professor of Pathology in the Department of Basic and Translational Sciences the PENN Dental School. His research interests include the roles of specific proteins in the pathogenesis of oral cancer i.e., cell proliferation, genomic stability and cell transformation (carcinogenesis). He has 116 publications with 1853 citations.

Fernando Segade, PhD (2006)

Dr. Segade was an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology in the PENN Dental School (2011 – 2021). Currently working at Washington College in Chestertown Md, he has 27 papers with 1097 citations. His areas of interest include glucose transport in several tissues.

Claude Krummenacher, PhD (2007)

Dr. Krummenacher is a microbiologist at Rowen University. His research interests include the effects of Herpes simplex viruses on animal tissues. He has 38 papers with 6035 citations. Dr. Krummenacher held the rank of Assistant Professor in the Biological and Biomedical Department from 2014 to 2020. He is currently an Associate Professor.

Patricia Miguez, DDS, MS, PhD (2011)

Dr. Miguez is currently an Associate Professor in the Adams School of Dentistry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Since July 2022, Dr. Miguez has been the Vice President of the Women in Science Network of the International Association for Dental Research. She has been on the editorial board of the Journal of Dental Research since January 2021. Dr. Miguez has published 13 papers since 2013, many in the areas of bone and muscle growth factors, with 102 citations.

Elizabeth Barton, PhD (2011)

Dr. Barton is a Professor in the Department of Applied Physiology and Kinesiology at the University of Florida. Her research interests include the role of insulin-like growth factor in skeletal muscle growth and repair, and mechanical signal transduction in skeletal muscle. Dr. Barton is the principal investigator in the Barton Physiology of Muscle Laboratory. She has 144 publications with 9462 citations. Dr. Barton is also the Associate Dean for Faculty and Student Affairs.

Barton Jonathan Korostoff, DMD, PhD (2011)

Dr. Korostoff is Professor of Periodontics (a branch of dentistry concerned with severe gum infections which can result in bone loss, causing teeth loosening). in the Penn Dental School. He has published 53 papers with 1899 citations. Dr. Korostoff has a clinical practice in general dentistry, maxillofacial implants, surgery and periodontics.

Kathleen Boesze-Battaglia, PhD (2011)

Dr. Boesze-Battaglia is Professor in the Department of Basic and Translational Sciences in the Penn Dental School. Her research interests include various normal and diseased processes of the eye. She is an inventor of a potential gene therapy for macular degeneration (apparently not currently used in humans). Dr. Boesze-Battaglia has published 165 papers with 9098 citations.

Hydar Ali, PhD (2012 -2013)

Dr. Ali is Professor in the Department of Basic and Translational Sciences at the PENN Dental School. His research interests include the role of mast cells in various inflammatory processes. Mast cells, found near blood vessels in numerous tissues, contribute to immunity and wound healing. Periodontitis (a severe gum infection) is an example of a condition known to involve mast cell dysregulation. Dr. Ali has 74 papers with 3690 citations.

Ricardo Walter, DDS, MS (2012 – 2014)

Dr. Walter is currently Clinical Professor of Dentistry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In 2013 he co-authored an influential review article (28 citations) entitled The Current State of Adhesive Dentistry: A Guide for Clinical Practice. His current research interests include dental materials and resin-based restoratives. He has 47 publications with 818 citations. He teaches operative dentistry to 3rd and 4th year dental students and sees his own patients in the Dental Faculty Practice. Dr. Walter has also served as Associate Dean for Clinical Education.

Fuzan Ozer, DMD, PhD (2013 – 2014)

Dr. Ozer is currently an Associate Professor of Restorative Dentistry (2015 – present) in the PENN Dental School. Her research interests include the development of more stable adhesives and the role of enzymes called matrix metalloproteinases in the degradation of resin/tooth interfaces. She has 102 publications with 2258 citations.

Claire Mitchell, PhD (2014 – 2015)

Dr. Mitchell is Professor and Director of DSCD (Doctor of Science in Dentistry) Curriculum and Training in the Department of Basic and Translational Science in the PENN Dental School. Her current research includes the effects of several neurotransmitter molecules on the function of pigments in the retina of the eye and how they affect retinal cells in glaucoma. Dr. Mitchell has 93 publications with 17626 citations (23 articles with 8782 citations since 2018).

Elliot Hersh, DMD, MS, PhD (2014 – 2015)

Dr. Hersh is Professor in the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery/Pharmacology Department in the PENN Dental School. His clinical research program includes investigations of analgesics. He has 160 papers with over 3584 citations. Dr. Hersh also has a private practice (general dentistry and oral and maxillofacial surgery) at PENN Dental at the Robert Schattner Center in Philadelphia PA.

Manju Benakanakere, PhD (2015 – 2016)

Dr. Benakanakere is Assistant Research Professor in the Department of Periodontics in the PENN Dental School. His interests include innate and adaptive Immunity. Dr. Benakanakere has 40 papers with 2158 citations.

Baomei Wang, PhD, MD (2015 – 2016)

Dr. Wang was a principal investigator in the Department of Immunology of the PENN Dental School from 2014 to 2021. While there she investigated innate and adaptive immunity in areas such as development of anti-cancer and autoimmune therapeutics. Dr. Wang is an author of 37 publications with 3400 citations. Currently she is a principal scientific investigator at Genentech, a biotechnology company located in San Francisco that pursues the development of medicines for serious and life-threatening illnesses.

Bei Zhang, PhD (2016 – 2017)

Dr. Zhang was a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Pennsylvania from 2016 to 2018. Her research efforts included design and development of oral drug delivery systems and genetic engineering of protein therapeutics. From 2018 to 2019 Dr. Zhang was a research scientist at the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii where she designed oral anticancer therapeutics and produced via genetic engineering a therapeutic for use in human nutritional therapy. From 2021 to the present Dr. Zhang has been a scientist at PerkinElmer, Inc. From 2011 to 2022 Dr. Zhang has 19 publications with 244 citations.

Geelsu Hwang, PhD (2017 – 2018)

Dr. Hwang is an Assistant Research Professor in the Department of Preventive and Restorative Sciences in the PENN Dental School. His research efforts include the use of engineering principles to the investigation of microbial biofilm-associated oral diseases and development of therapeutics (therapies or drugs) to prevent biofilm formation. Dr. Hwang is an author of 81 publications with 3000 citations.

Faizan Alawi, DDS (2017 – 2018)

Dr. Alawi is Professor of Pathology and Director of PENN Oral Pathology Services in the Department of Basic and Translational Sciences in the PENN Dental School. He is also Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Dr. Alawi's current research efforts involve investigations of the roles of DKC1 gene regulation by the cMYC oncoprotein in the pathogenesis of oral cancer. (The prefix onco- refers to a cancer-causing variant of a normal protein or gene.) He is an author of 115 publications with 1873 citations.

Manunya Nuth (2019)

The paper mentioned in your list of Rabinowitz award winners (Discovery of a potent cytotoxic agent) was published in 2022 by the International Journal of Oncology 60 (4):41. A web page entitled "researchgate.net" mentions that Manunya Nuth's 5 papers reflect research "when affiliated with the University of Pennsylvania and other places". In another researchgate page he is listed as being in the Department of Microbiology (PENN Dental Medicine) with 11 publications with 145 citations. I mention this because I cannot find him in any current PENN Dental Faculty Department list or any mention of his qualifications.

Nataliya Balashova, PhD (2019)

Dr. Balashova is a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology (2014 – present) in the PENN Dental School. Her research interests include the effects of specific bacteria on oral health. Her sixth and latest NIH grant (2020 – 2022) is concerned with *Kingella kingae*, a bacterium that colonizes in the throats of young children and is the leading cause of osteomyelitis (bone infections) and septic arthritis in patients younger than 4 years old. She has 57 publications with 982 citations.

Francis K. Mante BDS, MS, PhD, DMD (2019)

Dr. Mante is Clinical Professor of Preventive and Restorative Sciences and Director of Biomaterials in the PENN Dental School. His research interests include new resins for dental fillings and improving dental appliances and dental composites. He is an author of 79 publications with 1561 citations. Dr. Mante also specializes in general dentistry with private dental practices in Philadelphia and Villanova PA.

Rahul Singh, PhD (2020)

Dr. Rahul Singh is a post-doctoral fellow in biotechnology in the Department of Basic and Translational Sciences in the PENN Dental School (2017 – present). His research interests include dental biofilm, therapeutic enzymes and plant-derived biopharmaceuticals. Dr. Singh is an author of 22 publications with 411 citations.

Cagla Akay-Espinoza, MD (2020)

Dr. Cagla Akay-Espinoza is a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Oral Medicine in the PENN Dental School (2014 – Present). Her research interests include the molecular mechanisms (e.g., oxidative stress, unfolded protein response and neuroinflammation) underlying neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer’s disease and HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders and their possible relationship with periodontal disease. She has 8 publications with 138 citations.

Eugene Ko, DDS (2020)

Dr. Eugene Ko is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Oral Medicine in the PENN Dental School. In 2022, he was designated as the Deputy Director, Clinical Research Operations in the PENN Dental Center for Clinical and Translational Research. Dr. Ko’s role as Deputy Director is to facilitate student and resident research and scholarships and enhance clinical research efforts. His research efforts include development of medical devices and technologies. Dr. Ko was awarded the inaugural (2021) Advanced Oral Craniofacial Health Award for New Biodevices for his development of a device that improves cleft palate infant bottle feeding. He also investigates neurological disorders of the maxillofacial region such as burning mouth syndrome. Dr. Ko has 27 publications with 225 citations.

Chenshuang Li, DDS, PhD, DMD (2021)

Dr. Li is an Assistant Professor and Co-Clinical Director in the Department of Orthodontics at the PENN School of Dental Medicine. Her research interests include tissue engineering and stem cell differentiation. She received a 2021 Orthodontic Faculty Development Award for her research developing a rat model for cleft lip and palate malformations to mimic the craniofacial malformations in patients. On April 23, 2023 Dr. Li is delivering a lecture on atypical serial extraction (A Scientific Advances Lecture) at the American Association of Orthodontics Convention in Chicago.

According to Google Scholar she is an author of 76 publications with 1454 citations.

Flavia Teles, DDS, MS, DMSc (2022)

Dr. Teles is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Basic and Translational Sciences in the PENN Dental School. She is also currently an Associate Research Investigator in the Department of Applied Oral Sciences at the Forsyth Institute in Cambridge Massachusetts.

Her research interests include the normal microbial ecology of the oral cavity and the identification and cultivation of pathogens in the oral microbiome. Her goal is to identify the role of pathogens in periodontal disease as well as carcinogenesis, which may lead to strategies for preventing these illnesses. Dr. Teles is currently on the editorial boards of the Journal of Dental Research and Frontiers in Cellular and Infection Microbiology. She also serves as reviewer for nine other dental and microbiology journals. She is an author of 58 publications with 2936 citations (19 publications with 1700 citations since 2018).

Yuan Liu, DDS, MS (2022)

Dr. Liu is a Research Associate in the Division of Restorative Sciences in the PENN Dental School. The primary focus of her research efforts is the investigation of severe early childhood caries. Dr. Liu was awarded the 2021 Colgate Award for Research Excellence (CARE), which promotes development of junior faculty in the areas of oral healthcare therapeutics and preventative strategies. She has 80 publications with 2,357 citations (59 publications with 2182 citations since 2017).