

Southern Academy of Periodontology

2026 William M. Pennel Research Competition

Sponsored by Philips Sonicare

The Southern Academy of Periodontology conducts the Billy M. Pennel Graduate Student Research Award Competition annually. 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 that was not chosen in previous years, they are eligible to enter the same protocol in this year's competition.

Guidelines

The student must submit a formal research protocol in **unlocked/non-passcoded Word format (no PDF, please), no more than five (5) pages long**, to the Southern Academy of Periodontology Research Submission Committee for review. This is a protocol, so the research does not need to be complete, nor does the project need to be finished. After the cover letter, no reference should be made in the submission that would identify the student or the program from which the student is enrolled. If any such reference is observed, the submission will be rejected. All submissions will be scored anonymously, and the judges will not score any entries submitted from the program with which they are affiliated. The format for the protocol may conform to the format designated by the student's program, but it must include the following sections:

1. Cover letter ONLY
 - a. Title
 - b. Name
 - c. Program or University Affiliation
 - d. Address
 - e. Phone number of student
 - f. Category of research (Basic/Translational Science or Clinical)

None of the above information is allowed in the body of the submission. Judges will receive protocols WITHOUT the cover letter. Not including the above cover letter, the protocol may not be more than five (5) pages long. You may also submit up to six (6) additional figures, i.e. pictures, graphs, tables, etc.

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
6. Word Format document (.doc or docx) only
 - a. Please do not passcode or lock your submission. We need to be able to separate the cover letters from the rest of the submissions. This is the easiest way for us to do so, given the number of submissions.

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 selected 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/Translational Science Research

All submissions will be scored on the following categories

1. Originality of Problem
2. Overall Experimental Design
3. Use of Appropriate Data Analytical Method
4. Significance of Results
5. Validity based on Results and their Interpretation

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

Presentations

The first, second, and third-place graduate students in each category will be invited to present a poster of his/her research project at the Annual Southern Academy of Periodontology meeting in June. (See Calendar of Events at periosouth.net 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.

The protocol submission deadline is **March 1st, 2026** to:

Dr. Darron Alvord
7001 Hodgson Memorial Dr.
Savannah, GA 31406
Email: darron@savannahdental.com