

Annual Award for Clinical Research in Periodontology



Study author James Beck, PhD, with 2013 AAP President Nancy Newhouse, DDS.

Every year the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) presents the Clinical Research Award, sponsored by Quintessence Publishing Company, to an outstanding published scientific study with direct clinical relevance in periodontics. The winning study must follow scientific methods for a human study, be published in English in a scientific journal during the previous calendar year, directly apply to the practice of periodontics, and provide new information that can be readily used by practitioners in the evaluation of patients.

The 2013 Clinical Research Award was presented to the study titled "Prevalence of Periodontitis in Adults in the United States: 2009 and 2010" (James D. Beck, Gordon L. Douglass, Bruce A. Dye, Paul Eke, Robert J. Genco, Roy C. Page, Gina Thornton-Evans, Liang Wei. *J Dent Res* 2012;91(10):914–920). The study authors accepted the award at the AAP's 2013 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The study, which was published in the August 2012 issue of the *Journal of Dental Research*, estimated the prevalence, severity, and extent of periodontitis in the United States' adult population based on data from the 2009 and 2010 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). Estimates were derived from a sample of 3,742 adults aged 30 years and older that had one or more natural teeth. Attachment loss and probing depth were measured at six sites per tooth on all teeth, except the third molars. Researchers found that over 47% of the sample, representing 64.7 million adults, had periodontitis, distributed as 8.7% mild, 30.0% moderate, and 8.5% severe periodontitis. Sixty-four percent of adults aged 65 years and older had either moderate or severe periodontitis. Periodontitis prevalence was highest in men, Mexican-Americans, adults with less than a high school education, adults below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level, and current smokers. The study findings provide direct evidence for a high burden of periodontitis in the adult US population, suggesting that periodontal disease is a significant public health issue.

To view the study's abstract, please visit <http://jdr.sagepub.com/content/early/2012/08/29/0022034512457373.abstract>.

For information about the 2014 Clinical Research Award, please visit <http://www.perio.org/members/ma/ma.html>.