

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ORTHODONTISTS FOUNDATION

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Note: For 2027 Awards Program, the firm deadline for receipt of proposals is Friday, October 16, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. CST

Any proposals received after that date and time will not be accepted.

*****The Letter of Agreement (either/both versions) and the Promissory Note (PFA only) are NOT required when submitting a proposal and should not be completed at this time. The LOA/PN are only required from those proposals approved for funding, and those approved for funding will be informed of this at a later date, typically around the first of March. These forms are included in the 2027 Awards Materials for information only.**

2027-I. General Announcement and Application Procedure

(Revised 06/30/26)

A. General Announcement

The Mission of the AAO Foundation 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. The vision is 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. Foundation funding ensures the future viability of the specialty by investing in the next generation of educators and researchers.

Financial awards from the AAO Foundation are available on a competitive basis to aid projects and programs whose intentions are to support the professional development of future educators and researchers in orthodontics and to promote the maintenance, dissemination, and development of new knowledge, materials, and techniques intending to improve the ability of the specialty of orthodontics to deliver quality care. The primary focus of Foundation funding remains in support of junior faculty.

B. AAO FOUNDATION Award Categories

The Foundation has defined funding priorities as follows, some of which may not be available every year:

1. Fellowship Awards
 - a. Orthodontic Faculty Development Fellowships (OFDFA)
 - i. Applicant Defined
 - ii. Call for Proposals
 - b. Postdoctoral Fellowships (PFA)
 - i. Applicant Defined
 - ii. Call for Proposals
2. Biomedical Research Awards (BRA)
 - a. Applicant Defined
 - b. Call for Proposals
3. Center Awards (CA)
 - a. Applicant Defined
 - b. Call for Proposals
4. Educational Innovation Awards (EIA)
5. Program Awards (PA)
6. Research Aid Awards (RAA)
 - a. Applicant Defined
 - b. Call for Proposals
7. Gifts in Support of Orthodontic Education (GSOE)

2027 Funding Priorities are as noted below:

1. OFDFA – Applicant Defined and Call for Proposals to study: i) Innovation in Orthodontic Research, ii) Artificial Intelligence in Academics and Practice
2. PFA – Applicant Defined and Call for Proposals to study: i) Innovation in Orthodontic Research, ii) Artificial Intelligence in Academics and Practice
3. BRA – Applicant Defined and Call for Proposals to study: i) Innovation in Orthodontic Research, ii) Artificial Intelligence in Academics and Practice
4. CA – Applicant Defined and Call for Proposals to study: i) Innovation in Orthodontic Research, ii) Artificial Intelligence in Academics and Practice
5. RAA – Applicant Defined and Call for Proposals to study: i) Innovation in Orthodontic Research,

ii) Artificial Intelligence in Academics and Practice

Proposal Deadline is Friday, October 16, 2026 - 5:00 pm CST

Applicants should understand that the award category descriptions are broadly stated to provide guidance to the applicant while allowing freedom in developing proposals. This collection of awards is also intended to encourage and support the development of orthodontic educators and inspire excellence in orthodontic education.

A detailed description for the OFDFA, PFA, BRA, CA and RAA, the only ones available for 2027, can be found on the application pages pertinent to each award category.

C. General Award Stipulations for Proposals

1. The number of awards made in any award category each year will vary, depending on the quality of the applications submitted and the level of support available and allocated to a category as follows for 2027:
 - a. OFDFA – maximum of \$30,000 per year for one year/maximum
 - b. PFA – maximum of \$50,000 per year for a maximum of two years; only one such proposal per year per program. Reapplication for a third year is permissible.
 - c. BRA – maximum of \$40,000 for one year
 - d. CA – maximum of \$25,000 per year for a maximum of three years. (However, Type 4 CA, maximum funding is \$50,000 – see Center Award General Description.)
 - e. RAA – maximum of \$6,000 for one year
2. No funds to cover “indirect costs” will be provided by the AAO FOUNDATION for any project in any award category; the AAO FOUNDATION provides financial support in the form of awards or gifts (not grants or contracts) which are to be used in the actual conduct of the approved project. If the applicant's institution will not accept this requirement, the application will be considered canceled and the award withdrawn.
3. Except where noted, each successful project, in any award category, will be supported on a one-time basis. Except where noted, no additional funds will be allocated for the continuation of a funded project regardless of how long it takes to complete the project; applicants may not reapply for funding a project which has already been supported. The general exception to this rule involves the Orthodontic Faculty Development Fellowship Awards (OFDFA) and Postdoctoral Fellowship Awards (PFA). OFDFA fellows may reapply for additional support, and PFA fellows may also apply for a third year.
4. There is no restriction as to the duration of the project in any award category (i.e., projects may take less than a year, one year, or multiple years to complete), except where noted.
*Be specific with your anticipated end date in this section of the application if you anticipate the completion of your project to take longer than one year.
5. Progress Reports are required six months after support (i.e., no later than December 31, 2027) for the following:
 - a. Multi-year Postdoctoral Fellowship Award
 - b. BRA
 - c. Multi-year Center Award

The Progress Report Sample Template is included within the 2027 Awards Materials (2027-60) and will serve as a guideline what required fields are needed to submit the Progress Report in the

system. A Progress Report is not required for the single-year OFDFA, a single-year CA, a single-year PFA, and the RAA. However, a Progress Report is required by December 31, 2027 for a multi-year PFA.

6. A Final Report is required at the end of the funding period for all award categories unless an extension has been granted. Failure to provide the AAO FOUNDATION with an acceptable Final Report within 6 months after the stated deadline will result in the Principal Investigator(s) (PI) not being eligible for funding until a Final Report is submitted through the Grants Management System to the AAO FOUNDATION and approved by the Foundation's Planning and Awards Review Committee (PARC). A delinquent Final Report will also disqualify the PI's current institution for one (1) year as well. The Final Report Sample Template is included herein on page (2027-58) and will serve as a guideline of what required fields are needed to submit the Final Report in the system.
7. An applicant may not apply for awards in two different categories or more than one award in the same category during any one year at the level of PI or Co-PI (i.e., as a person who has/shares ultimate responsibility for the conduct of two projects), except as noted below in italics; and a maximum of two OFDFA proposals and only one PFA proposal will be accepted per school in any year. In the case of a three-year OFDFA and the two-year PFA, the school may not reapply until the funded Fellowship has been completed. *However, PFA applicants are allowed to submit two applications, i.e., one for the PFA and another for an award offering less funding (either OFDFA or BRA), so that, if the PFA is denied, the applicant would still have the possibility of other funding.*
8. Resubmission of a previous application is permissible if the following requirements are met:
 - The applicant/s must make appropriate and major changes to the re-submitted application compared to the previous application.
 - The AAO Foundation PARC Review for the previous application should be uploaded into the system in the Previous AAO FOUNDATION Awards & Outcomes section.
 - The applicant must include an Introduction at the beginning of section (9-2) Project Plan(s) of the Proposed Plan which:
 - Summarizes the substantial additions, deletions, and changes to the application
 - Includes a response to all the "weaknesses" provided in the six sections (1. Significance through 6. Success and Productivity, and not limited to the Approach only) in the AAO FOUNDATION PARC Review for the previous application
 - May not exceed one page
 - Information on resubmissions can be found at
 - <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/amendedapps.htm>
 - This Introduction is not included in the specific page limits for the Project Plan(s).

D. General Application Guidelines

Several required components and instructions apply to all applications submitted to the AAO FOUNDATION. In addition, applicants should follow the explicit directions given for each specific award category in Sections II to V. The specific instructions for each category will also be included in the Grants Management System. (GMS)

Required Components

All applications must include input for all required components in the Grants Management System. The order described below will help guide you and know what to expect as you progress through the

application process. All changes/updates are automatically saved, and you can return or continue and complete the process as you like.

- (1) **Page 1: Application Cover Sheet** (see form templates on p. 2027-32 or 2027-33, as appropriate) – This page must be filled out in the GMS and serve as the cover page for the application.
- (2) **Page 2: Table of Contents-Checklist** (see form template on p. 2027-34)
 - a. The table will list all required information to be entered into the Grants Management System.
 - b. All required items must be entered prior to submission, or the system will not allow you to click submit.
- (3) **Page 3: Title Page** [not to exceed one page]
 - For OFDFA and PFA categories provide the following:
 - a. Category of award
 - b. Name of fellowship applicant
 - c. Names of principal advisor(s) / mentor(s), co-investigator(s), and consultant(s)
 - d. Developmental Plan (give relative % to be devoted to each plan so total is 100%):
 - i. Educational _____%
 - ii. Research _____%
 1. Specify proposal type: General (i.e., Applicant Defined) or Call for Proposals
 2. Title of the project
 3. A brief statement (one-three sentences) using non-technical language describing the relevance of the proposal to clinical orthodontics and/or orthodontic education
 - iii. Teaching _____%
 - iv. Clinical skills _____%
 - For BRA, CA and RAA categories provide the following:
 - a. Specify proposal type: General (i.e., Applicant Defined) or Call for Proposals
 - b. Title of the project
 - c. Name of principal investigator (for awards where this is more than one person, name all)
 - d. Names of all co-investigator(s) and consultant(s)
 - e. A brief statement (one-three sentences) using non-technical language describing the relevance of the proposal to clinical orthodontics and/or orthodontic education
- (4) **Page 4: Documentation of Eligibility** (see form template on p. 2027-35) – All applicants must complete this form to demonstrate specified award eligibility by providing:
 - a. Citizenship – (Does not apply to RAA applicants)
 - b. Foreign national status (if not a US or Canadian citizen) (Does not apply to RAA applicants)
 - c. Current academic rank (for BRA, CA, EIA) or status (for OFDFA, PFA, RAA)
 - d. Years as faculty (full-time or part-time, as appropriate)
 - e. Start date of academic career for the purpose of verifying eligibility for the award (month, year)
 - f. Location(s) where award activities will take place
 - g. Name, position, signature of Institutional Official (Department Chair, Program Director, or Dean) to verify the information provided as correct, plus date signed.
- (5) **Page 5: Previous AAO FOUNDATION Awards and Outcomes** (see form template on p. 2027-36) – Provide the information requested for each principal investigator or fellowship applicant including:
 - a. Award type (use defined abbreviations: OFDFA, PFA, BRA, CA, EIA, RAA)

- b. Title of project
- c. Role in project
- d. Period of support (month/day/year to month/day/year)
- e. Outcomes – cite/describe any:
 - i. Publications (cite complete references)
 - ii. Presentations (title, presenter, organization, location, date)
 - iii. Follow-up grants or awards
- f. Is the current application a resubmission? If yes, attach previous critique immediately following form Page 5

(6) Budget and Budget Justification [not to exceed 2 pages]

- a. An itemized list of all expenses to complete the proposal, including those supported by funds from other sources, if applicable. Other sources of funds must be identified.
- b. Justification for the expenses - Please note that
 - i. non-student technical or laboratory personnel can be supported, but justification must clearly equate the amount of work with the amount of support requested.
 - ii. itemized list and justification should be complete and detailed enough to demonstrate the feasibility of the proposed project.
 - iii. if the application is successful, the approved budget must be followed. Re-budgeting requests will be considered only in justifiable extenuating circumstances.
- c. If AAO FOUNDATION funds will only be used to support a portion of the proposed work/activities, clearly identify:
 - i. Specific portion(s) of the proposed work/activities for which AAO FOUNDATION support is (are) requested
 - ii. How the remainder of the proposed work/activities will be funded, including other agency/agencies and the amount and nature of support from each agency
 - iii. Fellowships only: If the entire or a large portion of AAO FOUNDATION support is sought for faculty as a cash gift, then alternative source(s) of funding for research and/or faculty development activities must be identified and described.
- d. Funds will not be available from the AAO FOUNDATION to support:
 - i. Travel except for attendance at professional meetings to present findings for supported projects, and/or conduct research projects and/or participation in career development workshop and/or as an invited speaker to a Type 4 CA supported symposium/workshop. The maximum allowable amount for travel expenses per award is \$2,500. The exception to this is the RAA; see specific RAA application instructions.
 - ii. Faculty salaries (Institutional Percent effort).
 - iii. Large Equipment: AAO FOUNDATION does not typically provide funds for large equipment expenses. Equipment that forms a large part of the budget (e.g., 40% vs. 5-10% of total budget) should be provided by institutional resources.

(7) Bio sketch(es) [not to exceed 4 pages each] – (see form template and example provided on pp.

2027-37 to 2027-39 as guidelines to lead you through entering information into the GMS) A biographical sketch using the format shown in template and example (note: this is the NIH Form 0925-0001 and 0925-0002) should be entered for each applicant and other participant named on the Title Page. (The system will have an upload field to add the completed forms)

- For OFDFA, PFA categories provide bio sketches for:
 - the applicant and principal advisor(s)/mentor(s), co-investigator(s), and consultant(s)
- For BRA, CA, RAA categories provide bio sketches for:
 - the applicant and each investigator and consultant(s)

(8) Roles of Applicant(s) and Other Participant(s) [not to exceed one page]

The role, responsibilities, and % effort devoted to the proposed project/activities of each applicant and other participant named on the Title Page should be clearly described.

- For OFDFA and PFA categories also describe:
 - How each advisor/mentor will support and guide the applicant
 - Plans for meetings between advisor/mentor and applicant
 - Advisor/mentor's skills, background, and history of success in providing the needed guidance and expertise.

(9) Proposed Plan (4 Required Components)

(9-1) Abstract [not to exceed 1 page] – See directions given for each specific award category in the GMS.

(9-2) Project Plan(s) – See page limits and directions given for each specific award category in the GMS.

- In your proposal, have you conducted a sample size analysis? Yes or No
 - If yes, please answer the following questions:
 - What is your primary outcome of interest? (summarize in less than 100 words)
 - What is the effect size (clinically meaningful difference in outcome between groups) used for your sample size calculation? (summarize in less than 100 words)
 - What is the population mean and variance of your primary outcome that was used for sample size calculation? How was it derived (e.g., from a paper, pilot study) (summarize in less than 100 words)
 - What is the power of study? (Example: 80% or 90%) _____
 - What is the level of significance used? (Example: 5%, 1%, etc.) _____
 - What is the total number of subjects/animals/specimens for the various groups required for the study? _____
- If a sample size analysis was not conducted, please summarize why. (in less than 100 words)
- *Resubmission applications only: Include an Introduction (maximum 1 page) at the beginning of the Project Plan(s) section according to the instructions in I.C.8 above.*

(9-3) Timetable [not to exceed 1 page] – A proposed timetable for the Project Plan must be included

(9-4) References [no page limits] – All material referred to in the application must be referenced.

(10) Letters of Support [no page limits] - See directions given for each specific award category for required letters. *All categories require letters of support, however, general letters of support from people not named as referees or not directly involved in the project proposed are not required, are strongly discouraged, and will not be considered during the review process; such extraneous letters should not be solicited by an applicant and should not be sent to the AAO FOUNDATION.*

(11) Appendix Materials [no page limits]

- a. **Human Research:** If applicable, the status of human research approval must be stated. If approval has already been obtained, copies of the approval notice should be included. (Indicate N/A if not applicable.)
- b. **Animal Research:** If applicable, the status of animal research approval must be stated. If approval has already been obtained, copies of the approval notice should be included. (Indicate N/A if not applicable.)
- c. **Manuscripts and Publications:** A maximum of 3 manuscripts, either published papers or those accepted for publication, that are written by the applicant(s) and are directly relevant to the proposed project may be appended. *Do not include the publications of non-applicants or other participants such as advisors or consultants.*

General Instructions

1. All documentation to be uploaded into the Grants Management System must be in a standard layout for 8½ by 11-inch paper with margins of no less than 1 inch. Line spacing can be no less than single line spaced, and an easy-to-read font of at **LEAST** 12 pt. must be used. Page limitations should be strictly followed. Some sections of the application process will have character limits equivalent to one page single spaced with 12 pt. font. The character limits are by design to prevent applicants from exceeding the page limits that would otherwise disqualify their application without being reviewed.
2. **Prior to submission, applicants are strongly encouraged to present their proposal, for evaluation and critique, to colleagues who are knowledgeable in the area of proposed project and/or who are experienced in proposal preparation.**
3. To continue to enhance the quality of future applications, a summary critique will be provided for both funded and unfunded applications. The General Review Criteria and sample critique form (see 2027-67-69) are provided to guide you in the optimal preparation of your proposal.
4. **Submissions are online, no paper applications will be accepted. Instructions and templates contained in this document may be used as guidance but the system will have fields for completing and entering all information.**
5. Applications for 2027 AAO FOUNDATION Awards will be received through **Friday, October 16, 2026 at 5:00p.m. CST**. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the application is received before the deadline. **Applications received after 5:00 p.m. St. Louis time (CST) on Friday, October 16^h will not be accepted, no exceptions.** Also rejected will be any proposal received from an individual where there has not been submitted the Final Report for a previously funded project by the approved due date, and any proposal from that individual's current institution, unless a No Cost Extension (NCE) has been granted.
6. Incomplete applications, or those whose format is not consistent with the prescribed application guidelines, will be rejected without evaluation or comment.

E. General Criteria for Evaluating Applications

The scoring system and review criteria to judge the scientific merit of applications have been changed and do not reflect those utilized by the NIH which was used in previous years.

1. **Significance**: Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field of orthodontics? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved? How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive orthodontics? In the case of OFDFA or PFA, will the funding enhance the applicant's success as an academic orthodontist, teacher, scholar, clinician, or the appropriate combination of these in the selected track?
2. **Investigator**: Are investigators and collaborators well suited to carry out the project? If early-stage investigators, do they have appropriate experience and training? If established, have they demonstrated an ongoing record of accomplishments that have advanced their field(s)? If the project is collaborative or multi-PI, do the investigators have complementary and integrated expertise? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the principal investigator and

other researchers (if any)? For OFDFA and PFA, are appropriate and optimal teaching, clinical and career development plans provided?

3. **Innovation:** Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense? Is refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions proposed? For OFDFA and PFA, how innovative are the plans provided for teaching, clinical and career development?
4. **Approach:** Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented? If the project is in the early stages of development, will the strategy establish feasibility, and will particularly risky aspects be managed? If the project involves clinical research, are the plans for i) protection of human subjects from research risks, and ii) inclusion of minorities and members of both sexes/genders, as well as the inclusion of children, justified in terms of the scientific goals and research strategy proposed? For OFDFA and PFA, are the approaches described likely to enhance success in teaching, clinical and career development?
5. **Environment:** Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Are the institutional support, equipment, and other physical resources available to the investigators adequate for the project proposed? Will the project benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, subject populations, or collaborative arrangements? Is there evidence of institutional support? For OFDFA and PFA applications, do the principal advisor(s)/mentor(s), co-investigator(s) and consultant(s) selected for research, teaching, clinical and career development have the needed background and required expertise? Similarly, for BRA, CA, and RAA, do the co-investigator(s) and consultant(s) have the needed background and required expertise?
6. **Success and Productivity of Previous AAO FOUNDATION Funding Provided**

F. Notifications

After the application deadline has passed (October 16, 2026), the applications will be distributed for review and consideration by the AAO Foundation Planning and Review Committee. Applicants will usually be notified of their application status in May. The funding cycle is from July to June. Funds awarded for a one-year Orthodontic Faculty Development Fellowship Award, the first year of a multi-year Postdoctoral Fellowship Award, the first year of a multi-year Center Award, and the Research Aid Award are paid in one lump sum (i.e., not in half payments) on or before July 1, assuming the Award Agreement (all category of awards) and Promissory Note (for Postdoctoral Fellowship Awards) have been satisfactorily completed and submitted. For Biomedical Research Awards, the initial funding will consist of one-half of the monetary award; the second one-half of the award will be sent no later than January 31, of the following year, contingent upon receipt of a satisfactory Progress Report from the applicant prior to that time (due on or before December 31 of year of award). All approved proposals must also include a Synopsis and Photo before funding is disbursed.

1. For PARC Members Only

- a. When an application is received from a PARC member as the Principal Investigator, it will be reviewed externally to avoid a Conflict of Interest.
- b. If PARC members are listed as mentors, co-investigators or consultants in other applications,

these applications can be reviewed internally, where possible, by other PARC members without a Conflict of Interest.

G. General Requirements for Successful Applicants

1. Careful adherence to the eligibility criteria for a given award, particularly the years of the applicant's academic career, e.g., OFDFA, years one through five.
2. Complete but concise proposal, following the criteria for application review listed on the previous pages.
3. Completion of documents required by the AAO FOUNDATION, i.e., Letter of Agreement (all categories of funding) and Promissory Note (Postdoctoral Fellowship Award).
4. If human subjects (IRB) or vertebrate animals (IACUC) are involved in the proposed project(s), copy/copies of appropriate review board approval are required before funding is issued; and the status of this process must be referenced in the proposal.
5. Project successfully started within 12 months of the initial funding. Applicants who cannot begin their projects within 12 months (beginning July 1 of the year of the award) will lose their award and the funds must be returned to the AAO FOUNDATION.
6. Submission of required Progress Reports, where applicable. Successful applicants are obligated to submit a Progress Report by December 31, 2027. Progress Reports should be entered into the GMS using the recommended template as a guide (see 2027-60,61); additional attachments are discouraged. However, Progress Reports are not required for the one-year OFDFA, the one-year option of the Center Award, the one-year option for the PFA, and the RAA; Progress Reports are required for the multi-year option for the PFA, the multi-year CA, and the BRA.
7. A Final Report is due at the conclusion of the project for all categories of funding. Final Reports should be entered into the GMS and be prepared as an abstract that summarizes the outcomes of the award using a format similar to the IADR/AADR or that used for the AAO Annual Session Abstracts. These abstracts must be suitable for publication. Once again, failure to provide the AAO FOUNDATION with an acceptable Final Report will result in the principal investigator(s), and the PI's current institution, not being eligible for funding the next funding round until a Final Report is submitted to the AAO FOUNDATION and approved by the Foundation's Planning and Awards Review Committee.
8. As a condition of accepting an AAO FOUNDATION award, recipients (upon notification of approval for funding and prior to funding being sent) will provide the AAO FOUNDATION with the following, uploaded via the grants management system:
 - a. Photograph of Principal Investigator/primary award recipient
 - b. A synopsis (500 words) of their project/research/use of funds, with this synopsis in Word format, (not a PDF file) to include:
 - i. A short video (optional)
 - ii. A short biography
 - iii. A brief description of their project and its clinical relevance
 - iv. How orthodontic education will benefit from their award
 - v. Why the Foundation is important to their project
 - vi. How Foundation funding might help advance your career and/or the specialty, and how it has helped advance your career and/or the specialty, if you have received AAO FOUNDATION funding in the past.

9. In addition, the AAO FOUNDATION reserves the right to submit (or request that the successful applicant submit) information about the study and results of the study to the American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics, the AAO Bulletin, AAO FOUNDATION News, or Constituent Society newsletters for possible publication. Successful applicants may also be invited to present their research at an annual meeting of the American Association of Orthodontists or at Constituent meetings. The AAO FOUNDATION reserves the right to participate in profits, in proportion to the AAO FOUNDATION contribution of financial assistance, that result from an AAO FOUNDATION supported project.

H. AAO Foundation Board Special Awards

1. Accomplished faculty are awarded by the Foundation to advance the specialty while they are also recognized and promoted at their institution. The less experienced faculty, however, despite their eagerness, struggle to define an area of research to mature in academia and get promoted. Despondency is mostly due to lack of funding. The Board of Directors of the AAO Foundation now extends its support to the lesser-known faculty who are short of funds. The AAO FOUNDATION BOD Special Award is expected to aid the investigators to perform more experiments, collect additional data, and elevate the level of sophistication of their AAO FOUNDATION Awards application in anticipation of approval during the next cycle.
2. The AAO Foundation Board of Directors has established a new Awards Category called the AAO FOUNDATION BOD SPECIAL AWARD. The maximum amount awarded to each individual is \$4,000. It is intended to assist investigators who are just falling short of being approved for the current Awards. The BOD Special Awards are limited to individuals who could not be funded for their proposal at the last PARC review. Submitted applications for the BOD Special Award will be reviewed by a committee selected by the AAO FOUNDATION Board President, with the aid of appointed senior PARC members.
3. Applications will be submitted in the month of May of the same year as their original submission to PARC and shall include:
 - a) Biographical Sketch (standard PARC application form)
 - b) A precis of the project plan that include “elements of novelty” and its potential to advance orthodontics (not to exceed one-page)
 - c) Letters of support (standard PARC application form)
 - d) Institutional approval for human/animal research (standard PARC application form)
 - e) The availability of the awards shall be contingent upon the availability of funds each year.

Specific Application Guidelines

II. SUPPORT FOR JUNIOR FACULTY – Fellowship Awards

Fellowship Awards offered in 2027 are as follows:

- **Orthodontic Faculty Development Fellowship Awards – One-Year Funding Option only, i.e., three-Year Option is NOT offered in 2027.**
- **Postdoctoral Fellowship Award**

A. ORTHODONTIC FACULTY DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIP AWARDS (OFDFA)

General Description

The OFDFA is designed to encourage orthodontic students and graduates to pursue careers in orthodontic education and support the development of junior faculty. It is felt that the clinical investigator and scientist must be supported to encourage and enable them to develop their teaching, patient care, and research activities to their highest potential; this, in great measure, will enable excellence in orthodontic education and progress for the specialty.

The OFDFA provides this support to individuals engaged in orthodontic training leading to a Master of Science, Ph.D. or other higher degree, an orthodontic graduate involved in postdoctoral research projects, and junior full-time faculty serving in an orthodontic department. Fellowship Awards are intended only for those committed to a career in orthodontic teaching and/or research.

Funding for the OFDFA is available for those within the first five years of their initial full-time academic careers and is allowed for a maximum of three years. For the purposes of determining when full-time academic appointments began, this only includes full-time appointments at U.S. or Canadian institutions. *Past recipients of the PFA are not eligible for the OFDFA.*

Note: The overlap in eligibility between the BRA (years three to retirement) and OFDFA (years one to five) is by design to allow for a certain amount of flexibility between junior and mid-career faculty transition.

The Call for Proposals (CFP) within this and all other 2027 funding mechanisms are as follows:

- Innovation in Orthodontic Research– See section XVII for more information. (p. 2027-70)
- Artificial Intelligence in Academics and Practice– See Section XVIII for more information. (p. 2027-71)

If a proposal is sent in response to the CFP, this must be clearly evident.

The maximum funding amount for 2027 is \$30,000.

Eligibility

OFDFA are intended for those individuals who are preparing for beginning a career in orthodontic education in the U.S. and Canada, i.e., students or junior faculty. Consequently, Fellowship Awards are available to:

1. U.S. and Canadian citizens

2. Foreign nationals who possess a U.S. “green card” or its Canadian equivalent
3. Those foreign nationals not yet in possession of a U.S. “green card” or its Canadian equivalent, as long as the applicant and the institution will stipulate that obtaining such status is the applicant’s intention and where there is demonstrable evidence of this intent.

Note: The actual term is 'resident alien' which carries an I-151 status (passport stamp) or a “resident alien card”, known as green card.

Individuals Preparing for a Career in Orthodontic Education

Individuals are eligible for an OFDFA if they are enrolled in an accredited orthodontic program in the U.S. or Canada, or if they have graduated from an accredited orthodontic program in the U.S. or Canada. Such individuals must be pursuing a Master of Science degree, Ph.D., or higher degree (in an area relevant to orthodontics), or a formal postdoctoral program.

However, funding is only available to such individuals if they have a letter of commitment from their institution, as of July 1 of their funding year, stating that there is a full-time faculty position being held for them; otherwise, Fellowship Awards are not currently available to residents.

Individuals Starting a Career in Orthodontic Education

A faculty member employed in an orthodontic department will be eligible for an OFDFA during the first five years of his or her initial teaching career; however, a commitment to full-time education is essential for an equal number of years the award was active. Applicants must be orthodontists and considered full-time faculty members by their institution. Normally, such awards will be restricted to faculty who hold the Assistant Professor academic rank (i.e., “junior” faculty).

The OFDFA is not available to support sabbaticals or visiting faculty programs and not available to past PFA recipients. Institutions may not have more than two faculty members supported by an AAO FOUNDATION OFDFA at any one time.

An applicant may not apply for awards in two different categories during any one year at the level of PI or Co-PI (i.e., as a person who has/shares ultimate responsibility for the conduct of two projects), except as noted below in italics; and a maximum of two OFDFA proposals will be accepted per school in any one year. In the case of a three-year OFDFA and the two-year PFA, the school may not reapply until the funded Fellowship has been completed. *However, PFA applicants are allowed to submit two applications, i.e., one for the PFA and another for an award offering less funding (either OFDFA or BRA), so that, if the PFA is denied, the applicant would still have the possibility of other funding.*

Specific Instructions for the OFDFA Application

See ITEM D in Section I. General Application Guidelines for Required Components (1-11) and General Instructions; specific instructions for Required Components (9-1), (9-2) of the Proposed Plan and (10) Letters of Support are as follows:

(9-1) Abstract [not to exceed 1 page] - Include Overall Objectives and Specific Aims for the proposed development plans to meet career goals: The applicant must provide a statement of career goals as an educator or researcher or both. The development plans must include activities in four main categories (educational, research, teaching and clinical).

(9-2) Project Plans [not to exceed 6 pages in total] - A synopsis of the proposed faculty development plan should be provided in four main categories (educational, research, teaching and

clinical). The activities and responsibilities of the Fellow should be clearly described. It is anticipated that the descriptions provided in this section will vary depending on the status of the applicant (e.g., student in training, junior faculty member). Greater detail should be provided for any one or more of the above four categories that represent an area of emphasis for the Fellow (i.e., a research-focused applicant will describe the research plan in detail). Principal Advisors should be identified for key development areas and their involvement in the Fellow's development demonstrated through a letter of support and review of the grant prior to submission. This section must include descriptions of the following sufficient to evaluate the proposal:

- i. **Educational Plan** [not to exceed 1 page]: Describe any educational program in which the Fellow will be engaged. This should include a list of specific courses/seminars to be taken, the credit hours anticipated and if this will result in a degree or certificate being awarded. Specifics of how these didactic activities will enhance the applicant's career as an academic orthodontist should be provided.
- ii. **Research Plan** [not to exceed 3 pages]: Describe any planned or on-going research projects. If research is a significant component of the applicant's career development plan, the research description should include a hypothesis-driven or hypothesis-generating proposal with background, specific aims, preliminary studies (if any have been completed), experimental design and methods, anticipated data and statistical analyses, and alternative approaches if outcomes are not as expected.
 - a. In your proposal, have you conducted a sample size analysis? Yes or No
 - b. If Yes, please answer the following questions:
 - i. What is your primary outcome of interest? (summarize in less than 100 words)
 - ii. What is the effect size (clinically meaningful difference in outcome between groups) used for your sample size calculation? (summarize in less than 100 words)
 - iii. What is the population mean and variance of your primary outcome that was used for sample size calculation? How was it derived (e.g., from a paper, pilot study) and (summarize in less than 100 words)
 - iv. What is the power of study? (Example: 80% or 90%) _____
 - v. What is the level of significance used? (Example: 5%, 1%, etc.) _____
 - vi. What is the total number of subjects/animals/specimens for the various groups required for the study? _____
 - c. If a sample size analysis was not conducted, please summarize why. (in less than 100 words)
- iii. **Teaching Skills Plan** [not to exceed 1 page]: Describe the plan for development of teaching abilities. This plan should include a description of any formal teaching coursework or mentorship, peer-review activities, participation in workshops, etc.
- iv. **Clinical Skills Plan** [not to exceed 1 page]: Describe the plan for development regarding clinical skills and patient care. This plan should include, for example, coursework specific to clinical competencies, completion of board certification, etc.

(10) Letters of Support [no page limits]

- a. At least three letters of support, which address the candidate's present abilities, future potential, and the candidate's qualifications to satisfy the goals of the OFDFA, including the statement that the applicant is within years one-five of his/her full-time academic career as the beginning of the funding period, i.e., July 1, 2027.
- b. Principal advisor(s)/mentor(s), co-investigator(s), and consultant(s) – a letter acknowledging proposed participation and plans for support is required from each individual named on title page other than applicant
- c. Evidence of institutional commitment to the developmental plan (e.g., in the form of a letter of

support from an appropriate institutional official/officials) is required.

- d. If the applicant is/will be affiliated with a department, a letter from the Chairperson of the applicant's department must be included that offers support for the applicant, specifies that the time necessary to conduct the Plan will be made available to the applicant, and confirms that the applicant is/will be a full-time faculty member by their institution as of July 1, 2027.

Award-specific Considerations for the OFDFA

Besides following ITEM D in Section I (General Application Guidelines) and Specific Instructions provided above, the format, organization and content of the application should incorporate specific elements indicated below:

1. Quality of the plan presented for training and development of the applicant including
 - a. educational goals and how these will be accomplished
 - b. Research goals and methodology
 - c. Enhancement of teaching and clinical skills
 - d. Advisor(s) or Mentor(s) – as described in the required component **(Section I.D.8) Roles of Applicant(s) and Other Participant(s):**
 - How each advisor/mentor will support and guide the applicant
 - Plans for meetings between advisor/mentor and applicant
 - Advisor/mentor's skills, background, and history of success in providing the needed guidance and expertise
2. Description of facilities and equipment available that allows for fulfillment of goals outlined.
3. Realistic timeline for completion of goals (the timeline does not need to match the funding period but should be estimated in advance)
4. Potential of the applicant to become a productive educator
5. Needs of the institution
6. Level of institutional support, including
 - a. Resources such as space and equipment that will facilitate the project and professional development.
 - b. A mentor or mentors with appropriate credentials, adequate time and stated commitment to nurture the fellow's development
 - c. Protected time for professional development

Applicants must understand that the mere circumstance of being a faculty member is considered of far less importance than the plans for further development are. Departmental involvement in the applicant's development plans is strongly encouraged. Furthermore, evidence of institutional support in implementing the development plans (e.g., in the form of a letter of support from the appropriate Institutional Officials), is required.

Specific Requirements for Successful OFDFA Applicants

If the successful applicant's development plan includes being hired as full-time faculty in an orthodontic program as part of the plan (or remaining in such a program), and the applicant fails to be hired or leaves the institution, the applicant must notify the AAO FOUNDATION in writing immediately, and the OFDFA will be withdrawn.

OFDFA funds provided by the AAO Foundation will be considered an Award, Gift, or a combination of the two (Gift = Salaried portion and award = non salaried portion). If the recipient fails to complete the fellowship program outlined in the application documents (Project Plans) or fails to be subsequently and continuously employed for one (1) year as a full-time orthodontic educator for each one (1) year period that the recipient was supported by the AAO FOUNDATION, then the

applicant/university is responsible for the return of the non-salaried (Award) amount of the funds back to AAO FOUNDATION.

The determination of tax liability regarding funds provided as a Fellowship will be the responsibility of the Fellow. The AAO FOUNDATION will not participate in determining tax liability and will bear no responsibility for payment of appropriate taxes. The AAO FOUNDATION will follow available law regarding the reporting of funds distributed. Where the provision of funds might be considered a violation of state/province or federal law, the award is canceled and must be returned.

B. POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP AWARD (PFA)

General Description

Recognizing the shortage of orthodontic research scientists and the attendant shortage of postdoctoral funding to adequately support the development of persons attempting to pursue this career path, the AAO FOUNDATION has proposed this award. The purpose of the mentored postdoctoral orthodontic development award is to support the development of outstanding orthodontic research scientists. This mechanism provides specialized study for dentists holding an orthodontic certificate from an ADA-accredited or CDA-accredited program and a doctorate (PhD, DMSc or equivalent) committed to pursuing postdoctoral training in laboratory or clinical research. Candidates must demonstrate strong potential to develop into externally funded independent investigators (e.g., by NIH). This award supports a two to three-year period of supervised research experience beyond graduate school that may integrate laboratory or clinically based research with limited clinical practice. The proposed research must have intrinsic research importance as well as serving as a suitable vehicle for learning the methodology, theories, and conceptualizations necessary for a well-trained independent researcher.

The Call for Proposals (CFP) within this and all other 2027 funding mechanisms is as follows:

- Innovation in Orthodontic Research – See section XVII for more information.
- Artificial Intelligence in Academics and Practice – See Section XVIII for more information.

If a proposal is sent in response to the CFP, this must be clearly evident.

Maximum of \$50,000 per year for a maximum of two years; only one such proposal per year per program. Reapplication for a third year is permissible to extend a successful two-year PFA, but past recipients of the PFA are not eligible to reapply for a second PFA.

Eligibility

PFA are intended for those individuals who are preparing for beginning a research-intensive career in orthodontics in the U.S. or Canada, i.e., students or junior faculty, respectively. Consequently, Fellowship Awards are available to:

1. U.S. and Canadian citizens
2. Foreign nationals who possess a U.S. “green card” or its Canadian equivalent
3. Those foreign nationals not yet in possession of a U.S. “green card” or its Canadian equivalent, as long as the applicant and the institution will stipulate that obtaining such status is the applicant’s intention and where there is demonstrable evidence of this intent.

Note: The actual term is 'resident alien' which carries an I-151 status (passport stamp) or a “resident alien card”, known as green card.

Specific Instructions for the PFA Application

Applications for this Category should follow D in Section I. General Application Guidelines for Required Components and General Instructions and the specific instructions for OFDFA applicants as described above (Section II.A) except for the following page limits:

- (9-2) Project Plans** [not to exceed 10 pages in total]
Educational Plan [not to exceed 1 page]

Research Plan [not to exceed 7 pages]
Teaching Skills Plan [not to exceed 1 page]
Clinical Skills Plan [not to exceed 1 page]

In addition, PFA applicants should address the following specific guidelines that should be incorporated into one or more of the sections of the Project Plans:

1. Fellow: Applicants must be dentists with specialty training in orthodontics obtained in an ADA or CDA accredited program and hold a doctorate (PhD, DMSc or equivalent) degree. Candidates must have strong potential to develop into independent investigators.
2. Environment: The institution must have a well-established research and clinical career development program and qualified faculty in clinical or basic research to serve as mentors. The institution must be able to demonstrate a commitment to the development of the candidate as a productive, independent investigator.
3. Program: The award provides money for a two-year period. In exceptional circumstances, the award may be extended for a third year. At least 75 percent of the recipient's full-time professional effort must be devoted to the goals of this award. The remainder of the applicant's time may be devoted to clinical, teaching, or other research pursuits consistent with the development of a full-time orthodontic faculty member.
4. Mentor: Fellows must name a primary mentor, who together with the applicant is responsible for the planning, direction, and execution of the program. The mentor should be recognized as an accomplished investigator in the proposed research area and have a track record of success in extramural funding and training independent investigators. The mentor should have sufficient independent research support to cover the costs of the proposed research project in excess of the allowable costs of this award. The mentor must write a strong letter of support outlining the expectations of progress and indicating the likelihood of additional support once the AAO FOUNDATION-funded fellowship ends. Candidates may also nominate co-mentors as appropriate to the goals of the program.
5. Funding: A total of \$50,000 will be awarded for the first year at the beginning of the budget period. A detailed budget is required (see Required Components). Funds for the second year will be awarded on a non-competitive basis pending adequate progress as demonstrated by Progress Reports submitted to AAO FOUNDATION for review. Funding for a possible third year will be awarded on a competitive basis and will require a new application submitted to AAO FOUNDATION, which is to include detailed evidence of the fellow's productivity resulting from the previous PFA (e.g., publications, presentations, grant applications submitted and awarded) and a letter from the fellow's primary mentor verifying the productivity resulting from the previous award.
6. An applicant may not apply for awards in two different categories during any one year at the level of PI or Co-PI (i.e., as a person who has/shares ultimate responsibility for the conduct of two projects). Only one PFA proposal will be accepted per school in any year. In the case of a three-year OFDFA and the two-year PFA, the school may not reapply until the funded Fellowship has been completed. *However, PFA applicants are allowed to submit two applications, i.e., one for the PFA and another for an award offering less funding (either OFDFA or BRA), so that, if the PFA is denied, the applicant would still have the possibility of other funding.*

Award-specific Considerations for the PFA

Besides following the instructions in Section I.D. General Application Guidelines and Specific Instructions provided above, the format, organization and content of the application should incorporate specific elements indicated below.

1. Quality of the plan presented for training and development of the applicant including
 - a. Educational goals and how these will be accomplished
 - b. Research goals and methodology
 - c. Enhancement of teaching and clinical skills
 - d. Advisor(s) or Mentor(s) - in the required component (**as described in Section 1.D.8) Roles of Applicant(s) and Other Participant(s)**) describe:
 - How each advisor/mentor will support and guide the applicant
 - Plans for meetings between advisor/mentor and applicant
 - Advisor/mentor's skills, background, and history of success in providing mentorship and career guidance.
2. Description of facilities and equipment available that allow for fulfillment of goals outlined
3. Realistic timeline for completion of goals (the timeline does not need to match the funding period but should be estimated in advance)
4. Potential of the applicant to become an independent investigator
5. Needs of the institution
6. Level of institutional support, including
 - a. Resources such as space and equipment that will facilitate the project and professional development.
 - b. A mentor or mentors with appropriate credentials, adequate time and stated commitment to nurture the fellow's development.
 - c. Protected time for professional development

Specific Requirements for Successful PFA Applicants

PFA funds provided by the AAO Foundation will be considered an "Award" if the recipient successfully completes the fellowship program outlined in the application documents (Project Plans) and is subsequently employed continuously for one (1) year (i.e., 12 months) as a full-time orthodontic educator for each one (1) year period (i.e., 12 months) that the recipient was supported by the AAO FOUNDATION ("full-time" will be defined by the employing institution). In this situation, the funds received from the AAO FOUNDATION will be considered an "Award" in that the recipient is absolved of all responsibility to repay the funds provided by the AAO FOUNDATION. However, if the recipient fails to complete the fellowship program outlined in the application documents (Project Plans) or fails to be subsequently and continuously employed for one (1) year as a full-time orthodontic educator for each one (1) year period that the recipient was supported by the AAO FOUNDATION, then the recipient shall be liable for up to the total amount of the funds provided by the AAO FOUNDATION, plus interest (not to exceed the St. Louis prime rate). In this latter instance, the funds provided by the AAO FOUNDATION are considered a "Loan."

The determination of tax liability regarding funds provided as a Fellowship will be the responsibility of the Fellow. The AAO FOUNDATION will not participate in determining tax liability and will bear no responsibility for payment of appropriate taxes. The AAO FOUNDATION will follow available law regarding the reporting of funds distributed. Where the provision of funds might be considered a violation of state/province or federal law, the award is canceled and must be returned.

III. SUPPORT FOR MID-CAREER/SENIOR FACULTY

A. BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AWARDS (BRA)

General Description

The AAO Foundation solicits investigator-initiated applications on a wide range of research topics pertaining to orthodontics and/or craniofacial biology. The BRA is designed to assist mid-career and senior faculty in the U.S. and Canada to conduct independent research activities. Such activities are critical for academic and faculty development in orthodontic graduate programs. BRA proposals are generally expected to be either (i) small, well-defined, and self-contained studies leading to publications in professional or scientific journals or (ii) pilot and feasibility studies to generate preliminary data in preparation of larger grant proposals to NIH or other research funding organizations. The decision to fund any given BRA application is based on scientific merit and available funds. The subject of investigation may be determined by the applicant for 2027. The maximum award for this type of project is \$40,000.00.

The Call for Proposals (CFP) within this and all other 2027 funding mechanisms is as follows:

- Innovation in Orthodontic Research– See section XVII for more information.
- Artificial Intelligence in Academics and Practice– See Section XVIII for more information.

If a proposal is sent in response to the CFP, this must be clearly evident.

Eligibility

The BRA is available to full-time orthodontic faculty who are in years three and above of their academic careers. (Beginning in 2020, the previous ceilings of “up to 14 years” in academics and academic rank have been removed.) Applicants are required to produce evidence for institutional commitment to the project in the form of a letter of support from appropriate institutional official/officials.

Applicants who are AAO members who serve as a member of an American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association (ACPA) accredited Cleft/Craniofacial Team affiliated with an Academic Institution or Hospital are also eligible to apply. These applicants must be engaged in teaching activities at their institution/hospital, and this must be verified in the letter/letters of support from an institutional official and/or chair or supervisor (see (10) b. and c. below).

Those who are in the early stages of their academic careers are strongly encouraged to have more senior faculty who are established investigators as designated research advisors/mentors.

Residents interested in an academic career or faculty in years one-three of their teaching careers are encouraged to apply for the RAA (see 2027-29) and/or OFDFA (see 2027-12) rather than the BRA.

In addition, BRA applicants must be:

1. U.S. or Canadian citizens
2. Permanent residents (also known as “resident aliens”) who possess a U.S. “green card” or its Canadian equivalent
3. Those foreign nationals not yet in possession of a U.S. “green card” or its Canadian equivalent, if

the applicant and the institution will stipulate that obtaining such status is the applicant's intention and where there is demonstrable evidence of this intent.

An applicant may not apply for awards in two different categories or more than one award in the same category during any one year at the level of PI or Co-PI (i.e., as a person who has/shares ultimate responsibility for the conduct of two projects), except as noted below in italics; and there is no limit to the number of BRA proposals per program. *However, PFA applicants are allowed to submit two applications, i.e., one for the PFA and another for an award offering less funding (either OFDFA or BRA), so that, in the event that the PFA is denied, the applicant would still have the possibility of other funding. The overlap in eligibility between the BRA (years three and above) and OFDFA (years one to five) is by design to allow for a certain amount of flexibility between junior and mid-career faculty transition.*

Specific Instructions for the BRA Application

See Section I.D. General Application Guidelines for Required Components and General Instructions; Specific instructions for Required Components (9-1), (9-2) of the Proposed Plan and (10) Letters of Support are as follows:

(9-1) Abstract [not to exceed 1 page]: Include Overall Objectives and Specific Aims plus state the broad, long-term objectives of the project and describe concisely what the specific research project is intended to accomplish. Applicants must state precisely and clearly the questions that the research will attempt to answer and any hypotheses to be tested. A summary of the clinical implications or significance should be provided.

(9-2) Project Plan [not to exceed 10 pages]: This section must include descriptions of the following sufficient to evaluate the proposal:

- a. Background and significance, including an explanation of potential relevance to the clinical practice of orthodontics.
- b. Preliminary studies
- c. Experimental design, methods, and statistical analyses planned.
 - a. In your proposal, have you conducted a sample size analysis? Yes or No
 - b. If Yes, please answer the following questions:
 - i. What is your primary outcome of interest? (summarize in less than 100 words)
 - ii. What is the effect size (clinically meaningful difference in outcome between groups) used for your sample size calculation? (summarize in less than 100 words)
 - iii. What is the population mean and variance of your primary outcome that was used for sample size calculation? How was it derived (e.g., from a paper, pilot study) (summarize in less than 100 words)
 - iv. What is the power of study? (Example: 80% or 90%) _____
 - v. What is the level of significance used? (Example: 5%, 1%, etc.) _____
 - vi. What is the total number of subjects/animals/specimens for the various groups required for the study? _____
 - c. If a sample size analysis was not conducted, please summarize why. (in less than 100 words)
- d. Alternative approaches if outcomes are not as expected.

(10) Letters of Support [no page limits]

- a. Co-investigator(s) and consultant(s) – a letter acknowledging proposed participation and plans for support is required from each individual named on title page other than applicant

- b. Evidence of institutional commitment to the project (e.g., in the form of a letter of support from an appropriate institutional official/officials) is required.
- c. If the applicant is affiliated with a department, a letter from the Chairperson of the applicant's department must be included that offers support for the applicant, specifies that the time necessary to conduct the project will be made available to the applicant, and confirms that the applicant will be in years three or above of his/her full-time teaching career as of July 1, 2027.

Award-specific considerations for the BRA

- 1. Significance and originality of the project or approach, which is justified in the introduction and supported with references where appropriate
- 2. Specific aims
- 3. Methods that include validated techniques or procedures for validation
- 4. Adequacy of study design that includes detailed methods, outcome measures and statistics
- 5. Realistic timeline for completion (the timeline does not need to match the funding period but should be estimated in advance)
- 6. Experience and competence of the applicants
- 7. Adequacy of facilities, including equipment
- 8. Value of the project to the clinician, educator, or the profession of orthodontics
- 9. Evidence of institutional support

B. CENTER AWARDS (CA)

General Description

Unlike support directed at individuals, CAs are available to support groups of individuals who will collaborate in the conduct of related research projects which share a common focus. The potential value of such collaborations is high as they provide opportunity for interaction among investigators, integration of abilities, and efficiency in the utilization of resources.

ONLY types 3 and 4 of CA support will be considered by the AAO FOUNDATION during the 2027 application cycle:

3. Type 3: CA may also be used to support the establishment, maintenance, and development of special collections of materials and databases pertinent to orthodontics. In this type of “center,” priority will be given to plans that place emphasis on the development, dissemination, and use of information derived from collections and databases. Efforts that affect the conversion of information to formats that can be easily and widely distributed, and readily used by investigators at other locations, will be considered particularly important (e.g., conversion of images from an analogue to a digital format and availability over the Internet).
4. Type 4: Given the interest from several groups in this mechanism of funding, the AAO Foundation is issuing a call for applications to the Type 4 Center Award Planning Grant funding mechanism. Through this mechanism the AAO Foundation aspires to support activities or projects that are designed to advance the specialty of orthodontics via innovative discoveries and dissemination of knowledge. These projects will involve collaboration among orthodontic academicians from different institutions, with or without the participation of the orthodontic industry. The purpose of the projects will be discussion, critique and dissemination of novel discoveries and ideas. Collaborative approaches, rather than a collection of discrete independent applications, will be given priority.

While recognizing the difficulty in preparing a proposal that would address all these criteria, the AAO FOUNDATION is interested in funding an application for a Type 4/Center Award Planning Grant which includes the following to the greatest extent possible:

1. Collaboration between orthodontic faculty, departments, and where appropriate industry.
2. Organizational efforts (e.g., conferences, seminars, workshops) to share the available information that has the potential to advance the field.
3. Subsequent dissemination of shared information and discoveries accessible to orthodontic scholars and practitioners worldwide in a usable and practical manner.

Experience shows organized conferences are attended by only a select handful of people. Additionally, the impact factor of any journal where proceedings are published does not automatically imply dissemination. Accordingly, the AAO FOUNDATION supports collaboration between interested parties towards the delivery of presentations and discussions of innovations and novel discoveries at conferences, seminars or workshops that are combined with creative means of disseminating the generated information to as broad an audience of stake holders as possible. It is expected that orthodontic scientists, clinicians and possibly publishing establishments shall collaborate with the aid of this award.

Background to Type 4:

Since the introduction and subsequent success of the AAO Foundation Craniofacial Growth Legacy Collection Project (“Collections Project”), requests to fund organized activities to advance the field of orthodontics through innovation, discovery and dissemination of such knowledge have increased. Accordingly, the purpose of this CA type is to try to consolidate similar events between different entities and institutions to minimize duplication of effort and expenses, and to maximize participation. The AAO FOUNDATION has applied this approach (i.e., the Planning Grant mechanism) previously to good effect in the Collections Project and, most recently, in the Educational Innovation Award (EIA), among others. Indeed, it is expected that the Type 4 Planning Grant will nucleate collaboration and sharing of core resources to create a community of orthodontic scholars and clinicians where discoveries, innovations, and advances are more coordinated and focused. Supporting such a community is a strong benefit to the specialty and a most desirable activity for the AAO FOUNDATION.

Applicants interested in submitting a proposal for this Planning Grant are encouraged to thoroughly investigate what may already be in existence, *e.g.*, through the NIH/NIDCR, AAO FOUNDATION, other foundations, any other governmental or private funding institutions, similar recent conferences or workshops, and the like to ensure lack of duplication or redundancy. Applicants should note in their proposals what sources have been reviewed and considered as part of the plan to demonstrate the uniqueness of the approach and proposal. Additionally, where complementary or supporting resources are already in place, they are encouraged to indicate how these resources may be integrated into the current application to enhance its outcomes.

For Type 3 Center Awards, (see above), \$25,000 is the maximum amount of support available per year; one-three years of support may be requested, for a total maximum of \$75,000 per proposal. Recipients must provide a progress report at the end of six months of support, and then yearly for each year of support, if the proposal is for more than one year’s funding. Decisions to continue funding for multiple years will be based on assessments of the progress reports, rather than formal reapplication. Funding will be discontinued if progress and accomplishment is not demonstrated at the specified intervals. A genuinely cooperative and collaborative undertaking as noted in the description of this offering is required and not merely an expanded BRA proposal.

The Call for Proposals (CFP) within this and all other 2027 funding mechanisms is as follows:

- Innovation in Orthodontic Research– See section XVII for more information.
- Artificial Intelligence in Academics and Practice– See section XVIII for more information.

If a proposal is sent in response to the CFP, this must be clearly evident.

As with the Applicant Defined Type 3 CA proposals, \$25,000 is the maximum amount of support available per year for a CFP application; one-three years of support may be requested.

For Type 4/Center Award, this is a Call for Proposals for a Planning Grant, with a maximum of \$50,000 available for a maximum of 24 months. Successful delivery of the goals of this Center Award by successful application(s) during the Planning Grant phase will determine ongoing future funding of this CA type to sustain long-term viability of this endeavor.

Eligibility

For Type 3, collections, databases, etc. need not be affiliated with a graduate orthodontic residency program, but they must still be located/housed/operated from the U.S or Canada. An applicant may not apply for awards in two different categories during any one year (*e.g.*, an applicant may not apply for a BRA and a CA during the same year).

For Type 4, Individuals with the proven experience and expertise necessary to lead the proposed Planning Grant project(s) may apply with the ambition and focus on discussion, critique, and dissemination of information to advance the specialty. A plan of collaboration amongst orthodontic scholars, institutions, and related entities, and possibly publishers must be the core of the application. At least one of the collaborators must be from an U.S. or Canadian graduate orthodontic residency program. (Note: Full-time faculty status is not a requirement, if there is an affiliation, and publishing houses may be society journals, websites, and the like, or independent/private).

Several collaborators or Principal Investigators (PIs), if appropriate, may be designated on the application for projects that require a team approach to effectively implement the program. For administrative purposes, however, a primary contact PI should be identified for each such application. The decision of whether to apply for an award with a single or multiple PIs is the responsibility of the applicants and their collaborators. The number and background of PIs should support the goals stated in the application package. In the multiple PI option, applicants must be specific about the structure and governance of the PI leadership team. The AAO FOUNDATION shall understand multiple PIs on a project and share the responsibility for leading and directing the project. Each PI is responsible and accountable for the proper conduct of the program, including the submission of required reports.

Specific Instructions for the CA Application

See Section I.D. General Application Guidelines for Required Components and General Instructions; specific instructions for Required Components (9-1), (9-2) of the Proposed Plan and (10) Letters of Support are as follows:

For CA Type 3:

(9-1) Abstract [not to exceed 1 page]: Include Overall Objectives and Specific Aims plus state the broad, long-term objectives of the project and describe concisely what the specific collection project is intended to accomplish. Applicants must state precisely and clearly the significance and future worth of the collection to the specialty. A summary of the clinical implications or significance of the collection should be provided.

(9-2) Project Plan [not to exceed 10 pages]: This section must include descriptions of the following sufficient to evaluate the proposal:

- a. Background and significance, including an explanation of potential relevance to the clinical practice of orthodontics.
 - b. Preliminary activities
 - c. Description of what the collection entails and what is needed to develop and preserve it.
 - d. Description of how the collection will be made available, accessed, and shared in future.
- Project plans that request support for mere storage of a collection will be considered with low enthusiasm. Project Plans that place emphasis on the development, distribution, and use of information derived from collections and databases will be considered with much greater enthusiasm. Efforts that affect the conversion of information to formats that can be easily and widely distributed, and readily used by investigators at other locations, will be considered particularly important (e.g., conversion of images and material from analogue to a digital format and availability over the Internet).

For CA Type 4:

(9-1) Abstract [not to exceed 1 page]: A synopsis of the proposed project(s) should include the goals of the Planning Grant. It must be a description of how goals could be achieved (effective

dissemination) over time, and specific aims of the proposal, along with a concise description of the approach to achieving the goals desired. The abstract should also include a statement of expected outcomes. Also desirable is how these will be measured and applied to any future more comprehensive subsequent projects, keeping in mind that the Planning Grant might be considered Stage One of a much larger, Stage Two project, using, again, the models of the Collections Project and the EIA. (See further discussion below.) A statement about the significance and likely impact of this application should be included. The abstract is meant to stand independently and serve as a succinct and accurate description of the proposed project(s), and vision of the PIs.

(9-2) Project Plan [not to exceed 10 pages]: This section must include descriptions of the following sufficient to evaluate the proposal:

- Overall Objectives and Specific Aims (not to exceed 1 page): Applicant(s) must state the goals of the Planning Grant, describe concisely what the specific planning project is intended to accomplish, and how the dissemination will be carried out. Also include a statement about the expected long-term objectives and the next step(s) of the endeavor. The focus areas of the Type 4 Award should be clearly identified.
- This section will consist of the following three topics: detailed description of the planning period activities, a plan for outcome assessment, and long-term plan.
- *Planning Period Activities:*
 - i. Planning Activities - Specify how the planning period, which the AAO FOUNDATION expects to take no more than 18-24 months, will be spent. The application should include the specific aims for the planning period, and descriptions of the gathering of specific innovation and discovery, and how the dissemination activities shall be carried out.
 - ii. Rationale/Significance - Provide the rationale for the proposed program under each aim, documenting the significance and potential impact of the programs to advance the specialty.
 - iii. Approach – Under each specific aim, provide detailed plans for each activity to achieve the aim, including logistical arrangements and/or the format for the specific programs. Describe the composition and role of the key participants, committee, and organizations, including their credentials and the basis for their inclusion. Sufficient information should be provided to allow reviewers to evaluate how the specific programs/activities would be conducted during the planning periods.
 - iv. The application must address the availability of novel innovations and discoveries to orthodontic specialty and how disseminated information might benefit the advancing of orthodontics.
 - v. Investigators and organizers - The application must include a description of the leadership and proposed organization of the project. This includes the ability of the PI(s) to bring together the necessary co-participants, scientists, clinicians and needed expertise, and to organize appropriate gatherings, symposia, etc., where planned. The application should describe the participants in the planning process, their roles in the development of the plan, and their prior experiences that make them suitable for their roles in the implementation of the proposed program or activities.
- *Outcome Assessment:*
 - i. Describe how the outcomes of the Type 4 Award will be measured for each specific aim. Also, indicate potential problems/challenges anticipated and how they will be addressed during the project or in any subsequent expansion of the project beyond the Planning Grant phase.
- *Future Plan:*
 - i. The future plan is a critical component of the Type 4 planning grant. Thus, the proposal must include the future plan for the subsequent year(s). Provide a

plausible vision for the three to five years following the initial planning period in as much detail as possible. Examples include expansion of the project, potential changes in key participants, potential budgetary changes, and contingency plans for future programs dependent on the outcome of the initial planning project. Approval of the planning grant application does not constitute automatic approval for the future years. Funding for future years will require full review by the Foundation.

Type 4 only - Special Budget Guidelines:

Allowable Costs: Honorarium fees in proportion to the time or effort spent directly on the project; travel and per diem or subsistence allowances; supplies needed for administration of the program, only if received for use during the budget period; support of publication costs.

Non-allowable Costs: Purchase of equipment; transportation costs exceeding coach class fares; entertainment; tips; bar charges; personal charges; organization dues; production of illustrations for publication; faculty salaries; student stipends; honoraria or other payments for the purpose of conferring distinction or communicating respect, esteem, or admiration; and patient care. While budgeting support of publication costs is an allowable expense, applicants are reminded that these costs, if proposed, must be explained and justified with a strong rationale and demonstration of what other lower-cost alternatives have been considered.

Budget for the Subsequent Period - The Type 4/Center Award Planning Grant is an important part of the process of determining if even more substantial funding is indicated for a further expansion of this project, long-term, and this same model was followed for both the Collections Project and the recent EIA; while the AAO FOUNDATION does not wish to make a firm commitment at this time, after successful completion of their Planning Grant stages, the aforementioned EIA was approved, conditionally, for \$250,000, and the Collections Project for \$1.5 Million. Reviewers would welcome seeing some indication of what each Planning Grant proposal conceives of the total project's ultimate cost, using the EIA and the Collections Project as examples, i.e., the Planning Grant might be considered Stage One of a larger project, with the Stage Two component perhaps being budgeted at, for example, \$250,000 or more, if justified.

For all CA Types

(10) Letters of Support (no page limitations)

- a. Co-investigator(s) and consultant(s) – a letter acknowledging proposed participation and plans for support is required from everyone named on the title page other than applicant(s)
- b. Evidence of institutional commitment to the project (e.g., in the form of a letter of support from an appropriate institutional official/officials) is required.
- c. If the applicant is affiliated with a department, a letter from the Chairperson of the applicant's department must be included that offers support for the applicant, specifies that the time necessary to conduct the project will be made available to the applicant, and confirms additional funding sources if any (consistent with Budget & Budget Justification).

IV. RESEARCH AID AWARDS (RAA)

General Description

RAA were originally intended so that the AAO Foundation might arrange or provide the necessary resources so that a practitioner might be supplied with appropriate expertise in designing, conducting, and analyzing studies carried out in private practice as noted immediately below:

Institutions generally have considerable resources (i.e., materials, laboratories, and people with specialized expertise) from which researchers may draw in order to conduct investigations. Individuals in clinical practice seldom have the same level of access to resources. Thus, while good ideas and appropriate materials for study may be available in practice, it is somewhat difficult for a private practitioner to carry out well-designed research projects. In order to strongly encourage orthodontists in private practice to consider the initiation of a research project, the AAO FOUNDATION created this award category so that resources could be directed toward establishing a productive relationship between interested clinicians and cooperating research collaborators (e.g., orthodontic faculty, researchers, statisticians).

However, beginning in 2013, the RAA was expanded to include proposals submitted by orthodontic residents interested in an academic career and part-time faculty, including part-time clinical faculty, neither of whom might otherwise be eligible for Foundation funding. Proposals of this nature may involve the resources of a private, clinical practice, as noted immediately above, but that is no longer a requirement.

The Call for Proposals (CFP) within this and all other 2027 funding mechanisms are as follows:

- Innovation in Orthodontic Research– See section XVII for more information.
- Artificial Intelligence in Academics and Practice– See section XVIII for more information.

If a proposal is sent in response to the CFP, this must be clearly evident.

This award may not be available each year; however, this award is available in 2027, and the maximum funding is \$6,000.

Eligibility

1. Part-time (PT) orthodontic faculty of any academic rank at accredited U.S. or Canadian institutions are eligible.
2. Orthodontic residents at accredited U.S. or Canadian institutions who demonstrate a strong interest in an academic career are eligible for up to one RAA while a resident. Letters of support should specifically indicate and describe the residents' progression to entry into an academic career. In addition, Orthodontic residents must apply while in their 1st or 2nd year and must have one year from the start of the award (on July 1 of the award cycle year) as the project must be completed prior to graduation.

A resident applicant may not apply for awards in two different categories such as RAA and OFDFA during any one year at the level of PI or Co-PI (i.e., as a person who has/shares ultimate responsibility for the conduct of two projects).

Specific Instructions for the RAA Application

See Section I.D. General Application Guidelines for Required Components and General Instructions; specific instructions for Required Components (6), (9-1), (9-2) of the Proposed Plan and (10) Letters of Support are as follows:

(6) Budget and Budget Justification

- a. Travel for presentation of RAA results at a meeting will be limited to \$1,000.
- b. Travel for performing research should be carefully justified in the budget and is not limited but cannot exceed the RAA budget (\$6,000).

(9-1) Abstract [not to exceed 1 page]: Include Overall Objectives and Specific Aims plus state the broad, long-term objectives of the project and describe concisely what the specific research project is intended to accomplish. Applicants must state precisely and clearly the questions that the research will attempt to answer and any hypotheses to be tested. A summary of the clinical implications or significance should be provided.

(9-2) Project Plan [not to exceed 5 pages]: This section must include descriptions of the following sufficient to evaluate the proposal:

- a. Background and significance, including an explanation of potential relevance to the clinical practice of orthodontics.
- b. Statement of Academic Career Interest - Please answer the following questions in 300 words or less: What motivates you to pursue an academic career (part time, affiliate, volunteer, or full time) soon after graduation? Describe your plans for an academic career.
- c. Preliminary studies (not mandatory)
- d. Experimental design, methods, and statistical analyses planned.
- e. **In your proposal, have you conducted a sample size analysis?** Yes or No
- f. **If yes, please answer the following questions:**
 - a. What is your primary outcome of interest? (summarize in less than 100 words)
 - b. What is the effect size (clinically meaningful difference in outcome between groups) used for your sample size calculation? (summarize in less than 100 words)
 - c. What is the population mean and variance of your primary outcome that was used for sample size calculation? How was it derived (e.g., from a paper, pilot study) (summarize in less than 100 words)
 - d. What is the power of study? (Example: 80% or 90%) _____
 - e. What is the level of significance used? (Example: 5%, 1%, etc.) _____
 - f. What is the total number of subjects/animals/specimens for the various groups required for the study? _____
- g. **If a sample size analysis was not conducted, please summarize why.** (in less than 100 words)
- h. Alternative approaches if outcomes are not as expected.

(10) Letters of Support [no page limitations]

- a. Co-investigator(s) and consultant(s) – a letter acknowledging proposed participation and plans for support is required from everyone named on the title page other than applicant.
- b. Letter from Department/Division Chair outlining evidence of strong interest of the applicant in an academic career.
- c. Evidence of institutional commitment to the project (e.g., in the form of a letter of support from an appropriate institutional official/officials) is required.

- d. If the applicant is affiliated with a department, a letter from the Chairperson of the applicant's department must be included that offers support for the applicant, specifies that the time necessary to conduct the project will be made available to the applicant.

Award-specific Considerations for the RAA

1. Proposals are welcome from current orthodontic residents interested in an academic career and part-time orthodontic faculty (including clinical faculty), neither of whom might otherwise be eligible for Foundation funding. For residents, a letter from the applicant's Department Chair is required that attests that the applicant shows interest in and talents for an academic career.
2. Proposals may involve the collaboration and resources of a private, clinical practice, but this is not a requirement.

****The following pages are templates or examples of the information or format needed when completing the application process in the grants management system.****

**Orthodontic Faculty Development Fellowship Award
and
Postdoctoral Fellowship Award**

Application Cover Sheet

Name/Institution of Applicant _____

Dates of the Proposed Project Period _____

General Budget

Total Amount Requested from AAO FOUNDATION \$ _____

Funds from Other Sources \$ _____

Total Project Cost \$ _____

Budget Categories for AAO FOUNDATION Funds

Salary or Stipend Supplement \$ _____

Research Equipment and Supplies \$ _____

Research Personnel \$ _____

Training or Other Educational Costs \$ _____

Other Expense \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Applicant's Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Institution _____

Signature of Applicant _____

Date of Submission _____

Signature of Responsible Institution Official _____

General Application Cover Sheet
(All Funding Categories, Except Fellowship Awards)

Name/Institution of Applicant: _____

Title of Project _____

Award Category _____

Dates of the Proposed Project Period _____

General Budget

Total Amount Requested from AAO FOUNDATION \$ _____

_____ Funds from Other Sources \$ _____

Total Project Cost \$ _____

Budget Categories for AAO FOUNDATION Funds

Personnel \$ _____

Supplies \$ _____

Equipment \$ _____

Other Expense \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Applicant's Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Institution _____

Signature of Applicant _____

Date of Submission _____

Signature of Responsible Institution Official _____

Applicant Name (Last, First):

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ORTHODONTISTS FOUNDATION
AWARD APPLICATION**

TABLE OF CONTENTS-Checklist

Application Cover Sheet – completed and signed

Table of Contents

Title Page

Documentation of Eligibility

Previous AAO FOUNDATION Awards and Outcomes

Previous AAO FOUNDATION PARC Review (resubmission applications only)

Budget and Budget Justification (2 pages maximum)

Bio sketch(es) (4 pages maximum for each bio sketch)

Role(s) of Applicant(s) (1 page maximum)

Proposed Plan

Introduction (1 page maximum) for resubmission application only

Abstract (1 page maximum)

Project Plan (see specific instructions for page limits & required contents)

Timetable (1 page maximum)

References

Status of Human and/or Animal Research explaining status of request

Approval Letter attached

Approval Pending – append statement explaining status of request

Other – append statement explaining status of request

Letters of Support

Co-investigators/consultants/advisors

Institutional Official

Department Chair

Appendix Materials

Institutional Approval of Proposed Human Research

Institutional Approval of Proposed Animal Research

CHECKLIST

Please check (✓) each item to confirm and sign the bottom of the page

- ☐ All required components are listed in Table of Contents and page number(s) provided
- ☐ Application is formatted according to the General Application Guidelines
- ☐ Completed final application review for readability/errors by an experienced faculty member
- ☐ I have read the criteria for AAO FOUNDATION funding, both general and for applicable award category
- ☐ I am eligible for this award, if approved

Applicant's Signature

Date

Applicant Name (Last, First):

DOCUMENTATION OF ELIGIBILITY

☐ US Citizen ☐ Canadian Citizen (Not applicable for RAA applicants)	Foreign National Status: (Not applicable for RAA applicants) ☐ US Green Card ☐ Canadian Permanent Resident Status ☐ Applying for Green card or Permanent Resident Status (Attach appropriate documentation)
---	--

Current Academic Rank: (For OFDFA, BRA, CA, EIA)	Current Academic Status: (For OFDFA/PFA/RAA)			
	Check all that apply	Name of Program or Institution	Year in Program	Anticipated completion date
	☐ Resident			
	☐ MS candidate			
	☐ PhD candidate			
	☐ Post-doc*			

Years as Faculty: Full-time Part-time	Start Date of Academic Career: _____ Month _____ Year
--	---

Location(s) where award activities will take place (name and address of each Institution / Program participating)

Institutional Official who verifies the above information as correct

_____ Name

_____ Position

_____ Signature _____ Date

*PFA applicants must clearly indicate in the Bio sketch that they are dentists with specialty training in orthodontics obtained in an ADA or CDA accredited program and hold a doctorate (PhD, DMSc or equivalent) degree.

Applicant Name (Last, First):

PREVIOUS AAO FOUNDATION AWARDS AND OUTCOMES			
Award Type:	(Use abbreviations defined in guidelines: OFDFA, PFA, BRA, CA, EIA, RAA, etc.)		
Title of Project:			
Role in Project:		Amount of Funding:	\$
Period of Support:	_____ to _____ (Month-day-year) (Month-day-year)		
Outcomes: - Cite/describe any: 1. Publications (cite references) 2. Presentations (title, presenter, organization, location, date) 3. Follow-up grants or awards			
Progress Report (Required for multi-year OFDFA, PFA, CA and BRA)	Date due _____ or ____ N/A Submitted ____ No ____ Yes, on date _____ Date revisions submitted (if necessary) _____ Date accepted _____		
Final Report (All funded projects)	Date due _____ or ____ N/A Submitted ____ No ____ Yes, on date _____ Date revisions submitted (if necessary) _____ Date accepted _____		
Scheduled Completion Date of Project	Completion date per original proposal _____ No Cost Extension required ____ Yes ____ No ____ N/A Anticipated/Actual completion date _____		
Report on Previous Funding	Provided ____ Yes ____ No ____ N/A		
Repeat the above as appropriate to provide a complete history of AAO FOUNDATION award funding for all key personnel. If the application is a resubmission, please attach the AAO FOUNDATION PARC Review for the previous application following this “Page 5” form.			

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Provide the following information for the Senior/key personnel and other significant contributors.
Follow this format for each person. **DO NOT EXCEED FOUR PAGES.**

NAME:

eRA COMMONS USERNAME (credential, e.g., agency login):

POSITION TITLE:

EDUCATION/TRAINING *(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.)*

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE <i>(if applicable)</i>	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY

A. Personal Statement

B. Positions and Honors

C. Contributions to Science

D. Additional Information: Research Support and/or Scholastic Performance

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
DO NOT EXCEED FOUR PAGES

NAME: Hunt, Morgan Casey

eRA COMMONS USERNAME (credential, e.g., agency login): huntmc

POSITION TITLE: Associate Professor of Psychology

EDUCATION/TRAINING *(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.)*

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
University of California, Berkeley	B.S.	05/1990	Psychology
University of Vermont	Ph.D.	05/1996	Experimental Psychology
University of California, Berkeley	Postdoctoral	08/1998	Public Health and Epidemiology

A. Personal Statement

I have the expertise, leadership, training, expertise, and motivation necessary to successfully carry out the proposed research project. I have a broad background in psychology, with specific training and expertise in ethnographic and survey research and secondary data analysis on psychological aspects of drug addiction. My research includes neuropsychological changes associated with addiction. As PI or co-Investigator on several university- and NIH-funded grants, I laid the groundwork for the proposed research by developing effective measures of disability, depression, and other psychosocial factors relevant to the aging substance abuser, and by establishing strong ties with community providers that will make it possible to recruit and track participants over time as documented in the following publications. In addition, I successfully administered the projects (e.g., staffing, research protections, budget), collaborated with other researchers, and produced several peer-reviewed publications from each project. As a result of these previous experiences, I am aware of the importance of frequent communication among project members and of constructing a realistic research plan, timeline, and budget. The current application builds logically on my prior work. During 2005-2006 my career was disrupted due to family obligations. However, upon returning to the field I immediately resumed my research projects and collaborations and successfully competed for NIH support.

1. Merrylye, R.J. & Hunt, M.C. (2004). Independent living, physical disability, and substance abuse among the elderly. *Psychology and Aging*, 23(4), 10-22.
2. Hunt, M.C., Jensen, J.L. & Crenshaw, W. (2007). Substance abuse and mental health among community-dwelling elderly. *International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*, 24(9), 1124-1135.
3. Hunt, M.C., Wiechelt, S.A. & Merrylye, R. (2008). Predicting the substance-abuse treatment needs of an aging population. *American Journal of Public Health*, 45(2), 236-245. PMID: PMC9162292 Hunt, M.C., Newlin, D.B. & Fishbein, D. (2009). Brain imaging in methamphetamine abusers across the lifespan. *Gerontology*, 46(3), 122-145.

B. Positions and Honors

Positions and Employment

1998-2000	Fellow, Division of Intramural Research, National Institute of Drug Abuse, Bethesda, MD
2000-2002	Lecturer, Department of Psychology, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT
2001-	Consultant, Coastal Psychological Services, San Francisco, CA
2002-2005	Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Washington University, St. Louis, MO
2007-	Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Washington University, St. Louis, MO

Other Experience and Professional Memberships

1995-	Member, American Psychological Association
1998-	Member, Gerontological Society of America
1998-	Member, American Geriatrics Society
2000-	Associate Editor, Psychology and Aging
2003-	Board of Advisors, Senior Services of Eastern Missouri
2003-05	NIH Peer Review Committee: Psychobiology of Aging, ad hoc reviewer
2007-11	NIH Risk, Adult Addictions Study Section, members

Honors

2003	Outstanding Young Faculty Award, Washington University, St. Louis, MO
2004	Excellence in Teaching, Washington University, St. Louis, MO
2009	Award for Best in Interdisciplinary Ethnography, International Ethnographic Society

C. Contribution to Science

1. My early publications directly addressed the fact that substance abuse is often overlooked in older adults. However, because many older adults were raised during an era of increased drug and alcohol use, there are reasons to believe that this will become an increasing issue as the population ages. These publications found that older adults appear in a variety of primary care settings or seek mental health providers to deal with emerging addiction problems. These publications document this emerging problem but guide primary care providers and geriatric mental health providers to recognize symptoms, assess the nature of the problem and apply the necessary interventions. By providing evidence and simple clinical approaches, this body of work has changed the standards of care for addicted older adults and will continue to provide assistance in relevant medical settings well into the future. I served as the primary investigator or co-investigator in all these studies.
 - a. Gryczynski, J., Shaft, B.M., Merrylye, R., & Hunt, M.C. (2002). Community based participatory research with late-life addicts. *American Journal of Alcohol and Drug Abuse*, 15(3), 222-238.
 - b. Shaft, B.M., Hunt, M.C., Merrylye, R., & Venturi, R. (2003). Policy implications of genetic transmission of alcohol and drug abuse in female nonusers. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 30(5), 46-58.
 - c. Hunt, M.C., Marks, A.E., Shaft, B.M., Merrylye, R., & Jensen, J.L. (2004). Early-life family and community characteristics and late-life substance abuse. *Journal of Applied Gerontology*, 28(2), 26-37.
 - d. Hunt, M.C., Marks, A.E., Venturi, R., Crenshaw, W. & Ratonian, A. (2007). Community-based intervention strategies for reducing alcohol and drug abuse in the elderly. *Addiction*, 104(9), 1436-1606. PMID: PMC9000292
2. In addition to the contributions described above, with a team of collaborators, I directly documented the effectiveness of various intervention models for older substance abusers and demonstrated the importance of social support networks. These studies emphasized contextual factors in the etiology and maintenance of addictive disorders and the disruptive potential of networks in substance abuse treatment. This body of work also discusses the prevalence of alcohol, amphetamine, and opioid abuse in older adults and how networking approaches can be used to mitigate the effects of these disorders.
 - a. Hunt, M.C., Merrylye, R. & Jensen, J.L. (2005). The effect of social support networks on morbidity among elderly substance abusers. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, 57(4), 15-23.
 - b. Hunt, M.C., Pour, B., Marks, A.E., Merrylye, R. & Jensen, J.L. (2005). Aging out of methadone treatment. *American Journal of Alcohol and Drug Abuse*, 15(6), 134-149.
 - c. Merrylye, R. & Hunt, M.C. (2007). Randomized clinical trial of cotinine in older nicotine addicts. *Age and Ageing*, 38(2), 9-23. PMID: PMC9002364
3. Methadone maintenance has been used to treat narcotics addicts for many years, but I led research that has shown that over the long-term, those in methadone treatment view themselves negatively and they gradually begin to view treatment as an intrusion into normal life. Elderly narcotics users were shown in carefully constructed ethnographic studies to be especially responsive to tailored social support networks that allow them to eventually reduce their maintenance doses and move into other forms of therapy. These studies also demonstrate the policy and commercial implications associated with these findings.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ORTHODONTISTS FOUNDATION

Letter of Agreement - Fellowship Awards

Orthodontic Faculty Development Fellowship Award (OFDFA)

Basic Agreement

This Letter of Agreement is between the AAO Foundation ("AAO FOUNDATION") and _____ (Name of "Recipient") in the amount of \$ _____ (Dollar Amount of Award) for an AAO FOUNDATION **Orthodontic Faculty Development Fellowship Award** for the period of July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2028.

Both the AAO FOUNDATION and the Recipient agree to the following:

Title of the Project:

1. The funding provided by the AAO FOUNDATION is solely for the project approved. The title of the project is as follows:

Funding Period:

2. Funding is for a one-year period for the OFDFA. The period of the project may be extended, but only with the written permission of the AAO FOUNDATION, and the Recipient must request such an extension in writing. Any funds not disbursed on the actual project within the funding period, or any approved extension, must be returned to the AAO FOUNDATION.

Budget Considerations

3. Funding is provided solely for the OFDFA as titled above, according to the budget originally submitted with the project proposal, which is duplicated below:

Salary or Stipend Supplement	\$ _____
Research Equipment and Supplies	\$ _____
Research Personnel	\$ _____
Training or Other Educational Costs	\$ _____
Other Expense	\$ _____
Total Award	\$ _____

4. The total award will be provided by July 1, 2027 for the OFDFA, upon the return of the completed Letter of Agreement - Fellowship Awards, and any other necessary exhibits.
5. The Recipient may transfer funds from one category to another during the project period, but only with the written permission of the AAO FOUNDATION; the Recipient must request such permission in writing prior to transfer. In addition to the Recipient, the Department Chair or

Program Director must also sign the request.

6. The AAO FOUNDATION does not provide funds to support institutional overhead or any other "indirect costs." If this is not acceptable to the Recipient or the Recipient's institution, then the funding must be immediately returned to the AAO FOUNDATION.

Failure to Initiate the Project

7. The Recipient should begin the fellowship as soon as practical. If the Recipient cannot begin the fellowship within the 12-month period beginning July 1, 2027, the Award will be canceled, and any funds disbursed by the AAO FOUNDATION for this project must be immediately returned. In such a situation, once the impediments to conducting the project have been overcome, Recipient may reapply for a new award; however, the AAO FOUNDATION shall be under no obligation to make an award on such subsequent application.

Progress and Final Reports

8. Progress Reports are not required for Orthodontic Faculty Development Fellowship Awards under the one-year funding option.
9. The deadline for receipt of all Final Reports is the end of the funding period (e.g., June 30, 2027 for a one-year award). An exception to this deadline may be granted in the event that the Recipient has received, in writing, a no-cost extension (NCE) of the funding period. Extensions must be requested in writing, in advance of the deadline, and are subject to the approval of a reviewer.
10. Unless an extension has been granted, if a Recipient fails to submit a Final Report six months after the stated deadline, the Recipient and the individual's institution may not be eligible to apply for any awards provided by the AAO FOUNDATION for a period of one (1) year.
11. Both the Final Report and the Progress Report forms are included in the "2027 Awards Materials." A final itemized accounting of the use of the Award may also be requested at the discretion of the AAO FOUNDATION.
12. By accepting the Award, the AAO FOUNDATION receives permission from the Recipient to distribute the Progress Report and/or Final Report, as well as any attachments, in whatever manner the AAO FOUNDATION deems appropriate. If the Recipient has any reservations in this regard (e.g., copyright concerns, etc.) the Recipient should prepare these reports in such a way as to address those concerns.

Acknowledgment of AAO FOUNDATION Support

13. It is understood that the Recipient will make a good faith effort to publish or otherwise disseminate the findings of the project. Publications or presentations made by Recipient relating to the project must contain appropriate reference to support provided by the Foundation. Likewise, the Recipient is expected to note to what extent Foundation support is or has been helpful in his/her academic career.

Terms of Payment

15. Except in unusual instances, determined in the sole discretion of the AAO FOUNDATION, payment will be made only to accredited universities, schools, colleges, institutes, foundations,

centers, departments, or the like; provided, that the Award is personal to Recipient (regardless of the institution with which Recipient is affiliated), and nothing contained herein is intended to create any third-party beneficiary rights as to the Institution. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Recipient shall notify the AAO FOUNDATION of any change in Recipient's employment or affiliation status with the Institution, and the Foundation may, in its sole discretion, terminate the Award as a result of such change in status. Before the first payment is made, the AAO FOUNDATION must have the Federal Employer Identification Number of the Institution or, if funds are to be distributed to Recipient, the Social Security Number (or equivalent for non-U.S. citizens) of Recipient. The Foundation makes no representation regarding the taxation of funds distributed and will follow applicable law regarding the reporting of funds distributed.

15. The Award check(s) are to be made payable as follows:

Name of Payee_____

Institution_____

Tax Identification Number or Social Security Number_____

Street Address_____

City/State/Zip Code_____

Fellowship Stipulations

16. For an OFDFA, the Recipient agrees to a career in orthodontic education as a full-time faculty member for the duration of the Fellowship Period in the academic program specified in his/her Fellowship application.
17. Following the Recipient's fulfillment of his/her responsibilities as outlined above, Recipient agrees to actively pursue or continue full-time employment as an orthodontic educator at an orthodontic program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association or the Canadian Dental Association.
18. Recipient understands that to secure or continue employment, it may be necessary to relocate. Recipient also understands that the Foundation may, at any time, in its sole and absolute discretion, request evidence of compliance with this provision from Recipient, and Recipient agrees to provide such evidence.
19. If Recipient is a student, Recipient understands and agrees that:
- a. The Fellowship will be deemed an award not requiring repayment provided that he/she
 - i. Successfully completes the Fellowship Program, and
 - ii. Secures full-time employment as an orthodontic educator at an orthodontic program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association or the Canadian Dental Association immediately following completion of the Program, and
 - iii. Continues in such employment for a period equal to the Fellowship Period (i.e., one year of teaching for each year of the Fellowship Period).
 - b. If the Recipient fails to successfully complete the Program or fails to be hired by an institution as an orthodontic educator, the entire amount of the Fellowship Award shall become immediately due and payable to the Foundation.
20. If Recipient is a faculty member, Recipient understands and agrees that:

- a. OFDFA funds supplied by the AAO FOUNDATION will be considered an Award, Gift, or a combination of the two (Gift = Salaried portion and award = non salaried portion). If the recipient fails to complete the fellowship program outlined in the application documents (Project Plans) or fails to be subsequently and continuously employed for one (1) year as a full-time orthodontic educator for each one (1) year period that the recipient was supported by the AAO FOUNDATION, then the applicant/university is responsible for the return of the non-salaried (Award) amount of the funds back to AAO FOUNDATION.

Communication

21. All communications regarding this Agreement shall be deemed effective given five business days after being sent by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, or one business day after being sent by commercial courier, if addressed as follows:

If to the Foundation: American Association of Orthodontists Foundation
 Attention: Senior Vice President
 401 North Lindbergh Boulevard
 St. Louis, MO 63141

If to Recipient: Name_____

 Street Address_____

 City/State/Zip Code_____

If to the Institution: Name_____

 Street Address_____

 City/State/Zip Code_____

22. Recipient agrees to keep the Foundation informed of any change in Recipient's name or address.

Other

23. This Agreement constitutes the entire understanding between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes and replaces all prior agreements, understandings, writings, and discussions between the parties relating to said subject matter, whether written or oral.
24. This Agreement shall not be assignable by Recipient or the Institution without the consent of the Foundation, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.
25. If any provisions of this Agreement are or become invalid or are ruled illegal or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction under then current applicable law, it is the intention of the parties that the remainder of this Agreement shall not be affected thereby provided that a party's rights under this Agreement are not materially affected. It is further the intention of the parties that in lieu of each such provision which is invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, there be substituted or added as part of this Agreement a valid, legal, and enforceable provision whose effect shall be as similar as possible to the effect intended by the parties in the original invalid, illegal or unenforceable provision.
26. This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be an original but all of which taken together shall constitute one and the same instrument.
27. Recipient acknowledges that separately there has been sent electronically to the AAO FOUNDATION (AAO.Foundation@aaortho.org)

- a. A black and white photograph of Recipient
- b. A Word document synopsis (500 words) of their project/research/use of funds, which is to include
 - i. A short biography
 - ii. A brief description of the project
 - iii. Statement how orthodontic education will benefit from their award
 - iv. Why the Foundation is important to their project, and
 - v. How Foundation funding is expected to or has benefitted Recipient's career

29. Furthermore, Recipient(s) acknowledge(s) that a hard copy of the photograph and synopsis is attached herein.

30. Recipient agrees that the AAO FOUNDATION may utilize the name and likeness of the Recipient in any advertising, publications, and/or promotional materials.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have caused this Fellowship Award Agreement to be executed as of the latest date written below:

for the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ORTHODONTISTS FOUNDATION:

Signature_____

Name_____

Title_____

Date_____

for the RECIPIENT:

Signature_____

Name_____

Title_____

Date_____

for the INSTITUTION:

Signature_____

Name_____

Title_____

Date_____

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ORTHODONTISTS FOUNDATION

Letter of Agreement – Fellowship Awards

Postdoctoral Fellowship Award (PFA)

Basic Agreement

This Letter of Agreement is between the AAO Foundation ("AAO FOUNDATION") and _____ (Name of "Recipient") in the amount of \$ _____ (Dollar Amount of Award) for an AAO FOUNDATION **Postdoctoral Fellowship Award** for the period of July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2028.

Both the AAO FOUNDATION and the Recipient agree to the following:

Title of the Project:

1. The funding provided by the AAO FOUNDATION is solely for the project approved. The title of the project is as follows:

Funding Period:

2. Funding is for the period stipulated above for the PFA. The period of the project may be extended, but only with the written permission of the AAO FOUNDATION, and the Recipient must request such an extension in writing. Any funds not disbursed on the actual project within the funding period, or any approved extension, must be returned to the AAO FOUNDATION.

Budget Considerations

3. Funding is provided solely for the PFA as titled above, according to the budget originally submitted with the project proposal, which is duplicated below:

Salary or Stipend Supplement	\$ _____
Research Equipment and Supplies	\$ _____
Research Personnel	\$ _____
Training or Other Educational Costs	\$ _____
Other Expense	\$ _____
Total Award	\$ _____

4. The total award will be provided by July 1, 2027 for the one-year PFA and the first year of a two/three-year PFA, upon the return of this completed Letter of Agreement, Promissory Note, and any other necessary exhibits.
5. The Recipient may transfer funds from one category to another during the project period, but only with the written permission of the AAO FOUNDATION; the Recipient must request such permission in writing prior to transfer. In addition to the Recipient, the Department Chair or

Program Director must also sign the request.

6. The AAO FOUNDATION does not provide funds to support institutional overhead or any other "indirect costs." If this is not acceptable to the Recipient or the Recipient's institution, then the funding must be immediately returned to the AAO FOUNDATION.

Failure to Initiate the Project

7. The Recipient should begin the fellowship as soon as practical. If the Recipient cannot begin the fellowship within the 12-month period beginning July 1, 2027, the Award will be canceled, and any funds disbursed by the AAO FOUNDATION for this project must be immediately returned. In such a situation, once the impediments to conducting the project have been overcome, Recipient may reapply for a new award; however, the AAO FOUNDATION shall be under no obligation to make an award on such subsequent application.

Progress and Final Reports

8. Progress Reports are not required for the one-year PFA. However, a Progress Report is required by December 31, 2027 for a two/three-year PFA.
9. The deadline for receipt of all Final Reports is the end of the funding period (e.g., June 30, 2027 for a one-year award). An exception to this deadline may be granted in the event that the Recipient has received, in writing, a no-cost extension (NCE) of the funding period. Extensions must be requested in writing, in advance of the deadline, and are subject to the approval of a reviewer.
10. Unless an extension has been granted, if a Recipient fails to submit a Final Report six months after the stated deadline, the Recipient and the individual's institution may not be eligible to apply for any awards provided by the AAO FOUNDATION for a period of one (1) year.
11. A final itemized accounting of the use of the Award may also be requested at the discretion of the AAO FOUNDATION.
12. By accepting the Award, the AAO FOUNDATION receives permission from the Recipient to distribute the Progress Report and/or Final Report, as well as any attachments, in whatever manner the AAO FOUNDATION deems appropriate. If the Recipient has any reservations in this regard (e.g., copyright concerns, etc.) the Recipient should prepare these reports in such a way as to address those concerns.

Acknowledgment of AAO FOUNDATION Support

13. It is understood that the Recipient will make a good faith effort to publish or otherwise disseminate the findings of the project. Publications or presentations made by Recipient relating to the project must contain appropriate reference to support provided by the Foundation. Likewise, the Recipient is expected to note to what extent Foundation support is or has been helpful in his/her academic career.

Terms of Payment

14. Except in unusual instances, determined in the sole discretion of the AAO FOUNDATION, payment will be made only to accredited universities, schools, colleges, institutes, foundations, centers, departments, or the like; provided, that the Award is personal to Recipient (regardless of

the institution with which Recipient is affiliated), and nothing contained herein is intended to create any third-party beneficiary rights as to the Institution. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Recipient shall notify the AAO FOUNDATION of any change in Recipient's employment or affiliation status with the Institution, and the Foundation may, in its sole discretion, terminate the Award because of such change in status. Before the first payment is made, the AAO FOUNDATION must have the Federal Employer Identification Number of the Institution or, if funds are to be distributed to Recipient, the Social Security Number (or equivalent for non-U.S. citizens) of Recipient. The Foundation makes no representation regarding the taxation of funds distributed and will follow applicable law regarding the reporting of funds distributed.

15. The Award check(s) are to be made payable as follows:

Name of Payee_____

Institution_____

Tax Identification Number or Social Security Number_____

Street Address_____

City/State/Zip Code_____

Fellowship Stipulations

16. For the PFA, Recipient agrees to a career in orthodontic education as a full-time faculty member for the duration of the Fellowship Period in the academic program specified in his/her Fellowship application.
17. Following the Recipient's fulfillment of his/her responsibilities as outlined above, Recipient agrees to actively pursue or continue full-time employment as an orthodontic educator at an orthodontic program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association or the Canadian Dental Association.
18. Recipient understands that to secure or continue employment, it may be necessary to relocate. Recipient also understands that the Foundation may, at any time, in its sole and absolute discretion, request evidence of compliance with this provision from Recipient, and Recipient agrees to provide such evidence.
19. If Recipient is a student, Recipient understands and agrees that:
- a. The Fellowship will be deemed an award not requiring repayment provided that he/she
 - i. Successfully completes the Fellowship Program, and
 - ii. Secures full-time employment as an orthodontic educator at an orthodontic program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association or the Canadian Dental Association immediately following completion of the Program, and
 - iii. Continues in such employment for a period equal to the Fellowship Period (i.e., one year of teaching for each year of the Fellowship Period).
 - b. In the event that Recipient fails to successfully complete the Program, the entire amount of the Fellowship Award shall become immediately due and payable to the Foundation, together with interest thereon, as evidenced by the Promissory Note signed by Recipient in the form of Exhibit A to this agreement (the "Promissory Note").
 - c. If Recipient fails to secure full-time employment as an orthodontic educator as provided above, a pro rata portion of the Fellowship shall become immediately due and payable to the

Foundation, together with interest thereon, as evidenced by the Promissory Note. Full Time employment shall be defined by the institution.

20. If Recipient is a faculty member, Recipient understands and agrees that:
- a. The Fellowship will be treated as an award not requiring repayment provided that he/she continues full-time employment as an orthodontic educator at an orthodontic program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association or the Canadian Dental Association following completion of the Fellowship Period for a period of time equal to the Fellowship Period (i.e., one year of commitment to continue teaching for each year of the Fellowship Period). Full-time employment shall be defined by the institution.
 - b. In the event that Recipient fails to continue full-time employment as an orthodontic educator in accordance with the foregoing provision, a pro rata portion of the Fellowship shall become immediately due and payable to the Foundation, together with interest thereon, as evidenced by the Promissory Note signed by Recipient in the form of Exhibit A to this agreement.

Communication

21. All communications regarding this Agreement shall be deemed effective given five business days after being sent by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, or one business day after being sent by commercial courier, if addressed as follows:

If to the Foundation: American Association of Orthodontists Foundation
 Attention: Senior Vice President
 401 North Lindbergh Boulevard
 St. Louis, MO 63141

If to Recipient: Name _____
 Street Address _____
 City/State/Zip Code _____

If to the Institution: Name _____
 Street Address _____
 City/State/Zip Code _____

22. Recipient agrees to keep the Foundation informed of any change in Recipient's name or address.

Other

23. This Agreement constitutes the entire understanding between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes and replaces all prior agreements, understandings, writings, and discussions between the parties relating to said subject matter, whether written or oral.
24. This Agreement shall not be assignable by Recipient or the Institution without the consent of the Foundation, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.
25. If any provisions of this Agreement are or become invalid or are ruled illegal or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction under then current applicable law, it is the intention of the parties that the remainder of this Agreement shall not be affected thereby provided that a party's rights under this Agreement are not materially affected. It is further the intention of the parties that in lieu of each such provision which is invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, there be substituted or added as part of this Agreement a valid, legal, and enforceable provision whose effect shall be

as similar as possible to the effect intended by the parties in the original invalid, illegal or unenforceable provision.

26. This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be an original but all of which taken together shall constitute one and the same instrument.
27. Recipient acknowledges that separately there has been sent electronically to the AAO FOUNDATION (AAO_Foundation@aaortho.org)
 - a. A black and white photograph of Recipient
 - b. A Word document synopsis (500 words) of their project/research/use of funds, which is to include
 - i. A short biography
 - ii. A brief description of the project
 - iii. Statement how orthodontic education will benefit from their award
 - iv. Why the Foundation is important to their project, and
 - v. How Foundation funding is expected to or has benefitted Recipient's career
31. Furthermore, Recipient(s) acknowledge(s) that a hard copy of the photograph and synopsis is attached herein.
32. Recipient agrees that the AAO FOUNDATION may utilize the name and likeness of the Recipient in any advertising, publications, and/or promotional materials.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have caused this Fellowship Award Agreement to be executed as of the latest date written below:

for the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ORTHODONTISTS FOUNDATION:

Signature_____

Name_____

Title_____

Date_____

for the RECIPIENT:

Signature_____

Name_____

Title_____

Date_____

for the INSTITUTION:

Signature_____

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

Exhibit A
Form of Promissory Note

Postdoctoral Fellowship Award

\$ _____

Date: _____

FOR VALUE RECEIVED, the undersigned (the "Maker"), hereby promises to pay to the order of AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ORTHODONTISTS FOUNDATION (the "Foundation"), at the office of the Foundation at 401 North Lindbergh Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63141, the principal sum of _____

Dollars (\$ _____), or such lesser amount as shall be due from the Maker to the Foundation upon demand in accordance with the terms of that certain Award Agreement dated as of the date hereof between the Maker and the Foundation (the "Agreement"), in lawful money of the United States of America and in immediately available funds, and to pay interest on the unpaid principal amount thereof, at such office, in like money and funds, for the period commencing on the date on which the Maker received the Fellowship described in the Agreement until such amount shall be paid in full, at the rate of eight per cent (8%) per annum.

If the Foundation must pursue collection of the amounts provided in this Note, the Maker shall pay the Foundation all costs and attorneys' fees incurred by the Foundation in connection with such collection.

This Note shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Missouri, without regard to the principles thereof regarding the choice of law.

Maker

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ORTHODONTISTS FOUNDATION

Letter of Agreement – General Award Agreement

(All Funding Categories, Except Fellowship Awards)

Basic Agreement

This Letter of Agreement is between the AAO Foundation ("AAO FOUNDATION") and _____ Name of "Recipient") in the amount of \$ _____ (Dollar Amount of Award) for an AAO FOUNDATION _____ Award (Award Category) for the period of July 1, 2027, through June 30, 2028. ____

Both the AAO FOUNDATION and the Recipient agree to the following:

Title of the Project

1. The funding provided by the AAO FOUNDATION is solely for the project approved. The title of the project is as follows:

Funding Period

2. Funding is for the period stipulated in the original proposal, which must match the period noted above. The period of the project may be extended, but only with the written permission of the AAO FOUNDATION, and the Recipient must request such an extension in writing. Any funds not disbursed on the actual project within the funding period, or any approved extension, must be returned to the AAO FOUNDATION.

Budget Considerations

3. Funding is provided solely for the Project as titled above, according to the budget submitted with the project proposal, which is duplicated below:

Research Personnel	\$ _____
Supplies	\$ _____
Equipment	\$ _____
Other Expense	\$ _____
Total Award	\$ _____

4. For Biomedical Research Awards one half of the total award will be provided by July 1, 2027, (upon the return of the completed Award Agreement and any necessary exhibits), and the second half funding will be provided by January 31, 2027, assuming acceptable progress is made (see Progress Report below). For Center Awards, the total award, if a one-year funding period, or the first year's funding, if a multiple-year funding period, will be provided by July 1, 2027, upon the return of the completed Award Agreement and any necessary exhibits; subsequent funding, for

multiple-year projects, will be sent in annual amounts, upon a Progress Report being submitted and approved. For the Research Aid Awards the total funding will be provided by July 1, 2027, upon the return of the completed Award Agreement and any necessary exhibits.

5. The Recipient may transfer funds from one category to another during the project period, but only with the written permission of the AAO FOUNDATION; the Recipient must request such permission in writing prior to transfer.
6. The AAO FOUNDATION does not provide funds to support institutional overhead or any other "indirect costs." If this is not acceptable to the Recipient or the Recipient's institution, then the funding must be immediately returned to the AAO FOUNDATION.

Failure to Initiate the Project

7. The Recipient should begin work on the project as soon as practical. If the Recipient cannot begin the Project within the 12-month period beginning July 1, 2027, the Award will be canceled, and any funds disbursed by the AAO FOUNDATION for this project must be immediately returned. In such a situation, once the impediments to conducting the project have been overcome, Recipient may reapply for a new award; however, the AAO FOUNDATION shall be under no obligation to make an award on such subsequent application.

Progress and Final Reports

8. Progress Reports are required and due by December 31, 2027. (The requirement for a Progress Report may be waived for the Research Aid Award and the one-year Center Award at the discretion of the AAO FOUNDATION.)
9. All Progress Reports will be evaluated to determine whether the Recipient is making acceptable progress on the project as proposed. If, in the case of a BRA or a multi-year CA, the Recipient fails to submit a Progress Report by the stated deadline, or if the AAO FOUNDATION determines that progress is unacceptable, the Recipient will be notified that the Award is terminated. The AAO FOUNDATION will have the sole discretion as to whether a Progress Report is acceptable.
10. The deadline for receipt of all Final Reports is June 30, 2027. An exception to this deadline may be granted in the case that the Recipient has received, in writing, an extension of the funding period and/or the funding period is longer than 12 months.
11. Unless an extension has been granted, if a Recipient fails to submit a Final Report by December 31, 2027, the Recipient will not be eligible to apply for any awards provided by the AAO FOUNDATION for a period of one year.
12. Both the Final Report and the Progress Report forms are included within the "2027 Awards Materials." A final itemized accounting of the use of the Award may also be requested at the discretion of the AAO FOUNDATION.
13. By accepting the Award, the AAO FOUNDATION receives permission from the Recipient to distribute Progress and Final Reports, as well as any attachments to either or both, in whatever manner the AAO FOUNDATION deems appropriate; if the Recipient has any reservations in this regard (e.g., copyright concerns, etc.) the Recipient should prepare these reports in such a way as to address his/her concerns.

Acknowledgment of AAO FOUNDATION Support

14. It is understood that the Recipient will make a good faith effort to publish or otherwise disseminate the findings of the project. Publications or presentations made by Recipient relating to the project must contain appropriate reference to support provided by the Foundation. Likewise, the Recipient is expected to note to what extent Foundation support is or has been helpful in his/her academic career.

Terms of Payment

15. Except in unusual instances, determined in the sole discretion of the AAO FOUNDATION, payment will be made only to accredited universities, schools, colleges, institutes, foundations, centers, departments, or the like; provided, that the Award is personal to Recipient (regardless of the institution with which Recipient is affiliated), and nothing contained herein is intended to create any third-party beneficiary rights as to the Institution. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Recipient shall notify the AAO FOUNDATION of any change in Recipient's employment or affiliation status with the Institution, and the Foundation may, in its sole discretion, terminate the Award because of such change in status. Before the first payment is made, the AAO FOUNDATION must have the Federal Employer Identification Number of the Institution or, if funds are to be distributed to Recipient, the Social Security Number (or equivalent for non-U.S. citizens) of Recipient. The Foundation makes no representation regarding the taxation of funds distributed and will follow applicable law regarding the reporting of funds distributed.

16. The Award check(s) are to be made payable as follows:

Name of Payee_____

Institution_____

Tax Identification Number or Social Security Number_____

Street Address_____

City/State/Zip Code_____

Communication

17. All communications regarding this Agreement shall be deemed effective given five business days after being sent by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, or one business day after being sent by commercial courier, if addressed as follows:

If to the Foundation: American Association of Orthodontists Foundation
 Attention: Senior Vice President
 401 North Lindbergh Boulevard
 St. Louis, MO 63141

If to Recipient: Name_____

 Street Address_____

 City_____

 State/Zip Code_____

If to the Institution: Name_____

 Street Address_____

 City_____

 State/Zip Code_____

18. Recipient agrees to keep the Foundation informed of any change in Recipient's name or address.

Other

19. This Agreement constitutes the entire understanding between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes and replaces all prior agreements, understandings, writings, and discussions between the parties relating to said subject matter, whether written or oral.
20. This Agreement shall not be assignable by Recipient or the Institution without the consent of the Foundation, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.
21. If any provisions of this Agreement are or become invalid or are ruled illegal or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction under then current applicable law, it is the intention of the parties that the remainder of this Agreement shall not be affected thereby provided that a party's rights under this Agreement are not materially affected. It is further the intention of the parties that in lieu of each such provision which is invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, there be substituted or added as part of this Agreement a valid, legal, and enforceable provision whose effect shall be as similar as possible to the effect intended by the parties in the original invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision.
22. This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be an original but all of which taken together shall constitute one and the same instrument.
23. Recipient(s) acknowledges that separately there has been sent electronically to the AAO FOUNDATION (AAO_Foundation@aaortho.org)
- a. A photograph of Recipient(s)
 - b. A synopsis (500 words) of their project/research/use of funds, which is to include:
 - i. A short biography
 - ii. A brief description of the project
 - iii. A statement how orthodontic education will benefit from their award
 - iv. Why the Foundation is important to their project
 - v. How Foundation funding is expected to or has benefitted Recipient's career
24. Furthermore, Recipient(s) acknowledge(s) that a hard copy of the photograph and synopsis is attached herein.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have caused this Award Agreement to be executed as of the latest date written below:

for the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ORTHODONTISTS FOUNDATION:

Signature_____

Name_____

Title_____

Date_____

for the RECIPIENT:

Signature_____

Name_____

Title_____

Date_____

for the INSTITUTION:

Signature_____

Name_____

Title_____

Date_____



401 N. Lindbergh Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63141
Tel.: 314.292.6562
Toll Free: 800.424.2841, #562

Send via email to: greinarman@aaortho.org

AAO Foundation Final Report Form Sample Template (a/o 6/10/2025)

To make things a little easier for the reviewer who will read this report, please consider these two questions before this is sent for review:

- Is this an example of your very best work, in that it provides sufficient explanation and justification, and is something otherwise worthy of publication? (We do publish the Final Report on our website, so this does need to be complete and polished.)*
- Does this Final Report provide the level of detail, etc., that you would expect, if you were the reviewer?*

Please prepare a report that addresses the following:

Type of Award, e.g., Orthodontic Faculty Development Fellowship Award, Postdoctoral Fellowship Award, Biomedical Research Award, Center Award, Educational Innovation Award, Program Award, Research Aid Award

Name(s) of Principal Investigator(s)

Institution

Title of Project

Period of AAO FOUNDATION Support (e.g., 07-01-2027 to 06-30-2027):

Amount of Funding

Summary/Abstract

Detailed results and inferences:

1. If the work has been published, please attach a pdf of manuscript OR
2. Describe in detail the results of your study. The intent is to share the knowledge you have generated with the AAO FOUNDATION and orthodontic community specifically and others who may benefit from your study. Table, Figures, Statistical Analysis, and interpretation of results should be included.

Respond to the following questions:

1. Were the original, specific aims of the proposal realized?

2. Were the results published?
 - a. If so, cite reference/s for publication/s including titles, dates, author or co-authors, journal, issue, and page numbers
 - b. Was AAO FOUNDATION support acknowledged?
 - c. If not, are there plans to publish? If not, why not?
3. Have the results of this proposal been presented?
 - a. If so, list titles, author or co-authors of these presentation/s, year, and locations
 - b. Was AAO FOUNDATION support acknowledged?
 - c. If not, are there plans to do so? If not, why not?
4. To what extent have you used, or how do you intend to use, AAO FOUNDATION funding to further your career?

Accounting for Project; (i.e.), any leftover funds, etc.



401 N. Lindbergh Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63141
Tel.: 314.292.6562
Toll Free: 800.424.2841, #562

Send via email to: greinarman@aaortho.org

AAO Foundation Progress Report Sample Template (a/o 6/10/2025)

To make things a little easier for the reviewer who will read this information entered into the system, please consider these two questions before this is sent for review:

- Is this an example of your very best work, in that it provides sufficient explanation and justification, and is something otherwise worthy of publication?*
- Does this Report provide the level of detail, etc. that you would expect, if you were the reviewer?*

1. Type of Award (Check One):

- ☐ Orthodontic Faculty Development Fellowship Award
☐ Postdoctoral Fellowship Award
☐ Biomedical Research Award
☐ Center Award
☐ Educational Innovation Award
☐ Program Award
☐ Research Aid Award

2. Name(s) of Principal Investigator(s): _____

3. Institution: _____

4. Title of Project: _____

5. Period of AAO FOUNDATION support (e.g., 07-01-2027 to 6-30-2027): _____

6. Amount of AAO FOUNDATION Funding: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

PLEASE ADDRESS EACH CATEGORY SEPARATELY (single spaced)

1. Specific Aims

List original specific aims

2. Studies and Results

Summarize which studies have already been conducted and results achieved, particularly in reference to specific aims (investigated hypothesis(es) and corresponding findings).

3. Progress Report

Explain how research is proceeding relative to original timetable and contingency plans (any changes from original plan). Accordingly, what are the plans to carry the project to its end? Supply specific statements on human or animal subjects.

- a. Progress to date
- b. Plans for the next 6 months of support
- c. Subjects (detailed description of sample, including information gender and age)
- d. Publications/presentations
- e. Listing of investigators, nature of involvement in research, and time allotted since beginning of research
- f. Percentage funding from AAO FOUNDATION and other sources; amount of grant funds already spent
- g. Request/justification for extension of present cycle: did the investigator(s) foresee a time extension for this project and why?

4. Illustrations, addendum



401 N. Lindbergh Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63141
Tel.: 314.292.6562
Toll Free: 800.424.2841, #562

Send via email to: greinarman@aaortho.org

AAO Foundation NCE Request Form
(a/o 6/10/2025)

1. Type of Award (Check One):

- ☐ Orthodontic Faculty Development Fellowship Award
☐ Postdoctoral Fellowship Award
☐ Biomedical Research Award
☐ Center Award
☐ Educational Innovation Award
☐ Program Award
☐ Research Aid Award

2. Name(s) of Principal Investigator(s): _____

3. Institution: _____

4. Title of Project: _____

5. Period of AAO FOUNDATION support (e.g., 07-01-2027 to 06-30-2027): _____

6. Amount of AAO FOUNDATION Funding: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

- I. PLEASE ADDRESS THE REASON AND CIRCUMSTANCES THAT HAVE LED YOU TO REQUEST AN NCE (NOT TO EXCEED ONE PAGE SINGLE LINE SPACE)
- II. PLEASE PROVIDE A RECENT PROGRESS REPORT (WITHIN 6 MONTHS) OR PROVIDE THE INFORMATION BELOW
- III. A MAXIMUM OF 2 NCE ARE PERMITTED PER AWARD

PLEASE ADDRESS EACH CATEGORY SEPARATELY (single spaced)

1. Specific Aims

List original specific aims

2. Studies and Results

Summarize which studies have already been conducted and results achieved, particularly in reference to specific aims (investigated hypothesis(es) and corresponding findings).

3. Progress Report

Explain how research is proceeding relative to original timetable and contingency plans (any changes from original plan). Accordingly, what are the plans to carry the project to its end?

Supply specific statements on human or animal subjects.

- a. Progress to date
- b. Plans for the requested remaining months of support
- c. Subjects (detailed description of sample, including information gender and age)
- d. Publications/presentations
- e. Listing of investigators, nature of involvement in research, and time allotted since beginning of research
- f. Percentage funding from AAO FOUNDATION and other sources; amount of grant funds already spent
- g. Request/justification for extension of present cycle: did the investigator(s) foresee a time extension for this project and why? Be specific with a revised due date of the extension.

4. Illustrations, addendum



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 Toll Free: 800.424.2841, #562

Send via email to: greinarman@aaortho.org

AAO Foundation Re-budgeting Request Form (a/o 6/10/2025)

Type of Award, e.g., Orthodontic Faculty Development Fellowship Award, Postdoctoral Fellowship Award, Biomedical Research Award, Center Award, Educational Innovation Award, Program Award, Research Aid Award

Name(s) of Principal Investigator(s)

Title of Project

Institution

Period of AAO FOUNDATION Support (e.g., 07-01-2027 to 06-30-2027):

Amount of Funding

Rebudgeting Request: Please list in detail the original budget and highlight in red if there are any changes in a particular category. The Table below serves as a guide but details for each time and category that are relevant are required.

Category	Original Budget Amount	Revised Budget Amount
Research		
a. Supplies		
b. ...		
c. ...		
Educational		
a. ...		
b. ...		
c. And so forth		
Clinical		
a. ...		
b. ...		
c. And so forth		
Travel		
a. ...		
b. ...		
c. And so forth		

Revised Budget Justification: (Narrative)

You should describe and justify in a paragraph, each category relevant to your proposal, why a change in funding amount is being requested

Personnel:

Research Expenses (Materials/Supplies/Equipment):

Equipment:

Educational Expenses:

Other:

Named Awards Listing

Biomedical Research Awards

B.F. Dewel Memorial Biomedical Research Award*
Robert L. Boyd Biomedical Research Award
Robert James Bray Biomedical Research Award
Burstone-Indiana Biomechanics Award**
The Fred and Dianne Garrett Biomedical Research Award
Graber Family Biomedical Research and Teaching Award***
Fred F. Schudy Memorial Research Award
Five naming opportunities available

Orthodontic Faculty Development Fellowship Awards

Willie and Earl Shepard Fellowship Award*
Robert E. Binder Teaching Fellowship Award
Robert E. Gaylord Teaching Fellowship Award
Anthony A. Gianelly Teaching Fellowship Award
Graber Family Teaching and Research Award
T.M. Graber Teaching Fellowship Award
Michael Matlof Memorial Teaching Fellowship Award
Robert M. Ricketts Sunflower Orthodontics Fellowship Award
Subtelny, Baker, Eastman Teaching Fellowship Award
Orhan C. Tuncay Teaching Fellowship Award
Eugene E. West Memorial Fellowship Award
Albert P. Westfall Memorial Teaching Fellowship Award
James A. McNamara Orthodontic Faculty Fellowship Award
James L. Vaden Teaching Fellowship Award

Post-doctoral Fellowship Award

Martin “Bud” Schulman Post-doctoral Fellowship Award

Center Awards

3M Unitek Corporate Center Award
Align Technologies, Inc. Corporate Center Award
American Orthodontics Corporate Center Award
GAC International Corporate Center Award
Ormco/ “A” Company Corporate Center Award
TP Orthodontics Corporate Center Award
Closed

Research Aid Award

Charles J. Burstone Research Aid Award

*Awarded to the most outstanding application within the category

** Successful applicant of the award each year designated as a Burstone Fellow in Biomechanics

***A preference for Junior Faculty

AAO FOUNDATION PARC Review Template (2027)

Principal Investigator(s):

Mechanism:

Institution:

Citizenship status: Verified Eligible

Chairs/Institutional support letter:

Overall Impact

Reviewers will provide an overall impact score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the project to exert a strong influence on the research topic or career development with consideration of the following five scored review criteria, and additional review criteria. An application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have major scientific impact or a sound career development. A summary of the review should be prepared in a manner suitable for sharing with the applicant. Weaknesses can be stated as major, moderate, and minor.

Overall Impact

Impact Statement: (Summarize in lay terms what is most compelling and impactful about this application for the field of orthodontics in 1-2 sentences or phrases. If this application is successful, this statement should be useful to the AAO FOUNDATION for conveying the current relevance and importance of the awards program for fundraising and other communications/social media.)

Strengths

-

Weaknesses

-

Scored Review Criteria

Reviewers will consider each of the five review criteria below in the determination of scientific and technical merit and give a separate score for each.

1. [Significance](#)

Strengths

-

Weaknesses

-

2. [Investigator\(s\)](#)

Strengths

-

Weaknesses

-

3. [Innovation](#)

Strengths

-

Weaknesses

-

4. [Approach](#)

Strengths

-

Weaknesses

-

5. [Environment including mentors and resources](#)

Strengths

-

Weaknesses

-

6. [Success and Productivity of Previous Funding Provided or N/A](#)

Strengths

-

Weaknesses

Additional Review Criteria

As applicable for the project proposed, reviewers will consider **the following additional items in the determination of scientific and technical merit but will not give separate scores for these items.**

Status of human research approval (NA, Approved, Submitted, Not Submitted):

Status of animal research approval (NA, Approved, Submitted, Not Submitted):

Budget: Appropriate and justified \$
 Ineligible request(s) (please specify)

AAO FOUNDATION PARC Award Scoring Criteria

Please score each grant on a scale of 1 to 9 on the overall impact score in WHOLE NUMBERS (not decimals) using the following grading criteria.

Impact	Score	Descriptor	Additional Guidance on Strength/Weaknesses
High	9	Exceptional	Exceptionally strong with essentially no weaknesses
	8	Outstanding	Extremely strong with negligible weaknesses
	7	Excellent	Very strong with only some minor weaknesses
Medium	6	Very Good	Strong with numerous minor weaknesses
	5	Good	Strong but with at least one moderate weakness
	4	Satisfactory	Some strengths but also some moderate weaknesses
Low	3	Fair	Some strengths but with at least one major weakness
	2	Marginal	A few strengths and few major weaknesses
	1	Poor	Very few strengths and numerous major weaknesses
	0	Disqualified	Incomplete application or non-compliance with instructions

XVII. CALL FOR PROPOSALS (CFP) INVESTIGATING THE IMPACT OF MICROPLASTICS IN ORTHODONTICS

AAO Foundation – Call for Research Proposals

Topic: *Investigating the Impact of Microplastics in Orthodontics*

Submission Deadline: October 16, 2026

Funding Period: July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028

Funding Amount: Up to \$40,000 per project; Center Awards up to \$100,000 per project over three years

Eligibility: Open to orthodontic researchers, clinicians, and academic institutions in the United States and Canada

Overview

The American Association of Orthodontists Foundation (AAO FOUNDATION) is soliciting research proposals for its upcoming funding cycle focused on the **environmental and biological impacts of microplastics** in the field of orthodontics. This initiative reflects growing concerns over the proliferation of microplastics in healthcare products and their potential implications for human health and the environment.

Research Priorities

We invite proposals that explore one or more of the following topics:

- **Sources and formation** of microplastics in orthodontic practice (e.g., from aligners, retainers, brackets, or dental resins)
- **Patient exposure** to microplastics during or after orthodontic treatment
- **Environmental impact** of orthodontic materials that degrade into microplastics
- **Toxicological effects** of orthodontics-derived microplastics on oral and systemic health
- **Innovative materials** or processes that minimize microplastic generation
- **Assessment methodologies** for detecting and quantifying microplastics in orthodontic settings

Interdisciplinary and collaborative projects, particularly those involving environmental science, toxicology, and materials engineering, are strongly encouraged.

APPLICATIONS

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.

XVIII. CALL FOR PROPOSALS (CFP) INVESTIGATING THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN ORTHODONTIC PRACTICE

AAO Foundation – Call for Research Proposals

Topic: Investigating the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Orthodontic Practice

Submission Deadline: October 16, 2026, at 5:00 PM Central

Funding Period: July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028

Funding Amount: Up to \$40,000 per project; Center Awards up to \$100,000 per project over three years

Eligibility: Open to orthodontic researchers, clinicians, and academic institutions in the United States and Canada

Overview

The American Association of Orthodontists Foundation (AAO FOUNDATION) invites research proposals exploring the integration and impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Orthodontic Practice. This funding opportunity aims to foster innovation and scientific inquiry into how AI technologies can enhance diagnosis, treatment planning, workflow automation, and overall patient outcomes in orthodontics.

Research Priorities

We invite proposals that explore one or more of the following topics:

- AI in diagnosis and treatment planning (e.g., cephalometric analysis, 3D imaging)
- Predictive analytics for treatment outcomes
- Integration of AI in aligner or bracket system workflows
- Ethical considerations and patient data privacy in orthodontic AI applications
- AI-driven patient engagement or compliance monitoring tools

APPLICATIONS

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