



INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF DENTISTS

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Ayato Shigihara



Ayato Shigihara is a third-year student at the UCLA School of Dentistry. She graduated summa cum laude from Wellesley College with a Bachelor of Arts in Biological Sciences and a minor in Education Studies. She was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa in recognition of her academic achievement. While at Wellesley, Ayato worked as a teaching assistant, which sparked her interest in mentorship and teaching. That interest has continued to grow throughout dental school, where she is involved in a variety of student initiatives focused on class leadership, peer support, and wellness. She is especially interested in how academic dentistry can help create engaging learning environments that build confidence, foster curiosity, and inspire lifelong learning. These experiences have strengthened her goal of pursuing a career in dental education. Outside of school, Ayato finds balance by spending time in nature. She enjoys running, hiking, and exploring new places with her family and friends. Ayato would like to thank the ICD-WUDAA Scholarship Committee for their generous support and for encouraging students to grow as future leaders in the dental profession.