

Dalhousie University

# Dental Research News



Research Development Office  
Faculty of Dentistry  
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### GETTING STARTED IN RESEARCH

The Association of Canadian Faculties of Dentistry and the Canadian Association for Dental Research are jointly sponsoring a second Symposium/Workshop along the lines of the one held in June of last year "Getting Started in Clinical Research". The second of these sessions will be held on June 18th - 19th 1988 at the Alpine Inn Montreal.

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### PLAN OF ACTION FOR RESEARCH

Our Academic Plan 1986-87 (December 1st 1986 pages 23-24) outlined six steps by which we could make a significant increase in our overall research activity. The financial constraints tend to limit the rate of implementation of some of these ideals. However, in spite of this a significant increase in our overall research activity has taken place during the past twelve months. It is clear that a healthy attitude to the role of research within our faculty is now developing. The submission of a total of 31 abstracts to the IADR meeting in Montreal and a further 4 or 5 papers for the AADS meeting are representative of the growing dynamic and healthy approach to research currently present within our faculty.

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### MRC PROGRAMME GRANT APPLICATION

A four project programme grant application "Synthesis, Evaluation, Application, and Biological Testing of Biomaterials" with a projected five year budget of over two million dollars has been submitted to MRC. The applicants are Foong Choong, Bruce Graham, Barbara Harsanyi, Robin Howell, Derek Jones, Jan Kwak (Chemistry), Michael Mezei (pharmacy) and Elliott Sutow. The four projects involved are:

#1 "Synthesis of Inorganic Biomaterials", #2 "Synthesis of Organic Biomaterials", #3 "Drug Release from Biomaterials", #4 "Increased Corrosion Resistance for Base Metal Biomaterials by Electro-polishing". In addition to the named investigators a further 12 collaborators have supplied letters of support for the programme. This is our second attempt to bring in a large programme grant, if successful the venture will provide a significant boost to research within our faculty. The putting together of a grant application of this size is no easy matter. However, once again as last year we had a tremendous contribution by members of the staff and faculty in the preparation of the grant application. This was a team effort with many making contributions way beyond the call of duty when working twenty five hours non-stop. The grant application arrived safely in Ottawa on time following our monumental effort. We have a site visit in connection with this programme grant set for the 23rd March 1988.

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### THE IADR PROGRAMME

How do our submitted abstracts end up as part of the programme of IADR? Many of us have never been quite clear as to how the system works. Having been involved with the programming of the Dental Materials Group papers at Dalhousie we now have a much better understanding and appreciate the effort which goes into the reviewing and programming procedure. The papers are forwarded by the central office to one of the 19 groups identified on the abstract form, each abstract is reviewed by three reviewers and given a score from 1 the highest, to 5 the lowest and the scores are averaged. Once the papers which have been rejected have been agreed upon the remaining papers are placed into Oral or Poster Sessions having a common theme. The authors and titles of all of the papers to be programmed have to be typed out and then assembled into a logical sequence in Oral and Poster sessions.

The programming also requires that session Chairmen and Co-Chairmen who must be members of IADR be selected for each of the Oral as well as Poster sessions. One of the main problems faced in the programming process is that many individuals request oral or poster sessions rather than agreeing to accept either mode of presentation.

The main reasons for rejection of abstracts are lack of details relating to the experimental methods and conditions of testing and the absence of data and statistical interpretation.

The various group Chairmen met in Washington at IADR central office to discuss details with the Annual Session Committee and to collectively review the programme and make final adjustments.

The Annual Session Committee is comprised of the Presidents and Vice Presidents of IADR and AADR together with the President of CADR and the executive officer John Gray. This Committee reviewed the bottom 10% of all programmed abstracts in addition to the abstracts rejected by the various groups.

Provisional figures show that this year the total number of abstracts received was 2761 these have been placed into 1186 Oral sessions and 1176 Poster sessions, some 13% of the abstracts were rejected. With well over 2300 papers, the meeting in Montreal will be the largest IADR meeting ever held.

One of the problems encountered in the programming of papers is the need to avoid the various conflicts with Oral sessions and Symposia or for those individual presenters involved in various other activities. Those of us at Dalhousie involved in the review and programming of the abstracts for the 1988 meeting will I am sure have a very healthy respect for the printed programme in future, even if our abstract has not been included. We are fully aware of the tremendous amount of hard work and effort which goes into putting the programme together. As Chairman of the IADR Dental Materials Group Programme I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to all who made such a fine effort in helping to review the abstracts and put the final programme together. This was a fine team effort. The Presidents of IADR and AADR Dr's Bill McHugh and John Greenspan said at the meeting in Washington that our review and programming of the papers at Dalhousie for the Dental Materials Group was excellent.

Derek Jones

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MEMBERSHIP OF CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF DENTAL RESEARCH, CADR/ACRD (CANADIAN DIVISION IADR)

If you are not yet a member of the CADR/ACRD (Canadian division of IADR) you should consider joining since there are numerous benefits to membership. One obvious advantage is the considerable reduction in the registration fee for attendance at the IADR or AADR meetings. For example if you plan to attend the IADR meeting in Montreal next March and you are not yet a member of IADR it would cost an additional \$100 dollars (US dollars) to attend the meeting. Since it only costs \$95 Canadian dollars to join CADR you will actually save about \$40 dollars Canadian by joining. However in order to obtain this advantage your membership must be activated on or before 1st January 1988, payment must be received by CADR on or before 11th December 1987.

Membership of IADR allows you to communicate with your research colleagues across Canada at meetings. In addition you get the full benefits of IADR membership which includes your subscription to the Journal of Dental Research. As a member you have the option of joining one or other of the various interest groups of IADR. In 1986 we had 16 names on the official list of members, let us aim to significantly increase our membership this year to reflect our increased research activity.

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IADR PRESENTATIONS

Once the official notice of acceptance of abstracts has been received, we plan to display copies of the Dalhousie Abstracts for the IADR and AADS meetings in both the student and faculty lounges. This will give faculty and students an opportunity to see the wide range of research activity which is being undertaken within our faculty.

A dry run of the IADR and AADS presentations will again take place in late February or early March as in previous years. This will have to be spread over two evenings due to the large number of papers involved, alternatively it may be possible to hold it during the daytime even on a Saturday?

It is possible that we may have several posters being presented at these meetings. The RDO will be circulating some details and advice on how best we can deal with the production of these once the individuals have been informed that their abstract has been accepted in the form of a poster.

Not only will this be the largest IADR meeting ever held it will also represent an all time record for the number of Dalhousie papers being presented.

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PLEASE NOTE THAT CADR MEMBERSHIP FORMS AND DETAILS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE Phone:2545.

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