

Robert H. Ahlstrom New Investigator Award for Dental Informatics Research

American Dental Association

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Applications Due October 1, 2024

The American Dental Association (ADA) is accepting applications for the 2025 Robert H. Ahlstrom New Investigator Award. Dental informatics standards and technical reports are developed by dental professionals to establish technical, performance, or compliance guidelines for items such as dental practice management systems, digital radiography equipment and electronic patient records. The award highlights the crucial role dental informatics standards play in improving the quality of patient care, assuring patient health and safety, and increasing efficiency through the use of information technology such as interoperability of dental data and images across hardware platforms. The Award aims to encourage more dentists and dental students to conduct standards-based research and participate in standards development.

ADA dental student members and ADA members who have earned their dental degree no earlier than 2019; and members pursuing an additional degree or specialty are eligible to apply for the 2025 Robert H. Ahlstrom New Investigator Award.

Acceptable submissions include:

- (a) An original standards-related research report of no more than 3,000 words and completed within the academic year 2022-2024 but not published;
- (b) A standards-related article published within the academic year 2022-2024; or
- (c) A standards-related extended abstract developed within the academic year 2022-2024. The abstract should include extended detail on methods and discussion sections.

All submissions must include one of the above options and an explanation in 250 words or less of how the research incorporates current dental standards and/or contributes to the development of dental standards. The statement must be included on the accompanying submission form. Research papers that have already received the John W. Stanford New Investigator Award are not eligible to be submitted for the Robert A. Ahlstrom New Investigator Award.

The awards committee is composed of a member of the ADA Board of Trustees, as well as leaders from the ADA Council on Dental Practice and the ADA Standards Program Oversight Committee. The awards committee, along with the ADA Council on Dental Practice, will select the winner, who will be notified in December. The winner will receive a \$1,000 honorarium, U.S. domestic airfare and a three-night hotel stay to present his or her award-winning paper in March 2025 at the ADA Standards Meeting in New York City. The winner will also be announced in the ADA publication, *ADA News*. Submissions that are not selected will be held for consideration for the 2026 award.

The ADA has played a key role in the development of dental standards since 1928. As the first chairman of the ADA Standards Committee on Dental Informatics (SCDI), which was formed in 1999, Dr. Ahlstrom led the group's successful efforts to develop the first standards for the dental electronic health record, for digital dental radiology interoperability, digital patient data and image exchange and for the security and privacy of digital dental patient data. He served as chairman of the SCDI until 2006.

For application materials for the Robert H. Ahlstrom New Investigator Award please visit [ADA.org/ahlstrom-award](https://ada.org/ahlstrom-award).