



Ronnel Azizollahi is a current orthodontic resident at the University of California, San Francisco. She completed her undergraduate studies at UCLA with a Bachelor of Science in Psychobiology and went on to complete her DDS degree at UCSF. Her research aims to investigate release of plastic components in salivary samples from clear aligner trays in-vitro as well as to assess release of substances in salivary samples obtained from patients after wearing clear aligners at different time points as an in-vivo analysis. This is in efforts to ensure the safety of and protect the quality of the appliances patients are offered. The AAOF's generous funding of my project will allow me to carry out sample

collection and analysis using mass spectrometry. The AAOF funding will allow me to refine my skills as a clinician and scientist while in residency, which will give me the tools to serve my community after graduation. As a first generation to college student, it has often been hard to navigate educational endeavors, and the mentor-mentee relationships I have cultivated with my mentors has enabled me to reach my goals thus far. I hope to be able to give back by helping students and future orthodontic residents overcome obstacles and work toward their passions.