

Biomedical Research Award

Phimon Atsawasuwan, D.D.S., M.Sc., M.Sc., M.S., PhD., Associate Professor, *The University of Illinois at Chicago*

Dr. Phimon Atsawasuwan received his D.D.S. and M.Sc. in Periodontics from Mahidol University, Thailand and another M.Sc. in Periodontology from Eastman Dental Institute, University College London, United Kingdom. He then received his Ph.D. in Oral Biology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his M.S. and a certificate in Orthodontics from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Right after his graduation, he has been a diplomate, American Board of Orthodontics and joined the department of Orthodontics, University of Illinois at Chicago as a full-time faculty for 8 years. He was awarded Thomas M. Graber award of Special Merit from AAO for his M.S. thesis. He has published more than forty original articles in several peer-reviewed orthodontic journals and case reports in *AJO-DO*, *the Angle Orthodontist* and *JCO*. He serves as an ad-hoc reviewer for several peer-reviewed journals including *Journal of Dental Research*, *Scientific Reports*, *PLoS One*, *Bone*, *Gene*, *European Journal of Oral Sciences*, *Connective Tissue Research*, *the Angle Orthodontist* and *Progress in Orthodontics*. His research interests include cellular and molecular mechanisms of craniofacial anomalies and disorders, cellular and epigenetic control mechanisms of orthodontic tooth movement. He utilizes cell culture and animal models to investigate the cellular and epigenetic mechanisms of tooth movement and periodontal and bone remodeling.



He has been awarded the 2020 Biomedical Research Award from AAOF, which he proposes to investigate the role of microRNA in osteocytes using a novel Dicer mouse model and osteocyte cell culture model. He will collaborate with Dr. Anne George, a renowned expert in DMP1 and osteocyte biology, to study the potential role of microRNAs during tooth movement *in vitro and vivo*.

With the generous Biomedical Research Award funding from AAOF, he will be able to conduct experiments and obtain some preliminary results for an application of extramural funding from the NIH. The ultimate career goal of Dr. Atsawasuwan is to be an independent investigator and renowned orthodontic educator. At this stage of his career, the funding from AAOF will be a great resource for his career development and preliminary results for the application of extramural federal funding.