



Dr. Yi Lin
2026 Orthodontic Faculty development Fellowship Award
University of California, Los Angeles

Short Biography

Dr. Yi Lin is an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Section of Orthodontics at the University of California, Los Angeles since 2023. She received her master's degree in Oral & Craniofacial Science and a certificate in Orthodontics—for the second time, at the University of California, San Francisco. Prior to that, she earned her DDS, master's and PhD degrees from Sun Yat-sen University and completed her graduate research training at McGill University, with a focus on bone regeneration from TMJ stem cells.

Dr. Lin's academic career center on integrating clinical excellence, innovative research, and evidence-based education. Her scholarly interests include craniofacial 3D analysis, TMDs, and the application of artificial intelligence and automated methods in orthodontics. As an orthodontic educator, Dr. Lin is committed to learner-centered teaching, fostering critical thinking, and preparing residents to deliver ethical, patient-centered care grounded in scientific evidence.

Brief Description of the Project

Idiopathic condylar resorption (ICR) is a challenging and often underdiagnosed condition that can lead to progressive mandibular deformity, occlusal instability, and compromised treatment outcomes. Current diagnostic approaches rely heavily on subjective interpretation of imaging, limiting early detection, consistency, and the ability to predict disease progression. This project will transform the evaluation of ICR by establishing objective, quantitative, and reproducible measures of mandibular asymmetry using AI-driven 3D analysis, and ultimately improve diagnostic accuracy, enable earlier identification of at-risk patients, and support more informed, individualized treatment planning for patients with ICR.

Statement of How Orthodontic Education Will Benefit from the Award

This award will advance orthodontic education through the development and integration of AI-driven, quantitative methods for assessing mandibular asymmetry and TMDs. By incorporating advanced 3D imaging analysis into orthodontic diagnosis and treatment planning, this work will better equip orthodontists to manage complex cases such as idiopathic condylar resorption. Ultimately, the integration of these research outcomes into training will improve diagnostic precision, clinical decision-making, and the overall quality of orthodontic care and education.

Why the Foundation Is Important to the Project

Support from the AAOF Foundation is essential to the successful execution of this project. The funding will provide critical resources for advanced imaging analysis required for AI-based model development. It will also enable access to high-quality datasets and support interdisciplinary collaboration with experts in imaging, data science, and orthodontics.

In addition, the Foundation's support will facilitate protected time for research and create opportunities for professional development through attendance in scientific meetings and academic collaborations.

How Foundation Funding Has Benefited or Is Expected to Benefit My Career

The AAOF Faculty Development Fellowship will be instrumental in my development as a junior faculty member by providing protected time to advance my research in AI-driven imaging, complete the proposed project, and generate preliminary data for future funding while maintaining my clinical and academic responsibilities. It will also support my growth across teaching, clinical care, and education by enabling the integration of research innovation into evidence-based practice. Overall, this support is essential for my progression toward an independent academic career and meaningful contributions to orthodontic research, education, and patient care.