In Dr. Brion Benninger’s lab, 16 mentored students have won top national research awards in clinical science, basic science, and educational research. A total of 18 projects representing up to two years of work each were blind- and peer-reviewed and accepted and published at a national meeting. Each student had to sacrifice evenings and weekends in order to complete their projects.

Dr. Benninger was impressed with their commitment and professionalism from the onset until their final presentation. The combination of cutting edge topics and passionate and diligent students resulted in successful projects.

Dr. Benninger is professor and vice chair of clinical anatomy at COMP-Northwest. He mentored six pre- or post-baccalaureate students who represented the Department of Clinical Anatomy from the Lebanon campus who are all applying to medical and/or dental schools. Their projects included clinical science, basic science and educational research.

His students received either top honors or the runner-up research award in each of the three categories. Honors went to the following: Clinical Science research first place Matt Young and runner-up Bhavin Patel, Basic Science research runner up Taylor Delamarter, Educational research runner-up Alison Burkholder, Oral Presentation runner-up Jessica Kloenne.

We were very fortunate to receive these awards because our students were competing against both PhD and other health care professional students from several countries for the three award categories. All of the students were invited by multiple editors to submit their work into clinical journals.

Dr. Benninger would like to give special recognition to the following students: Matt Young, Taylor Delamarter, and Kyle Malloy for completing two projects and having commendations from experts in the field; Kevin Post, our most junior researcher and a sophomore at University of Oregon, for his tireless effort and dedication to his project; Taylor Johnson for completing the pilot study of a complicated multimedia project which will be researched during the next two years; Amy Swafford for her effort and diligence on a project that may help answer a common obstetrical symptom and sign; Josh Wagner for a novel interventional technique and effective cinematography; all the dental and medical faculty for their feedback.

Dr. Benninger would also like to thank the following departments for their collaboration: Oral Maxillofacial Surgery, Radiology, Orthopaedic, and Anesthesia.

Dr. Benninger would like to thank Elsevier for their kindness in allowing us to use their images as well as Tiffany Yee for her exceptional medical illustrations. Dr. Benninger is mentoring and showcasing many of Tiffany Yee’s medical illustrations and feels she has the potential to be represented in professional health care textbooks. This is the fifth consecutive year Dr. Benninger has taken multiple students to national conferences. He is known for his innovative ideas regarding
clinical research with cadavers and anatomy education. He is also the author and editor of anatomy texts and software, and serves on national and international anatomical committees.