

The Southern Academy of Periodontology annually conducts the Billy M. Pennel Graduate Student Research Award Competition. All post-doctoral students enrolled in a graduate program in the Southern Academy's district are eligible and are encouraged to enter this competition during their training. If they submitted a protocol in previous years that was not chosen, they are eligible to enter the same protocol in this year's competition.

The guidelines are as follows:

The student is required to submit a formal research protocol to the Graduate Student Liaison Committee for review. No reference should be made in the submission which would identify the program from which the student is enrolled. They will be scored anonymously, and the judges will not score any entries submitted from any other program with which they are affiliated. The format for the protocol may conform with the format designated by the student's program, but it must include the following sections:

1. Cover letter with title; name, address, phone number of student; category of research (basic science or clinical)
2. Supporting literature review
3. Statement(s) of purpose and/or hypothesis (es)
4. Section on material and methods
5. Bibliography in the format used in the Journal of Periodontology

Submissions lacking any of these elements will not be accepted. They will be returned to the author for modification and resubmission, if time permits, prior to the submission deadline. Results and discussion of research already completed should not be included with the submission. The first place students may (and are encouraged to) include results, discussion, and conclusions as part of their presentations at the annual meeting. We will consider two categories of proposals:

- I. Clinical Research
- II. Basic Science Research

Awards will be based on originality, practicality, and the importance of the research in respect to its impact on the future of periodontics.

Protocols should be submitted by April 1, to:
Dr. Greg Langston, 8487 4th St. N., St. Petersburg, FL, 33702. Email:
glangston@contemporaryperio.com

The first place graduate student in each category will be required to present a poster of his/her research project at the Annual Southern Academy of Periodontology meeting in June. (See Calendar of Events for dates.)

Winners will have an opportunity to discuss their research proposals and results with the attendees during breaks from the scientific sessions. This format will allow interaction and questions from the attendees.

In addition to a cash prize of \$500.00, the Southern Academy will provide accommodations at the meeting and will subsidize up to \$500 of transportation costs for both first place winners. Second place winners in each category will receive \$250.00 and accommodations at the meeting.

The winning graduate students are encouraged to submit their research for publication in a journal recommended by their research advisers. If the research is accepted for publication, the Southern Academy of Periodontology should be acknowledged for its support.

Any questions should be emailed to Dr. Langston at glangston@contemporarypero.com.