



New Jersey & National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research



FY20 Total Funding: **\$4,583,758**

Number of Institutions Funded: **2 (RBHS-School of Dental Medicine; Singleto2 Therapeutics, LLC.)**

Number of Grants Awarded: **3**

Number of Congressional Districts with NIDCR Grants: **2**

Improving New Jersey's Oral Health Through NIDCR Funding:

- Localized aggressive periodontitis affects 70,000 U.S. children, largely from underserved communities. If untreated, social and psychological stigma resulting from tooth loss can occur. Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences School of Dentistry researchers are currently investigating early markers of aggressive periodontitis, or gum disease. Results from these studies will contribute to the development of a chair-side diagnostic system for rapid identification of susceptible subjects reducing oral health disparities in underserved adolescent populations vulnerable to this aggressive form of periodontal disease.
- Oral mucositis (OM) is a serious condition that almost always occurs in patients with head and neck cancer (HNC) undergoing chemoradiation therapy (CRT) and can lead to infection, sepsis, the need for parenteral nutrition and narcotic analgesia. Doses and duration of cancer treatment may need to be limited with severe cases of OM, leading to sub-optimal treatment outcomes including reduced survival. Researchers at Soligenix, Inc. are developing a drug to treat severe OM in HNC patients. This drug is currently in Phase II clinical trials.

