



2024 RAA

Dr. Nourah Abdul Kader, University of Illinois at Chicago

1) a short biography

I was born in Saudi Arabia and raised in India. I graduated dental school from India with honors in 2018 and later attended the Advanced standing program for International dentists at Southern Illinois University (SIU) to receive my DMD. While at SIU, I received the International Leadership Award, Larry M. Lowe scholarship, and Doris and Bill Gvillo scholarship, and was inducted into Phi Kappa Phi and Omicron Kappa Upsilon honor societies. I am currently a second year orthodontic resident at the University of Illinois at Chicago. My research interest is in increasing access to orthodontic care for children with special health care needs. My hobbies include strength training and mentoring dental students through my start-up CAAPID simplified where I coach international dentists applying to US dental schools.

2) a brief description of the project

This study aims to investigate the barriers and facilitators faced by orthodontists in providing care to children with special health care needs (CSHCN) in Illinois. It seeks to fill a gap in understanding by conducting a survey-based evaluation of orthodontists in private practices, focusing on conditions like autism, ADHD, Down syndrome, and cerebral palsy. The findings will inform tailored training programs, potentially increasing the number of providers willing to treat CSHCN and improving access to care.

3) a statement of how orthodontic education will benefit from your award

My AAOF Research Aid Award will enhance orthodontic education by enabling the development of targeted training programs addressing the unique challenges in treating children with special health care needs (CSHCN). Through this award, valuable data on barriers and facilitators faced by orthodontists in Illinois will be collected, informing the creation of educational resources to improve competency in managing CSHCN. Ultimately, this support will contribute to a more inclusive orthodontic education curriculum, ensuring that future orthodontists are proficient in providing quality care to all patients, irrespective of their health care needs.

4) why the Foundation is important to your project

The American Association of Orthodontics Foundation (AAOF) is vital to our project for several reasons. The AAOF provides crucial financial support which enables us to conduct our study on barriers and facilitators in providing orthodontic care to children with special health care needs

(CSHCN) in Illinois. This financial backing allows us to cover expenses related to data collection, analysis, and dissemination of findings.

Additionally, the AAOF serves as a reputable organization within the orthodontic community, lending credibility to our research endeavor. By receiving support from the AAOF, our project gains recognition and validation within the field of orthodontics, which can facilitate collaboration with other researchers, practitioners, and stakeholders.

Furthermore, the AAOF provides access to a network of orthodontic professionals, educators, and researchers who can offer expertise, guidance, and mentorship throughout the duration of our project. This access to a supportive community enhances the quality and impact of our research efforts.

5) how Foundation funding is expected to or has benefitted your career

AAOF funding can be instrumental in advancing my career in several ways. Firstly, it has provided financial support for my research project, allowing me to pursue investigations into important topics such as orthodontic care for children with special health care needs (CSHCN). Secondly, receiving funding from prestigious foundations like the AAOF can enhance my credibility and reputation within the orthodontic community. It demonstrates that my work is recognized and supported, which can open doors to collaboration opportunities, speaking engagements, and leadership roles within professional associations. I feel motivated to make meaningful contributions to the field of orthodontics and advance my career aspirations.