



2025 Research Aid Award
Dr. Tiffany Park, University of California-San Francisco

1) a short biography

a. Dr. Tiffany Park is currently pursuing her orthodontic residency at University of California San Francisco. She was born and raised in Fullerton, California. She received her BA from Pomona College in Claremont, CA where she majored in Studio Arts and minored in Chemistry. Then she moved to Philadelphia, PA to pursue her DMD at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine. In her free time, she enjoys running and swimming, and has recently begun exploring biking.

2) a brief description of the project

a. The latest advances in clear aligner therapy allow for correction of class II malocclusion with clear aligners, specifically using a sequential molar distalization protocol. However, even this treatment option is limited in its ability to provide full correction of class II malocclusion in patients with a protrusive maxillary dentition. The introduction of innovative appliances, such as the Modified C Palatal Plate (MCP), can be used in conjunction with clear aligners allows for more effective and efficient orthodontic treatment. Through this study, we want to compare the standard approach for distalizing maxillary molars with clear aligners, sequential distalization, with a novel approach using a combination of clear aligners and MCP in patients with class II malocclusion.

3) a statement of how orthodontic education will benefit from your award

a. The generous AAOF award for this project will support orthodontic education, an ever-evolving field shaped by the latest technological advancements. The results are expected to offer valuable insights for clinical guidelines, inform the development of new protocols, guide future research directions, and ultimately enhance the quality of patient care.

4) why the Foundation is important to your project

a. The Foundation has been instrumental to the execution and pursuit of this project. Its generous support enables the acquisition of essential supplies and equipment necessary to carry out the research effectively. Dr. Park is profoundly grateful to receive funding from an organization with a distinguished legacy of advancing the field of orthodontics. She is also honored to be a part of the enduring legacy and meaningful work the AAOF has been advancing for years.

- 5) how Foundation funding is expected to or has benefitted your career
 - a. The AAOF has played a pivotal role in advancing Dr. Park's early career as a clinician-researcher. Beyond providing the essential funding to support this project, the Foundation has offered critical encouragement in highlighting the importance of research as a foundation for clinical progress. This opportunity represents the beginning of a lifelong commitment to continuous learning and professional development, with the ultimate goal of providing the highest standard of care to patients in need of orthodontic treatment.