

### **Proposal for the extension of a “big sibling” program to graduate and DMD students**

In the current form, “big sibling” program for DMD students is based on participation of students, “big sib”, from the class that is one year ahead, who can guide the student in the Faculty. We propose that dental students involved in research projects, such as table clinic and summer research projects, would have a “big sib” among graduate students. The graduate student will interact with the clinical student and provide guidance in the research endeavors. We believe that guidance from graduate students (search big sibs) will have a positive impact on the quality of the research performed by undergraduate students, will facilitate the interactions between clinicians and researchers, and will provide graduate students with research supervision experience.

#### **Implementation:**

Phase 1: Senior graduate students (MSc students in year 2, PhD candidates or Postdocs) are invited to volunteer for the sibling program. Approval from the supervisor is required to insure that the supervisors are aware and support additional activities of the graduate students.

Phase 2: PGSS delegate creates a list of all volunteer graduate students that fulfill the inclusion criteria (seniority and supervisor approval). The list will include the contact information, as well as information on the graduate student research background and expertise, and the title of her/his research project and supervisor name.

Phase 3: The “list” of graduate students is passed to the delegate of DMD student association responsible for the sibling program. DMD students interested in participating in research activities in the faculty (table clinic, summer internship) would have access to the list in order to select the graduate “big sib” that matches the interests of the DMD student.

#### **Duties of big sib:**

The mentor graduate student “big sib” is expected to provide to the little sib guidance in research projects, administrative guidance in research related issues (search for scholarships), research supervision in appropriate projects and guidance in career planning for DMD students interested in academic and research careers.

It is anticipated that one “big sib” will be attached to each table clinic project (generally performed by a pair of DMD students) and each summer research project (performed by a single DMD student).