

Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation receives \$1.1 million grant from Delta Dental for oral health initiative

[Delta Dental of Wisconsin](#) has approved \$1.1 million in funding for research projects at Marshfield Clinic.

Delta Dental has committed \$500,000 toward dental informatics research, \$500,000 toward the oral and systemic health research project and \$100,000 toward clinician-initiated dental and craniofacial research through the Delta Dental Oral and Systemic Health Research Initiative.

"Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation's commitment to oral health research is impressive, and we are pleased to be able to partner with them in creating the Delta Dental Oral and Systemic Health Research Initiative," said Dennis Peterson, Delta Dental's executive vice president.



Karl Ulrich, M.D.
Clinic president & CEO



Humberto Vidaillet, M.D.
MCRF director

"Delta Dental has been a long-time supporter of research at Marshfield Clinic," said [Karl Ulrich, M.D.](#), M.M.M., Clinic president & CEO. "We are grateful for their support of this valuable and potentially groundbreaking oral health research."

The dental informatics research combines computer-based research, biological science and medical-dental integration, all brought down to an individual level. The research will create a dental health information exchange, personal portals that incorporate historical medical and dental information and electronic dental health records.

This research builds on an earlier Delta Dental-funded project that integrates medical records and dental records in a single electronic health record that provides a detailed picture of an individual's whole-body health.

"Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation is a pioneer in the creation of integrated medical-dental electronic health records, thanks in large part to ongoing support from Delta Dental," said [Humberto Vidaillet, M.D.](#), FACP, FACC, Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation director. "I'm confident this will result in great benefit to Marshfield Clinic patients."

The oral and systemic health research centers on the connection between a healthy mouth and healthy body, focusing on expanding the links between oral health and diabetes, heart disease and preterm births. The dental and craniofacial research uses the latest molecular and genetic tools to explore health and diseases in the skull and the face.

"Understanding and effectively managing the link between oral health and systemic health holds promise for helping control health care costs," said Fred Eichmiller, M.D., Delta Dental's vice president and chief science officer. "This research not only has the potential to improve people's overall health, but it will spur creation of the next generation of dental plans."