



AAP FOUNDATION  
1990 | 2020

American Academy of Periodontology Foundation



**Bright Spots. Bright Minds. Bright Tomorrows.**



2020 Annual Report

**There are always bright spots.  
You just need to look in the  
right places.**

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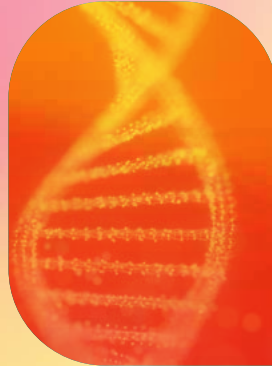


**31** Financial

AAP FOUNDATION  
**2020**  
Annual Report



**\$315,500**  
Granted in  
Scholarships  
and Fellowships



**\$190,480**  
Supported  
Educational  
Programming



**27**  
Award  
Recipients

**175**  
PerioDashers



**100+**  
Dedicated  
Volunteers

**1**  
New  
Award



As we emerge from a uniquely challenging year, we are grateful for the bright spots: for resilient educators, researchers and leaders who persisted against daunting odds; for donors and volunteers who generously supported our efforts to continue advancing our profession; and for science, which illuminated our path forward.

## Dear Colleagues,

It was my honor to serve as President of the AAP Foundation during the historic year that was 2020.

2020 is still fresh in our minds as the unique year it was, filled with uncertainty and sweeping changes. We know that the pandemic affected each one of us in different ways and I can only hope that you have recovered from whatever toll the past year has taken on you and yours.

For the AAP Foundation, 2020 was a year of resilience, innovation, and adaptation. Since the AAP's Annual Meeting could not proceed as planned in Hawaii, we hosted our first-ever virtual Foundation Reception, complete with a mixologist who showed us how to craft a perfect Mai Tai, a magician who surprised and astonished us in real time, and a reminder that the Foundation's work is more important than ever before. Treloar & Heisel once again partnered with the Foundation to bring you the latest on estate planning. If you missed it, the presentation is still available on our YouTube channel—find it on [periofoundation.org](http://periofoundation.org). Our best and brightest brought you their innovative research during our Future Horizons in Periodontology CE session. Many of you stopped by our virtual booth and “met” our award recipients on a special page dedicated to their achievements. Despite this year's challenges, we still were able to have meaningful interactions with many of you, and we are grateful for your participation.

Thanks to the generosity of our Foundation family, our donors, and leaders, we were able to present our full complement of scholarships, fellowships, grants, and awards—more than \$300,000—to those who will lead the specialty in the coming years. You will see in the pages that follow just how impactful these awards were, especially this year.

Far from just surviving, the Foundation found new strength in 2020. Through a generous gift from Dr. Colin Richman and his family, the Foundation established the Dr. Colin Richman Family Perio-Ortho Award, which will explore new pathways in multidisciplinary approaches.



**Sharon R. Bannister**  
DDS, MS, FACD, FICD  
President

*Thank you for all you do to support science, to make possible the dreams of those who will lead our specialty into the future, and to ensure the Foundation remains a fiscally strong force for good.*

Each dollar you contribute is carefully cultivated for maximum impact—whether it is supporting the AAP's leadership development program (LEAD), the Women in Periodontology program, an award for an aspiring educator that offers the freedom to pursue research, a fellowship for a young educator that allows a committed individual to remain in academia through difficult times, or support for the next big scientific breakthrough—know that your generosity is changing lives for the better. We are so grateful for your support this year. I hope you will continue in your dedication to excellence in periodontology through the example you set every day, and through your generous support of the AAP Foundation. May the coming years bring health and growth for us all.

Kindest regards,

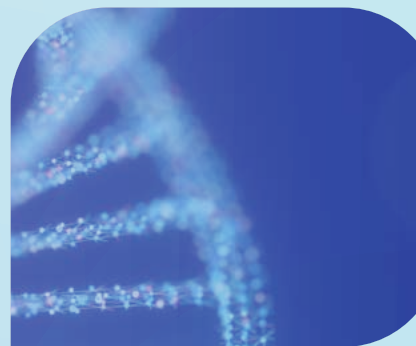
Sharon R. Bannister, DDS, MS, FACD, FICD

# Education



Meet the AAPF 2020 award recipients who will inspire the periodontists of tomorrow.

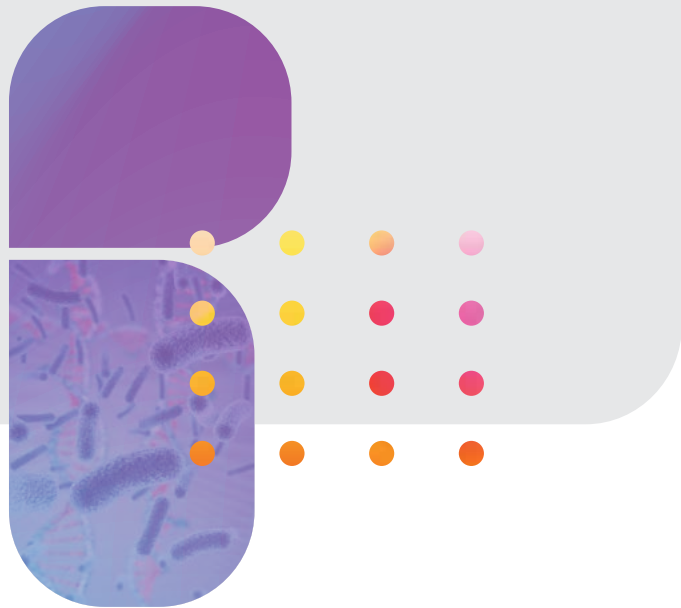






**Educator Scholarship**  
**Kyle J. Diehl, DDS, PhD**  
 Third-Year Resident  
 University of Colorado

***“Finding the courage to make difficult decisions and take on challenging projects creates the quality of change and impact our specialty needs to grow.”***



***“The Foundation’s support isn’t tied to a product or an agenda. This objectivity plays an important role in our specialty’s development.”***

**D**r. Kyle Diehl was initially attracted to periodontology by research and surgery; however, teaching has become an equally fulfilling activity. He currently teaches dental students oral histology as well as physiology and guest lectures at the University of Colorado Boulder.

“I enjoy the combination of clinical practice and academic responsibilities,” Dr. Diehl remarks. “We have opportunities to pair up with first-year co-residents to provide instruction. There is also a program for undergraduates to learn from residents as assistants. We can show them aspects of periodontology that they wouldn’t typically see in the undergraduate setting. Experiencing their excitement is extremely rewarding.”

Capturing and retaining his students’ interest are especially important for Dr. Diehl. “You can tell when students are losing attention,” he explains. “But when you demonstrate techniques for new dentists, you watch them become increasingly engaged.”

“I enjoy the possibility of contributing to future thoughts and ideas through research,” Dr. Diehl advises. “As science leads us to increasingly important discoveries, our influence over peoples’ health grows, and we can impact the future of their care.”

Dr. Diehl’s award is meaningful from a personal, professional, and financial perspective. “The funding is significant,” he says. “It will cover one full year of the curriculum. I have undergraduate student loans so this support is incredibly helpful.”

“The application and interviewing process opened doors for me. I made contacts with professionals who will be my colleagues and mentors as I continue my journey. I learned so much about who is involved in supporting organized dentistry.”

Dr. Diehl is grateful for the Foundation’s ongoing commitment to the specialty despite last year’s extreme disruption. “Although COVID-19 limited in-person meetings, I was impressed by the many activities that continued,” he observes. “The effort and intention of the people who organize the award were evident. Even through a pandemic, this support remained a top priority.”

“Our field is built on the quality of research done by pioneers who were focused on treating disease. Continuing to influence our patient’s systemic health is going to require ongoing scientific discovery. Funding is critical. The Foundation’s support isn’t tied to a product or an agenda. This objectivity plays an important role in our specialty’s development.”

As a new father, Dr. Diehl is especially focused on the future. He cautions that in the post-pandemic environment, “We must ensure that people are still starting conversations and making the effort to collaborate, even when it may not be easy. Finding the courage to make difficult decisions and take on challenging projects creates the quality of change and impact our specialty needs to grow.”



**H**elping predoctoral students connect the dots between the classroom, the clinic, and research evidence is one of many experiences that makes teaching exciting for Dr. Martinna Bertolini.

"I'm passionate about the microbiology changes in periodontitis, and the students assimilate everything better when we show them how oral biofilms can become pathogenic," she explains. "They understand the big picture when they see the science and the rationale for treatment decisions, such as whether or not to prescribe antibiotics considering patient systemic condition and the extent of disease. It's a great experience for them, and for me as an instructor, when they make this correlation in their minds."

"I love periodontology because it's a research-driven field. My background in microbiology contributed to my interest. In addition to educating students and encouraging them to bring their best to each patient, I would like to continue to be involved in research focusing on oral microbiology changes from healthy to disease states. Helping students to understand the science behind every treatment option motivates and encourages them to improve each day," Dr. Bertolini says.

"Research makes a tremendous difference in the field," she adds. "It enables the students to learn critical thinking and to see how periodontal treatment is based on evidence. When students know how to use the data and understand what they indicate, they take that information into the clinic and improve their ability to offer state-of-the-art treatment based on the best available evidence."

Community service has also influenced Dr. Bertolini's research activities. She became interested in the effects of chemotherapy on the oral microbiome after losing a family member to cancer and volunteering with a group that supports the Make a Wish Foundation. "I worked with kids who were diagnosed with some aggressive forms of cancer," she explains. "We dressed as Disney characters and visited them in the hospital. It was sad, but also extremely rewarding. I'm looking for more ways to become involved with cancer patients and improve their quality of life."

Dr. Bertolini is grateful for the trust that the Foundation has placed in her ability to become an outstanding educator. "This award, given so early in my career, is recognition that the Foundation's board and its contributors believe I am going to make a difference for the specialty," she says. "I hope that I will fulfill every expectation. As an immigrant from Brazil, and the first generation with a postgraduate degree, I recognize that the financial support will have a big impact on my ability to continue on this career path."

A professional who strives to be a leader in all her activities, Dr. Bertolini sees the Foundation as helping her to accomplish that goal. "I'd like to be a department chair someday," she adds. "I am also proud of my Brazilian heritage and my ability to represent Latina women in science. I hope this inspires all minorities in the periodontal field to take more leadership roles and brings more representation to all of us."

"When you are recognized by the Foundation, you become part of something bigger than your own goals and objectives," she notes. "You don't need to be making a lot of money to start donating. Many people, contributing what they can afford, adds up. Every little bit counts. Each gift benefits the whole field of periodontology and younger periodontists like me."

***"When you are recognized by the Foundation, you become part of something bigger than your own goals and objectives."***

## Educator Scholarship

**Martinna Bertolini, DDS, MS, PhD**  
University of Connecticut



***“The Foundation has touched so many lives. Its support takes our specialty to a higher level.”***

“I arrived in this country from India with just two suitcases and the Teaching Fellowship means the world to me,” says Dr. Sukirth Ganesan. Dr. Ganesan’s gratitude to the Foundation is matched by his enthusiasm for academics and the specialty. “I wanted to be a surgeon, a scientist, and a teacher, and all that’s possible with periodontology.”

“This specialty gives you a strong foundation in basic science and finely-honed surgical skills,” he explains. “I appreciate that I am not only educating my students, but I’m also teaching my patients good oral hygiene. It is a little like being a life coach. There is not a single dull moment.”

“At the end of the day, I go to bed thinking my teaching, mentoring, and patient care made a difference. All these experiences are rewarding. The research feeds into the clinic; the clinic expands the science. It’s exciting to explain this progression to the next generation,” Dr. Ganesan observes.

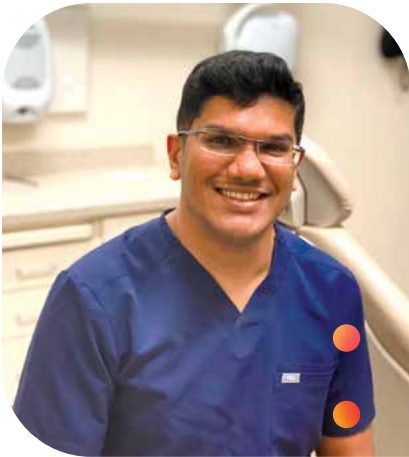
“The best part about teaching is that ‘aha!’ moment when you look in students’ eyes and see that they truly assimilated what they have learned,” he adds. “It is also rewarding to watch a student grow from being a novice who had never held a pipette to become a candidate for an MD/PhD program. That’s the power of education and giving people the right opportunities.”

“The Teaching Fellowship is a huge financial support for me as a young academic,” he says. “I can focus on what I love—teaching and research. Credibility and recognition are so important. Previous winners are stars of academia. Being included in this elite group validates my accomplishments and gives me confidence.”

“This was a significant year for everyone,” Dr. Ganesan notes. “There were times when I needed encouragement that I was on the right career path. Despite the challenges of having a paper rejected, a sleepless night, or the pandemic, this recognition is a ray of hope.” Along with the award, Dr. Ganesan relies on the guidance of his mentors. He says, “I have learned to reach out to the right people with an open mind. I would not be where I am now without my mentors, including Drs. Purnima Kumar, Martha Somerman, Jacqueline Mays, Georgia Johnson, Gustavo Avila-Ortiz, Ashu Mangalam, and Satheesh Elangovan.” These influences, along with the steadfast support of his family and friends, have given Dr. Ganesan the strength to achieve his goals.

“I don’t think any other specialty has such a strong commitment to the next generation,” he adds. “The Foundation has touched so many lives. Its support takes our specialty to a higher level.”

As Dr. Ganesan celebrates his first-year anniversary of being a program director, his eyes are firmly fixed on the future. He looks forward to becoming more involved in organized dentistry and to continue pursuing a career as a successful clinician scientist.



Teaching Fellowship  
**Sukirth Ganesan, DDS, PhD**  
Director, Advanced Education Program and Visiting Scholar Program in Periodontics,  
Assistant Professor  
University of Iowa



## Teaching Fellowship

**Seyed Hossein Bassir, DDS, DMSc**  
Assistant Professor  
Stony Brook University

**A** multifaceted academic life keeps Dr. Seyed Hossein Bassir energized and enthusiastic about his work. “Academia allows me to spend time engaged in the activities I enjoy most,” he notes. “I treat patients, teach clinical procedures, and I’m able to participate in translational research.”

As an educator, the cycle of learning is one of Dr. Bassir’s most rewarding experiences. “It’s exciting when the students master a topic or technique and then I see them teach it to others. Knowing they will someday become skillful clinicians and educators is extremely gratifying,” he says.

Dr. Bassir manages his own laboratory. His current research focus is evaluating the long-term outcomes of regenerative procedures related to implants and teeth. “I’m assessing the accuracy of static guided implant surgery and developing and optimizing biologically active scaffolds for bone regeneration,” he explains. “My goal is to enhance the scaffolds we’re using in the clinic and develop new materials for future use.”

Although 2020 was a difficult year, Dr. Bassir found reason for optimism despite the challenges. “Our school closed for almost five months,” he recalls. “But the result was that students and faculty became much closer. We were doing our best to ensure that the students received excellent training. Technology played a big role in that effort and the experience improved our ability to use digital solutions.”

Now that in-person classes have resumed, Dr. Bassir is eager to continue pursuing his research and begin securing funding. “I hope to see clinicians using the scaffold biomaterial that we are developing in their practices,” he says. “I also look forward to inspiring residents to become leading scientists, educators, and clinicians.”

***“The recognition and encouragement I received from the Fellowship are helping me achieve the important goal of providing ongoing leadership to students.”***

“I want to thank the Foundation for this opportunity and for trusting and believing in my potential. It’s the only organization in our specialty that financially supports residents’ and young educators’ professional growth,” Dr. Bassir remarks. “Given the gap in income between academicians and private practitioners, it’s especially important to have this funding early in my career. The recognition and encouragement I received from the fellowship are helping me achieve the important goal of providing ongoing leadership to students.”



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



The American Dental Education Association and the Academy for Advancing Leadership collaborate on the Institute for Teaching and Learning 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 career in academics, the program offers participants 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. In 2020, the AAP Foundation provided 15 of these program fellowships to the following periodontists:

Dr. Anuja Doshi shares, “As dental educators, we have years of training on ‘how to treat’ but no formal training on ‘how to teach.’ Teaching future healthcare providers is an enormous responsibility that requires more than just knowledge of dentistry, and, in that regard, the fellowship was an invaluable experience that allowed me to better shape my teaching philosophy and truly understand what it takes to be an effective educator. It also provided an incredible opportunity to exchange experiences and ideas with other aspiring educators and learn from them. I am grateful to the AAP Foundation for supporting early-career faculty development, despite the unprecedented challenges of 2020.”

**Fellowship Recipients**

- Arif Salman Abdul Shakore, West Virginia University
- Yu-Cheng Chang, University of Pennsylvania
- Ann Decker, University of Michigan
- Anuja Doshi, University of New England
- Sukirth Ganesan, University of Iowa
- Marela Garcia, Nova Southeastern University
- Theresa Laksmana, University of Southern California
- Cherry Libramonte, Woodhull Hospital, affiliate of the New York University Langone Medical Center
- Matthew Mason, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Thomas Nguyen, Harvard University
- Mabel Salas, University of Missouri, Kansas City
- Jyoti Sonkar, Boston University
- Lorenzo Tavelli, University of Michigan
- Livia Valverde, Tufts University
- Miao Xian Zhou, Mayo Clinic at Rochester

***“This session was an incredible opportunity to collaboratively engage, discuss, and overcome the myriad of challenges we face in educating the next generation of dental clinicians in 2020 and beyond.”***

— Dr. Ann Decker

Dr. Ann Decker adds, “This session was an incredible opportunity to collaboratively engage, discuss, and overcome the myriad of challenges we face in educating the next generation of dental clinicians in 2020 and beyond. It is amazing to be a part of the creativity, high-level engagement, and brilliance that resides in our specialty. Collectively, we have much to be proud of and together we can achieve beyond what we previously thought possible.”

Dr. Cherry Libramonte says, “I am grateful to the AAP Foundation for this opportunity. Now, more than ever, we need great leadership to inspire and empower through education. My experience at ITL far exceeded my expectations and has given me a skillset that I can apply in all aspects of my life.”

**“W**ere are an immigrant family. My dad hoped that his daughter would grow up to be a highly accomplished professional,” Dr. Sejal Thacker explains. “He passed away in July. This award is for him. It is his dream come true.”

In this dark year, Dr. Thacker’s passion for periodontology and her students was a source of solace. “I love everything about the specialty,” she says. “It is a perfect blend of science, art, and finesse. I wouldn’t think of any other profession. It is my happy place, and I come home from work satisfied. I welcome all the challenges that it brings. When someone is passionate, the students catch that enthusiasm.”

“Teaching makes me a better periodontist,” she adds. “I share the details of my private practice with my students and show them how to troubleshoot. We discuss options and what I might have done differently. Being with them challenges me and keeps me up to date. Their growth and successes are extremely rewarding.”

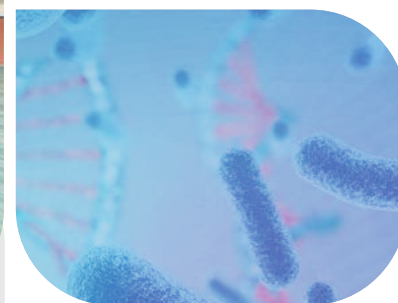
Participating in the specialty’s future through research is another source of Dr. Thacker’s professional satisfaction. Currently, she is collaborating with Straumann to evaluate extraction sockets and grafting materials, and she is also partnering with the radiology departments at her institution to study low-dose radiation scans. “I’m happy to play a tiny part in the evolution of the science I believe in so fervently,” she says.

“The Tarrson Award has validated my accomplishments,” she explains. “It gave me recognition as an educator at the institutional, state, and national levels. I know that my mentors, students, family, and friends share my pride. During 2020 when so many people were hurting, this award was a ray of hope.”

Dr. Thacker’s involvement in organized dentistry was another source of support during the pandemic. She participates in activities across the dental spectrum from committees at her institution and her state association to non-profits like the Foundation and the American Dental Education Association. “Organized dentistry gives you a professional community,” she observes. “You know where to look for help, and you understand that you’re not the only one facing challenges.”

“I look forward to becoming even more involved in dentistry on a national level,” she concludes. “I am indebted to the Foundation. It has made a major difference in my life. I hope donors realize how significantly they can impact our careers. People left academia during the pandemic. My students and residents who struggle financially are passionate about this profession. Something like the Tarrson Award helps us all to keep moving forward.”

*“I look forward to becoming even more involved in dentistry on a national level. I am indebted to the Foundation. It has made a major difference in my life.”*



**Bud and Linda Tarrson Fellowship**

**Sejal Thacker, DDS**

Assistant Professor and Director of  
Advanced Education in Periodontology  
University of Connecticut



***“Giving someone like me, who loves research and teaching, an opportunity to stay in academia helps keep our field vibrant.”***

**“**I am at an exciting crossroads in my career,” Dr. Lietzan explains. “The directions are almost limitless; administration, clinical care, and research are all areas of interest. I am still not sure which path I’ll follow. The future may include all three options. One thing is certain, I am never bored. Every day is different, and I know that eventually I’ll find my focus.”

Dr. Lietzan was initially drawn to periodontology by his love of science. Currently, Dr. Lietzan’s research focuses on understanding how enzymes that are derived from the oral microbiome can be used as diagnostic biomarkers in identifying periodontitis. “Each individual has a unique microbial proteome profile,” he advises. “Understanding the role of microbial derived enzymes in disease may lead to new treatment modalities for periodontitis.”

While a keen interest in science opened the door to periodontology, Dr. Lietzan finds the human side of the specialty even more compelling. “Periodontology offers wonderful treatment options and outcomes, but the patient who trusts you with his/her care is the most significant part of the profession,” he explains. “We must stay grounded in what is best for the patient.

Each patient is someone’s mother, father, parent, or child. I treat them all as if they were part of my own family. As periodontists, we enjoy outlining exciting new treatments and techniques, but the reality is the face behind the data. That is the most rewarding perspective.”

Dr. Lietzan believes every patient deserves care regardless of his/her circumstances. He says, “The dental students at UNC are phenomenal at organizing and offering free dental clinics for the community. These clinics, which are funded through external donations, offer direct restorations, extractions, and hygiene for people in need. I volunteered during my residency and continue to serve as a faculty member.”

Generosity is a thread that runs through Dr. Lietzan’s career. “The future of our specialty depends on giving back,” he advises. “Compared to 20 or 30 years ago, the financial burden that students carry now is astronomical. Giving someone like me, who loves research and teaching, an opportunity to stay in academia helps keep our field vibrant. When people don’t contribute to that effort, for whatever reason, it’s stressful to our specialty. We must be strong as a group and continue supporting younger generations.”

“The Cohen Award is an honor,” says Dr. Lietzan. “It is a great opportunity to represent the Foundation and be part of the next group of leaders who move periodontology forward. When you are recognized by the Foundation, your ability to become involved in the specialty increases tremendously. Less than a year out of residency, I am meeting new colleagues, learning, and expanding my horizons every day.”

***“When you are recognized by the Foundation, your ability to become involved in the specialty increases tremendously.”***

Dr. D. Walter Cohen Teaching Award  
**Adam D. Lietzan, DMD, MS, PhD**  
Research Assistant Professor  
University of North Carolina at  
Chapel Hill



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





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

**Adam Saltz, DMD, MS, MPH**  
University of Texas Health Science  
Center at San Antonio  
Private Practice, South Portland, ME

**D**r. Adam Saltz is eager to experience all the opportunities of his new specialty to the fullest. Since graduating from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, he has been an enthusiastic participant and rising leader in a variety of professional roles. As the next chair of the Maine Dental Association's Continuing Education Committee, he's working to develop a novel, hybrid learning model for the 2021-22 curriculum available to all dental team members. Also on his agenda are positions as director and founder of a study club for younger Maine dentists and adjunct assistant clinical professor at the University of New England.

"I'm fortunate to work with an amazing team in a practice that feels like family," Dr. Saltz explains. "I continue to have wonderful mentors who take time to support my clinical advancement and professional goals. The Kramer Award truly recognizes the incredible faculty and staff who got me to this point. I am forever grateful that they believed in my potential and challenged me to surpass it."

"The Kramer Award has provided a huge head start in helping me repay my student loans," he adds. "It also added some spark to a year that was hard for everyone. Our clinical training was cut short, and we didn't experience the normal post-graduation celebrations. Receiving this kind of acknowledgment was extremely special. I still pinch myself."

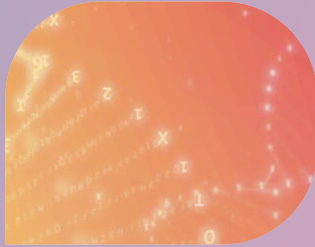
Community service is an ongoing activity in Dr. Saltz's life. He was a national ambassador for Give Kids A Smile and launched the kickoff as a dental student. As a program director, Dr. Saltz learned about the difficulties people face finding access to dental care. "I genuinely love being involved and have been from an early age," he says. "My dad is a general dentist who co-founded a program called Dentists Who Care for ME. I volunteered every year in high school. This is what launched my interest in health promotion and interprofessional collaboration. I later earned

a master's degree in public health while in dental school. It was harder to navigate community outreach this year in light of COVID-19, but I hope to get back to volunteering soon."

"Many parts of Maine are rural, and there are limited specialists throughout the state," he observes. "I am often my patients' first point of contact for a variety of health issues. I encourage them to see their physician for conditions like diabetes and hypertension that might otherwise go undiagnosed. Periodontal disease isn't exclusive to the mouth. It impacts the entire body. I enjoy explaining this important connection to my patients and being a coach for their overall physical well-being."

***"Foundation awards impact those in education, private practice, and research, and in doing so, move our entire specialty forward."***

Private practice probably won't be the last stop on Dr. Saltz's professional journey. "Education has long been a passion of mine," he explains. "I hope to someday transition my clinical career into an academic one. The future of our specialty is in dental school; students need to understand how periodontal and implant surgery can best serve their patients for long-term treatment success and health. The Foundation plays a big role in this process by supporting young clinicians and academicians. Foundation awards impact those in education, private practice, and research, and in doing so, move our entire specialty forward."





# Research

Meet the AAPF 2020 award recipients who will shape the future of the specialty.



**Nevins BioHorizons Teaching and Research Fellowship**  
**Elena Sanz-Mirallas, DDS, MS, MSc, PhD**  
 Columbia University

**“D**r. Nevins is a great clinician, educator, and researcher,” Dr. Elena Sanz-Mirallas explains. “He has had a long career full of achievements and is an inspiration and a role model for me. I love clinical periodontics and keeping up with research and academic developments, so I’m thrilled to have his name associated with the recognition I received. This honor reinforces my interest in clinical periodontics. It will help me expand my network and, hopefully, open other opportunities.”

With an impressive educational background, Dr. Sanz-Mirallas would be well on her way to a promising career under any circumstances. Before coming to the United States, she earned a master’s degree in comprehensive dentistry (prosthodontics, periodontics, implants) and started a Ph.D. in translational research at the University of Barcelona. With the support of a scholarship, she completed a master’s degree in periodontology at Columbia University and finished her Ph.D. She has also worked in private offices in London, Barcelona, and the U.S.

“I really enjoyed my training in prosthodontics and periodontics,” she explains. “I only practice periodontics nowadays, but dual training gives me a unique perspective. It helps me to communicate more effectively with patients, students, and other practitioners. The boundaries between specialties have faded and I believe it is extremely important for periodontists to have a strong knowledge of prosthodontics.”

***“Foundation donors ensure that dental students as well as the public see the value of our specialty.”***

“Being an educator is so rewarding,” she continues. “The enthusiasm and curiosity of students keep me motivated to achieve the best version of myself. I want to increase my knowledge and hone my skills so that I can offer the highest quality care to my patients and inspire my students to become the best practitioners they can be.”

The Nevins BioHorizons Teaching and Research Fellowship is generously sponsored by BioHorizons.



“My first inspiration was my grandfather, who was a dentist in a small town in Spain and practiced during the Spanish Civil War,” she says. “Even in difficult times, he was always remembered for his compassion and quality treatments. In the last few years, the person who has had the biggest impact on me professionally is Dr. Dennis Tarnow. He has had a long career, but is still so enthusiastic about dentistry and teaching. The love of dentistry is fed by the passion of others; it’s good to have a community that motivates you to keep going.”

Dr. Sanz-Mirallas credits the Foundation with making the periodontal community strong. “When you contribute to the Foundation, you are not just supporting educators and researchers. You are enriching the entire profession and helping to make periodontics an expanding discipline,” she remarks. “Foundation donors ensure that dental students as well as the public see the value of our specialty.”

At this point in her life, Dr. Sanz-Mirallas has more than dentistry on her plate. When she is not treating patients, she is kept busy with three daughters under the age of five who keep things lively in her household.

**W**inning the Nevins Award came as a surprise for Dr. Nguyen. “This was not my first application,” he recalls. “I didn’t have high expectations, but I got an interview. The meeting went well, and the committee was very welcoming. When I received the good news, I was so excited; I almost couldn’t believe it.”

“Receiving this award as a junior faculty member at Harvard was extremely meaningful to me,” he continues. “Dr. Nevins is an associate professor with an impressive legacy in the division of periodontology. I have had the opportunity to work alongside him and he is truly an outstanding mentor. It is a great honor to be the first recipient from Harvard to receive this recognition. I remember watching the ceremony as a resident. I never imagined that I would be a grantee someday. Teaching and clinical research are what I do every day so this is a dream come true.”

Dr. Nguyen credits a willingness to explore options with shaping his professional journey. “Looking at my career path, you might think I had a specific plan,” he explains. “But that was not the case. In dental school, I did not think that I would become a periodontist. And, as a specialist, I never imagined that I would become an educator. You must be open to new opportunities. There have been so many moments in my life where I have had to choose between safety and moving outside my comfort zone. My career would be very different if I had not been willing to take risks.”

“I was attracted to periodontology by the rich body of scientific literature within the field and the study of regeneration,” he says. “Periodontology is closely involved with biology and science and I have always been interested in research. This specialty is at the crossroads between systemic disease and the oral cavity. It is the foundation of dentistry with multiple relationships to other areas of specialization and medicine. COVID-19, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and so many other health issues are linked to the oral cavity.”

This is Dr. Nguyen’s fifth year of teaching. “I always enjoy interacting with students and seeing them grow,” he remarks. “At the end of 2019, I became a predoctoral director at Harvard. It was the first time I had been in that role and I had so much to learn.

Three months later, everything closed due to the virus. I was responsible for making critical decisions. I had to ensure that students graduated on time and quickly convert a curriculum that was designed for in-person learning to an online format. Those months were chaotic. Working with my colleagues and thinking creatively about how to teach students during lockdown were difficult but it was a very formative experience.”

**“Teaching and clinical research are what I do every day so this is a dream come true.”**

Currently, Dr. Nguyen is focusing on publishing his work and obtaining grants with an eye on a promotion to associate professor. Establishing a new periodontology program at McGill is another challenging goal that gives him a focus for the future. “In five years, we’ll be accepting residents,” he advises.

“Many academicians are retiring and we need quality educators in the field,” he continues. “Younger dentists must step up. Academia is competitive and difficult financially, especially in a big city where the cost of living is high. The Foundation helps specialists launch their careers. The recognition is also a big honor. This support is critical to grow the next generation of educators so that they can train a new group of dentists and periodontists.”



### Nevins Teaching and Clinical Research Fellowship

**Thomas Nguyen, DMD, MSc, FRCD(C)**  
Assistant Professor of Periodontology  
McGill Faculty of Dentistry



Like a true scientist, Dr. Andrea Ravidà constantly evaluates options to identify his best path forward. When his father suggested that staying in Italy might be a better professional choice, especially for someone who spoke no English, Dr. Ravidà weighed his passion for periodontology against the obstacles he might encounter, and the evidence was obvious.

Five years later, he has learned a new language and is close to realizing his goal of becoming a specialist. "Being able to perform advanced surgical procedures is an incredible opportunity," he advises. "I fell in love with periodontology because it is one of the most scientific areas of dentistry. In the clinic and my research, I enjoy challenging myself to find the best approach for whatever problem I'm asked to solve."

"As a young researcher, the Schoor Award is very meaningful," he adds. "When I arrived in the United States, my dream was to become a periodontist and scientist. This recognition proves that following my passion was a wise choice. It motivated me to continue learning and growing. When everything stopped during COVID-19, it might have been easy to lose sight of my goals. But the award reminded me that I had a responsibility to stay focused, despite the uncertain environment."



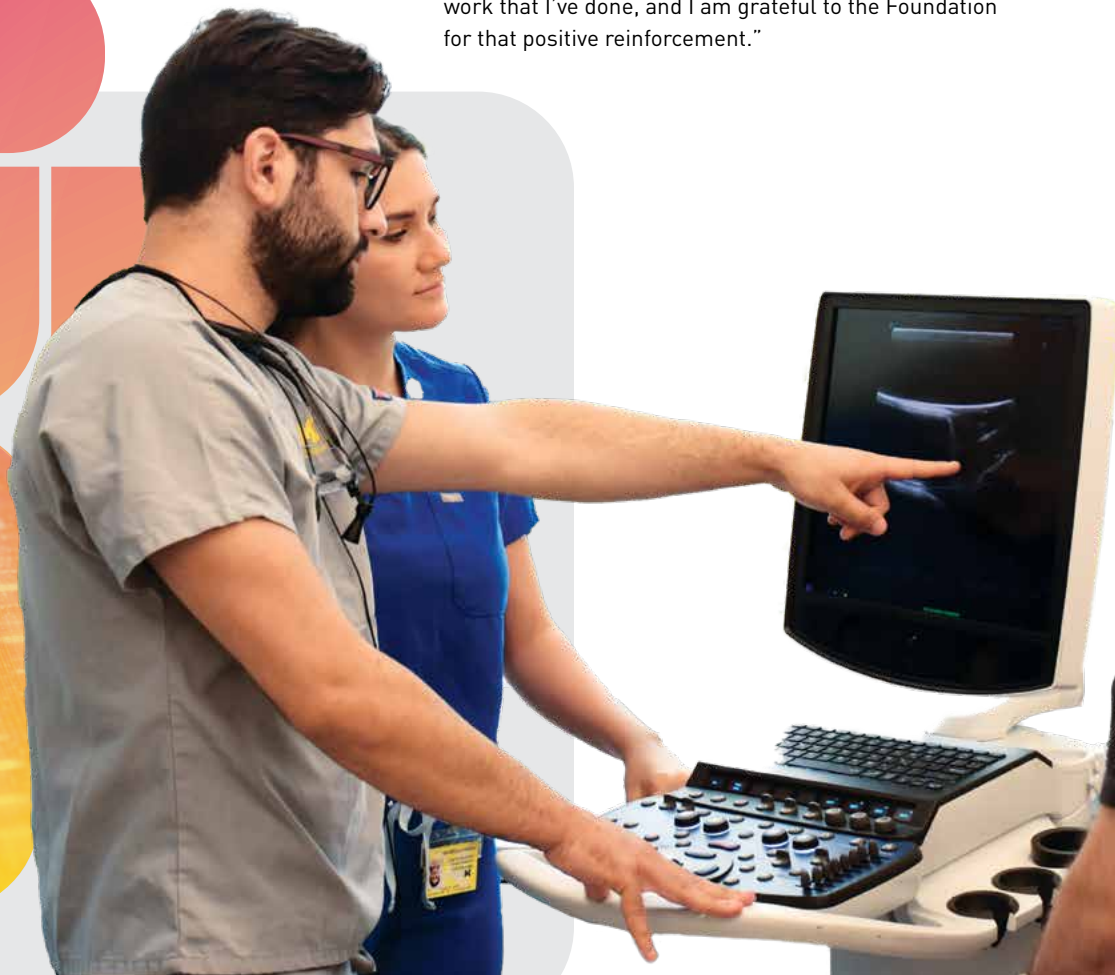
Schoor Research Award  
**Andrea Ravidà, DDS, MS**  
Third-Year Resident  
University of Michigan

***"The Foundation's awards program changes young student's lives. I can work without constantly worrying about money. Donors should feel proud that their generosity is motivating clinicians to educate the next generation."***

Dr. Ravidà also discovered early on that he enjoys sharing knowledge with others. "Before I came to the United States, I knew I wanted to go into academia," he says. "I recently received an offer for a faculty position. I would love to continue this professional journey and someday become a program director."

When Dr. Ravidà was appointed the assistant editor of a journal last year, it was a nice start up the academic ladder. "My current research includes validating and refining the new classifications of periodontitis," Dr. Ravidà explains. "I'm studying databases which contain 20 to 30 years of University of Michigan cases. We are validating new classifications based on this long-term cohort. For my thesis project, I'm comparing 5-mm single implants versus longer implants after sinus augmentation."

"The Foundation's awards program changes young students' lives," Dr. Ravidà notes. "I can work without constantly worrying about money. Donors should feel proud that their generosity is motivating clinicians to educate the next generation. I came to the United States with a goal. Many things could have stood in my way. But I have been fortunate to be recognized for the work that I've done, and I am grateful to the Foundation for that positive reinforcement."





## Patty and Paul Levi Research Award

Lincoln Nguyen

Dental Student

University of California, San Francisco



**T**he project I submitted for the Levi Award reflects my ongoing interests,” Lincoln Nguyen explains. “Throughout my undergraduate and graduate career, I’ve looked around my community and tried to address problems that are preventable. I created materials to teach in free clinics and provided education on hypertension and diabetes. Part of my responsibility as a dentist is providing oral health instruction and routine cleanings—activities that are less invasive but rely on patients taking care of their teeth.”

“I chose to investigate the predictability of the Kwok and Caton diagnosis system,” he says. “The concept of prognosis as a factor in prevention was new for me. I had always looked at controlling specific problems and reversing the symptoms of chronic disease. Taking a step back to think about how we identify the issue in the first place was an enlightening approach.”

“When I came to dental school, I came to save teeth. No field does that better than periodontology,” Nguyen observes. “We can give patients the best information about prognosis and the predictability of treatment. Many treatments are subtractive processes. A restoration will never be better than what you have taken away. One of the things that attracted me to periodontology was the specialty’s expertise and interest in regenerative procedures.”

Nguyen also experienced a more personal introduction to periodontology. “During my first year of dental school, my mom had a bicycle accident,” he recalls. “She had been receiving regular dental care, but she went to a periodontist for her emergency treatment. In addition to her injury, she was diagnosed with advanced periodontitis. She went through multiple surgeries and multiple bone grafts. The damage had been accumulating over time. It’s an example of why diagnosis is so vital.”

Working with a research mentor was a rewarding experience for Nguyen. “The Levi Award fosters communication between veteran and younger colleagues,” he explains. “It creates a bridge between the generations. Seasoned faculty members can guide younger dentists in their approach to the profession. Dr. Levi’s mission shines through. I wouldn’t be where I am today without the help of my colleagues and mentors.”

***“The Levi Award fosters communication between veteran and younger colleagues. It creates a bridge between the generations. Seasoned faculty members can guide younger dentists in their approach to the profession. Dr. Levi’s mission shines through.”***

“The Foundation is another reflection of this collaboration among healthcare colleagues,” Nguyen notes. “Collectively we have the power to make our specialty stronger. No single person can accomplish that alone.”



### James T. Mellonig Regeneration Research Award

**Kevin Byrd, DDS**

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
Anthony R. Volpe Research Scholar, ADA Science  
and Research Institute



**T**his award is incredibly generous, especially for someone like me who is at an early stage in his career,” Dr. Byrd notes. “The foundational work that I did sets up our future work for translating these findings from mice to humans, especially for how and why diabetes and smoking slow wound healing. This recognition, which is so appreciated, shows me that there may be translational or clinical relevance in my work.”

Dr. Byrd received this honor at a pivotal point in his career. “On October 5, 2020, I took on an exciting new role at the American Dental Association Science and Research Institute,” he advises. “I’ll be serving as the first Anthony R. Volpe Research Scholar and the Manager of Oral and Craniofacial Research.”

***“This level of generosity should be invested and returned to generations who come after us. The Foundation is a force for mentorship and giving back. When you receive support, the recognition you get from your peers gives you influence and the ability to help others who come after you.”***

“The Institute brings together the groups in Chicago, Illinois and Gaithersburg, Maryland, previously named the ADA Foundation,” he explains. “The new lab has the funding to innovate and will be partnering with a variety of organizations including the University of North Carolina, the National Institutes of Health, and the

University of California at San Francisco. Our work will bridge the academic, federal, and corporate sectors. The goal is to make patient care the best it can be.”

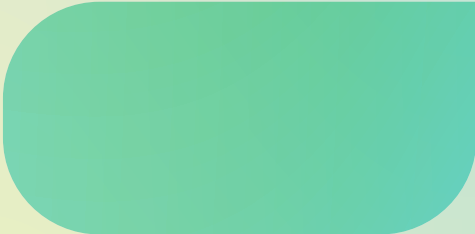
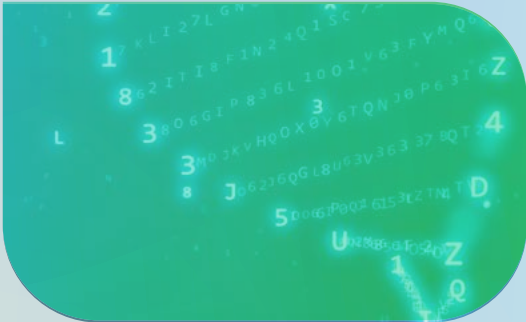
Dr. Byrd’s interest in oral mucosal epithelial biology and his desire to do surgery were motivators in pursuing a Ph.D. in oral biology followed by a certificate in periodontology. “The oral epithelia are understudied,” he advises. “Through better characterization of the mechanisms that build these tissues, there is a great opportunity to make important discoveries relevant to human health, wound healing, and oral epithelial neoplasms.”

“When COVID-19 struck, I was in the middle of leading an AAP Sunstar Innovation Grant,” Dr. Byrd recalls. “Although that project shut down, the work was incredibly relevant to the virus. I connected with five different labs, including a collaboration with Dr. Blake Warner at the NIH/NIDCR, to discover the broad infection of the oral cavity in COVID-19. This work on the oral cavity and the impact of COVID-19 was just published in *Nature Medicine*, setting up additional projects to benefit patient care.”

Dr. Byrd sees the Foundation’s support as integral to launching his professional life. “It is a real jump start,” he explains. “This level of generosity should be invested and returned to generations who come after us. The Foundation is a force for mentorship and giving back. When you receive support, the recognition you get from your peers gives you influence and the ability to help others who come after you.”

“The AAP Foundation is our unique mechanism to cultivate talent in research and academics,” he adds. “By supporting teachers and scientists early in their careers, we create a more diverse workforce with a wide-ranging skill set. If I hadn’t received this award, it would have taken me much longer to achieve what I have already accomplished.”

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— Sharon R. Bannister, DDS, MS, FACD, FICD



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—Gustavo Avila-Ortiz, DDS, MS, PhD

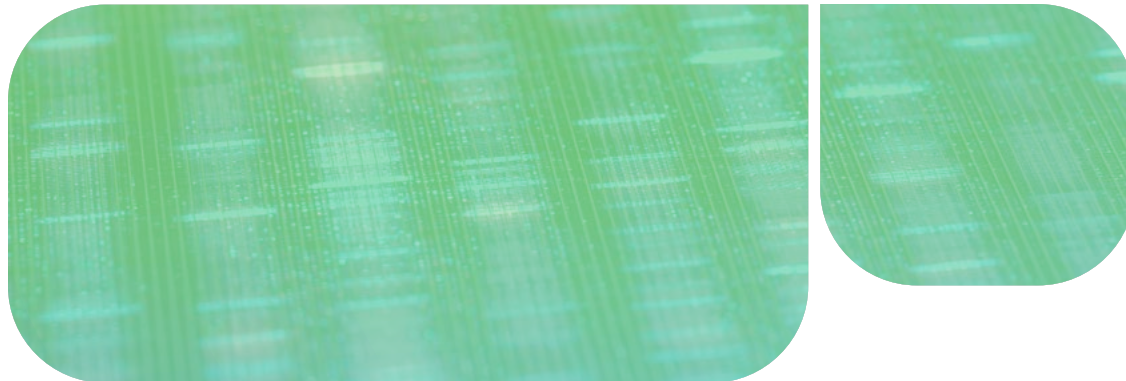
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***“Many people, contributing what they can afford, adds up. Every little bit counts. Each gift benefits the whole field of periodontology and younger periodontists like me.”***

— Martinna Bertolini, DDS, MS, PhD

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***“The AAP Foundation is the one place where we can make the most significant impact for the future of periodontics. It is where we launch and retain our future leaders, faculty, and researchers. It’s literally putting your money where your mouth is.”***

**—Joan Otomo-Corgel, DDS, MPH**



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—Diego Velasquez, DDS



# 2020 Financial Report

**Robert A. Vitas**  
Ph.D., CAE, CFRE,  
Executive Director



It is my pleasure to present this 2020 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 have increased, thanks to a \$1 million pledge by Dr. Colin Richman and a \$250,000 life insurance benefit from the late Dr. Robert Ferris. 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 is a careful steward of your dollars and keeps operating expenses to a minimum so that maximum funding goes to our programs.

The AAP Foundation continues to support education and research and is poised for new initiatives in 2021 and beyond. We have awarded \$6 million in support of our specialty since our founding in 1990 and we are determined to continue this work and grow our contribution.

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

Robert A. Vitas, Ph.D., CAE, CFRE,  
Executive Director

## Following are the sources of our support:

- Contributions and pledges totaled **\$1,530,796**, an increase of 210% over the previous year!
- Investment income was **\$516,217** on a portfolio of **\$8 million**.
- Programming garnered an additional **\$6,586** in revenue.

## What do we do with your hard-earned dollars?

- **\$315,500** granted in scholarships, fellowships, and periodontal programs reflects our unwavering commitment to periodontal education and research.
- Another **\$190,480** supported educational programming of the American Academy of Periodontology and the American Board of Periodontology.
- Program support activities expended **\$174,029** and Outreach programs totaled **\$252,855**.
- Annual Meeting programs were **\$50,522**, reflecting the need to create a technical infrastructure for the virtual event.
- Operational expenses were **\$240,457**, a decrease of 17% from 2019.

## The Dr. Colin Richman Family Perio-Ortho Award



### Dr. Colin Richman

Atlanta Center for Advanced Periodontics, Cosmetics, Implant Dentistry

The AAP Foundation is proud to announce a new award that has been added this year: the Dr. Colin Richman Family Perio-Ortho Award. This annual award of \$20,000-\$40,000 is available to periodontic and orthodontic residents, as well as early career faculty (5 or fewer years at an accredited institution), and may have more than one awardee annually.

Dr. Richman's passion for the interface between periodontology and orthodontics began in dental school in South Africa. The school boasted a strong orthodontic curriculum, with some world authorities on the faculty. Upon moving to the United States, Dr. Richman's interest in the perio-ortho interface grew, due to the strong emphasis on interdisciplinary care during his graduate work at the University of Connecticut. In his past periodontology faculty roles at the University of Connecticut, Emory University School of Dentistry, and currently at Augusta University, Department of Graduate Periodontics, he interfaced well with the orthodontics department.

He was trained in and began practicing Surgically Facilitated Orthodontic Treatment (SFOT) 20 years ago together with committed orthodontic colleagues in North Atlanta. Dr. Richman has published several articles and a book chapter (in press) on the topic. About his decision to fund this award through the AAP Foundation, Dr. Richman says, "Everyone needs to give back. I could not think of a better way to give back to our beloved profession of periodontics than to contribute to future research on a topic that is dear to my heart. This award is dedicated to my teachers and mentors at U. Conn, including Drs. Harald Löe, Paul Robertson, Ken Kornman, Mark Patters, Ravi Nanda, and Charles Burstone, as well as my teachers and mentors at dental school in Johannesburg, Drs. Alex Jacobson, Cyril Sadowsky, Lionel Sadowsky, and Brian Preston."

Alveolar bone deficiencies provide excellent opportunities to incorporate new and innovative multidisciplinary therapies into perio-ortho practice. This, coupled with an appreciation that management of the airway is an essential component of orthodontic success and the health of associated periodontal tissues, provides a new paradigm of treatment, with implications for periodontal practice.

Dr. Richman says, "In the past 10 years or so, in my research of both human and mammalian (animal) jaws, we've come to realize that the etiology of dental tooth crowding includes the consequence of a discrepancy between tooth size and available alveolar bone volume and is a function of both genetic and anthropological factors (pending publication). I sincerely hope this award will lead to much greater research in this emerging field so we can understand, from an evidence-based biological perspective, the etiology and potential long-term issues associated with post- orthodontic complications, like gingival recession, relapse, and root resorption. The ability of the periodontist to work in concert with the orthodontist to accelerate orthodontic treatment (another benefit of SFOT), as well as treat the underlying alveolar bone discrepancies and minimize untoward long-term treatment outcomes may also encourage otherwise resistant patients to undergo comprehensive treatment."



## 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 for our Visionary Society members.

The late Michael L. Barnett

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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](http://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.
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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 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.

*"Giving back to the profession is critical. I chose to support the Foundation with my time and financially. The future of our specialty depends on all of us celebrating what periodontology has provided for us by paying it forward."*

—James G. Wilson, DMD



# 2020 Annual Meeting

*Mai Tais were enjoyed by all, and many shared photos of their personal parties with our special virtual photo booth!*

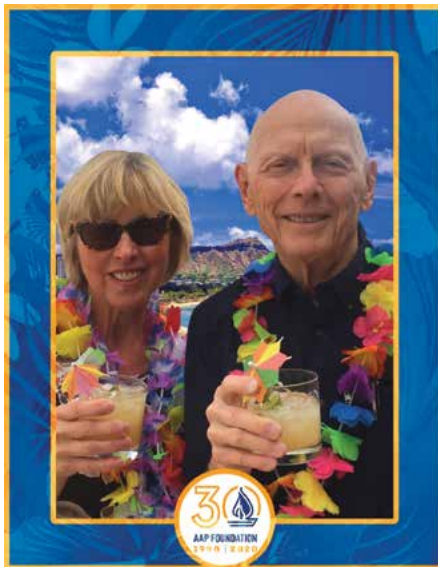
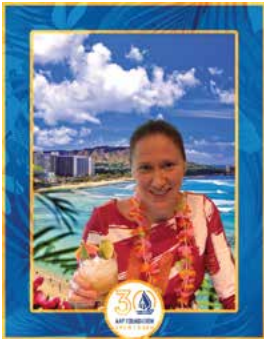
In a year of firsts, the Foundation’s presence at the AAP Annual Meeting was an exercise in flexibility! Instead of sharing cocktails with friends on the beach, we mixed up tropical cocktails at home and shared them virtually. Attendees of the AAP Foundation’s Virtual Reception had the option to purchase a cocktail box in advance, which contained all the necessary ingredients to follow along with our live mixologist. Mai Tais were enjoyed by all, and many participants shared photos of their personal parties with our special virtual photo booth! Attendees were surprised and amazed by our live magic show, which captured the imaginations of both our volunteer participants and the audience alike.

The AAP Foundation was grateful to award more than \$300,000 in scholarships, fellowships, grants, and awards in 2020. While our award recipients did not have the opportunity to walk across the stage this year, they were each featured on the awards page of the Foundation’s virtual booth. With headshots, quotes, and videos, the Foundation was able to showcase the success and talent of this year’s honorees.

The AAP Foundation Estate Planning Session delivered once again on pertinent, usable, practical estate planning information. Shawn Johnson, Vice President of Business Development at Treloar & Heisel, and Michael Markhoff, Partner at Danziger & Markhoff, shared their experience and knowledge with our audience in a lively presentation. Our thanks to Treloar & Heisel for sponsoring this session.

While our Future Horizons in Periodontology session looked a little different this year, our dedicated past award recipients shared cutting-edge research. This year’s program focused on Periodontal Disease, Inflammation and Healing: Current and Emerging Concepts, with Dr. Ann Decker discussing “Regulation of Innate Immunity and Wound Healing in the Periodontium” and Dr. Sangeetha Chandrasekaran addressing “Periodontal Inflammation in Patients At Risk for Rheumatoid Arthritis.” This session was moderated by Drs. Hector Rios and Praveen Gajendrareddy.

Thank you to all who “stopped by” our booth to say hello, attended our virtual events, and supported the AAP Foundation in so many ways. We look forward to seeing you in 2021 in Miami!



The 2020 pandemic took its toll on all of us, including our corporate partners. Still, there were those who helped us continue our tradition of a Silent Auction, and the Foundation is grateful for their support:

- |                                      |                                       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| AAP Membership                       | Ortho Traction Pads                   |
| ACE Surgical Supply Company          | Osteogenics Biomedical                |
| Alpine Pharmaceuticals               | Joan Otomo-Corgel, DDS, MPH           |
| Crest+Oral-B                         | Fotinos Panagakos, DMD, PhD           |
| Cutting Edge Technology LLC          | PDT, Inc.                             |
| Dentium USA                          | Quintessence Publishing Company, Inc. |
| Joanne Gaydos-Daniel, DDS, MSD       | Salvin Dental Specialties, Inc.       |
| Glustitch, Inc                       | Sowingo                               |
| Hu-Friedy Manufacturing Company, LLC | StellaLife VEGA Oral Care             |
| Impladent Ltd                        | Straumann                             |
| J. MORITA USA, Inc.                  | Sunstar Americas, Inc.                |
| Keystone Dental, Inc.                | Treloar & Heisel                      |
| Laschal Surgical Instruments, Inc    | Water Pik Inc.                        |



# PerioDash 2020

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

PerioDash 2020 proved that you can't keep a good "Dasher" down! With nearly 200 participants, the AAP Foundation's annual virtual 5K was a resounding success. Groups from schools and practices participated together or separately, along with many who ran individually. Teams with names like the "Calculus Cowboys" and the "Blade Runners" joined the "Tar Heels" and the "LA Team" in supporting and spreading awareness about the work of the AAP Foundation.

The AAP Foundation is grateful to all who participated in PerioDash 2020 and we hope to see you again in 2021!

The AAP Foundation is grateful to all who participated in PerioDash 2020 and we hope to see you again in 2021!



Thanks to Our  
PerioDashers



## 2020 Award Committees

*“The AAP Foundation has had a place in my heart because of their work to support education and educators for our specialty. When asked to serve on the board I found an opportunity to contribute beyond financial support and have enjoyed being a part of the process in development as well as action!”*

—John Y. Kwan, DDS

### Nominating Committee

Pamela K. McClain, DDS, chair  
Fotinos S. Panagakos, DMD, PhD

### New Century Committee

Hector F. Rios, DDS, PhD, co-chair  
Praveen Gajendrareddy, DDS, PhD, co-chair  
Julio Carrion, DMD, PhD  
Patricia I. Diaz, DDS, PhD  
Luciana Shaddox, DDS, MS, PhD  
Thiago Morelli, DDS, MS

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Jaclyn Schiller, A. Titan Instruments, Inc.  
Dan Perkins, AEGIS Dental Network  
Steve Boggan, BioHorizons  
Tom Raish, SUNSTAR Americas, Inc.

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D. Ryan Claggett, DMD  
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Fatemeh Momen-Heravi, DDS, PhD  
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Chun-Teh Lee, DDS, MS  
Srinivas Rao Myneni Venkatasatya, BDS, PhD

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Leena Palomo, DDS  
Patty Levi  
Kent G. Palcanis, DDS, MSD

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Sangeetha Chandrasekaran, BDS

### Robert S. Schoor Research Award Selection Committee

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Nicky M. Hakimi, DDS, MSD  
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Abhiram Maddi, DDS, PhD  
Carlos Parra, DDS

### Volpe Basic Science Research Fellowship Selection Committee

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DMD, MS,  
ABP Representative



## American Academy of Periodontology Foundation

2020 was a year of



### Resilience.

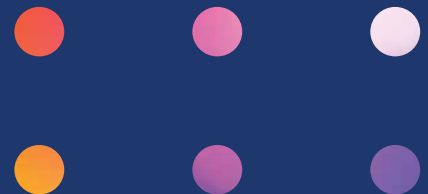
We were able to present our full complement of scholarships, fellowships, grants, and awards.

Thank you to all who stood with the AAP Foundation through this challenging year. You were the bright spots in 2020. Together, we will create more reasons to look forward to an even brighter future.

### Innovation.

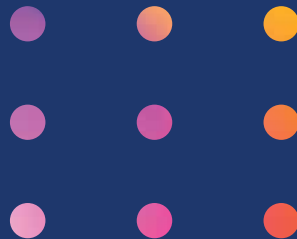
We continued our tradition of showcasing cutting-edge research conducted by Foundation award recipients but did so virtually this year.

The new Dr. Colin Richman Family Perio-Ortho Award was funded and began accepting applications.



### Adaptation.

The AAPF held its first ever virtual events, including a reception, Foundation booth, photo booth, and award ceremony.



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