

## Research Aid Award

**Dr. Catherine Campbell, *University of North Carolina***

**Dr. Laura Jacox, *University of North Carolina***

### Biography

Dr. Catherine Campbell is a first-year orthodontic resident at the University of North Carolina. She completed her undergraduate studies in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania while competing as a NCAA All-American long distance runner. After graduating, she spent one year as an IRTA Postbaccalaureate research assistant at the National Institutes of Health within the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, studying the impact of invadopodia on cancer cell proliferation. Dr. Campbell completed her dental training at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine while earning a dual-degree (MSEd) in Higher Education Administration through the UPenn Graduate School of Education. Dr. Campbell is very thankful for the opportunity to pursue orthodontic training at the University of North Carolina.



Dr. Laura Jacox is a second-year orthodontic resident at the University of North Carolina. For college, Laura attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) where she studied Biology and Earth Science, while conducting research on adult stem cell division mechanisms. Dr. Jacox then enrolled in the Harvard-MIT Health Sciences and Technology (HST) program at Harvard School of Dental Medicine, pursuing dual DMD-PhD degrees. For her graduate research, Laura studied craniofacial development in *Xenopus laevis*, focusing on signaling interactions between the developing mouth and neural crest. In dental school, Dr. Jacox discovered her passion for orthodontics. She is thrilled to be studying orthodontics at the University of North Carolina. In her spare time, Dr. Jacox enjoys performing as a violinist with area orchestras and going on long runs with her husband, a fellow MIT nerd.



### Project Synopsis

Studies have shown increased percentages of young orthodontists pursuing associateships in place of starting up, buying-out or buying-into practices. The shift may be due to insufficient practice management training, changing demographics, or rising educational debt and marketplace competition. This research study aims to illuminate factors that motivate career decisions of graduating orthodontists to better understand how these decisions are impacted by current challenges faced by the changing landscape of orthodontics. The study methodology will use qualitative data gathered from transcribed interviews to create a survey distributed to

residents and private practice orthodontists. Quantitative data will be extracted and statistically analyzed. The hope is that this research will provide graduating orthodontic residents with information on the impact early career decisions may have on student debt loads, long-term income as well as job satisfaction. In addition, outcomes of this study may provide a greater understanding of how practice management curriculums can better be incorporated into graduate orthodontic residency programs to better prepare today's graduates as they make important early career decisions

### **Importance of AAOF Funding**

Dr. Campbell and Dr. Jacox are thankful for the opportunity to receive funding through the American Association of Orthodontists foundation. This funding will be instrumental in developing and executing our planned research. This funding is an incredible resource for orthodontic residents and we hope the outcome of this study will encourage future research in a similar direction.