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**FOR MORE INFORMATION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Soft Bones, Inc. October 2018  
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**Brian L. Foster, PhD Awarded 2018 Research Grant from Soft Bones**

*Annual Hypophosphatasia Research Grant Awarded to The Ohio State University Researcher*

BOONTON, New Jersey --Dr. Brian L. Foster, an Assistant Professor within the Biosciences Division at College of Dentistry at Ohio State University, and colleagues were recently awarded the 5th annual Soft Bones research grant for $25,000. This is the second Soft Bones grant awarded to Dr. Foster.

As the recipient of a 2018 research grant from Soft Bones, Dr. Foster, in collaboration

with Dr. Michael P. Whyte, an Endocrinologist at Shriners Hospital for Children and

Washington University in St. Louis, proposes to analyze primary teeth (deciduous or

baby teeth) from individuals with hypophosphatasia (HPP). This study is the first of its

kind to quantitatively analyze teeth from a large group of HPP subjects. Dr. Foster

hopes to gain a better understanding of how dental problems correlate to skeletal,

biochemical and genetic changes in individuals with HPP. In the future, this may help

medical professionals predict the severity of HPP-associated dental disease, better treat

dental disorders arising from HPP, or even estimate the overall course of disease.

With this project, Dr. Foster and his team will continue building upon years of

achievement in the field of HPP research, with a specific focus on the relationship

between HPP and dental disorders. For several years, Dr. Foster has been studying

mouse models of HPP to understand how the disorder affects the different hard tissues

of teeth and supporting jaws, including enamel, dentin, cementum, and bone. Dr. Foster

won the 2016 Soft Bones research grant for his mouse model research, and the 2016

grant supported development of a new mouse model of HPP that was featured in the

Journal of Dental Research

**About Hypophosphatasia***:* Hypophosphatasia (HPP) is an inherited, metabolic (chemical) bone disease of broad-ranging severity that causes life-threatening complications in approximately one per 100,000 births. Depending on the severity of the skeletal disease, there can be deformity of the limbs and chest, pneumonia, and recurrent fractures. While there is currently no cure for hypophosphatasia, medical and supportive treatment is directed towards preventing or correcting its signs, symptoms, and complications.

**About Soft Bones, Inc.**: Soft Bones, the US Hypophosphatasia Foundation, is a patient advocacy group founded in 2009 to provide information and to establish a forum to educate, empower, and connect patients living with hypophosphatasia, their families, and caregivers. The Foundation also promotes research of rare bone disease through awareness and fundraising efforts.

Related Links:

[http://www.SoftBones.org](http://www.softbones.org/)

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