



## Orthodontic Faculty Development Fellowships Award

### Dr. Howard Freedman, Oregon Health & Science University

1) Dr. Howard Freedman is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Orthodontics and the Clinical Site Director of Orthodontics in the Department of Oral and Craniofacial Sciences at the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) School of Dentistry.

Dr. Freedman received his DDS degree from UCLA and his Certificate in Orthodontics from UC San Francisco. For most of his career he was primarily a private practice orthodontist, working in a variety of clinical settings before purchasing his own practice in 1998. Dr. Freedman joined the OHSU faculty in 2007 as a part time clinical instructor, then, starting in 2019, gradually transitioned out of his practice and into his current full-time faculty position. With an eye on improving access to care, specifically dental and orthodontic services for the underserved, Dr. Freedman is currently pursuing his Graduate Certificate in Public Health from the OHSU/PSU School of Public Health.

Dr. Freedman is an active member of the Angle Society of Orthodontists and a former president of the Oregon State Society of Orthodontists. He is married and has two college aged children. Outside of work, he enjoys many of the outdoor activities available in Oregon, including hiking, skiing, cycling and paddling.

2) Today's orthodontic residents face a myriad of challenges. In addition to the demands of getting into and completing a residency program, they are graduating with significant financial debt and entering a work environment that is very different than what has historically existed. My planned research project will gather valuable foundational information about current residents' opinions, future plans and demographics and evaluate trends over time by comparing results with previous, similar studies. This information will be useful to programs, dental schools, future orthodontists, the orthodontic profession and other stakeholders in oral healthcare delivery and the business of orthodontics.

3) As orthodontic educators, we have a responsibility to prepare our residents for all they will face after graduation. Didactic and clinical skills are, of course, fundamental to advanced orthodontic education, but we also need to be aware of the financial pressures and anxiety our students face during residency so we can guide and support them as they start their careers. My planned study, "Opinions, plans and demographics of orthodontic residents: A follow-up study" will revisit previous questions to give a sense of changes that have occurred in recent years, including through the COVID-19 pandemic, and explore some new areas, such as diversity, equity and inclusion as it relates to our resident population. The study hopes to provide insight into the current trends of orthodontic residents and their experience. It will also give the residents an opportunity to express their opinions regarding the training they receive. This information can be used by educators to potentially modify their curricula to better meet the needs of today's students.

4) The AAOF funding will help support OHSU residents' travel to GORP where they will assist in administering the survey and cover costs of statistical analysis and reimbursement to survey participants.

5) In addition to my research, I will be using AAOF OFDFA funds to support my graduate studies in public health. This education will help me better understand the current public health system and improve my ability to analyze the needs that exist in our community as well as the care options available. This knowledge will help me address deficiencies in access to dental and orthodontic care in our community and provide learning opportunities for our students. Further, I plan to improve myself as a teacher and clinician, taking courses on teaching and learning online, TAD placement and mechanics, 3D printing and CBCT interpretation during my OFDFA funding period.