

Orthodontic Faculty Development Fellowship Award

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Biography

I currently serve as a full-time Assistant Professor and Clinic Director in the Department of Orthodontics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. I completed my DMD in 2011 at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, in Greece. Afterwards, I received my M.S in Orthodontics and certificate in Orthodontics in 2016 from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). During the same year I began my academic career in the Department of Orthodontics at UAB and in 2018 I became a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics. My initial research experiences involved patients with craniofacial complexities and mostly facial asymmetries. Later on, some of my studies focused on the investigation of multiple 3D digital innovative technologies such as intra-and extra-oral scanners, surface image and hard tissue acquisition devices and the use of technologies in orthodontics. My latest research interests are focusing on the effectiveness of an esthetic clear-aligner system during orthodontic treatment and examining the smile esthetic outcome after orthodontic treatment.



Project Synopsis

The objectives of this project are to compare smile outcomes between patients treated by conventional orthodontic braces and clear aligners. In modern societies, there is an increasing amount of people treated by clear aligners. It is therefore important to investigate the clinical

effectiveness of Invisalign in terms of the smile outcome. Significant findings are expected after completion of this study as two different treatment modalities might worsen or improve smile variables in different ways. Furthermore, from an educational perspective, we hope to help the orthodontist during clinical decision making process and to be critical in the outcome evaluations.

The Importance of the AAOF

The support and financial assistance from AAOF will enable me to further develop my career as an academic teacher and independent researcher. This project is part of a greater research study that plans to establish a correlation between smile esthetic outcome and available orthodontic biomechanics. Funding from AAOF was crucial for the initiation and further development of this project.