



**2025 Biomedical Research Award
Dr. Zhe Zhong, Loma Linda University**

Dr. Zhong is an Assistant Professor in the Center for Dental Research at Loma Linda University. She earned her D.D.S. from Capital Medical University and a Ph.D. in Orthodontics from Peking University, China. During her doctoral studies, she began researching the craniofacial musculoskeletal system within the field of orthodontics. She later completed her postdoctoral training at the University of Southern California, focusing on craniofacial muscle stem cell research.

Project Description

Orthodontic tooth movement is driven by alveolar bone remodeling, a process that is typically more active in adolescent patients. However, this biological response is significantly reduced in the growing population of adult patients. Dr. Zhong's research aims to compare alveolar bone responses to orthodontic forces in young and adult mice.

Benefit to Orthodontic Education

This study will offer critical insights into the cellular mechanisms of orthodontic tooth movement and help explain the slower rate of movement commonly observed in adults. The findings could inform future clinical strategies for age-specific orthodontic care.

Importance of AAOF Support

Dr. Zhong is deeply honored to receive the Biomedical Research Award from the American Association of Orthodontists Foundation (AAOF). This support will be instrumental in generating preliminary data for future NIH grant applications, helping to advance her research and contribute to the broader field of orthodontic science.