



# Michigan & The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research



FY20 Total Funding: **\$25,358,398**

Number of Institutions Funded: **4** (**Greenmark Biomedical, Inc.; Michigan State University; Nanomag, LLC; University of Michigan at Ann Arbor**)

Number of Grants Awarded: **47**

Number of Congressional Districts with NIDCR Grants: **3**

## Improving Michigan's Oral Health Through NIDCR Funding:

- Oral squamous cell carcinomas (OSCCs) are the most common type of oral cancer, accounting for more than 90 percent of cancers that occur in the oral cavity and oropharynx. Researchers at the University of Michigan believe improvements to overall survival will be made by improving precision medicine trials, and they are exploring and evaluating therapeutic strategies to disrupt co-dependent pathways in OSCC that can be immediately advanced to precision medicine trials, with the hope of advancing novel combination strategies.
- The conditions known as temporomandibular joint disorders and orofacial pain (TMJD/OP) are difficult to diagnose and manage. Moreover, the progress towards definitive therapies and rational diagnoses has been slow due to the complex nature of the disorder and lack of scholars working in this field. University of Michigan received funding to create an interdisciplinary mentorship program to train the next generation of high caliber TMJD/OP investigators with the goal of enhancing the quality and specificity of patient care.
- The University of Michigan's TEAM (Tissue Engineering at Michigan) program trains the next generation of dental scientists on tissue engineering and regeneration, using an interdisciplinary approach involving biomedical scientists, engineers, and clinical researchers. The central goal of this tissue engineering and regeneration training program is to provide an interdisciplinary research-intensive environment for individuals who wish to pursue careers in the oral sciences.

