I was truly fortunate to have the opportunity to represent Schulich Dentistry Research at the ADA Foundation 52nd Annual Colgate Dental Students’ Conference on Research held in Maryland, USA from October 2-4, 2016. The conference opened with a warm and welcoming reception, followed by a two busy days of meetings, presentations and networking. It was great to learn about different prospective careers in science and dentistry, including research, academics and industry. The advice and perspectives from presenters and the interactive panel discussion resonated with me. The speakers were incredibly encouraging about the prospects of pursuing their research passions and professional goals.
We also had the opportunity to visit the National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST) – the world leaders in time and measurement innovation. This included a chance to observe science in action at the Advanced Measurement Laboratory and take a tour of the Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology Nanofabrication Facility. We also learned about cutting edge dental research at the Volpe Research Center, where trainees exchanged ideas and shared their work through interactive poster presentations. In addition, we had the opportunity to visit the National Institutes of Health campus, which was one of the highlights of this conference for me as it included the National Institutes of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR). We learned about novel and innovative research at NIDCR, and had many interesting and interactive discussions about dental research through panel discussions amongst students, faculty, clinical and post-doctoral fellows.

Overall, representing Schulich Dentistry Research at the ADA Conference was a wonderful experience, and I was fortunate to meet and interact with many passionate and ambitious colleagues from across Canada and the U.S.A. during my visit. I am confident that the future of dental research is in good hands. With this in mind, I am looking forward to seeing innovative dental research in the future.