**Hello PDC’ers!**

On February 15th, students at UIC College of Dentistry from the DMD/PhD program came to speak about the experiences of what it is like to be in this program.

**What are the benefits of being in this program?**

You get a prestigious title in your name, so people treat you with authority act more like colleagues than students. Learn about other labs, faculty, travel the world for conferences. The most important thing they stressed on was building connections with other people and potentially expanding your research.

**What is the significance of this program? What can you do afterwards?**

DMD/PhD program allows for these students to go beyond dentistry and be able to approach things differently. A huge benefit for this program is that you can almost do anything after you graduate, such as: teacher, post doctorate, have your own lab, do dentistry as well as lab work, etc...

**How do I get accepted into a program such as this? What is good things to have on an application?**

Doing research while in undergrad, presenting posters at events like clinic and research day, or getting involved with anything that can look impressive. It is very important to look well-rounded. However, DO NOT do extracurricular like this to look like an impressive applicant. Do it because you are motivated and excited about the activities because that is what they look for. They also only take 1 to 2 people year! So you are a commitment to them since they are investing money in you to succeed, so make sure you are VERY serious about this.

**Can I do research while in dental school and not in this program?**

Yes! It is very hard to find time for it, but if research interest you, then it is doable. Try to do it D1 year so you can work with the professor for a long period of time.

**What do you do in the lab?**

They went into a lot of detail about what they did, but the important thing to note is that it is very applicable to the outside world and can published and go around the world to present what you have done in lab.

**Do you have to make your own project or does the Professor help you? Or does it depend on professor?**

Depends on you and the professor, but you jump around the dental school until you find someone you like.

**Daily life?**

Year 1 is PhD, year 2 is D1, year 3 and 4 is PhD, and year 5, 6, and 7 are D2, D3, and D4, respectively. So the program does last 7 years, but the if you enjoy doing research, it is worth it in the long run.

**More questions?**

The two students that spoke on February 15th are extremely nice and able to reach via email if you have any more questions. Elizabeth’s email is Erazdo2@uic.edu and Marybeth’s email is Mfranc28@uic.edu. Do not hesitate to ask questions because they will answer them in due time! Have a good one and see you at our next meeting!