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Delta Dental Foundation Awards \$20,000 in COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Funds to North Carolina Dental Schools

Raleigh, NC (May 14, 2020) –The Delta Dental Foundation is pleased to announce the East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine (ECU) and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Adams School of Dentistry (UNC) will each receive a \$10,000 award for COVID-19 emergency assistance. The Delta Dental Foundation (DDF), the philanthropic arm of Delta Dental of North Carolina, Michigan, Indiana and Ohio, has set aside a \$100,000 COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Fund for North Carolina.

“This fund is designed to help meet the greatest needs of our communities during this uncertain time,” said Curt Ladig, CEO of Delta Dental of North Carolina. “Our state’s dental schools operate safety-net dental clinics that are providing emergency dental care and helping alleviate the burden on hospital emergency departments during this pandemic.”

The grant presented to ECU School of Dental Medicine will help to support the ECU dental faculty, residents and staff that are providing emergency care for patients at ECU clinics and at the school’s eight community service learning centers in rural areas across North Carolina.

“We are grateful to the Delta Dental Foundation for supporting the important work of dental providers during the pandemic,” said Dr. Greg Chadwick, dean of the ECU School of Dental Medicine. “Our school has helped hundreds of North Carolinians avoid hospital emergency departments since mid-March. Sincere thanks to the Delta Dental Foundation, to our school’s team, and to all those providing care on the front lines.”

The UNC Adams School of Dentistry will use the grant to offset costs for patients who cannot afford urgent care treatment, including surgical extractions, management of dental trauma and temporary restorations. Since March 16, faculty members and graduate students have provided emergency dental care for the more than 700 patients.

“We cannot adequately express how much this grant will benefit the patients who have come to Carolina Dentistry, our clinical arm, in need during this unprecedented time,” said Dr. Scott S. De Rossi, dean of the UNC Adams School of Dentistry and president of Carolina Dentistry. “We are thankful for the longstanding partnership and support we have found in the Delta Dental Foundation and are confident this grant will go a long way in assisting the people of North Carolina.”

The Delta Dental Foundation’s COVID-19 Emergency Assistance grants are intended to provide support and relief for emerging needs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds may be used for a wide variety of purposes, including the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE), teledentistry, or other needs resulting from the pandemic.

About Delta Dental Foundation

The Delta Dental Foundation is a nonprofit, charitable organization established in 1980, which serves as the philanthropic arm of Delta Dental of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and North Carolina. The foundation's goals are to support education and research for the advancement of dental science, and to promote the oral health of the public through education and service activities, particularly for those with special needs. For more information, visit nc.deltadental.com/ddf.

About Delta Dental of North Carolina

Delta Dental of North Carolina is a not-for-profit dental service corporation created in 1970 to provide dental benefits throughout the state. Its mission is to improve the oral health of the communities it serves. It does so by providing affordable access to oral health care with the largest network of providers, including two out of every three dentists, in North Carolina. For more information, visit nc.deltadental.com.

About the ECU School of Dental Medicine

The ECU School of Dental Medicine is dedicated to addressing North Carolina's ongoing shortage and maldistribution of dentists. The school educates primary care dentists who seek to meet the challenges of providing care in rural and underserved areas of the state. Programs include the pre-doctoral program leading to a doctor of dental medicine degree (DMD), two post-doctoral residency programs in general dentistry, and a pediatric dentistry residency program. A key component of the DMD program is the fourth-year experience at community service learning centers in rural and underserved communities across the state. The school leverages the latest educational and patient-care technologies to maximize student learning and patient care. Learn more at www.ecu.edu/dental.

About the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Adams School of Dentistry

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Claude A. Adams, Jr. and Grace Phillips Adams School of Dentistry is transforming dentistry for better health. Founded in 1950, the UNC Adams School of Dentistry was the first dental school in the state and is regarded as a leader in oral health care and education. More than half the dentists in North Carolina are UNC trained, and UNC Adams School of Dentistry alumni live or work in 96 of North Carolina's 100 counties, all 50 U.S. states and 27 countries. The school sees more than 90,000 patients each year in its clinics and provides care ranging from general needs to complex cases. Consistently ranked among the top schools for NIH funding, the school strongly supports the University's research mission. Together, the school's faculty, staff and students passionately serve their community and field through service within North Carolina totaling more than \$3 million of in-kind care annually. The ultimate goal of the UNC Adams School of Dentistry is to be the global model for oral health education, in care and discovery. [Click here](#) to learn more.

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