

NIH Funding to Study the Prevention of Dental Fear and Anxiety

July 09, 2020



The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) has issued a funding opportunity for research into the causal mechanisms behind dental fear and anxiety.

NIH estimates that 10-20% of people experience clinically significant dental fear at some point during their lives. This problem is exacerbated in communities which are marginalized or face disparities in healthcare. Because the rate of dental fear among individuals has been significantly stable since the late 1960s, novel insight into the causal mechanisms behind dental fear and anxiety is necessary.

Researchers applying for this funding opportunity must propose a human experiment which “includes precisely controlled tests of hypothesized mechanisms underlying the etiology or prevention of dental fear, anxiety, or phobia among individuals of any age.” Researchers are expected to answer two questions in their study: (1) What are the causal mechanisms which create dental fear, and (2) How can these causal mechanisms be disrupted to prevent the creation of such fear?

The deadline to apply to NIH for this opportunity is November 10, 2020. NIDCR has set aside \$1.2 million annually to fund these awards; individual grants budget are limited to \$300,000 per year, for up to a 3-year period.

[To learn more about NIH's funding opportunity announcement "Characterizing Causal Mechanisms to Prevent Dental Fear and Anxiety," click here.](#)

Interested in learning more about ways psychological science can inform dental and craniofacial health? Be sure to check out the [APS Virtual Poster Showcase](#) to learn about the recipients of the NIDCR/APS "Building Bridges" award, which recognizes scientists conducting research at the intersection of psychological science and dental, oral, and craniofacial health. [Learn more in the APS Observer by clicking here.](#)