

**MESSAGE SENT ON BEHALF OF**  
*Dr. Bjorn Steffensen*  
*Associate Dean for Research – Dental School*

Dear Colleagues:

Several years ago, the Dental School Research Committee considered how we might develop a data base of information on research capabilities, expertise, and equipment the access to which would enhance cross-disciplinary interactions and collaborations.

Recently, Drs. Yeh and Dang presented a proposal for developing a net-based virtual research environment, which could serve to achieve precisely that goal. At the same time, the Newsletter from the VP for Research (<http://research.uthscsa.edu/VPRnews-4-22-08.pdf>) described early initiatives for furthering electronic research administration based on existing software used at UT Arlington (<http://www.uta.edu/research/>).

In response to these initiatives and in collaboration with Dr. Boettcher, Director of Research Systems and Technology in the Office of the VP for Research, Dr. Kalkwarf has provided support enabling the Dental School to take a lead in gathering information from the Dental School Research groups to move the coordinated process forward.

As we develop the appropriate approach for data gathering, the process will be expanded to other parts of the HSC. It is also expected that this initiative will be integrated with the university's CTSA (Clinical and Translational Science Award) to advance both intramural and extramural collaborations.

Dr. Howard Dang from Department of Community Dentistry, who has extensive research experience and knows the institution well, will serve a point person for developing the inventory of the school's research expertise, specialized equipment, as well as unique technologies. In the very near future, Dr. Dang will contact the Dental School researchers and research groups.

We ask that you provide Dr. Dang with your support to as we move the process forward and define which information is most essential for developing this data base. Please feel free to contact Dr. Dang at: [dang@uthscsa.edu](mailto:dang@uthscsa.edu)

Thank you for your cooperation.

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