



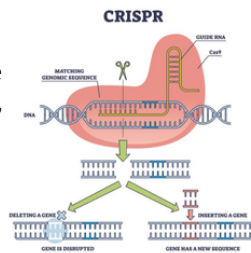
PDSA POST

October 7th, 2026

the FUTURE of dentistry

Could CRISPR-Cas9 be the Future of Preventative Dentistry?

Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats, better known as **CRISPR**, has the potential to change the game of preventative dentistry. CRISPR, specifically the Cas9 protein, allows for the modification of selected genes. A potential use of CRISPR technology in the dental field is targeting ***Streptococcus mutans***, the primary cavity-causing bacteria. *S. mutans* is found naturally in the mouth and is considered harmless until it reacts with sugar and produces biofilm that destroys tooth enamel. With the help of CRISPR, the genes that allow for the production of the biofilm could be targeted, potentially reducing dental caries while not disrupting the oral microbiome. Though CRISPR shows promising use in the future, it is not yet being used in dentistry. This technology is still in preclinical stages and has not been tested on humans yet, as safety and delivery limitations are a concern.



By: Lillian Grassin

DENTAL SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT:

UAB
SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

University of Alabama at Birmingham of Dentistry is ranked 17th nationally and is well known for being a top-tier research institution and having exposure to early clinical experience.



Located: Birmingham, Alabama

Averages: GPA~3.79 & DAT~430-440

Acceptance rate: 6.75%(in-state) & 2.67%(out-of-state)

Founded: 1948

Tuition: \$34,862 (In-state) & \$81,258 (Out-of-state)

Fun Fact:

- WWII veterans made up 100% of the inaugural class of the University of Alabama School of Dentistry

By: Veronica Pagan Ramirez

“brush up” on TRIVIA



Which factor contributes most to an increased risk of tooth decay while sleeping?

- A. A decrease in saliva production
- B. A decrease in oral pH
- C. An increase in bacterial activity
- D. Reduced movement of the tongue and cheeks

Saliva plays a huge role in protecting our teeth! It helps wash away leftover food, neutralize acids, and provides important minerals. Since we produce a lot less saliva while we sleep, our teeth have less natural protection at night, which is one reason brushing before bed is so important!

Answer: A

By: Catalina Zarate

Dental

MYTH ??
or **FACT**

"Baby teeth don't matter because they fall out anyway"



MYTH! Although baby teeth are temporary, they are essential for helping children eat, speak, and maintain the proper spacing needed for permanent adult teeth. Leaving baby teeth uncared for can lead to painful infections, difficulty eating, and premature tooth loss. Additionally, losing these teeth too early causes neighboring teeth to shift, which can severely impact the alignment of the adult teeth waiting underneath.

By: Cassidy Valentin



Pre-Dental Student Association

at the University of Central Florida



SPECIALTY HIGHLIGHT

Periodontics is a dental specialty that focuses on the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of conditions affecting the gums, bone, and other supporting structures of the teeth. After earning a DDS or DMD, those who pursue this specialty typically complete an additional three years of specialized residency training. Periodontists primarily focus on treating periodontal disease and performing procedures such as gum and bone grafting, periodontal surgery, crown lengthening, and dental implant placement. This specialty is a great fit for those interested in surgical procedures, implant dentistry, and preserving their patients' oral health and smiles long-term.

While income can vary significantly depending on experience, location, and practice setting, salaries generally range from approximately \$160,000 to \$300,000 annually.

Fun fact: These procedures are typically applied during childhood prior to braces to effectively guide jaw development during active growth. Most patients are 6-14 years old.



By: Camila Diaz-Tornes

DAT hot tip!

Don't try to study every section equally, you will tend to get a bit more overwhelmed! Figure out your weakest areas early and spend the most time on those. I found that focusing on the topics I consistently missed was more helpful than repeatedly reviewing material I already knew.

But take a deep breath, focus and remember we will all be dentist at the end of the day!

- Katie Childs

Instagram



Website



Discord



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10% off
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DAT COURSE

\$150 off
150UCF

Bootcamp.com

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Partial Proceeds



MEET THE GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. Giang Vu



Dr. Giang Vu finished his Doctor of Dental Surgery program in Vietnam and worked as a dentist and dental office manager many years ago. After moving to America, he earned his Master of Science in Healthcare Management at the University of Rochester and afterwards completed his PhD program in Health Management and Policy at the University of Louisville, where he worked as a graduate research assistant. Currently, he is an

Assistant Professor in the School of Global Health Management and Informatics at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, FL

Dr. Vu was recognized for Wiley's Top Cited Article 2022-2023 in the Journal of Public Health Dentistry titled "Oral health-related quality of life in US adults with type 2 diabetes". His specialties include adverse oral health outcomes among patients with systemic diseases as well as disparities in utilization and access to dental and medical care services. He values improving both oral and systemic health and said, "My research is driven by a deep commitment to improving oral health outcomes and access to dental care among vulnerable populations and those with systemic diseases such as diabetes."

By: Evangelia McCaffery

recently in pdsa... How to: Shadowing & Professionalism Workshop



At the "How to: Shadowing & Professionalism Workshop," members learned how to better prepare for shadowing opportunities and present themselves professionally in both clinical and everyday settings.

The workshop covered different methods to reach out to dental offices, proper email and phone etiquette, what to wear while shadowing, and how to make a strong first impression. Members also learned more about PDSA shadowing opportunities across different dental specialties and gained insight into the personalities and working styles of each dental professional. At the end of the event, members were given the opportunity to take professional headshots!

By: Bryan Tenorio

Thank you all for coming!

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