

*The Horace Wells Club Trust  
Dental Student Scholarship  
42 Crocus Lane  
Avon CT 06001*

**TO:** Dental School Financial Aid Officers

**FROM:** Christine E. Niekrash, DMD, MDSc  
The Horace Wells Club Trust

**DATE:** August 15, 2022

The Horace Wells Club Trust Fund is pleased to announce the availability of scholarships for dental students who are from the State of Connecticut. Pamphlets that include the application are enclosed. Please feel free to photocopy the pamphlet as needed and circulate them to eligible students in your institution.

The Horace Wells Club remains committed to assist citizens of the State of Connecticut to obtain a dental degree with a minimum of financial indebtedness. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please email me at: [christine.niekrash@quinnipiac.edu](mailto:christine.niekrash@quinnipiac.edu).

### Horace Wells 1815 ~ 1848

In December, 1844, Horace Wells, a dentist who practiced in Hartford, Connecticut, observed an accidental injury of an individual who was under the influence of nitrous oxide gas inhaled at a side show. Wells noted that the injured person displayed neither pain nor awareness of injury when he was questioned.

The next day, John Riggs extracted a molar from Horace Wells who was under the influence of nitrous oxide gas. The nitrous oxide was administered to the point of loss of consciousness and Wells had no recollection of the extraction.

Wells continued to experiment with the gas, sincerely believing that his discovery would transform the practice of medicine and dentistry, and presented his discovery in Boston at the Mass General Hospital. Unfortunately, the patient exclaimed at the time of the extraction and the demonstration was labeled a failure. Later, the patient stated that he had no recollection of the procedure. Wells, branded a fake and a charlatan, became severely depressed, but did continue to teach others his anesthetic technique. He fully intended that his discovery should be made known to all and "as free as the air we breathe."

Wells experimented with different ways to manufacture and administer anesthetic gases, frequently using himself as the experimental subject with tragic outcome. He died at age 33 in a prison in New York City, destitute and depressed.

However, his discovery of surgical anesthesia, recognized by the American Medical Association (1870 and 1944) and the American Dental Association (1864), has transformed the practice of medicine and dental medicine, and, according to Sir William Osier, constituted "the greatest single gift ever made to suffering humanity."

### The Horace Wells Club Dental Student Scholarship

The Horace Wells Dental Student Scholarship has been established by the Horace Wells Club in an attempt to assist citizens of the state of Connecticut to obtain a dental degree with a minimum of financial indebtedness. The annually awarded \$1,000 scholarships have been established to commemorate the memory of Horace Wells.

To Apply: Applicants must submit the application on the reverse side, which includes a section to be completed by the dental school's financial aid officer. A letter of recommendation from the Dental School's Dean of Students is also required.

Successful applicants must be citizens of the

state of Connecticut, be currently enrolled and in good academic standing in dental school, and demonstrate financial need. A commitment to providing care to the underserved should also be demonstrated. Applications will be reviewed by the Horace Wells Club.

All application materials should be sent to:

Dr. Stuart Lieblich  
42 Crocus Lane  
Avon, CT 06001

## The Horace Wells Club



DENTAL • STUDENT  
SCHOLARSHIP

2022-2023

# The Horace Wells Club Dental Student Scholarship Applications

(Applicant must be a resident of Connecticut)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Address \_\_\_\_\_

Hometown Newspaper \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ High school attended \_\_\_\_\_ College attended \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_ Current dental school \_\_\_\_\_

Expected year of graduation from Dental school \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you feel that you should be a recipient of this scholarship? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE DENTAL SCHOOL'S FINANCIAL AID OFFICER:

The applicant listed above is currently enrolled and in good academic standing in dental school. He/she currently has an academic indebtedness of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This application should be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from the Dean of Students (or equivalent) of your dental school.

Please mail completed application and letter of recommendation by October 15, 2022 to:  
Dr. Stuart Lieblich, 42 Crocus Lane, Avon, CT 06001