



Orthodontic Faculty Development Fellowship Award

Dr. Po-Jung Chen, *University of Nebraska Medical Center*

Biography

Dr. Chen is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. He graduated from dental school at Kaohsiung Medical University in Taiwan. He completed his Master of Dental Science at National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, and simultaneously completed clinical orthodontic training at Taipei Veterans General Hospital, Taiwan. After 6 years of practice in orthodontics, he came to the University of Connecticut for a clinical orthodontic fellowship, a postdoctoral fellowship, and orthodontic residency. He became a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics in 2021. He has been proactive in advancing his knowledge in clinical orthodontics along with pursuing his interest in translational research, and an academic career as a clinician-scientist.

Project Synopsis

Aging affects all organs and tissues of the body and leads to many diseases, including TMJ degeneration. TMJ degeneration significantly impair the quality of life by causing acute and chronic pain, thus making this disease a global health issue and a financial burden of epidemic proportion. The United States and the global ageing populations are projected to grow exponentially over the next several decades, the incidence of the TMJ degenerative disorders is also expected to rise substantially. As there is no effective treatment for the TMJ degeneration in an aged individual, there is an unmet clinical need for an effective approach to treat TMJ degeneration associated with old age. Our research is to exam if concurrent administration of senolytics and mechanical loading will have a synergistic anabolic effect on the cartilage of TMJ.

Importance of AAOF Funding

The support and generous funding from the AAOF OFDFA plays a pivotal role in conducting his research. The funding will also allow Dr. Chen to generate preliminary data for future extramural grant proposals. Dr. Chen's research has been founded by AAOF. The completion of this work will serve as a key professional steppingstone to further his career aspirations in academia combining his interests in clinical excellence and research.