

**Contact: Janet Ryan**  
**314-822-8860 or 314-614-7408**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***Dr. Fred Garrett of Sugar Land (Houston), Texas is recognized  
By Orthodontic Community for Lifelong Achievements***

**St. Louis ( December 15, 2014)** -- With more than half a century of contributions to the orthodontic profession, Fred Garrett, DDS, MS, a board certified orthodontist in Houston, has been recognized with a \$250,000 research grant named in his honor. The *Fred and Dianne Garrett Biomedical Research Award* will be used to help further the education of orthodontists who wish to pursue a career in academic research and teaching. The award is made under the auspices of the [American Association of Orthodontics Foundation](#) (AAOF), which is devoted to advancing the specialty of orthodontics through research and education.



American Orthodontics, the world's largest privately owned manufacturer of orthodontic products, based in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, contributed half the funding for the award. The remaining funds were contributed by dear friends, including Randy K. Ellis, DDS, MS, of Pearland, Texas and fellow instructor at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; Richard W. Boyd, DDS, MS, who has practiced for 36 years with Dr. Garrett in Sugar Land (Houston), Texas; L. Donald Mayer, DDS, MS, a Houston orthodontist and a fellow instructor at the University of Texas; Richard Fuchs, DDS, MS, who practices in Huron, South Dakota, and is a fellow American Association of Orthodontists Foundation (AAOF) Board member and James Hanigan, DDS, MS, PA, a fellow instructor at the University of Texas, who practices in Tomball, Texas.

According to Dr. Ellis, "Fred has been influential for many of us throughout our professional lives in orthodontics. He was one of my instructors, and now, I have the opportunity to teach together once a week. When I was asked to help on this project, I didn't think twice."

Dr. Garrett, who at age 79, still practices three days a week and teaches on Mondays, has been a lifelong supporter of academic research and education. “Without good teachers, we can’t progress in our profession,” he says. “We must support orthodontists who choose to go into academics.” Dr. Garrett has been a lifelong example of giving back to the orthodontic profession. An active member of the AAOF for more than two decades, Dr. Garrett and his wife have also made significant personal contributions. As a member of the acceptance committee at the University of Texas orthodontic program, he looks for the candidates who will become good alumni. “We already attract the best dentists in the country and we can make them great orthodontists, but we are looking for the doctors who see the value in giving back, both to our school and to the AAOF.” He proudly cites that fact that 100 percent of the schools’ graduates pledge to give back within five years of graduation. Under his watch, young doctors have contributed more than two million dollars to research and academics. “I am so proud to have received this award, and am just as proud of the many doctors that choose to give back to their profession,” says Dr. Garrett.

It is indeed a pleasure and honor to be involved in this award project,” says Dr. Mayer. “Being a former orthodontic student of Fred’s and having the opportunity of teaching with him in the Orthodontic Department of the UT Health Science Center in Houston has had a major positive impact on my life. Fred is totally dedicated to the orthodontic profession and its future. His commitment to excellence begins in his private practice and continues with his lectures and clinical skills taught to his residents. He constantly strives to improve the quality of orthodontic teaching and research here at the University of Texas. Fred’s commitment to organized dentistry, and more especially orthodontics, is a priority from the local level through the AAO. He’s certainly enhanced the future of our profession.”

Dr. Garrett attended Washington University School of Dentistry in St. Louis where he earned his Doctorate of Dental Surgery and completed his 2-year residency in orthodontics, earning his Master of Science Degree. He is a clinical professor on the graduate orthodontic faculty at the University of Texas Dental Branch in Houston. Dr. Garrett is former president of the Southwestern Society of Orthodontists and received the Society’s Martin E. Dewey Distinguished Service Award. In addition to his work with the AAOF, he is an active member of the American Association of Orthodontists, and received their James E. Brophy Distinguished Service Award.

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#### **About the AAO Foundation**

The AAO Foundation, the charitable arm of the American Association of Orthodontists, provides support to

orthodontic education programs and orthodontic research. Foundation funding ensures the future viability of the orthodontic specialty by investing in the next generation of educators and researchers.

Since 1994, the AAO Foundation Awards Program has provided \$10.1 million in funding, primarily in support of junior faculty. The AAO Foundation is incorporated as a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit corporation in the state of Missouri. The AAO Foundation's website is [www.aaofoundation.net](http://www.aaofoundation.net).