Orthodontic Faculty Development Fellowship Award

Dr. Tate H. Jackson, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Originally from Nashville, Tennessee, I attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for both my dental and orthodontic training. After completing an NIH-supported training program in clinical and translational research, I completed the Proffit Teaching Fellowship, also at UNC. Before joining the full-time faculty in Chapel Hill, I practiced in New York City exclusively as a clinical orthodontist. I began my current appointment as an Assistant Professor in June of 2015.

Support from the AAOF will give me the unique opportunity to pursue focused training in strategic leadership and general management without sacrificing the time needed to develop as a teacher, clinician, and researcher.

Specifically, the Orthodontic Faculty Development Fellowship Award will enable me to take a series of executive development courses from UNC’s Kenan-Flagler Business School. These open-enrollment on-campus courses focus on topics such as Leadership and Effectiveness, Human Capital Management, Strategy and Innovation, and Communications.

As an Assistant Professor in the first year of his initial appointment, I am fortunate to have the guidance of excellent mentors as well as the opportunity to serve as the Director of the Pre-Doctoral Orthodontics Program, which includes a didactic program and comprehensive orthodontics clinic. The ability to take focused executive-level management courses from a leading School of Business while simultaneously acting as a manager at the clinical, personnel, and academic programmatic levels, will help me develop critical leadership and management skills in a practical setting. I will be able to immediately apply what I learn.

Equally important, because of the flexible nature of these courses, I will be able to continue to pursue scholarly activity, including a research project to recall the patients originally treated in the landmark UNC randomized trial of early Class II treatment. Long-term recall of these patients might yield important information regarding the dental and skeletal stability of early vs. later growth modification treatment, as well as other differences in the psychosocial and functional outcomes of treatment.

In the future, it is my hope that I can give back to the world of Orthodontic Education from which I have gained so much. By developing important management skills early in my career, I hope that I will be better equipped to help institute effective and positive changes in orthodontic education as the world continues to evolve. I am truly grateful for the AAOF’s support.