



School of Dentistry

513 Parnassus Avenue  
Box 0430  
San Francisco, CA  
94143-0430  
tel: 415/476-1323  
fax: 415/476-4226

Source: Cameron Heffernan; 415-502-7179

Email: [heffernanc@dentistry.ucsf.edu](mailto:heffernanc@dentistry.ucsf.edu)

Web: <http://dentistry.ucsf.edu>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 19, 2004

## **UCSF SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY DDS STUDENT WINS FIRST PLACE AT AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION'S STUDENT CLINICIAN COMPETITION**

Stanley Liu, a second-year dental student at the University of California, San Francisco School of Dentistry, was recently awarded first place in the American Dental Association (ADA)/Dentsply Student Clinician Program at the ADA's Annual Session in Orlando, Fla. Liu took the \$1,000 first-place prize and blue ribbon in the Basic Science & Research category during the session, held in Orlando, Fla., from September 30 - October 5, 2004.

Liu's presentation, "The development of an oral cancer pain mouse model," uses mice to demonstrate the crucial component of medicating the oral cancer patient. "Second to survival, the most important concern of the oral cancer patient is pain," Liu said. "To understand the peripheral mechanisms of oral cancer pain, a model of oral cancer pain is essential. In my mouse model, I demonstrate both acute and ongoing pain due to human oral cancer, and that both are reversible by morphine. This model can potentially be used for the study of not only oral cancer pain, but other types of soft tissue cancer pain as well," Liu continued.

"The School of Dentistry is extremely fortunate to have young predoctoral researchers of the caliber of Stanley Liu," Dean Charles N. Bertolami commented. "We are proud of all that Stanley has accomplished and will continue to accomplish in what will certainly be a promising career."

Brian Schmidt, Assistant Professor in the department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Liu's mentor, echoed Dean Bertolami's comments. "Stanley brought tremendous energy and intellectual creativity to this project," Schmidt said. "It is clear he is on a trajectory to becoming a productive and bright clinician scientist."

### **Established Researcher**

Liu was named a Howard Hughes Medical Institute/National Institutes of Health (HHMI/NIH) Research Scholar for the 2004-05 academic year, after completing his second year of dental school last spring. The HHMI/NIH program, established in 1985, gives outstanding students at U.S. medical and dental schools the opportunity to receive research training at the NIH headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland. This year is the first that the program, also known as the Cloister Program, has also invited dental students to apply. Liu was one of just five dental students accepted nationwide to the esteemed research program.

"I am very appreciative of the continued support given by my mentor, Dr. Brian Schmidt, and the UCSF School of Dentistry community, even during my year away as a Hughes scholar," Liu said. The Hughes program is outstanding, and reminiscent of the level of research that is found on the UCSF campus."

Last spring, Liu was awarded first place for his oral cancer pain mouse model in the table competition at the California Dental Association's Scientific Session in Anaheim.

(more)

###