Biomedical Research Award

Dr. Pradip R. Shetye, *New York University, Langone Health*

Dr. Shetye is a Board Certified Orthodontist and has an appointment as Assistant Professor of Plastic Surgery (Craniofacial Orthodontics), Director of Craniofacial Orthodontics and the Craniofacial Orthodontics Fellowship Program at New York University Langone Health. He also has an appointment as an Assistant Professor of Orthodontics at NYU College of Dentistry.

Dr. Shetye has expertise in all areas of Craniofacial Orthodontic treatment for pediatric and adult patients. He has a particular interest in orthodontic treatment for patients needing complex reconstructive surgery of the face and orthognathic surgery.

Dr. Shetye is an internationally recognized orthodontist and has authored over 60 peer-reviewed scientific papers and five book chapters. He has given over 175 scientific clinical and research presentations in more than 18 countries.

Dr. Shetye has received several International awards for clinical excellence, including The prestigious Daniel Marchac Award from the International Society of Craniofacial Surgery, the Henry Kawamoto Award from the American Society of Craniofacial Surgeons, Joseph E. Johnson Award, and the Charley Schultz Award, both from the American Association of Orthodontics and T. C. White Award from the Royal College of Physician and Surgeons of Glasgow.

The proposed study will study the physical, psychosocial, and financial domains associated with Nasoalveolar Alveolar Molding (NAM) therapy to treat patients with cleft lip and Palate before their primary surgery. The study will examine the current algorithm for treatment decision to pursue NAM treatment and explore if there are disparities in care based on physical, psychosocial, and financial burden domains. The study will also determine if there are predictors for the completion of NAM therapy based on the above variables.

The outcome of this study will impact the clinical practice of patients seeking presurgical infant orthopedics during infancy. Publication of these results will influence all cleft care teams performing this assessment and making treatment decisions. This study has the potential to develop evidence-based guidelines and expand access to care in patients with an orofacial cleft.

The funding from the AAOF is essential to this project in the sub-specialty on Cleft and Craniofacial Orthodontics. The research students, residents, and fellows will significantly benefit from being involved in this project and showing the broad impact the AAOF can have in orthodontic education and training. The cleft and craniofacial community involved in treating patients with clefts will significantly benefit from the

outcome of this study. Knowing the compliance predictors will help the cleft team in providing additional psychosocial or financial support during active NAM Therapy.

I have been fortunate to have benefited from the support from the AAOF multiple times in my academic career, and this has helped me to grow as a full-time academic faculty at NYU Langone Health. AAOF support has provided me to pursue my passion for research and teaching my fellows, resident, and students in the sub-specialty of Craniofacial Orthodontics.