



## 2024 BRA

**Dr. Thikriat Al-Jewair, State University of New York at Buffalo**

Dr. Thikriat Al-Jewair serves as the L.B. Badgero Endowed Chair and Graduate Program Director of Orthodontics at the University at Buffalo (UB) School of Dental Medicine. She earned her DDS degree and completed both a certificate and MS program in Orthodontics from UB. Additionally, she pursued an MS in Dental Public Health from the University of Toronto. Dr. Al-Jewair currently holds several leadership positions, including serving as an

examiner for the American Board of Orthodontics, a Board Director for the Northeast Society of Orthodontists (NESO), and a NESO representative to the AAO Council on Scientific Affairs. Additionally, she is a member of the AAO's Special Committee on Inclusion and Engagement and a Councilor of the American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research Buffalo Section. Dr. Al-Jewair's passion for mentorship and fostering professional growth inspired her to establish UB's Support, Training, Early-career Enhancement, and Retention (STEER) faculty mentoring program, providing invaluable guidance to early career dental educators. Dr. Al-Jewair published over 140 peer-reviewed papers, abstracts, and book chapters.

### **Brief Project Description:**

Facial asymmetry is a common concern in orthodontic treatment, with the aim of enhancing both aesthetics and function in this region. Among various types of asymmetry, mandibular asymmetry (MA) exhibits one of the highest prevalence rates (up to 73%). Previous radiographic investigations have shown that as the severity of mandibular deviation increases, the pharyngeal airway tends to become more constricted and assumes a more elliptical shape. This study aims to provide new insights for developing effective therapeutic interventions for patients presenting with both MA and sleep disorders. These are prevalent conditions that warrant careful consideration.

### **Benefits to Orthodontic Education:**

Given the distinctive features of MA, including the bilateral discrepancies in condyle and mandibular measurements, as well as factors like unilateral cross-bite, and abnormalities in muscle function, it becomes imperative to investigate how these craniofacial characteristics influence sleep, ultimately advancing orthodontists' understanding of the diagnosis and treatment of these conditions.

### **AAOF importance and Mechanism of Support:**

The AAOF significantly contributed to Dr. Al-Jewair's academic progress. Previously, she was honored with a Biomedical Research Award and an Orthodontic Faculty Development Fellowship Award, enabling her to pursue two significant research endeavors and fostering her growth as both a clinician and an educator. Her current career achievements are partially attributed to the support extended by AAOF. Dr. Al-Jewair expresses gratitude for AAOF's significant support towards her research endeavors and the broader orthodontic community.