

Orthodontic Faculty Development Fellowship Award

Dr. Isil Aras, Jacksonville University

Biography

I have done my DDS, MS and PhD training in Ege University, Izmir, Turkey. I have 10 years of clinical patient care and research background in orthodontics. I have been appointed as Clinical Assistant Professor in Jacksonville University in 2018. I am a member of Turkish and European Orthodontic Society and American Association of Orthodontists. I have over 20 publications concerning the etiology and treatment of orthodontic anomalies.



Project Synopsis

The project proposed for the award will focus on the treatment of maxillary transverse deficiency. Progressive interdigitation of the intermaxillary suture with age brings about more dentoalveolar outcomes than skeletal results in mature individuals. The lack of desired skeletal changes causes detrimental effects on the dentoalveolar structures. To overcome the side effects and achieve a true expansion of the basal bone, miniscrew-assisted rapid palatal expansion was introduced in mature individuals. Since another implication of maxillary transverse deficiency has been made in relation to nasal airways, effective expansion of maxilla is going to benefit both the maxillary deficiency and impaired breathing. So, the aim of the proposed randomized clinical trial is to compare the outcomes of conventional rapid maxillary expansion with miniscrew-assisted rapid maxillary expansion by means of cone-beam computed tomography and rhinomanometry. The outcomes of this preliminary research will provide a pilot data that will enable us to build a foundation on which we can build our more comprehensive approaches on expanding the maxilla in mature individuals without consulting to surgically assisted treatment modalities.

Also, soon after I began my new position in Jacksonville University, I was assigned to teach the Literature Review course that covers the American Board of Orthodontics (ABO) articles. Through this course, residents are able to implement the evidence-based facts into their clinical settings. My plan of allocating part of the budget for purchase of the newest textbooks will assist me in the training of our residents in preparation of their ABO exam and contribute in raising of high caliber residents.

Additionally, part of the funds will be used to further my knowledge in meta-analysis and to gain skills in this area by the future courses. I am planning to get more experience in this area by acquiring a copy of the comprehensive meta-analysis software (Comprehensive meta-analysis, Biostat, New Jersey, USA) that was developed with the funding from NIH.

Importance of AAOF Funding

In our days of limited funding for research, the AAO Foundation Orthodontic Faculty Development Fellowship Award will aid me in my pursuit of a better clinical researcher and further my clinical training. This fellowship will give me the opportunity to collaborate with reputed academicians from two different universities.

In closing, I would like to thank you for considering me for this wonderful opportunity. I wish to be able to have more independence while accomplishing my goals and continue the excellent traditions of this fellowship program as I grow under the support and encouragement of my mentors and the AAO Foundation.