Research Team’s Findings Published by Prestigious Journal
The international Journal of Dentistry has published an article written by a multidisciplinary research team in the UMKC Center of Excellence in Dental and Musculoskeletal Tissues at the School of Dentistry. The article, “Extracts of irradiated mature human tooth crowns contain MMP-20 protein and activity,” details the results of the researchers’ investigation to determine how high-dose therapeutic radiation, a standard treatment for oral cancer, causes the enamel of irradiated human teeth to subsequently delaminate or flake off from the underlying dentin.

The researchers associated with the project and the article include:
- Dr. Jake McGuire, endodontist and Ph.D. student in Oral Biology and Craniofacial Sciences
- Ahmad Mousa, postdoctoral fellow
- Bo Zhang and Lauren Todoki, both DDS students who worked as Summer Dental Scholars on this project
- Nichole T. Huffman, Gorski Lab supervisor
- Dr. Andrew Keightley, mass spectrometry expert
- Yong Wang and Dr. Mary Walker, collaborators and co-workers (along with Gorski) on Dr. Walker’s NIDCR NIH-sponsored grant
- Dr. Jeff Gorski, biochemistry project director

Ortho Research Continues to Soar
Department of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics faculty Dr. Laura Iwasaki, associate professor and Leo Rogers Chair, and Dr. Jeff Nickel, associate professor and the Dr. Don Thompson Endowed Professor, are the principal investigators of a $3 million award from the National Institutes of Health. The funding enables them to continue their research into the variables that contribute to degenerative joint disease. Additionally, Drs. Iwasaki and Nickel are co-investigators on grants awarded by the American Association of Orthodontists Foundation. Their Education Innovation Award provides funding to bring together investigators from a variety of major universities in order to improve the success rate of junior faculty seeking grant funding and promotion and tenure. Together with faculty from University of North Carolina and Oregon Health Sciences University, they were awarded an AAOF Center Award that will support two Innovators’ Workshops in 2014 and 2016 to facilitate the development of collaborations among leaders in research endeavors relevant to the practice of orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics.

Recent publications by Drs. Iwasaki and Nickel include:

A Celebration 30 Years in the Making
Ellen Morton, a dental assistant in Graduate Endodontics, just celebrated her 30th year at UMKC! Ellen started at UMKC School of Dentistry in 1984 after completing her associate degree in dental assisting. She spent her first 10 years on the clinic floor assisting third- and fourth-year dental students. She spent her next nine years assisting the residents in the Department of Prosthodontics. Then Dr. James Kulild recruited her to assist him in launching a new Graduate Endodontic Program. For the past 11 years she has served as lead assistant and clinic manager of the Graduate Endodontic Program. Dr. Kenneth Frick, the program’s current director, describes Ellen as “an invaluable member of our dental team, whose 30 years of experience enables UMKC to continue its excellent reputation as a leader in dental education.”

Grad Perio Update
Two recent graduates of the Advanced Education Program in Periodontics have successfully challenged the American Board of Periodontology Exam and are now Diplomates: Dr. Nabil Beaini and Dr. Adam McClellan.

A Testy Appointment for Dr. Gorski
Dr. Jeff Gorski, a professor in the Department of Oral and Craniofacial Sciences and the Center of Excellence in Musculoskeletal and Dental Tissues, has been named to the Test Construction committee for the National Dental Board Exam Part I in Biochemistry-Physiology by the ADA for 2015.

KDA Honors DDS Student Emily Taylor
Emily Taylor (DDS ’14) was honored with the Brian D. Stone Memorial Award for Dental Student Volunteerism during the Kansas Dental Association’s 2014 Kansas DDS Program’s Volunteer Awards Ceremony, April 12, 2014. KDA held the ceremony as part of its Annual Membership Assembly, held in conjunction with the UMKC School of Dentistry’s Midwest Dental Conference, in Kansas City, Mo. Taylor is the first recipient from UMKC to be honored with this national award. At UMKC, Taylor participated in the Senior Departmental Advanced Studies Program in Pediatric Dentistry, and she received the Arthur E. Iwersen Award of Excellence in Pediatric Dentistry. Having graduated in May 2014, Emily plans to enter a pediatric dentistry residency program at Indiana University-Riley Children’s Hospital in Indianapolis, Ind.