

FUELING

PASSION



American Academy of Periodontology Foundation

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

“Thank you for helping to fuel this passion that exists for periodontology. It is a powerful force that will lead us to boundless discovery and positive outcomes.”

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Dear Colleagues,

It was my honor to serve as the AAP Foundation President during 2021. It was a year of tentative recovery, healing, and reconnecting. After the uncertainty and change that characterized 2020, we were grateful for the opportunities 2021 provided and we hope that you and your families experienced brighter times over the past year.

Those of us who were ready to travel joined together in Miami Beach for a meeting full of gratitude and fellowship. Treloar & Heisel once again partnered with the Foundation to bring you the latest on estate planning. Our best and brightest brought you their innovative research during our well-attended Future Horizons in Periodontology CE session. We were able to celebrate not only the 2021 AAP Foundation award recipients, but also give our 2020 winners their moment on stage at the joint Awards Ceremony we held with the AAP. We thanked our most generous donors with a party worthy of Miami Beach with the help of Pacific Dental Services and had the opportunity to meet many of you at our Foundation booth.

As I talked with other meeting attendees, fellow Foundation leaders, and award recipients, one theme emerged during each conversation —

passion for what we do. As periodontists, we are passionate about science, about answering fundamental questions, about our patients. The next generation of Foundation award recipients exemplifies this attribute as well, as you will read on the pages to come.

The new Dr. Mark K. Setter Leadership in Periodontology and Dental Implantology Award helped us celebrate the dedication and passion of the late Dr. Mark Setter, whose legacy will live on through the work of Dr. Janet Zalucha — its first recipient — and all the recipients to come. This award was made possible through the steadfast commitment of Drs. Jason Stoner, Jason Souyias, and Mitch Godat, along with Mrs. Susan Setter and her daughter, Dr. Jill Bresler.

Throughout my experience as President, what became more and more clear to me was the fact that we are all unified by our dedication to this specialty. We care about education, research, and what impact new information will have on the patients we serve. Thank you for helping to fuel this passion that exists for periodontology. It is a powerful force that will lead us to boundless discovery and positive outcomes. Your generosity — each dollar you contribute — is utilized for impact. Whether it is ensuring that a bright young educator can remain in academia, disseminating knowledge for use in our practices, cultivating new leaders, or answering the most important questions of the day, your generosity is making lives better. We couldn't do it without you.

Our award recipients, leadership, and staff thank you for your generosity this year, and we wish you all the best for the year ahead.

Kindest regards,

Diego Velasquez, DDS
President

"The Foundation
ENERGIZES
us to be
the best we can be."



Vrisiis Kofina, DDS, MS

Assistant Professor
Graduate Program
Director

Marquette University

Bud and Linda Tarrson Fellowship

Dr. Kofina credits the Tarrson Fellowship with inspiring her through the difficult early months of the pandemic. “My job made me happy,” she recalls. “My mother has a general dentistry practice in Greece, which she hoped I would join. I chose to stay here and teach instead. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, I know that academia is the right decision for me.”

“Receiving the Tarrson Fellowship is a great honor. The previous grantees are brilliant, highly accomplished people,” Dr. Kofina notes. “I’m humbled to be one of them. It’s an opportunity that you can’t measure in dollars. As a result of the recognition, I’ve expanded my professional network. I can focus on my teaching, research, and administrative responsibilities. The Foundation energizes us to be the best we can be.”

Research is another avenue of motivation and energy for Dr. Kofina. “I’m currently studying wound healing following implant site development procedures,” she advises. “I’m also trying to answer common clinical questions such as how much swelling the patient will have after a procedure, how our surgical techniques affect postoperative patient experiences, and whether we can improve them. These questions come up during practice and it’s rewarding to know that through research I can help improve our periodontal practice,” Dr. Kofina says.

Teaching offers Dr. Kofina a different kind of satisfaction. “When predoc students are interested in periodontology after my lectures, then shadow in the graduate periodontics clinic and eventually decide to apply for residency, that’s a huge win. From the graduate perspective, it’s amazing to watch residents develop over three years. If they return to school to teach and give back to the community that helped them grow, that’s gratifying, too.”



“This is the third class that will graduate under me, and already former students have come back to teach because they had a good academic experience. We’re a new program and we’re making our traditions as we go. I hope that everything will keep on improving,” she notes.

Dr. Kofina concludes, “The Foundation’s recognition can motivate us all. I was already enthusiastic, but the Fellowship provided even greater inspiration. It’s a cycle. The more we do to help worthy people to receive awards, the more outstanding people we’ll have in the specialty and in education.”

“It’s a cycle. The more we do to help worthy people to receive awards, the more outstanding people we’ll have in the specialty and in education.”



Teaching Fellowship

Ahmed El-Awady, PhD

Assistant Professor
Director of Predoctoral
Program of Periodontics
Augusta University



"Important is not a strong enough word — these awards are crucial! This is the best way to support education."

"I caught the research bug, and I can't live without it!" Dr. El-Awady exclaims. "The more I learned, the more I fell in love with science. During dental school, I was fascinated by all the facets — including microbiology, regeneration, grafts, and implants. By my last year of dental school, I had decided on periodontics."

Every aspect of teaching is fulfilling for this new educator. "I enjoy all of it," he advises. "The research, the instruction, and the patient care — there is incredible satisfaction in each area. You see the fruits of your labor and are rewarded by improving the quality of people's lives. I treat patients once a week and those visits crystalize the entire teaching and learning experience for me."

As the predoctoral program director at Augusta University, Dr. El-Awady formulates the schedule,

evaluates students, and ensures that the teaching process runs smoothly. He is also a research mentor. One current project is a randomized clinical trial studying pharmacogenomics or the ability to personalize medications for each patient before, during, and after periodontal procedures. In addition, he participates in basic immunology studies to gather data to submit for grants from the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. El-Awady is no stranger to the AAP Foundation. "I won the Educator Scholarship as a resident in 2015," he recalls. "The Teaching Fellowship is having an even greater impact on my life. I feel recognized by the dental society and personally supported."

"I am originally from Egypt. After I completed a PhD and periodontal training in the United States, I returned to Egypt for three years. In 2019, I came back to the United States, with my family planning to join me in six months. Covid-19 turned six months into 14 months apart, as my family was unable to travel during the pandemic. Winning this award was crucial both psychologically and financially. I would not have been able to move my family here without the extra support."

"Important is not a strong enough word — these awards are crucial! This is the best way to support education. Educators do not receive the same financial rewards as practitioners working in other roles. Research grants support science, but there are few mechanisms to provide resources to people. Quality academics depends on strong educators. The Foundation's incredible generosity inspires me to give back to younger periodontists and the specialty."

Covid put temporary breaks on Dr. El-Awady's goals. "The program slowed down for six months," he explains. "Now, I am filling the gaps. I am beginning to innovate and develop the curriculum to match the current model of teaching."

"I am looking forward to continuing in academia and teaching predoc and postdoctoral students. I hope that my research will reach the transformational level and make a significant impact on clinical practice." Beyond the academic and scientific accomplishments, Dr. El-Awady aspires, above all, to be a good husband and father.



“I aspired to be an award recipient,” says Dr. Megumi Williamson. “Researching the backgrounds of previous grantees was motivational. They inspire future periodontists to contribute to the specialty at higher levels in terms of teaching, education, research, and clinical practice. Their accomplishments ensure that periodontology will continue to thrive. I’m honored to join the group.”

“The fellowship is important recognition for junior faculty who are starting their careers,” she explains. “Embarking on a new path carries a financial burden. The Foundation provides a great support system. The funding has reduced my financial responsibilities by helping with childcare costs and providing relief and flexibility. I’m able to save money for my child’s education and pay for student loans and other obligations.”

Dr. Williamson takes the responsibility of working with predoctoral and postdoctoral students seriously. She appreciates the influence she has over their future. “I think about my mentors and I want to be like the teachers that I respected. Receiving this award makes me feel closer to that goal. There were always one or two teachers who inspired me. When I thought I couldn’t do something or didn’t deserve recognition, those teachers reminded me of my skills and abilities. Because an instructor in dental school invited me to explore her work, I discovered my interest in basic science. That changed my path,” she says.

“The interactions I have with dental students form the foundation for their professional development,” she explains. “How we deliver our message and talk about periodontology is important. The students take lifelong knowledge from their education. I am always learning from this challenging, but exciting teaching experience.”

Dr. Williamson came to periodontology later in her career. “I was trained in oral surgery in Japan,” she recalls. “At that time in Japan, oral surgeons exclusively handled things we do every day as periodontists, such as bone augmentation and implant therapies. A research scholarship in the

United States gave me the opportunity to see what periodontists can do and that opened the way to a new direction.”

As a problem-solver, Dr. Williamson is also an enthusiastic scientist. “Currently, I’m involved in translational research using human subjects. We are studying the maintenance of epithelial tissue homeostasis and the interaction of the tissue with the oral microbiome. We want to learn how specific genes engage in inflammation around teeth and implants that result in implant diseases. The goal is to contribute to a better understanding of the disease and identify individuals with higher susceptibility.”

“You can do more than you think. If you are motivated there are more opportunities and possibilities than you can imagine,” says Dr. Williamson.

“Embarking on a new path carries a financial burden. The Foundation provides a great support system. The funding has reduced my financial responsibilities by helping with childcare costs and providing relief and flexibility.”



Megumi Williamson
DDS, PhD
Assistant Professor
University of Iowa

Educator Scholarship

“This award is about more than money,”

Dr. Mohamed Meghil advises. “Through the AAP Foundation Educator Scholarship, I was able to network with others and build collaborative relationships across the country. I connected with people from other institutions on several research projects. We partnered on three or four manuscripts and discussed shared interests, teaching tools, and a range of topics that will be beneficial to me and the specialty for years to come.”

“I am enjoying teaching so much. It is fun working with the students and residents. In the spring, I served as course director for the junior clinic. Starting this past fall, I was elected as president of the Georgia



“Through the AAP Foundation Educator Scholarship, I was able to network with others and build collaborative relationships across the country.”

Section of the American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (AADO CR),” he adds.

“Conducting research is really creating knowledge,” Dr. Meghil observes. “I enjoy doing clinical and basic science research, working with animal models, and seeing the outcomes on the benchtop. The bench will always be there. Clinical studies are backed up by benchtop work. For my master’s thesis and PhD dissertation, my primary projects dealt with immunology and periodontal disease. I studied the interaction between periodontal bacteria and dendritic cells. I have been investigating this area for

eight years, and I have a good grasp of the knowledge behind it that helped me teach the pathogenesis of periodontal disease to dental students.”

Dr. Meghil reflects, “As president of Georgia’s AADO CR, I want to inspire my students to pursue research by finding them the appropriate mentors. As a faculty member, I want them to learn that periodontology is a combination of biology, surgery, anatomy, and aesthetics. More importantly, everything we do is backed up by literature. There is an answer to every question we ask. There may be conflicting opinions, but those opinions are based on evidence.”

“We recruit periodontists to our program by inviting them to shadow practitioners in the residents’ clinic and faculty practice. They see that periodontology is more than scaling and root planing. They are introduced to periodontal prophylaxis, surgical techniques, regeneration, and the great care that is taken with aesthetics,” he adds.

Dr. Meghil’s passion for teaching extends beyond the clinic and the laboratory. His wife is an academic, too. “We talk about education all the time,” he says. “We discuss how we can enhance our skills, and we’re extremely proud when we get good evaluations from students and peers.”

Service is another important part of Dr. Meghil’s daily life. “I’ve done volunteer work since I was a youngster,” he notes. “I am originally from Libya and I was a member of Libyan Red Crescent. Here in Georgia, we take frequent trips to the flea market to spread the word about our free services for periodontal board cases. Many people do not know that the university offers a wide range of dental services.”

Dr. Meghil sees the Foundation as integral to securing the future. “I hope the specialty will be infused with young educators,” he explains. “Helping periodontists who are interested in teaching but find themselves in private practice just because of the financial burden is a strategy to keep our specialty strong. Passing the torch from one person to another is particularly important to our field.”

Mohamed Meghil
DDS, MS, PhD

Assistant Professor
Augusta University





Andrea Ravidà, DDS, MS

Adjunct Clinical
Assistant Professor
University of Michigan

When Dr. Andrea Ravidà was a youngster, he did not like to study.

"But my father and grandfather were dentists, and my mother had a dream that I would become a dentist, too," he says. Through diligence and time, Dr. Ravidà discovered his love for academia and became passionate about periodontology.

He says, "I researched the CVs of leaders in the field and saw that many of them had studied in the United States." Dr. Ravidà's father told him that he would need a "big brain" to study in the U.S.

"After dental school, I went to London and worked as a waiter in Italian restaurants and took courses so that I could learn English," Dr. Ravidà recalls. Eventually, through determination and perseverance, he was accepted into the graduate program at the University of Michigan.

"I love research, but teaching is the best. I always knew I would be happy being a teacher and that idea is confirmed. I enjoy watching my students improve in class and the clinic. Every day they become more confident about answering questions and caring for patients," he adds.

"I was attracted to periodontology because I am fascinated by surgery and science. This specialty combines aspects of both. I can be a clinician, do surgery, investigate, and help preserve patients' natural dentition. Extraction should be the last resort," Dr. Ravidà advises. "Although an implant is better than no tooth, it's not better than a natural tooth."

"This award is having a significant impact on me in two ways. I always thought academics would be my life," Dr. Ravidà notes. "The Foundation's recognition validates my choice. The financial support relieves the burden of my residency loans and living expenses. It allows me to do what I love."

"On a personal level, when you have financial stability, you are not as stressed. Stress interferes with your concentration. I can give 100 percent to academia." Dr. Ravidà observed that his award has had a ripple effect. "The support has also helped my family. My younger sister is still in school, and my parents can focus on her. It has made a difference for everyone around me."

Dr. Ravidà is currently researching and studying in detail the new classification of periodontitis. He is also involved in several projects on treatment of peri-implantitis as well as short implants. He hopes to continue engaging in high-level studies, helping patients, and, one day, to become a program director.

"The moral of my story," he says, "is to listen to your mother."

"The Foundation's recognition validates my choice. The financial support relieves the burden of my residency loans and living expenses. It allows me to do what I love."



Nevins Teaching and Clinical Research Fellowship

Panagiotis Dragonas, DDS

Assistant Professor
Louisiana State University



"I completed my DDS in Greece,"

Dr. Panagiotis Dragonas explains. "I knew from early on that I wanted to follow the path of periodontics and I was fortunate enough to be accepted at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) for my perio training in 2012. I cannot express how grateful I am for the faculty at UIC who were (and still are) very generous with their knowledge, guidance, and advice. A great program indeed!"

"Being part of Louisiana State University Periodontics motivates me to stay current on developments in our specialty," says Dr. Dragonas. "I am currently teaching at the undergraduate and postgraduate level, where I work closely with the residents in the clinics and on their research projects. Recently, I was promoted to associate professor with tenure, which represents the culmination of more than five years of effort."

"There is a lot of satisfaction in my work," says Dr. Dragonas. "It's very rewarding to watch the progress of students and show them how to apply didactic knowledge to clinical practice. Observing residents who are approaching graduation mastering surgical techniques contributes to that satisfaction. Discovering that one of my publications has been accepted and seeing my efforts materialize are also exciting milestones," he enthuses.

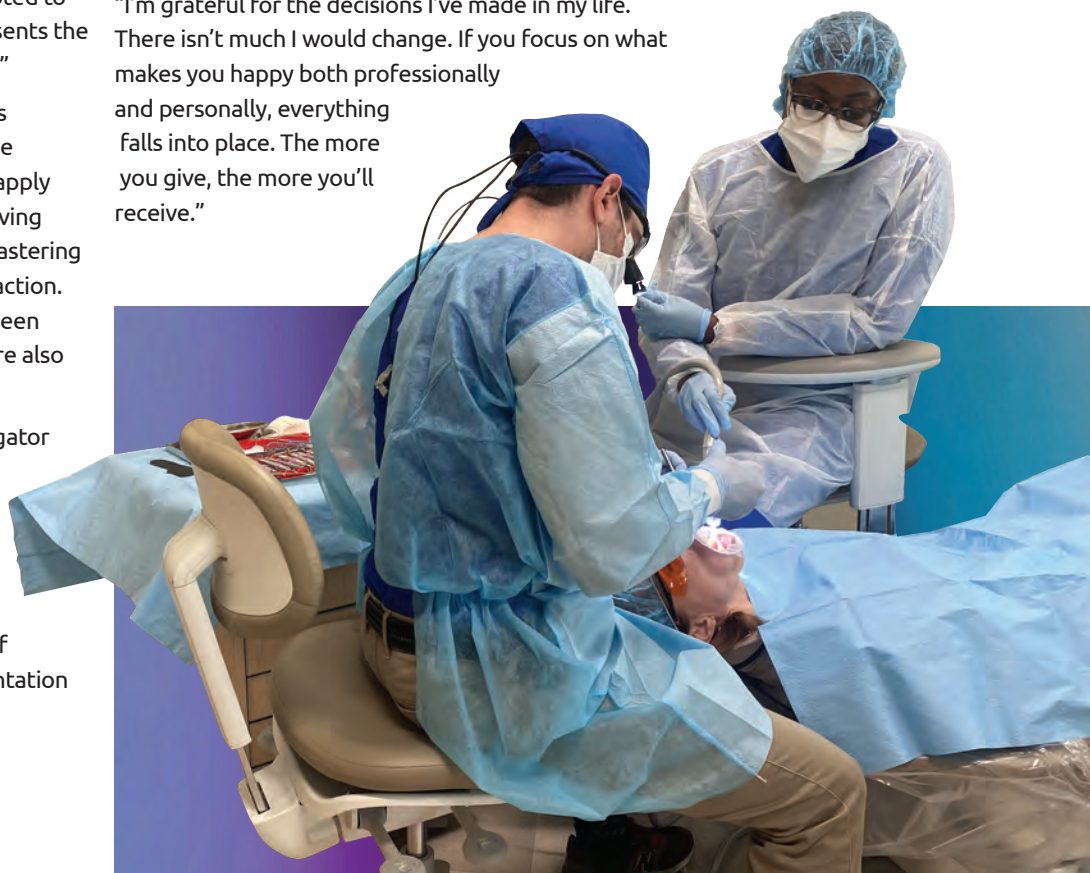
Dr. Dragonas is currently the principal investigator in a clinical trial studying the use of different biomaterials in ridge preservation procedures. His latest paper, accepted for publication in the *International Journal of Periodontics and Restorative Dentistry* (IJPRD), is about the regenerative potential of various platelet concentrates in sinus augmentation procedures.

Dr. Dragonas states, "I am grateful to the selection committee. Dr. Nevins has an impressive legacy. It is a true honor to be awarded the fellowship that carries his name. The committee members are renowned periodontists with significant contributions to our specialty. To be selected for this award gives me the confidence to stay in academia and contribute as much as I can."

Dr. Dragonas hopes others will appreciate the Foundation's work. "We're extremely fortunate to have a Foundation that supports us in this meaningful way. Contributing to that mission is one of the most sincere ways to give back to the specialty that gives so much to all of us," he says.

"I'm grateful for the decisions I've made in my life. There isn't much I would change. If you focus on what makes you happy both professionally and personally, everything falls into place. The more you give, the more you'll receive."

"Dr. Nevins has an impressive legacy. It is a true honor to be awarded the fellowship that carries his name."



Nevins BioHorizons Fellowship

“If you want to strengthen our specialty, it starts with supporting the young leaders who will move us forward,” Dr. HimaBindu Dukka advises. “Foundation awards encourage educators as they navigate their professional journeys. There were times when I thought about going back to private practice. Awards like the Nevins BioHorizons Fellowship encourage folks like me and other grantees to stay in academia.”

“When I was a resident attending AAP meetings, I looked to the award winners as the benchmark of success,” Dr. Dukka recalls. “The recognition is a stamp of approval for people doing meaningful work. But it doesn’t stop there. I have met so many colleagues I wouldn’t have known otherwise through the interview process. I hope to collaborate with some of them on research and on giving back to our specialty.”

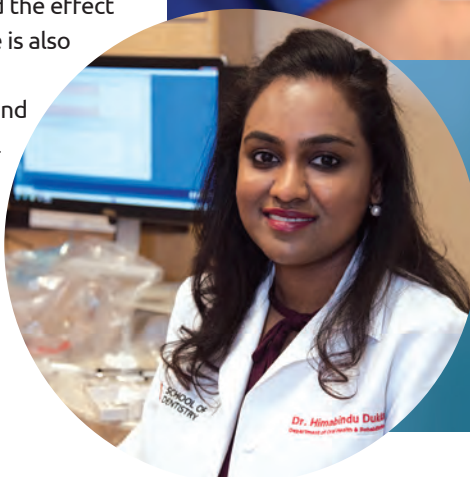
Dr. Dukka, who is originally from India, began her professional life as an epidemiologist. “In 2015, I graduated from Indiana University. I was working in a clinical trial for first-time moms, looking to find risk factors for miscarriage,” she recalls. “We were evaluating genetics, socio-economic status, and blood work. But the oral cavity was not under consideration. That was intriguing to me, and it was among the factors that led to my pursuit of periodontology. Periodontology is a great amalgamation of medicine, surgery, and research. It offers practitioners engagement in oral-systemic considerations and the medical side of dentistry,” she adds.

Currently, Dr. Dukka is studying risk factors associated with early bone loss around implants and the effect of peri-implantitis on adjacent teeth. She is also involved in collaborations with several colleagues at the University of Louisville and nationally doing research on periodontal and peri-implant diseases. Her group has submitted R01s to the National Institutes of Health for studies related to oral dysbiosis and lung carcinoma and marijuana-induced dysbiosis in experimental gingivitis among other clinical studies.

In addition to her research activities, Dr. Dukka is responsible for all aspects of the periodontology program at the University of Louisville. “Working with the residents is so gratifying,” she notes. “I also really enjoy patient care. As program director, I feel personally responsible for whatever goes right or wrong. The multidisciplinary aspect of my position is another benefit. I work with prosthodontists, orthodontists, and endodontists. I’m building relationships with those program directors and being an ardent supporter of our specialty,” she says.

Dr. Dukka says, “I want to thank the Foundation. This award has been a great boost and validation for me. It’s a wonderful show of encouragement.”

“I want to thank the Foundation. This award has been a great boost and validation for me. It’s a wonderful show of encouragement.”



HimaBindu Dukka
MSD, MPH
Program Director
University of Louisville

The AAP Foundation is grateful to BioHorizons for their sponsorship of this fellowship.

Dr. D. Walter Cohen Teaching Award



Chiho Ahn, DMD, DMSc
Clinical Assistant Professor
Boston University

Since he was a child, Dr. Chiho Ahn has had a keen sense of social responsibility.

"My goal is to provide service, education, oral health research, and clinical patient care. I hope that my work will benefit public education," he says.

"The best part of my job is the time I spend teaching. The positive feedback I get from the students is extremely rewarding," Dr. Ahn explains. "If they weren't interested in periodontology before, when I explain the basic science and patient benefits to them, they become enthusiastic."

"I'd like to thank the selection committee," says Dr. Ahn. "Receiving this award has accelerated my career. The recognition also strengthens academics and supports periodontists who are just starting their professional journeys. This endorsement gives me confidence that I can be a leader who inspires students to advance their specialty. I'm also able to pursue what I enjoy most — my career in academics," he adds.

Dr. Ahn is as enthusiastic a scientist as he is a teacher. "Currently, I'm continuing a major project from my residency at Harvard. We're exploring the role of *Sfrp4*, a protein coating gene in bone repair and regeneration, found in stem cell regeneration. Today, the most common solution available for extensive bone defects is reconstructive surgery using bone graft materials," Dr. Ahn explains. "Manipulating the *Sfrp4* gene may revolutionize various dental treatments which require bone regeneration."

"This endorsement gives me confidence that I can be a leader who inspires students to advance their specialty."

The Dr. D. Walter Cohen Teaching Award is generously sponsored in part by Carestream Dental.



Because of his leadership, achievements, and involvement in both the dental profession and public service, Dr. Ahn has been selected for Fellowship in the American College of Dentists, an elite group of dental professionals. Dr. Ahn adds, "Through this recognition from the American College of Dentists, I will continue to advance excellence in professionalism and leadership in periodontal education."

Among his many interests and activities, Dr. Ahn enjoys explaining the intricacies of periodontics to other specialists. He says, "I've been invited as a guest speaker for the Implant Study Club. They enjoy seeing beyond the predoctoral level of our practice. I'm also a reviewer for the *Journal of Periodontology*."

Dr. Ahn credits his success to a supportive family. "I have a twin brother who is an endodontist in Manhattan. We graduated dental school at the same time. We talk on the phone frequently and give each other treatment advice based on our unique backgrounds. I'd also like to thank my parents. They give me a lot of encouragement. They have always guided me and urged me to continue studying, to be humble, and to pursue my dreams."

The Charles W. Finley Visiting Scholar Education Grant

The Charles W. Finley Visiting Scholar Education Grant was established to honor the memory of Dr. Charles W. Finley and all the great periodontal leaders of the past, present, and future. Grants of \$2,000 are awarded to accredited U.S. periodontal programs to offset honoraria, travel, promotion, and seminars by speakers in periodontology. The grants must be matched by funds from each department or institution. Though the speakers spend much of their time with the periodontics department students and faculty, the grant requires that the speaker present a formal program to the entire dental school on a subject of interest. Since the pandemic made it impossible for those who won the Finley award in 2020 to hold their presentations, we are featuring the winners from 2020 and 2021 here. The 2020 recipients include Indiana University, Boston University, and the University of Washington. In 2021, the University of Maryland, Baltimore, and the University of California, San Francisco both received the Finley Award.

The University of Washington School of Dentistry in Seattle, WA, welcomed Dr. Paul S. Rosen and Dr. Zheng Zhou, who addressed the topic of interdisciplinary therapy for their dental students, residents, and faculty in periodontics, prosthodontics, endodontics, orthodontics, and general practice residency. They shared informative lectures on the management of implant complications, implant therapy, and periodontally accelerated osteogenic orthodontics. Dr. Yung-Ting (Lizzy) Hsu, clinical assistant professor, says, "We want to thank the AAP Foundation for this generous support, allowing us to bring in speakers of this caliber, especially during the pandemic. We are also grateful to have the opportunity for the speakers to spend time with us and interact with our students and residents via a virtual platform."

The University of Maryland hosted Dr. Stephen Chu for a day-long symposium. His topic was "Implant Risks, Complications, and Solutions in the Esthetic Zone." Sessions were attended by postgraduate periodontics residents, postgraduate prosthodontics residents, and dental students. At the University of California, San Francisco, the 2020 Finley Award was used to support a virtual Research Day event. Their keynote speaker, Dr. Joseph Kan, addressed "Treatment Planning for Anterior Implant Esthetics" for the audience of residents in the periodontics and prosthodontics programs, along with faculty and staff. Dr. Guo-Hao (Alex) Lin, Health Sciences Assistant Clinical Professor and Director, Postgraduate Periodontics Program at the Dental School, says, "This generous support from the Charles W. Finley Visiting Scholar Education Grant makes this Research Day event possible! Both periodontal and prosthodontic residents learned tremendously from Dr. Kan, and the information provided during the lecture strengthens the perio-prosth treatment collaboration and integration."

Indiana University incorporated their speaker into their annual resident appreciation event. Dr. Takanari Miyamoto spoke about "Working Harmoniously Together to Achieve Excellence: A Key to Creating Predictable and Successful Outcomes."

The AAP Foundation is proud to partner with schools across the country to bring these stimulating programs to their students.



University of Maryland
Finley Award

"Both periodontal and prosthodontic residents learned tremendously from Dr. Kan, and the information provided during the lecture strengthens the perio-prosth treatment collaboration and integration."



UCSF Finley Presentation



University of Washington Finley Presentation

One Finley Award is generously sponsored by Glustitch, Inc.

ADEA/AAL Institute for Teaching and Learning in the Health Professions

The American Dental Education Association (ADEA) and the Academy for Advancing Leadership (AAL) collaborate on the Institute for Teaching and Learning (ITL) in the Health Professions (ADEA/AAL ITL) each year. The ADEA/AAL ITL provides six days of intensive onsite learning, discussions, and networking with faculty from the United States, Canada, and abroad. Created for early- and mid-career faculty and private practice dentists interested in a new academic career, participants receive hands-on experience with key instructional tasks such as evaluating student competence, presenting lectures, planning courses, constructing tests, working with challenging students, and providing feedback.

"I have incorporated many of the educational concepts from the program into my everyday interactions with dental students and graduate periodontology residents. I am grateful to have been given an opportunity to attend the ADEA/AAL ITL by the AAP Foundation – it is a gift I pay forward every day."

In 2021, the AAP Foundation provided 13 fellowships to this program to the following periodontists:

Mohamed R. Abdelrasoul, *Batterjee Medical College*

Beatriz Bezerra, *University of California, Los Angeles*

Francesca Bonino, *Tufts University*

Erin Breen, *Boston University*

Kai-Chiao Joe Chang, *University of Southern California*

Guo-Liang Cheng, *University of Louisville*

Eswar Kandaswamy, *Louisiana State University*

Adam D. Lietzan, *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

Archana Palakkal Meethil, *Creighton University*

Karin C. Schey, *University of Florida*

David P. Semeniuk, *Temple University*

Stavros J. Sofos, *Nova Southeastern University*

Yu-Ting Yeh, *Indiana University*

When asked about his experience, Dr. Eswar Kandaswamy says, "The ADEA/AAL ITL program was a fantastic experience to learn about education in the healthcare field and to meet like-minded people who are passionate about dental education. The experience motivates young educators like me to strive to do better every day. I sincerely thank the AAP Foundation for their support that enabled me to attend the program." Dr. Mohamed Roshdy Abdelrasoul adds, "Being recognized as a fellow is a great honor; however, it comes with a great deal of responsibility and commitment towards the profession."

"The opportunity to participate in the ADEA/AAL ITL program was eye-opening as it gave me a new perspective in education," says Dr. Beatriz Bezerra. "Thanks to this fellowship, I now have tools and resources to help me be a better educator and help my students succeed in their professional lives. Thank you, AAP Foundation, for investing in periodontal education." Dr. Erin Breen adds, "The ADEA/AAL ITL program was a rewarding experience which gave me an opportunity to foster relationships with my fellow academic colleagues."

"I appreciate my experience at the ADEA/AAL ITL program, which allowed me to bear in mind different important aspects of dental education while I am teaching students with varied backgrounds," says Dr. Yu-Ting Yeh. Dr. Adam Lietzan concludes, "The fellowship to the ADEA/AAL ITL represents a continued investment into the future of periodontal education. Actively engaging and inspiring the next generation of practicing dentists and periodontists through periodontal education commands exposure to advanced concepts in education. As a junior educator, this experience provided an excellent foundation from which I can grow. I have incorporated many of the educational concepts from the program into my everyday interactions with dental students and graduate periodontology residents. I am grateful to have been given an opportunity to attend the ADEA/AAL ITL by the AAP Foundation – it is a gift I pay forward every day."

"The ADEA/AAL ITL program was a fantastic experience to learn about education in the healthcare field and to meet like-minded people who are passionate about dental education. The experience motivates young educators like me to strive to do better every day."



Beatriz Bezerra

University of California,
Los Angeles



Francesca Bonino

Tufts University



Mohamed R. Abdelrasoul

Batterjee Medical College



Karin C. Schey

University of Florida



Yu Ting Yeh

Indiana University



Adam D. Lietzan

University of North Carolina
at Chapel Hill



Archana Palakkal Meethil

Creighton University

“I hope I can make the kind of lasting **IMPACT** on the dental profession that Dr. Setter did. I am stepping up my game. My parents always told me to be the best I can be, relentlessly pursue my goals and never settle. I will do my best to live up to his reputation and continue his work.”



Dr. Mark K. Setter Leadership in Periodontology and Dental Implantology Award

“The Setter Award has helped me incredibly. My husband and I are both in residency, and he’s working two jobs,” says Dr. Janet Zalucha. “The scholarship has lifted a huge weight off of our shoulders. It’s really lightened the load. I can’t say thank you enough to the Foundation, to the periodontists who organized it, and to all who donated. It’s moving mountains for us.”

Dr. Zalucha has a passion for working with special needs patients. She is adept at treating people who have severe dental anxiety or are medically compromised. “I love seeing the patients who are referred to our clinic as a last resort,” Dr. Zalucha advises. “It’s like a puzzle where all the pieces might not fit together perfectly, but we strive to find a clinically acceptable solution that fits the patient’s needs and goals and improves their quality of life.”

“Recently I treated a sixteen-year-old boy whose periodontal issues were preventing him from being on the kidney transplant list. He was nonverbal and also afraid to open his mouth. I discovered that his favorite song was Thunderstruck by AC/DC and

co-residents in other specialties about bridging this gap, delivering the message that, “It’s part of teaching and leadership to encourage more dentists to go outside their comfort zone and work with patients who need extra attention. Twenty-four percent of patients in the United States have special needs, 50 percent are medically complex, and 30 percent have at least two medical issues. If you can’t manage that, you’re turning away half of your potential clientele.”

“To say that I’m honored by this recognition is a huge understatement,” Dr. Zalucha notes. “I was thrilled to meet Dr. Setter’s wife and daughter and learn about his life. Faculty members also shared their personal stories about how he impacted their careers.”

She concludes, “I hope I can make the kind of lasting impact on the dental profession that he did. I am stepping up my game. My parents always told me to be the best I can be, relentlessly pursue my goals, and never settle. I will do my best to live up to Dr. Setter’s reputation and continue his work.”

“It’s part of teaching and leadership to encourage more dentists to go outside their comfort zone and work with patients who need extra attention. Twenty-four percent of patients in the United States have special needs, 50 percent are medically complex, and 30 percent have at least two medical issues.”

Janet Zalucha, DDS
Second-Year Resident
University of Michigan



that he loves Spiderman. Playing the song made it easier for him to cooperate. When I told him that his mother was like Spiderman chasing the bad guys out of his mouth when she brushed his teeth, he became more comfortable about opening his mouth at home,” says Dr. Zalucha.

She adds, “His case has improved enough so that he is now on the transplant list. We had difficulty finding a general dentist to provide routine care until a former classmate of mine stepped up. Now he has a dental home.”

Improving outcomes for special needs patients is a serious commitment for Dr. Zalucha. She lectures



Dr. and Mrs. Gerald M. Kramer Scholar Award for Excellence

“Owning a business has been a whirlwind experience,” says Dr. Amanda Morris. Dr.

Morris is a people person who was attracted to the patient-centered aspects of the specialty and the relationships periodontists develop over the course of providing treatment.

“I love the patients and the surgery, plus I’ve met a lot of new people,” she explains. “I’m enjoying the interaction of private practice, and I like getting out from behind a desk.” Dr. Morris adds, “The best part of completing residency and moving forward is no more exams!”

“Waking up in Charleston is great! Charleston has always been my favorite city; my parents fell in love here in the eighties. I found this practice through the AAP website and I’m thrilled that my career enabled me to return to a place and to a group of people I love. I’ve reached out to the dental community and joined study clubs. Everyone is welcoming and kind,” enthuses Dr. Morris.

She adds, “I’m still in shock that I won a Kramer Award. Both the recognition and the previous winners are so prestigious; I am lucky to be among them. This support has helped me in my practice. I updated essential equipment and purchased a CBCT unit. I would not have been able to make those improvements otherwise.”

Dr. Morris has a history of volunteerism and service both inside and outside of dentistry. She was vice president of the American Student Dental Association and an AAP resident liaison. Now she is eager to begin participating in her new community.

Soccer plays an important role in Dr. Morris’ life. She’s passionate about the sport and is hoping to sponsor some local teams. “Soccer made me into a team

player. I’m working on getting my coaching license,” she explains. “I want to coach a younger team. It’s a great sport for young people.”

Teaching is another way that Dr. Morris hopes to give back. “I’ve enjoyed having residents come to shadow my practice. When I get past the American Board of Periodontology exam, I’m planning to teach once a week at Medical University of South Carolina.”

Another goal is to start volunteering at a community clinic once per week. Someday Dr. Morris would like to establish her own clinic in an underserved Charleston neighborhood and provide free care to the residents.

“The Kramer Award gave me a lot of encouragement,” Dr. Morris notes. “It helped to get my practice moving and has contributed to the success of so many other young periodontists. When you support the Foundation, you inspire others. It feels good to know that you are part of the effort that moves our specialty forward.”

“This support has helped me in my practice. I updated essential equipment and purchased a CBCT unit. I would not have been able to make those improvements otherwise.”



Amanda B. Morris
University of Texas,
San Antonio
Private Practice,
Mt. Pleasant,
South Carolina

“When you support the Foundation,
you inspire others. It feels good to know
that you are part of the effort that
moves our specialty forward.”



“I’m honored to be the recipient of an inaugural award. It’s a humbling experience.

This is the first AAP Foundation grant that encourages interdisciplinary

COLLABORATION

and it’s an exciting moment.”



Guo-Hao Lin, DDS, MS

Assistant Professor and
Program Director of
Postgraduate Periodontics

University of California,
San Francisco

The Dr. Colin Richman and Family Perio-Ortho Interface Award

Dr. Guo-Hao Lin is among the first to receive the new Dr. Colin Richman and Family Perio-Ortho Interface award.

He says, "I'm honored to be the recipient of an inaugural award. It's a humbling experience. This is the first AAP Foundation grant that encourages interdisciplinary collaboration and it's an exciting moment. This partnership will make a significant contribution to our specialty and expand the science. We will be able to provide better patient care and more predictable clinical outcomes."

The AAP Foundation and Dr. Lin have a history together. He credits ongoing Foundation support with helping him to stay in academia. His first award in 2016 was the Dr. D. Walter Cohen Teaching Award, followed by an AAL Institute for Teaching and Learning scholarship in 2017. "As a result of these experiences, I received advice and instruction from experts in teaching," Dr. Lin recalls. "I got plenty

"Our study explores the interactions during active orthodontic therapy. The forces orthodontics applies to teeth cause bone and soft tissue remodeling. We are investigating different parameters such as keratinized tissue, recession, soft tissue phenotype, and papilla dimension," he adds.

Dr. Lin adds, "I'm extremely excited about this project. The goal is to analyze the effect of orthodontic tooth alignments in the periodontia. Until now, researchers have focused more on hard tissue. Shifting gears from hard tissue to soft tissue determines the aesthetic outcomes for patients."

"Without the Foundation's support, this study would not happen. The award allows us to provide patient incentives such as waiving costs for exams and reimbursement for the required CBCT scan."

"Dr. Richman is a master clinician in this field," Dr. Lin advises. "Our project will let us know the interactions

"Without the Foundation's support, this study would not happen. The award allows us to provide patient incentives such as waiving costs for exams and reimbursement for the required CBCT scan."



of tools and had the opportunity to connect with other educators. Then, in 2019 I received a Teaching Fellowship. I owe my career to Foundation support!"

The Richman award will allow Dr. Lin's most recent research focus to move forward. "I've always had an interest in tissue interaction with different procedures such as implants and orthodontic and restorative treatments," he notes. "I've been devoting my own research time focusing on these topics and working with the University of California at San Francisco Orthodontic Clinic."

between periodontic and orthodontic treatment without any surgical intervention. It sets the stage for future research."

Dr. Lin sees the Foundation as keeping both his career and his specialty on track. "Gifts to the Foundation make our specialty strong," he observes. "They enable practitioners like me to stay in academia and mentor the next generation."

The Dr. Colin Richman and Family Perio-Ortho Interface Award



Vrushali Abhyankar, MDS, MS

Assistant Professor and Assistant
Graduate Director, Periodontology

University of Tennessee
Health Science Center

The Dr. Colin Richman and Family Perio-Ortho Interface Award gave Dr. Vrushali Abhyankar a unique opportunity to collaborate with her orthodontic colleagues.

"I would like to thank the Foundation for their support over the years, especially to people early in their careers. It has helped so many colleagues to assume leadership roles. I would hope all periodontists would contribute; it supports the future of our community, and motivates us all to do good work and provide the highest quality patient care."

"We were able to increase our interaction with the orthodontics department and establish a mutually beneficial, collaborative relationship with them. This award has brought communication with a new group of people to life, and patients are benefitting from that dialogue. The Foundation is taking a great step in promoting this collaboration. The partnership opens minds to new treatment possibilities," she says.

Periodontally activated osteogenic orthodontics is the technique that the two groups are studying. Though it is not a new interdisciplinary procedure, it has not found a strong foothold in many institutions. The goal is to minimize the time taken for orthodontic treatment and provide a stable environment for the teeth in their new positions in the dental arch. A periodontist performs decortication of the bone and places a bone graft for rapid orthodontic correction of malocclusion.

"We feel this procedure has benefits for all patients, especially for older adults, by decreasing the orthodontic treatment timeline and making treatment possible in certain cases which previously were thought to be difficult or impossible to treat," Dr. Abhyankar advises.

"However, this important procedure has failed to achieve global acceptance. We hope that through



greater interaction and communication, a channel is established to demonstrate the benefits to both periodontists and orthodontists. Personally, the project supports my career progression. I can establish a niche in the perio-ortho world. I strongly believe this helps patients and it has given me a path and direction for future research," says Dr. Abhyankar.

Dr. Abhyankar practiced as a prosthodontist for 10 years. Realizing that periodontology is the foundation for all restorative work, she was determined to learn more. That quest for knowledge drew her into the specialty. She became the interim graduate director in July and is very appreciative of her departmental and college support. Her goal is to give the University of Tennessee periodontology program greater recognition within the specialty. "We already have graduates who are excellent clinicians," she notes, adding, "I hope to take the program to new academic and clinical heights."

"I would like to thank the Foundation for their support over the years, especially to people early in their careers. It has helped so many colleagues to assume leadership roles. I would hope all periodontists would contribute; it supports the future of our community, and motivates us all to do good work and provide the highest quality patient care," Dr. Abhyankar notes.

“This award is a great concept,” Dr. Ayman Al Dayeh advises. “While interdisciplinary treatment philosophy is not a new concept, managing such patients is always challenging. With the advances in 3D imaging techniques, we are becoming more aware and more interested in orthodontic movements in the buccolingual dimension. This is a vastly understudied and misunderstood field. Learning more will help us understand how to treat cases that currently may not have a good prognosis. We can discover how to improve care.”

Dr. Al Dayeh was attracted to the big-picture thinking that characterizes orthodontics. “You need to have a strategy with the finish line in mind before you start the case,” he observes. “I also like the challenge of treating multi-specialty complex cases and caring for patients who may have had difficulty finding a provider. Teaching and learning from my residents are other enjoyable aspects of my work,” he adds.

“I see cases involving adult patients that challenge traditional orthodontic concepts. We need better treatment options. The surgical orthodontic process helped me push the envelope for several of my patients. But we need to develop a better understanding of buccal-lingual movement, orthodontic tooth movement, and bone. In the long term, I hope to develop methods to generate bone and facilitate orthodontic tooth movement,” says Dr. Al Dayeh.

He adds, “Dental research is under-funded. That’s always a challenge. Most of our funding comes from specialties’ research foundations. These awards help us to gather scientific evidence, utilize new technology to provide better care for our patients, and improve our profession.”

“Recently, I went to one of Dr. Richman’s lectures. As a result, I am seeing things differently. When we look through the eyes of both periodontists and orthodontists, we can be more objective about how we are impacting teeth and bone,” observes Dr. Al Dayeh.

In addition to his professional responsibilities, Dr. Al Dayeh is father to three children under the age of five. He still manages to find time for favorite activities like fishing, reading, gardening, and family road trips.

“These awards help us to gather scientific evidence, utilize new technology to provide better care for our patients, and improve our profession.”



**Ayman Al Dayeh
MSD, PhD**

Associate Professor

University of Tennessee
Health Science Center

The Dr. Colin Richman and Family Perio-Ortho Interface Award



Allison Jan, DDS

Second-Year Orthodontic Resident
University of California,
San Francisco

"The grant is an honor. It's enabling me to do this research, as we have limited funds for our master's projects. This is a clinical study that is not associated with a lab. The support is a significant resource, and I feel honored to receive it."

The complexity of orthodontic treatment planning attracted Dr. Allison Jan to the specialty.

"There is no one right answer," Dr. Jan observes. "Developing a strategy is like figuring out an extremely complex puzzle. There are so many ways to fit teeth together. I also really like the population we treat. Patients come to the orthodontist on their own. They don't dread the experience. Instead, they are motivated by the promise of a straight smile and healthier teeth."

As a second-year resident at the University of California San Francisco, Dr. Jan will graduate in June 2023. She is currently involved in writing her master's thesis on how orthodontics affects the gums and soft tissue.

"Braces can make the gums puffy and irritated," Dr. Jan explains. "I'm investigating how that affects the thickness of the tissue and quantifying the changes that occur within the first six months after treatment. The relationship between periodontics and orthodontics is crucial. In orthodontics, we move teeth through bone and soft tissue. It's important to work closely with periodontists to ensure that we're not causing harm. We want to provide adequate bone and space for a future implant if needed," she adds.

The Dr. Colin Richman and Family Perio-Ortho Interface Award is an important factor in Dr. Jan's ability to complete the project. "The grant is an honor. It's enabling me to do this research, as we have limited funds for our master's projects. This is a clinical study that is not associated with a lab. The support is a significant resource, and I feel honored to receive it."

Dr. Jan appreciates being in a learning environment where she can ask questions, receive feedback, and make the occasional mistake. "In private practice, I won't have these opportunities," she notes. Her research is also equipping her for the future.

"This project is giving me experience focusing on interdisciplinary work. It's great to begin building those networks and referrals that will ensure good care for my patients. Awards like this further both professions. Reinforcing the importance of interdisciplinary care makes us better clinicians. This is a topic that hasn't been explored as much as it should be. I hope my research will provide something useful for the entire scientific community."

Dr. James T. Mellonig Regeneration Research Award

When Dr. Linda Wang Lam was doing her research, she did not expect to win an award. **"I was really honored to receive this recognition.** It enabled me to start my practice. But it has also inspired me to have a good mix in my career. There is no dental school near my home, but I started teaching at the hygiene school. People are attracted to the implant aspect of periodontology. This award is a good reminder that regeneration is also an important part of our specialty. There is considerable knowledge still to be discovered that will help us save teeth," she says.

Dr. Lam worked on her project over a three-year period. She explains, "I was trying to develop a new kind of membrane that could deliver drugs/agents in a controlled way. I created it using an electrospinning technique. I wanted to determine whether core-shell nanofiber membranes would improve outcomes in periodontal regenerative therapy through simultaneous mechanical barrier and controlled drug delivery function."

"I specialized immediately after dental school. I was attracted by the science-driven, evidence-based aspects of periodontology," Dr. Lam explains. "I also enjoy surgery and patient education. It is rewarding

to help people understand why they are experiencing dental issues. Patients are grateful when you explain the disease process and provide treatment options that can save their teeth."

"I just opened my practice in January, and it is starting to take off. In my area, there are not many other periodontists. It is nice to be able to give patients access to care when they have had a difficult time finding a specialist. Currently, I am focused on getting established, growing, and adding a hygienist. Over time, I may take on an associate. I would also like to explore what other options there are for me to contribute to the specialty," says Dr. Lam.

Dr. Lam views the Foundation as an investment in the next generation of periodontists. "In this day and age in dentistry, with the rising cost of education and the increasing prevalence of corporate dentistry, the focus is to get out of school and repay loans," she says. "Even when people want to specialize, some feel compelled to get out there and start working. These awards allow new periodontists to pursue other options. They can do more research. It is good for the specialty to have periodontists investigating new techniques and materials. Without research that innovation will not continue."

"This award is a good reminder that regeneration is also an important part of our specialty. There is considerable knowledge still to be discovered that will help us save teeth."



Linda Wang Lam, DDS, MS
University of Rochester
Private Practice, Clifton Park, NY

The Patty and Paul Levi Research Award

As an undergraduate student at the University of California, Davis, April Martinez served as a translator at a free medical clinic. She assisted a team of dentists who were anxious for their patients to understand every aspect of the treatment process.

"By the end of my first year, I knew that I wanted to specialize in periodontology," she recalls. Studying microbiology in her third year at Davis, she became interested in treatments for lowering the incidence of the *Clostridium difficile* bacteria. That question led her to research studies that only increased her enthusiasm for the specialty.

"I realized that, as a periodontist, I could incorporate microbiology, research, and preventative care into my practice," she notes. "Gums and bones are the foundation for a second chance for compromised teeth.

"University of California, San Francisco also has a dental clinic where I served as a clinic coordinator and translator. We provide care to uninsured Bay Area residents. Students and volunteer faculty see about 20 patients a night," she adds.

"When I sit down with a patient and discover how I can help them navigate their oral health, everything else fades away," Martinez observes. "We discuss the impact on their medical history and cultural beliefs. A lot of the work we do depends on the practitioner and patient being a team. Sharing what I've learned is very rewarding. We teach patients that they can improve their oral health through hygiene, diet, and management of systemic conditions. The patients understand that we're not just treating their teeth. We care for the whole person."

"The award was a wonderful surprise for me. My personal statement described my work studying Nisin, an antimicrobial peptide produced by the probiotic *Lactococcus lactis* and its applications for periodontitis," adds Ms. Martinez.

"The research environment made me more passionate about periodontology and using Nisin to treat periodontitis non-invasively. Surgery doesn't have to be the first option; there are new tools to manage periodontitis. I wanted to share my interest by applying for the Levi award. The papers we're publishing demonstrate the bridge between periodontal research and the medical world. Oral health impacts overall health. My hope is that someday it will be possible to affect systemic health through our work and that all patients will have better access to dental and periodontal care," she says.

Ms. Martinez's favorite part of dental school is teaching her patients. She wants to continue to be involved in academia. "Research will always have a place in my heart," she says. "When I graduate, I imagine myself working in a private practice in San Diego, my hometown. I live five minutes from the Mexican border. There is a dental school in Tijuana where I would like to teach and make a positive impact on the community. This recognition from the Foundation validates my career choice and my place within a specialty that values patient care. It's heartwarming for me."

"My hope is that someday it will be possible to affect systemic health through our work and that all patients will have better access to dental and periodontal care."

April Martinez
Fourth-Year Dental Student
University of California, Davis



The AAP Foundation Schoor Research Award



Muhammad Saleh, DDS, MS, MSD

Clinical Assistant Professor

University of Michigan

“I have a dream job,” says Dr. Muhammad Saleh, 2021 AAP Foundation Schoor Research Award recipient. “I couldn’t have wished for a better position. It’s not easy to find a place where you’ll be able to do everything that you love.” In Dr. Saleh’s case, those activities include teaching, mentoring, research, and seeing patients.

“Being an academic was not a decision I made quickly,” Dr. Saleh advises. “During residency, I taught undergraduate students and mentored them through surgeries. It was a great experience. I saw myself in their mistakes and fears. To take their hands and guide them through this experience was so fulfilling, and I know they appreciated it. By the end of my third year, I knew I wanted to go into academia.”

Dr. Saleh also didn’t decide to specialize lightly. “Before becoming a periodontist, I was in private practice as a general dentist for 10 years. I was exposed to many different specialties. When I went into periodontology, I knew exactly what I was getting into, and I was not disappointed,” he recalls. “I think it’s the leading specialty in terms of research and evidence-based practice. I like the attention to detail and the surgical procedures. It’s gratifying to put the broken pieces back together and regenerate what was lost.”

In the research arena, Dr. Saleh is investigating risk factors related to peri-implantitis and periodontitis. He is also studying one question that is critical to patients. “Currently, I’m investigating the cost-effectiveness of maintaining periodontally compromised teeth versus implant placement. We are using artificial intelligence to create models over 10, 20, and 30 years.”



“Historical information, impact of complications, and evidence from the literature are all being evaluated. We’re using simulations to determine what the actual cost of both options would be. Patients want to make their decisions based on real-life data. That matters a great deal to them,” he adds.

“The Schoor award was very important for me,” says Dr. Saleh. “It came at a time when I was still not sure if I should go into academia. The recognition signaled that I was on the right track and validated my research path. I needed someone to tell me that I was doing a good job. Foundation donors should know that they are shaping the future. Academics have big dreams. We need to keep these ambitious people in the right place.”

Dr. Saleh concludes, “My ambition is to pass along the knowledge and skills I’ve learned over the years and the ones to come that will become a legacy. Leaving behind a legacy means making an impact that will last long after me. And my most important legacy are my five amazing children. They are the biggest joy of my life.”

“My ambition is to pass along the knowledge and skills I’ve learned over the years and the ones to come that will become a legacy.”

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Heather K. Ridgway, DDS, MS	Vincent Senini, DDS	Travis Steinberg	Robert A. Vitas, PhD, CAE, CFRE <i>In Memory of Anthony W. Gargiulo, DDS</i>
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Clyde Robinson, DDS	Susan Setter	Jason M. Strever, DMD	Rebecca Wagner, DDS
Lt. Col. Janet Robinson	Cary A. Shapoff, DDS <i>In Honor of Myron Nevins, DDS</i>	Drs. Ronald and Janet Stukalin	Matthew T. Waite, DDS, MS
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2021 Financial Report

Robert A. Vitas

PhD, CAE, CFRE,
Executive Director
AAP Foundation



It is my pleasure to present this 2021 Financial Report to the generous friends and benefactors of the American Academy of Periodontology Foundation.

The AAP Foundation's financial position remains strong despite the displacement wrought by Covid, thanks to your generosity, the vision of the Board of Directors, prudent management by staff, and a diversified portfolio. We remain by far the largest federally tax-exempt public charity in the United States devoted to periodontal education and research.

Major and planned gifts continue with the latest \$250,000 pledge by Dr. Jose Mellado and Dr. Ania Cabrerizo. We are the beneficiary of more testamentary bequests than before. Dental industry continues to expand its support, indicating that the AAP Foundation inspires trust and confidence in what we do. The AAP Foundation stewards your dollars carefully and keeps operating expenses to a minimum so that maximum funding goes to our programs.

The AAP Foundation has continued its support of education and research and is poised for new initiatives in 2022 and beyond. We have awarded \$6.5 million in support of our specialty since our founding in 1990 and are determined to continue to grow this important work.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, volunteers, and staff, thank you for supporting our mission, our specialty, and the health of patients for over three decades.

Robert A. Vitas, PhD, CAE, CFRE
Executive Director

Following are the sources of our support:

- Contributions and pledges totaled **\$834,089**.
- Investment income was **\$776,663** on a portfolio of **\$8.4 million**.
- Programming garnered an additional **\$11,896** in revenue.

What do we do with your hard-earned dollars?

- **\$341,000** granted in scholarships, fellowships, and to periodontal programs reflects our unswerving commitment to periodontal education and research.
- Another **\$15,318** supported educational programming of the American Academy of Periodontology and the American Board of Periodontology. This is lower than usual due to the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic. 2022 will see a rebound in this support.
- Program support activities expended **\$165,189** and outreach programs totaled **\$300,487**.
- Annual Meeting programs were **\$70,354**, including outlays for the largest and most successful Future Horizons in Periodontology session to date.
- Operational expenses were **\$285,228**.



Dr. Jason Stoner presenting the new Setter award to Dr. Zalucha

Setter award recipient Dr. Janet Zalucha with husband Robert Ault, Mrs. Susan Setter, and Dr. Jill Bresler

Honoring Dr. Mark K. Setter

In February 2019, periodontology lost one of its greats — Dr. Mark Setter. Dr. Setter was a well-loved contributor to periodontics. He practiced for 30+ years, lectured, and mentored many dentists, periodontists, and students. To honor Dr. Setter's memory, Drs. Jason Souyias, Jason Stoner, and Mitch Godat, along with Mrs. Susan Setter, have worked with the AAP Foundation to establish the Dr. Mark K. Setter Leadership in Periodontology and Dental Implantology Award. Through the generosity of Dr. Setter's friends, colleagues, and family, the award reached its fundraising goal and was awarded for the first time in November 2021 to Dr. Janet Zalucha. The AAP Foundation is also grateful to BioHorizons, Salvin Dental Specialties, Inc., and the North American Society of Periodontists for their generous support of the award. This annual \$10,000 award will recognize a periodontal resident who exemplifies the leadership qualities that Dr. Setter exemplified and encouraged throughout his lifetime.

Dr. Jill Bresler, Dr. Setter's daughter, says, "Everyone involved with the scholarship, from its 'founding fathers' Drs. Stoner, Godat, and Souyias to all the incredible people at the AAP Foundation, has been so genuinely gracious throughout the entire process. What an amazing community the AAP Foundation and its supporters have built; it goes beyond profession and into passion. My dad loved every facet of his career, mostly being able to brainstorm and share his knowledge with others in the field, especially students. We are so grateful for this tribute and that it honors a remarkable man, while also continually celebrating and supporting the next generation." Mrs. Susan Setter adds, "Mark always believed in helping others — be it his patients, family, friends, dental students, and new grads. This scholarship is a great way to honor him, but more importantly, help people achieve their dreams."

Dr. Mitch Godat shares, "Dr. Mark Setter was a statesman for periodontics and practiced the highest quality of care for his patients, while

always looking to improve the lives of everyone around him from his patients, office team, his referrals, and his community. He was an impressive motivator and master communicator who inspired people to push beyond what they thought possible. He was a true leader that all admired and aspired to emulate."

"Mark embodied with great passion the important role dentistry plays in a person's overall health and well-being and, in particular, the role of periodontics in the comprehensive care of a patient," adds Dr. Jason Stoner. "Collaboration with our medical, pharmaceutical, and dental colleagues for providing the best in 'want-based' care for the patient was his aim with every decision, every lecture, and every treatment plan. He bridged the gap between dentistry and patients better than any other through extreme advocacy. He often spoke of 'The Platinum Age of Dentistry'— a visionary leading us to freedom to treat a patient through better treatment planning and case presentation leading to excellence in case acceptance. Mark was a thought-provoking leader who practiced in a place we all want to be, and he devoted all his energy through teaching at universities, lectures, and study clubs throughout the country to help all of us get there. There is a void that must be filled by young, energetic visionaries to continue the quest for which Mark paved the road."



"[Dr. Mark Setter] was an impressive motivator and master communicator who inspired people to push beyond what they thought possible. He was a true leader that all admired and aspired to emulate."

- Dr. Mitch Godat

Candidates for this award must exemplify leadership in the profession by their actions in promoting periodontology and dental implantology. They must be full-time periodontal residents at accredited U.S. periodontal programs as of the application deadline and be nominated by their periodontal program director. Nominees for this award should demonstrate leadership in promoting periodontology, implantology, advanced treatment planning, and case acceptance strategies through mentorship of other students and professionals, making a positive impact on how periodontology and dental implantology are viewed in their school, or by promoting the importance of periodontology and dental implantology in the comprehensive treatment of patients. This is not a clinical award, but an award for leadership in promoting all aspects of what it means to be a periodontist. More information can be found at periofoundation.org/awards.



Ways to Give:

The American Academy of Periodontology Foundation (AAPF) is a federally tax-exempt not-for-profit charitable organization and is the only entity of its kind dedicated to periodontists and the patients they serve. Your donations directly support education and research in the field of periodontology.

You can give to the AAP Foundation online, by phone, by mail, or through a planned gift. You can also donate in honor or in memory of a loved one. Choose from one of the following easy giving options:

- **Online:** You can make an online donation through our secure online giving form, 24 hours per day at www.periofoundation.org. You can use this form to make a one-time gift, set up a monthly recurring gift, or initiate a long-term pledge to be paid over time.
- **Phone:** Credit card gifts are gratefully accepted at 312-573-3257 during regular business hours.
- **Mail:** You can mail your donation to the AAPF to:
AAP Foundation
PO Box 7020
Carol Stream, IL 60197-7020
- **Planned Gift:** If you are interested in making a gift through your will, life insurance policy, a trust, or IRA, please visit periofoundation.planmygift.org to explore your options or call 312-573-3256 for more information.
- **Donate an item to be used in the annual AAP Foundation Silent Auction.** Popular items include stays at vacation properties, tickets to sporting events, wine, spirits, jewelry, and other luxury items. Contact dana@perio.org for more information.

Thank you for your contributions to support the future of periodontology. Your generosity will have a lasting impact on the specialty's educators, researchers, practitioners, and patients.

Contributions made to the AAPF qualify as charitable donations for federal income tax purposes and are eligible for income tax deductions to the extent provided by law. Please consult with your tax adviser to determine the amount allowed. No goods or services will be provided in exchange for your generous financial donation.



AAP Foundation Visionary Society

The Visionary Society encourages gifts of future assets, thereby ensuring the AAP Foundation's strength and viability over the longer term. The AAP Foundation is grateful to our Visionary Society members.

The late Michael L. Barnett

Dr. Sara Bender

Monish Bhola

Jack and Harriet Caton

The late Abram and Sylvia Chasens

Dr. Gail and Mrs. Susan Childers

Marilyn Ciancio and the late Seb Ciancio

Ms. Joanne Cohen

The late Dr. D. Walter Cohen

Rich Corgel and Joan Otomo-Corgel

The late L.K. and Lucy Croft

D. Scott Fehrs

The late Robert T. Ferris, DDS, PhD

Drs. Bryan and Linda Frantz

Drs. Mia Geisinger and Gregory Umphrey

Vanchit and Sharmila John

Richard T. Kao, DDS

Dr. and Mrs. Paul A. Levi, Jr.
(Paul Levi pictured above)

Michael and Jana McGuire

Dr. and Mrs. P.D. Miller

Dr. Gerald Pieroni

Michael P. and Gilia Rethman

The late R. Earl Robinson

Jeffrey A. Rossmann, DDS, MS

Jo M. Rummelhart, DDS

Dr. Jay Salzman

E. Todd and Stephanie Scheyer

Bryan Siegelman, DDS, Dip Perio

The late Bob Spettel

Dr. and Mrs. Edward Sugarman

Linda Tarrson and the late E. Bud Tarrson

Ken and Lisa Thomalla

The late Gayle Wood

Dr. and Mrs. Alan D. Young

S. Jerome and the late Faith B. Zackin

Annual Meeting 2021

Thanks to all who engaged with the AAP Foundation at the AAP Annual Meeting in Miami Beach! Whether you stopped by the booth, bid on the Silent Auction, attended a meeting or event — we appreciate you all! Without your support, the AAP Foundation would not be able to award more than \$300,000 annually to support periodontal education, research, and excellence.

This year's Silent Auction was a resounding success. The AAP Foundation is grateful to the 40+ companies and individuals that donated goods and services. This year's event raised nearly \$30,000 that will support the Foundation's mission.

Drs. Rios, Gajendrareddy, Wang, Ganesan, and Math demonstrated return on donor investment at the 2021 Future Horizons in Periodontology session, a well-attended session addressing "Peri-Implant and Periodontal Conditions: Emerging Science." The AAP Foundation was proud to partner once again with the AAP and the Osteology Foundation for another successful Regeneration Symposium. Ambassadors and Student Ambassadors didn't let the thunderstorm stop them from joining Foundation leadership to brainstorm ideas at the 2021 Ambassador Breakfast.

The AAP Foundation collaborated with the AAP to recognize recipients of AAP and AAP Foundation awards at a moving awards ceremony. This year we were proud to introduce two new awards: the Dr. Mark K. Setter Leadership in Periodontology and Dental Implantology Award and the Dr. Colin Richman and Family Perio-Ortho Interface Award.

We celebrated with AAPF donors who had given more than \$1,500 each at the AAP Foundation Donor Appreciation Reception immediately following the Awards Ceremony. Donors enjoyed a memorable evening of authentic Miami Beach flavors and upbeat Latin music. Our thanks to Pacific Dental Services for their lead sponsorship of this event.

Once again, Treloar & Heisel sponsored a fascinating Estate Planning Breakfast, with presentations from Michael Markhoff, partner in the White Plains law firm of Danziger & Markhoff LLP and a well-respected estate planning attorney, and Shawn Johnson from Treloar & Heisel Wealth Management. Our thanks to them for an informative session which presented attendees with actionable steps.



Drs. Velasquez and Richardson at the AAPF President's Reception

The AAP Foundation is grateful to the following companies that donated items to our Silent Auction:

A. Titan	Piezosurgery Inc., a Mectron Company
AAP Membership	Porter Instrument
ACE Surgical Supply Company	Quintessence Publishing Co. Inc.
Alpine Pharmaceuticals	Salvin Dental Specialties, Inc.
Cocofloss	Snoasis Medical LLC
Cutting Edge Technology LLC.	Sowingo
Dentatus USA	StellaLife VEGA Oral Care
Dentium USA	Straumann
Glustitch, Inc.	Sunstar Americas, Inc.
Impladent Ltd.	TePe Oral Health Care, Inc.
J. Morita USA	Treloar & Heisel
Laschal Surgical Instruments, Inc.	Unicare Biomedical, Inc.
Noris Medical Inc.	Water Pik Inc.
OraVu	Xemax Surgical Products, Inc.
Ortho Traction Pads	
Osteogenics Biomedical	
PDT, Inc.	

Awards
Ceremony



Leaders and friends of the AAP Foundation donated interesting and unique items to the Silent Auction. Special thanks to:

Yousuf A. Al-Aboosi, DDS, MS	David Meister, DMD, MS
Irina Dragan, DDS, DMD, MS	Patricia Miguez, DDS, PhD
Satheesh Elangovan, BDS, DSc, DMSc	Michael G. Newman, DDS
Arachana Karan, MDS	Joan Otomo Corgel, DDS, MPH
James A. Katancik, DDS, PhD	Foti Panagakos, DMD, PhD
John Y. Kwan, DDS	Flavia Q. Pirihi, DDS, MS, PhD

PerioDash 2021

The AAP Foundation's Run to Support the Future of Periodontal Education

After a year of staying apart, runners and walkers tentatively began to come back together for PerioDash 2021. The Foundation's annual virtual run/walk, which can be done inside or outside, on a treadmill, track, or trail, together or on your own, provided the perfect opportunity to support the AAP Foundation at each participant's personal comfort level. About 200 people from school teams, practice groups, and individual runners participated this year. We are grateful for everyone's support and hope to see you all in 2022!

The AAP Foundation is grateful to all who participated in PerioDash 2021 and we hope to see you again in 2022!

University of Michigan PerioDash Team



Harvard PerioDash Team



UCLA PerioDash Team





AAP Foundation Support of AAP Initiatives

In 2021, the AAP Foundation again sponsored two AAP programs that align with the Foundation's mission: the Regeneration Symposium and the LEAD (Leadership Engagement Action Development) Program.

The LEAD initiative is an exclusive two-day program that aims to identify future leaders in periodontics, help them develop the necessary skills to ensure success, and inspire a new cohort that is committed to advancing the profession. The 2021 program yielded the fourth group of LEAD alumni. To be eligible for consideration, candidates must: 1) be an Active AAP member in good standing who has been in practice for fewer than 10 years; 2) have demonstrated a previous aptitude for leadership during residency, practice, or other setting; and 3) have shown an interest in playing a role in moving the specialty forward through clinical, scientific, or organizational leadership. A total of 13 of the 21 participants have received one or more awards or grants from the AAP and/or AAPF.

Participants engaged in group sessions and discussions with seasoned Academy and Foundation leaders about academic, clinical, scientific, or organizational leadership opportunities.

Congratulations LEAD class of 2021!

Dr. Alex Gillone*	Dr. Hanae Saito*	Dr. Rachel Dulebohn
Dr. Andrew Rossi	Dr. Irina Dragan*	Dr. Shan-Huey Yu*
Dr. Angela Synatzske	Dr. Iris Ortiz-Gonzalez	Dr. Sukirth Ganesan*
Dr. Beatriz De Brito Bezerra*	Dr. Kai Chao Joe Chang*	Dr. Vrisiis Kofina*
Dr. Carlos Garaicoa*	Dr. Michitsuna Katafuchi	Dr. Will Trahan
Dr. Carlos Parra Carrasquer*	Dr. Namita Khandelwal	Dr. Yousuf Al-Aboosi*
	Dr. Natalie Frost	Dr. Yusuke Hamada*
	Dr. Pin-Chuang Lai*	

*AAP Foundation Award Recipient



The AAP Foundation was also proud to co-sponsor the AAP/AAP Foundation/Osteology Foundation Regeneration Symposium: *Managing Complications Related to Regenerative Therapy Around Teeth and Implants*. Moderated by Drs. Pamela K. McClain and William V. Giannobile, the session was presented by Drs. Giulio Rasperini, Hom-Lay Wang, Martina Stefanini, and Gustavo Avila-Ortiz, who addressed specific complications encountered with hard and soft tissue regenerative therapy around teeth and implants and approaches for preventing and managing those problems.

2021 Leadership



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Bottom Row, L to R: Lisa Masters, Flavia Pirihi, Diego Velasquez, Joan Otomo-Corgel, Erin O'Donnell Dotzler

Not pictured: Sharon Bannister, John Kwan, Jose Mellado

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Keerthana M. Satheesh DDS
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Kyle Diehl
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