

## Steven Offenbacher Award for Excellence in Dental and Craniofacial Research

This research award offered by the Adams School of Dentistry, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill was established in 2021 in recognition of Dr. Steve Offenbacher's contributions to the field of dental and craniofacial research. This award recognizes one research paper in the field of oral and craniofacial sciences, that was either accepted for publication or published during the year preceding the dental school research day.

### Who was Dr. Steve Offenbacher?

Steven had an incredibly noteworthy career. He was a brilliant scientist and was considered the father of "periodontal medicine" due to his work on cardiovascular disease and adverse pregnancy outcomes. While his work in the area of oral and systemic diseases was novel, few appreciated how these associations also led to a better understanding of periodontal disease itself.

He envisioned not only moving discovery made in animal models eventually to treatment of a patient but also taking observations from clinical findings back to the laboratory to explore underlying mechanisms in animals. To facilitate this research, he established the Center for Oral and Systemic Disease in the dental school that included a clinical research unit (General and Oral Health Clinic), a laboratory, an animal research arm, a unit to train examiners for clinical studies, and the ability to conduct epidemiology studies.

At the time of his passing, he had published 339 articles in peer-reviewed journals with 12 papers in press. During his last 5 years, his articles were cited 12,801 times (not counting self-citations) and his h-index was 61. During his career, he had continuous grant support totaling 56 grants from the National Institutes of Health and industry. The subject areas of his research included articles in dentistry, medicine, biochemistry, genetics, microbiology, immunology, pharmacology, toxicology, chemical engineering, social sciences, mathematics, and neuroscience.

### Applications

- The award committee will accept self-nominations or nominations by others
- The nominated candidate should be the first or senior author listed in the publication and can be faculty or students
- Applications consist of a letter of nomination and a PDF copy of the paper associated with the nomination.
- Applications should be submitted to [julie\\_marchesan@unc.edu](mailto:julie_marchesan@unc.edu)

### Eligibility

- First or last authorship in an accepted or published paper during the year preceding the dental school research day (e.g. for 2021 research day the paper should have been published during 2020).

### Selection:

- The main judging criteria will be relevance/importance of the translational research for improving the knowledge and/or care of patients with oral and craniofacial health and diseases
- The award recipient will be the first or senior author of the study with the highest total rank score from the reviewers and decisions will not be open to appeal.

### Award:

- The award consists of a cash prize of \$350 and a recognition plaque where all authors are recognized
- The award recipient should be present during research day and the ceremony to receive the award



Dr. Steven Offenbacher 1950-2018