

## **XVIII. CALL FOR PROPOSALS (CFP) TO STUDY COVID-19 RELATED OUTCOMES**

The American Association of Orthodontists Foundation (AAOF) announces its interest to fund investigator-defined studies concerning COVID-19 related outcomes in orthodontics. It is not well known how orthodontic practices and treatment outcomes are affected by this pandemic. Accordingly, significant interest and need is present to assess the impact of coronavirus induced closures of orthodontic clinics on patient centered outcomes.

The investigator-defined proposals will naturally vary in their focus and methods of study, but they are expected to offer, or lead to, solutions to the present and future issues of the orthodontic specialty. This could be an opportunity to employ methods of qualitative research to reveal the needed answers that cannot be collected quantitatively.

### BACKGROUND:

The AAOF is issuing this call for proposals to uncover the effects of COVID-19 pandemic on orthodontic practices, practitioners, and patient-related outcomes.

This pandemic-induced closure of orthodontic practices disturbed the continuity of care and the manner patients are treated. It is not known how guidelines from the CDC, the AAO, and state dental associations for the use of PPE, aerosol control, distancing of patients, and a plethora of additional regulations might have affected the specialty of orthodontics. Information regarding the timeliness and excellence of orthodontic care provided during outbreaks of novel viruses, while surrounded by unfamiliar equipment and barriers, is scarce. Priority will be given to proposals that can be immediately impactful to the issues of orthodontic practices, practitioners, and the care of patients.

### POTENTIAL AREAS OF INTEREST TO STUDY COULD BE:

- Effects of practice physical layout modifications on humans
- Financial impact on practices during and post-shutdowns
- Changes in staffing and their impact on clinical outcomes
- Appropriateness and best practices of disinfection strategies by orthodontic practices in response to the pandemic
- Changes in access-to-care issues attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Changes in processes of care, such as screening methods, testing, choice of appliances, modifications to planned treatments, appointment intervals, patient cooperation, and the like
- The utility of virtual health and remote monitoring (VHRM) during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Mathematical predictions and preparations for future similar events

The applications can be submitted under the Center Award, Biomedical Research Award, Post-doctoral Fellowship Award, Orthodontic Faculty Development Fellowship Award, and Research Aid Award categories.