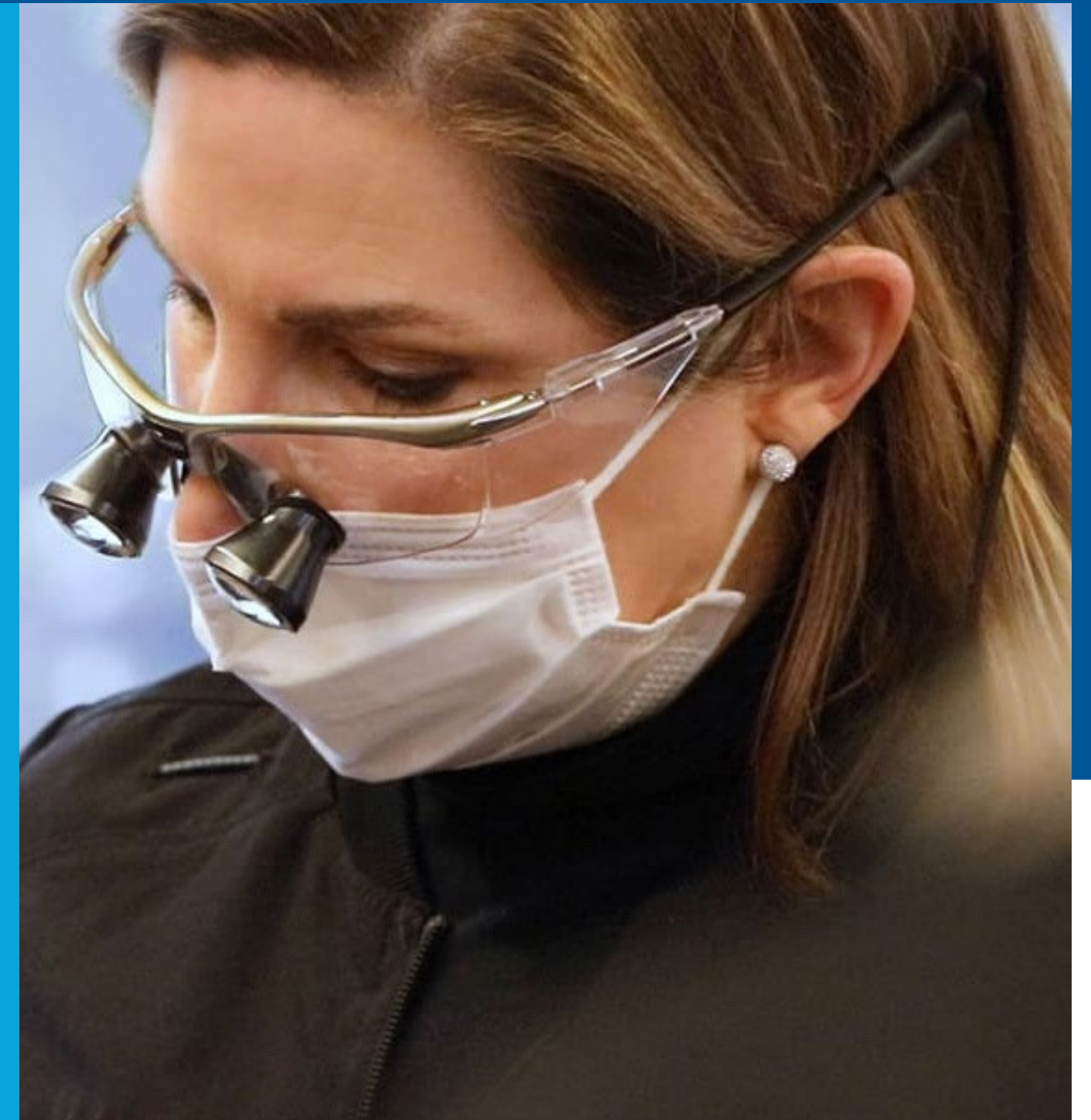


SUBMITTING A SUCCESSFUL AAO FOUNDATION AWARD APPLICATION

**Presented by: Dr. Sylvia Frazier-Bowers &
Dr. Sath Allareddy**

**Friday, June 26, 2026
11 am - 1 pm CT**



Guide for Applicants & Mentors



Dr. Sylvia Frazier-Bowers
PARC Chair



Dr. Sath Allareddy
PARC Vice Chair



Agenda

- AAC Foundation Mission & Achievements
- Award Types & Eligibility Criteria
- 11 Required Components
- Review Process & Criteria
- Your Role & Your Mentor/Chair's Roles in Ensuring your Success
- Questions & Answers

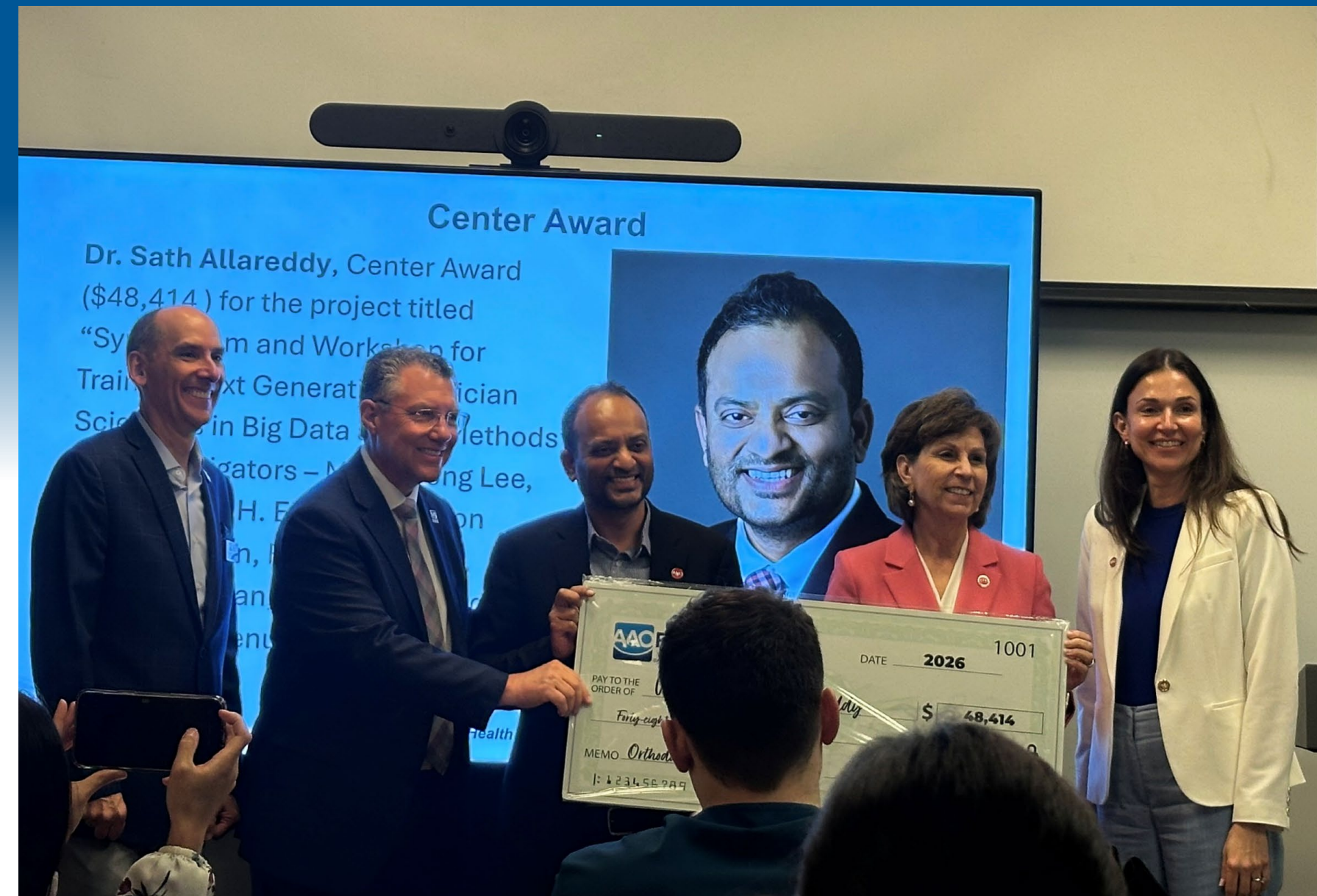
Workshop Goals

Share Information on:

- Grant Award categories & requirements
- Review process, criteria & funding decisions

Improve:

- Quality & completeness of applications
- Chances of success
- Discovery & education in Orthodontics
- Justification for fundraising efforts of AAO Foundation



Your AAO Foundation

Mission

is to advance the orthodontic specialty by supporting exceptional education and research that leads to excellence in patient care, and by promoting orthodontic charitable giving.

Vision

To strengthen the future of the specialty by providing the resources to engage and empower all Orthodontists to excel in practice, research, and academics and impact the communities in which they live.

Since 1994, the Foundation has made a lasting impact:

- Funded more than **700 research and fellowship awards**, investing nearly **\$18 million** in the future of orthodontics.
- **76% of Foundation-supported faculty** remain in full-time academic positions five years after receiving support.



Calls for Proposals

- 1. Preparing Orthodontics for the AI Era: Research in Education, Faculty Development, and Clinical Practice**
- 2. Advancing Orthodontics Through Innovation, Education, and Discovery**



Funding for the 2027 Cycle (Award Caps)



Funding Amounts:

- **OFDFA** – \$30,000 with a cap on salary of \$20,000
- **BRA** – \$40,000
- **RAA** – \$6,000
- **Center Awards**– \$25,000 per year; maximum of 3 years.
 - (Type 3 & 4; see Awards Material)
- **PFA** – \$50,000 per year; maximum of 2 years.
 - One proposal per year per program

PARC application deadline **October 16, 2026**

Award Types & Eligibility Criteria

All Award Categories

- Commitment to academic career (teaching/research)
- US/Canadian Institutions
- Associated with Accredited Orthodontic Program/or Craniofacial Program

Fellowships (OFDFA, PFA), BRA, CA

- US/Canadian citizens
- Green-card holders/applicants
- Distinction between full-time, part-time and residents by award category



Application Submission Process

Our application website is online at
www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=aao



- If you are new to the system, you will **Create New Account** or if you are a previous user, login to the system using your previous information. Then you will be on the **Apply** page and can choose the appropriate category. Use the same email and password each time you log in.
- Applications will automatically save. You can log out and log back in at any time to complete the application before the deadline. Once you are finished, click the **Submit** button.
- **You cannot change your application after it has been submitted.**

Award Types & Eligibility Criteria: Junior Faculty

- **Orthodontic Faculty Development Fellowship Award (OFDFA)**
 - **≤\$30,000** for one year
 - Full-time faculty ≤5 years in 1st appointment

- **Postdoctoral Fellowship (PFA)**
 - **≤\$50,000** per year for 2 years (with 3rd year possible)
 - Orthodontist with PhD (or equivalent)
 - For post-doc research training (lab or clinical)
 - High potential for future extramural (NIH) funding
 - Only one proposal per orthodontic program or institution

Award Types & Eligibility

Criteria: Experienced Faculty

- **Biomedical Research Award (BRA)**
 - **≤\$40,000** for one year
 - Full-time faculty for ≥ 3 years
 - Any rank
 - Multiple applications per orthodontic program permitted
- **Now eligible: Cleft/Craniofacial Orthodontists**
 - Full-time
 - Teaching commitment (stated in LOS)
 - ACPA-accredited Team

Award Types & Eligibility

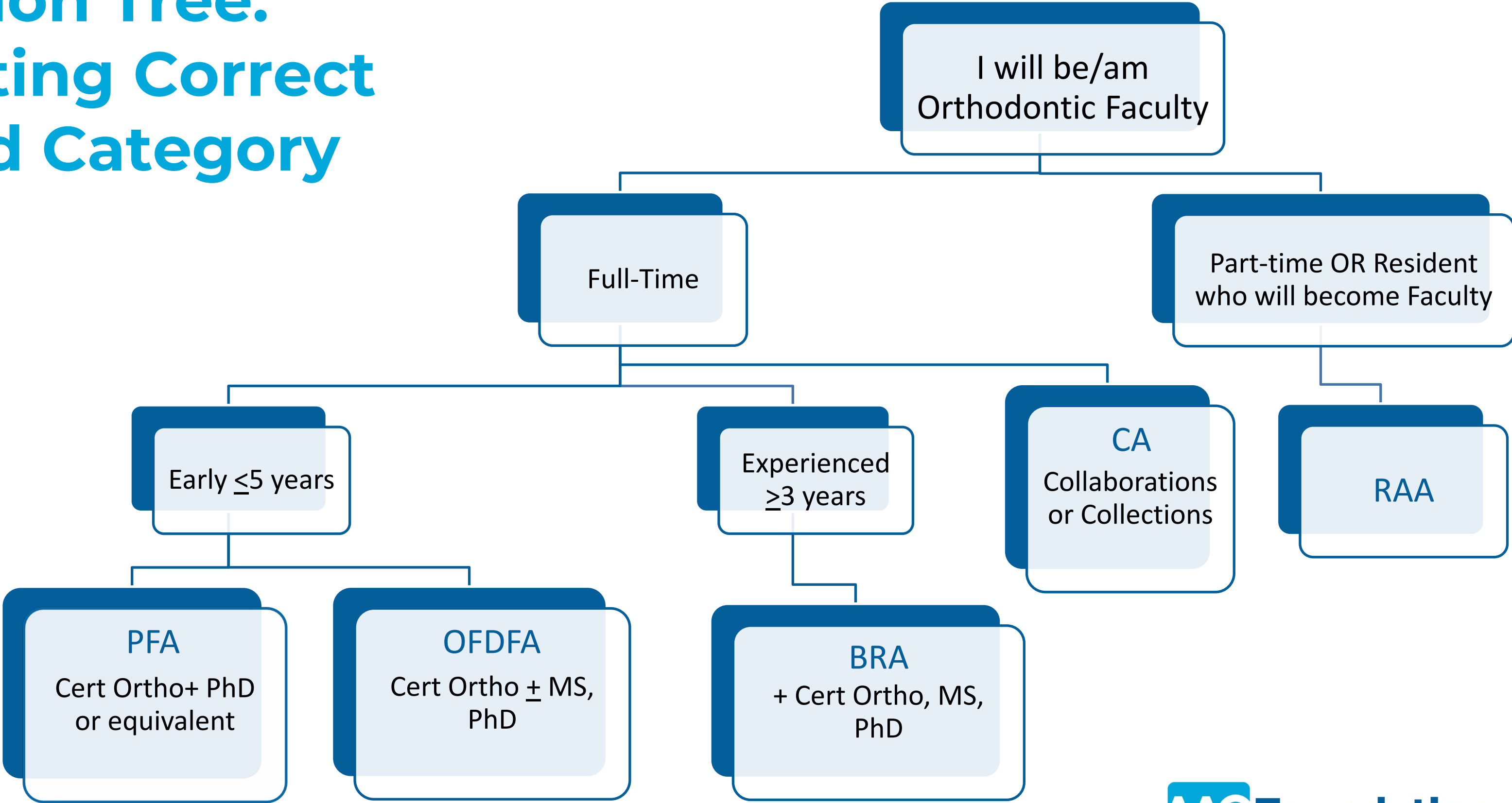
Criteria: Residents & Part-Time Faculty

- **Research Aid Award (RAA)**
 - ≤\$6,000 per year for one year
 - Criteria
 - Resident committed to part-time/full-time academic career
 - Letter of support should state academic interest in 1st/2nd year
 - ≥1 year from start of award (7/1/2027) to complete project
 - RAA intended to be completed in one year and No Cost Extensions available only after PARC review.
 - Not a previous RAA recipient
 - Part-time orthodontic faculty

Award Types & Eligibility Criteria: Collaborations

- **Center Award (CA)**
 - **≤\$25,000** per year for up to 3 years
 - No seniority limit
 - To enhance collaborations within and between institutions
 - **2027** Center Awards will focus on **two** categories:
 - Center Awards that support the establishment, maintenance, dissemination and development of special collections and databases relevant to orthodontics.
 - Center Awards that support collaborative projects that advance orthodontics through innovative discoveries and knowledge dissemination.

Decision Tree: Selecting Correct Award Category





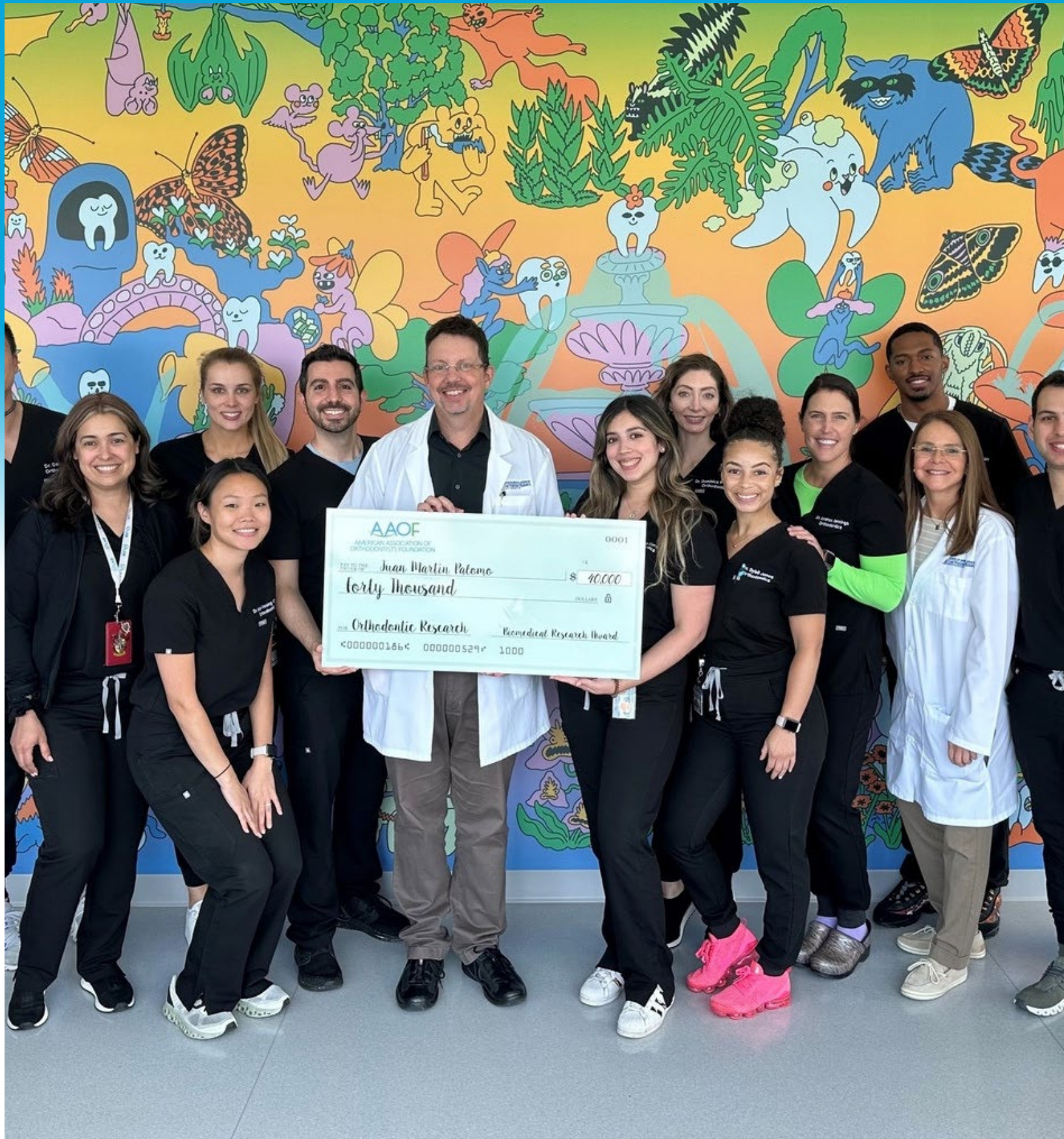
Questions?



aaofoundation.net

Suggestions for Completing a Successful Application

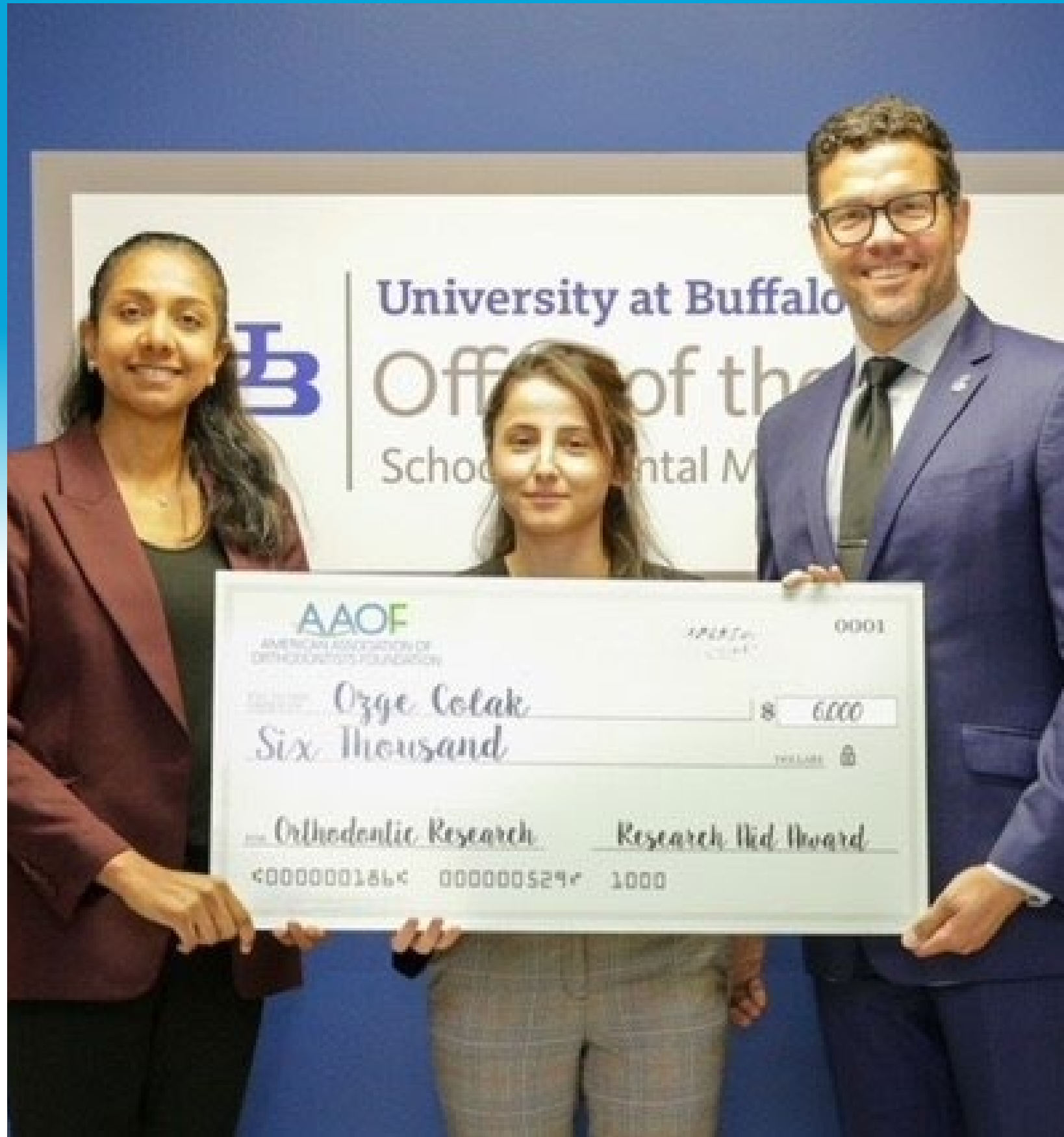




Previous AAO Foundation Grants and Outcomes

- **Reflects on:**
 - Academic accomplishments
 - Success in career development and scholarship
 - Future chances of success with additional funding
- **Important outcome measure for AAO Foundation and donors**

Budget & Budget Justification



- All **eligible expenses** only
 - Itemized list
 - Justification: why needed
- **Follow guidelines** – especially re: what is allowed (\pm salaries) and limits (travel)
- If other funds are planned to complete proposal, identify:
 - What parts will be funded by AAO Foundation/other funds
 - Must: Source of other funds (agency, amount)



Budget & Budget Justification

- **Fellowships only** – if requesting stipend/salary
 - Describe alternative funds (sources, amounts) for proposed plans
- **Reviewers assess**
 - Appropriateness of proposed activities
 - Completeness
 - Reasonable cost estimates
 - If not in budget, are essential equipment, supplies, resources available to perform studies/plans
 - Help out: provide information

Bio Sketches

- Required for all individuals named on Title Page
- **≤4 pages**
 - Personal Statement
 - Positions and Honors
 - Contribution to Science
 - Research support
 - Ongoing
 - Past 3 years



Roles of Applicant(s)

- Include **all individuals named** on Title Page
 - Role(s)
 - Responsibilities
 - % effort
- **Follow award-specific instructions**, e.g.
 - OFDFA mentor/advisor(s)
 - Role/s
 - Plans for meetings with applicant
 - Skills, background



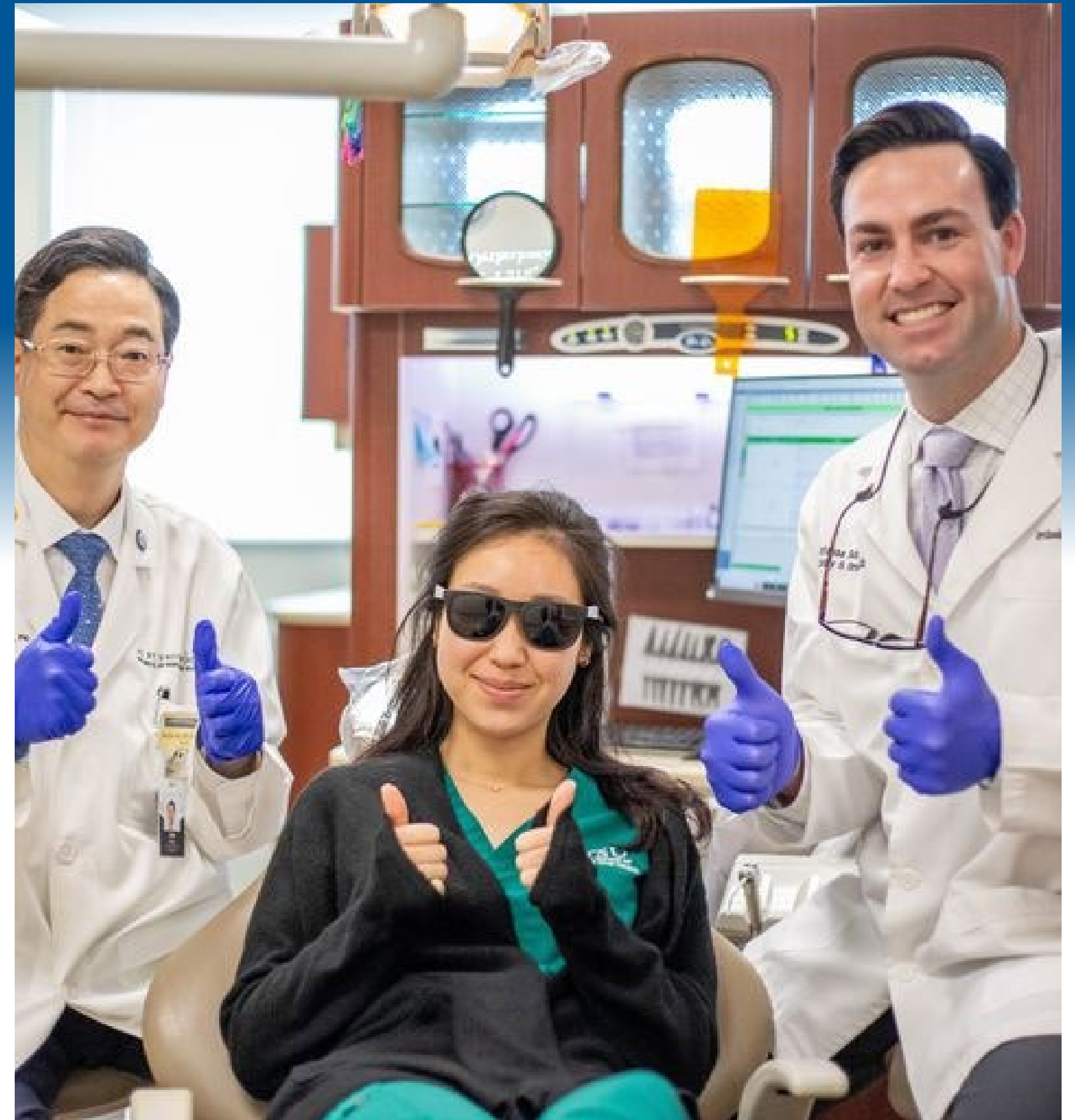


Proposed Plan

1. Abstract (≤ 1 page)
2. Project Plans(s)
 - a. Different page limits & content for different award types
 - b. Resubmissions only:
Introduction page (see next)
3. Timetable (≤ 1 page)
4. References (no page limit)
 - a. Include all cited materials

Resubmission Applications: Introduction Page

- Resubmissions are encouraged
- Applicant/s must
 - Make appropriate & major changes to the re-submitted application
- Include previous AAO Foundation PARC review comments



Resubmission Applications: Introduction Page

- **1 page maximum**
- **Summarizes:**
 - Substantial additions, deletions and changes to previous application
- **Includes:**
 - Responses to all “weaknesses” provided in the six sections of the critique





Letters of Support

- No page limits
- Required for all award categories
- Award-specific instructions
- Importance as specified in instructions
- Avoid extraneous letters

Appendix

- No page limits
- If applicable
 - **Human Research:** IRB approval status
 - Describe status
 - Include notice if approved
 - **Animal Research:** IACUC approval status
 - Describe status
 - Include notice if approved
- Accepted & published manuscripts
 - Not required
 - ≤3 authored by applicant
 - Directly relevant to application



GET
QUESTIONS?





OFDFA & PFA: Specifics

- **Project Plans** - Page limits
 - OFDFA ≤ 6 pages
 - PFA ≤ 10 pages
- **Four Developmental Plans:**
 - Required (programs, activities)
 - Educational
 - Clinical skills
 - Teaching skills
 - Research



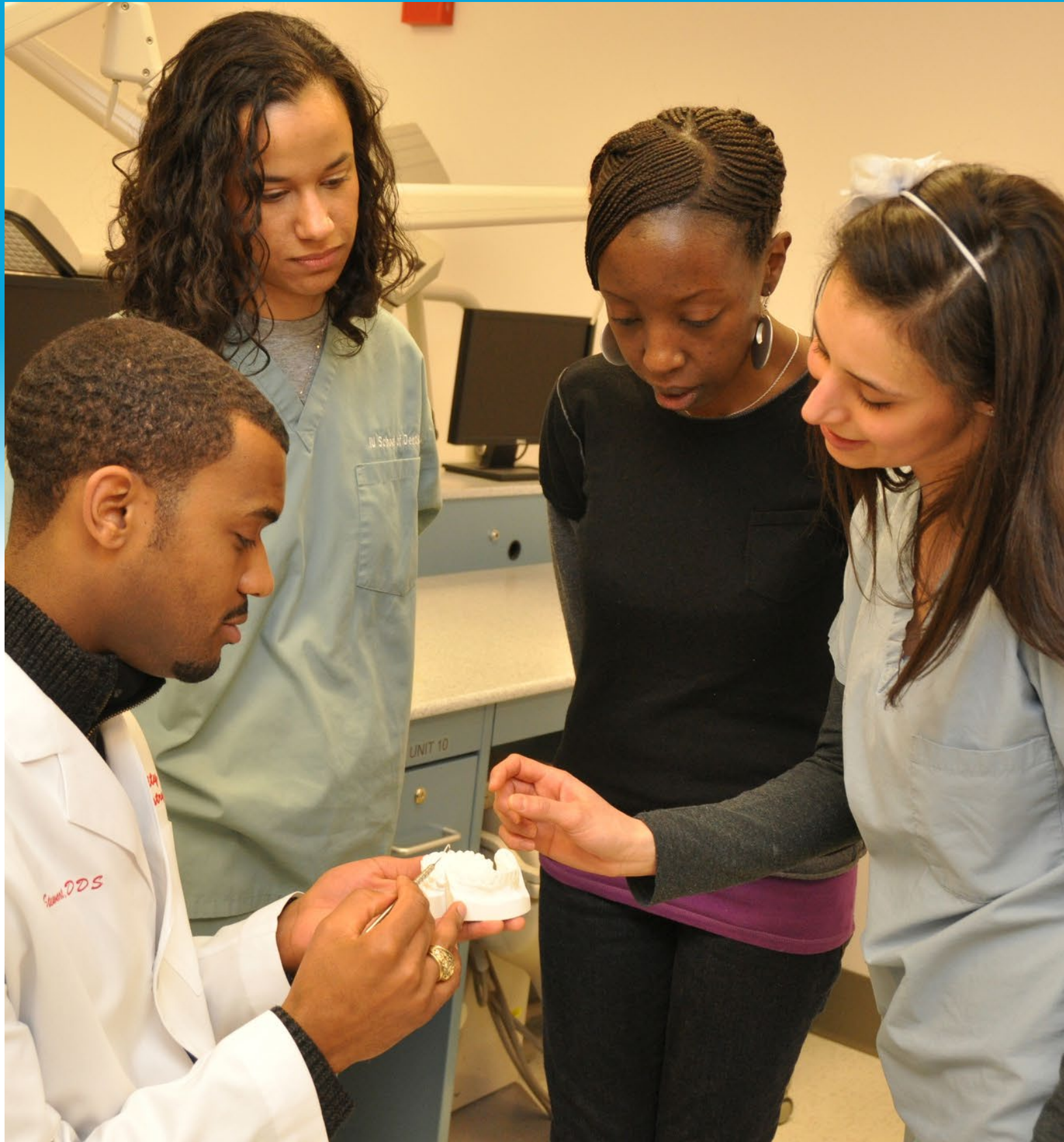
OFDFA & PFA: Specifics

- **Letters of Support** -Page limits: None
 - At least 3 supporting letters: choose references who can
 - Describe abilities/future potential, qualifications re: goals of OFDFA or PFA
 - **Individuals named on Title Page**
 - Principal advisor(s)/mentor(s), Co-I(s), Consultant(s)
 - Verify participation, plans for support
 - **Institutional official**
 - Verify support of/resources for four Developmental Plans
 - **Chair**
 - Verify eligibility, support & time
 - Confirm appointment as FT faculty as of July 1 of funding period



OFDFA & PFA: Specifics

- **Project Plans** – Areas of emphasis
 - OFDFA: 1 or more
 - PFA: Research must be focus
- **Provide**
 - Sufficient detail for evaluation
 - Note: History/previous accomplishments ≠ Plans
- **Key Advisors** for each Developmental Plan
 - Should review, mentor on application prior to submission
 - Provide letter of support



OFDFA & PFA: Other Info

- Proposals allowable per orthodontic program
 - 1 PFA
- **PI may apply for both OFDFA & PFA**
 - Only 1 will be funded
- Current residents may apply if they have
 - FT faculty position starting July 1st of funding year
 - Verification of appointment required from chair



OFDFA & PFA: Other Info

- “Stipend” (cash gift) for salary support
 - Allowed by the AAO Foundation for OFDFA & PFA only
 - Note: Some institutions will not allow additional income as “salary”
 - *special circumstances may be considered by PARC.

BRA & RAA: Specifics

- **Project Plans**

- Page limits
 - ≤ 10 pages for BRA
 - ≤ 5 pages for RAA
- Background & Significance
- Preliminary Studies
- Experimental Design, Methods & Statistical Analyses
- Expected Outcomes
- Alternative Approaches
 - What if outcomes are not as expected?
 - How to trouble-shoot
 - Demonstrate that all aspects have been considered



BRA & RAA: Specifics

- Letters of Support - Page limits: None
- Individuals named on Title Page
 - Co-I(s), Consultant(s): Verify participation, plans for support
- Institutional official
 - Verify support of/resources for Project Plan
- Chair - Verify eligibility, support & time
 - BRA: Confirm ≥ 3 yrs as FT faculty as of July 1 of funding period
 - Cleft/Craniofacial Orthodontists: confirm teaching activities
 - RAA
 - Resident:
 - Highlight strong interest in a future academic career
 - Time to complete project while in program
 - PT faculty



BRA & RAA: Other Info

- Investigator-initiated research
 - Orthodontics & related topics
 - Expected to lead to
 - Publications
 - Preliminary data: external grant applications (e.g., NIH)
 - Scientific merit emphasized
- No limit on number of proposals per orthodontic program
- PI may
 - Apply for both BRA & PFA - only 1 will be funded
 - Cannot apply if PI/Co-PI on another application in same or other category





Center Award

Two Types for 2027– support for:

- Center Awards that support the establishment, maintenance, dissemination and development of special collections and databases relevant to orthodontics.
- Center Awards that support collaborative projects that advance orthodontics through innovative discoveries and knowledge dissemination. (e.g., conducting workshops or symposia)
- Project Plan ≤10 pages

Process Flow

Foundation Staff

Opens
application
portal by July 1

Monitors
applications -
due by
October 16, 2026,
5:00 p.m. CT

Reviews for
eligibility,
deadline and
completeness

Triages
Incomplete,
Ineligible or
late
applications



Process Flow

Planning & Awards Review Committee (PARC)

Applications:



are assigned
by Chair to
members
based on areas
of expertise, no
COI

are initially
scored by 2
reviewers using
specific scoring
criteria

receive written
reviews and
preliminary
overall impact
scores
(scale of 9 to 1)

additional
reviewers
assigned when
scores vary by
>2 points

Process Flow

PARC Meeting



- Reviewers with conflicts of interest leave the room
 - Do not participate in any discussion or scoring
- **Application Reviews**
 - Presented by assigned reviewers with preliminary scores
 - Discussed
- **Final scores**
 - Provided by all assigned reviewers
 - PARC members without COI
 - Score by confidential ballots
 - Declare if voting outside of range of assigned reviewers and state why
 - Averaged
 - Remain anonymous (not linked to applicant's name) for any further discussion by the PARC

AAO Foundation Board of Directors



Process Flow

- **PARC**
 - Makes funding recommendations to AAO Foundation Board of Directors on basis of funding available and quality of applications
- **AAO Foundation Board of Directors** makes final funding decisions
- **Applicant receives**
 - Funding decision
 - Critique



Criteria Review

- Overall Impact
 - Scale of 9 (best) to 1 (worst)
- Scored Review Criteria
 - Significance
 - Investigator(s)
 - Innovation
 - Approach
 - Environment including mentors & resources
 - Success and Productivity of Previous Funding Provided
- Strengths and Weaknesses (major, moderate, minor)
- Additional Review Criteria
 - Human or Animal Research Approval Status
 - Budget
 - Appropriate & justified
 - Ineligible requests

Scoring Scale & Guidelines

	9	Exceptional	Exceptionally strong with essentially no weaknesses
High	8	Outstanding	Extremely strong with negligible weaknesses
	7	Excellent	Very strong with only some minor weaknesses
	6	Very Good	Strong with numerous minor weaknesses
Medium	5	Good	Strong but with at least one moderate weakness
	4	Satisfactory	Some strengths but also some moderate weaknesses
	3	Fair	Some strengths but with at least one major weakness
Low	2	Marginal	A few strengths and a few major weaknesses
	1	Poor	Very few strengths and numerous major weaknesses

ANY
QUESTIONS?

Where Do Applicants Trip Up?

- **Quality of application**

- How strong is it in each of the criteria?
- Is it proposing novel ideas and approaches?
- Does the application test a hypothesis?



- **Formatting & completeness of application**

- Did you submit by the deadline?
- Did you follow the instructions diligently?
- Are all required materials included?
- If reworking a previous non-AAO Foundation application:
 - Reformat to the Foundation guidelines



Where Do Applicants Trip Up?

- **Award Category**

- Are you eligible for the category in which you have applied?
- Is this the category in which you are the most competitive?



- **Accomplishments from prior funding**

- Did you achieve the goals of your previous funding?
- Have you filed your reports with the AAO Foundation?



Where Do Applicants Trip Up?

- **Mentorship & Consultants**
 - Important to seek
 - Strong, relevant mentors/consultants
 - Input early and often



- **Mentors & Consultants**
 - Need to review application and provide input to ensure:
 - Application is correctly written and compiled
 - Research question is strong and current



Best Practices

- **Start 6 months prior to submission**
- Awards Materials typically posted by July 1
 - www.aaofoundation.net
- **Research:** Define excellent & novel
 - Questions
 - Experimental design
 - Contemporary, appropriate methodologies
 - Provide any preliminary data to support your ideas
- **For career development**
 - Seek out new approaches to designing curriculum and teaching methods
 - Take relevant courses, workshops and classes



Best Practices

- **Mentorship**
 - Strong, supportive and dedicated mentorship in research, teaching and career development
- **Application Refinements**
 - Present and discuss your proposals with your mentors and consultants frequently, have them read/revise them
- **Have you done all your own work?**
 - Complete well organized proposal
 - Attention to detail
 - Make it easy for the reviewers
 - Will reviewers have to search for needed information?
 - Place content where it should be



Grant Award Types Offered in 2027

Junior Faculty

- OFDFA
- PFA

BRA

- ≤ 3 years full-time academics

Center Award

Research Aid Award

Not offered in 2027: Education Innovation Award

The Future

- **Continue building** on
 - Quality of applications
 - Discoveries in orthodontics
 - Faculty development successes
 - New processes for identifying Calls for Proposals
- **Continue enhancing** quality of review and feedback
- Implementation of **AAO Foundation Strategic Plan: Vision 2030**





Looking for Novel Projects

- **AAO Foundation would like to fund more novel and innovative Research and Development projects:**
- Proposals that advance the science, education, and practice of orthodontics. This funding opportunity is intended to support innovative research, foster faculty development, and generate knowledge that benefits patients, educators, and the specialty.
- Proposals investigating how artificial intelligence will transform orthodontic education, faculty development, clinical decision-making, and patient care. The goal of this initiative is to develop evidence-based approaches that prepare orthodontic educators, residents, and practitioners to effectively and responsibly utilize AI technologies.

Questions?



Brett Schott
AAO Foundation
Vice President
bschott@aaortho.org
314.292.6546



George Reinerman, Jr.
PARC Program Specialist
greinarman@aaortho.org
314.292.6562



Visit the AAO Foundation Website