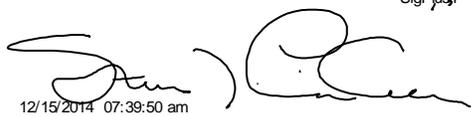


AAO Foundation Awards
Final Report
(June 30, 2016)

Preservation and Support of Open Access for *The Angle Orthodontist*

1. Type of Award: Center Award
2. Name of Principal Investigator: Steven J Lindauer
3. Institution: The Angle Orthodontist
4. Period of AAOF Support: 7/1/13 – 6/30/16
5. Amount of AAOF Funding: \$25,000/year for 3 years

Signature:  Date: 6/30/16

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Abstract: *The Angle Orthodontist* has an open access policy to allow free, convenient, and unencumbered use of its current and historical archives for readers throughout the world. The website housing the journal's pages is visited >40,000 times each month. The Angle Heritage Campaign fund was created to keep *The Angle Orthodontist* as a free, open access journal forever. The purpose of this proposal was to request that the American Association of Orthodontists Foundation help support this project.

Currently, journal subscription revenues exceed the actual cost of printing and mailing hard copies of *The Angle Orthodontist* to paid subscribers. However, the total costs of maintaining the journal are increasing. Plans for achieving financial stability to preserve the journal include: continued paid subscriptions for print copies, donations, and solicitation of advertising.

In an effort to continue to improve the quality of articles published in the journal, *The Angle Orthodontist* initiated and tested a program involving orthodontic educational programs directly in the review process for submitted manuscripts.

In addition, the journal has joined the Cross Check Initiative to prevent plagiarism in the orthodontic literature.

The Angle Orthodontist is a valuable scientific and historically significant resource for the orthodontic specialty. The open access policy makes its pages available to everyone throughout the world at no cost and without restriction. The Edward H Angle Society requested that the American Association of Orthodontists Foundation help to support the preservation of this important resource.

I. Were the Specific Aims achieved?:

1. Obtain financial support in the amount of \$25,000/year for 3 years from the American Association of Orthodontists Foundation to maintain open access of *The Angle Orthodontist* online.

Financial support:

- a. Financial support through subscriptions is currently adequate but will continue to decrease in the future as society moves to higher acceptance of online only access. Eventually, the print version of all journals will go away, including *The Angle Orthodontist*. For *The Angle Orthodontist*, which is a free online Open Access journal, this means subscription fees (about half annual revenues) will disappear. The Angle Heritage campaign has raised over \$1 million to help support the journal in perpetuity. The AAOF contributed \$75,000 during the course of this award toward achieving the goals of the fund.
 - b. A popup on the Angle website, initiated since this Center Award was funded, asking for donations to maintain free open access was put in place and raises a few thousand dollars annually toward the cost of the journal.
 - c. Advertising was initiated as a result of this Center Award in both the print and online versions of the journal. Currently, the available spaces for advertisements both in print and online are full. The quantity and quality of the advertising are, in the opinion of the Editor and Board of the Angle Society of Orthodontists, appropriate for the journal.
2. Implement a program of scientific review for submitted research manuscripts by orthodontic resident group discussions conducted under the supervision of experienced faculty members at participating schools.

Manuscript reviews by orthodontic program residents were implemented as a result of this Award and were continued for about 3 years. Quality of the reviews was quite high but the program had to be discontinued due to poor timeliness of reviews and reluctance of several residency programs to accept review responsibilities at many times of the year due to conflicting schedules.

3. Enroll *The Angle Orthodontist* as a participating member of the Cross Check Initiative to prevent plagiarism in the orthodontic literature.

The Angle Orthodontist is now enrolled as a member of the Cross Check initiative which helps identify attempts to publish plagiarized text in the orthodontic literature. All manuscripts that appear online from participating journals, as well as text on the web in general, are scanned into a centralized database for a minimal fee and then become available for cross referencing. Currently, the major orthodontic journals including, but not limited to, the *American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics*, *The Angle Orthodontist*, and the *European Journal of Orthodontics* are participating in this initiative. It is sad to report that this is a real issue in orthodontic publishing and, on average, *The Angle Orthodontist* identifies about 2 submissions every month that contain large blocks of text lifted from previously published material as well as other, often more serious, examples of publication fraud.

II. Were the results published?

The purpose of this project was to help develop support for the journal. Acknowledgement of this support was published in an Editorial in *The Angle Orthodontist*:

Lindauer SJ. Supporting Open Access and the AAOF. *Angle Orthod* 2013; 83: 553.

III. Have the results been presented?

The Editor of *The Angle Orthodontist* is invited frequently to speak about the journal and publishing in the journal. There have been annual presentations made about the journal at the AAO annual sessions 2014 (New Orleans), 2015 (San Francisco), and 2016 (Orlando) where support from the AAOF was acknowledged. Additionally, I (and others) have given presentations as invited to speak about the journal in Rome (SIDO, 2013), Richmond, VA (VCU, 2014), London (WFO, 2015), Hyderabad, India (IOS, 2015), and Beijing (Peking U, 2016).

IV. AAOF and my career

I was one of the early recipients of a Biomedical research grant and also received other research funding from the AAOF prior to securing this Center Award on behalf of *The Angle Orthodontist*. In essence, my career has grown up with the AAOF. The AAOF has grown with me from the time I was an Associate Professor and it was part of the support (2 funded research grants) I received on

my way to achieving Promotion to Full Professor in 1999 and becoming Chair of the VCU Department of Orthodontics in 2000. I am very grateful for and supportive of the AAOF.

In closing, I would summarize by saying that *The Angle Orthodontist* will continue to face financial challenges in the future. However, it is very successful currently at fulfilling its mission to provide unencumbered free access to scientific information to the orthodontic community worldwide. The journal's impact factor is comparable to the American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics and the European Journal of Orthodontics. Submissions have plateaued just below 1,000 annually and have been steady for the past 4 years. The acceptance rate is also steady at about 15%. I am very happy with the position of the journal in its current state and am hopeful that it will be able to maintain financial viability through support from the Angle Society, continued subscribers, advertising, and donations. The financial support and stimulation provided by the AAOF has been received enthusiastically. We sincerely appreciate the support given by the AAOF toward preserving the mission of *The Angle Orthodontist*.