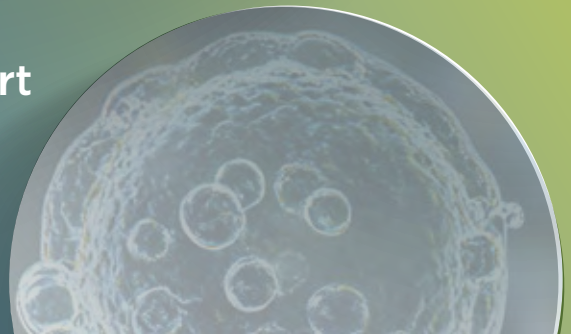


American Academy of Periodontology Foundation

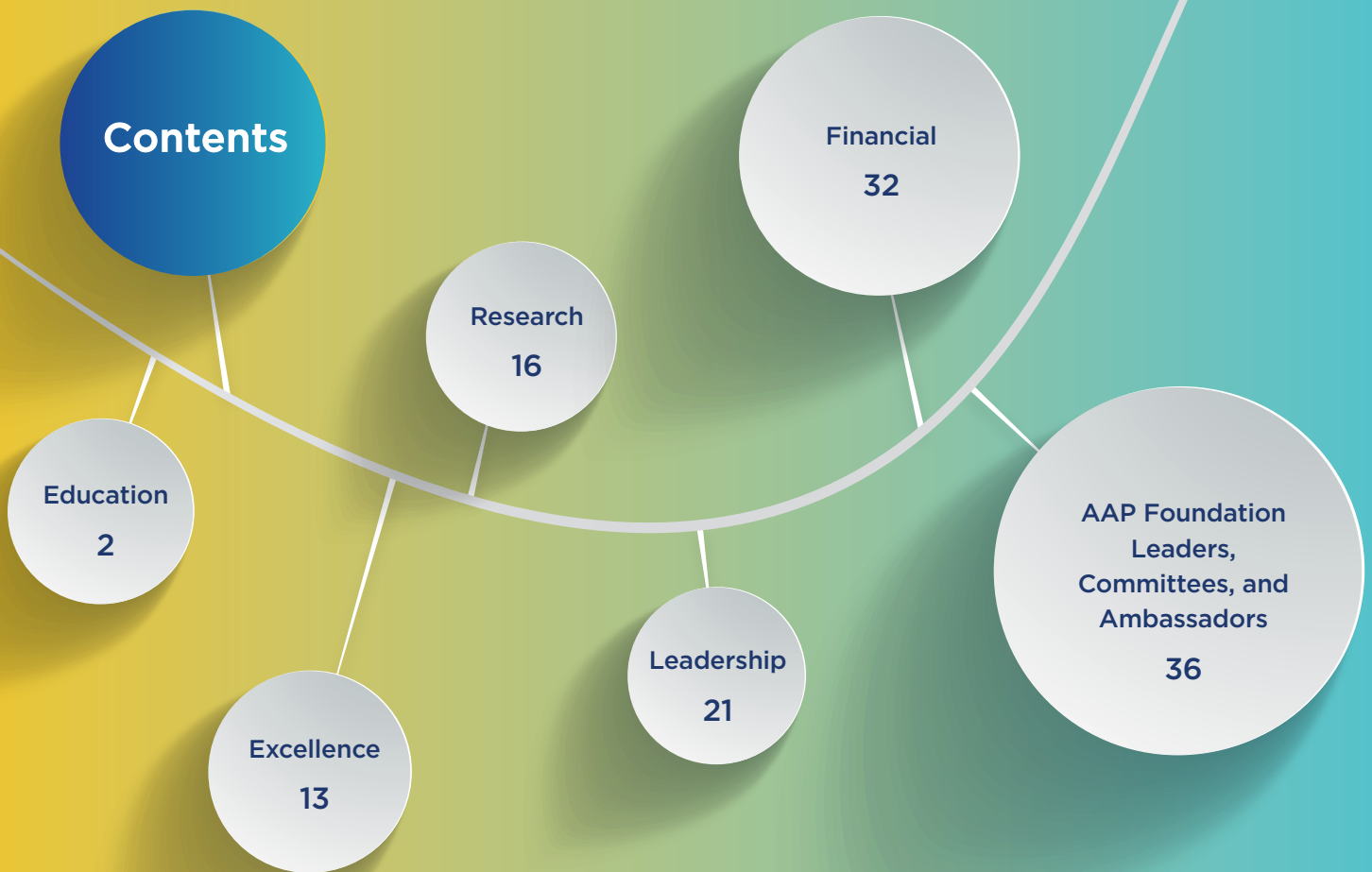
Creating Connections to Advance the Specialty



2023 Annual Report



Every one of us—educator, researcher, leader, donor, volunteer—is a vital link in advancing periodontology. The stronger and deeper our connections, the brighter and better future we can build together.





Dear Colleagues,

What do you think of when you consider the legacy you will leave? Perhaps you have children and consider them your legacy. Maybe you reflect on the patients you have cared for throughout your career and see their health as part of your contribution. Each of these represents a connection you have made and a life you have impacted.

It was my honor to serve as the AAP Foundation President in 2023. I view my service to the AAP Foundation as an important part of the legacy I will leave for our specialty because the impact of the AAP Foundation is unquestionable.

We were delighted to welcome so many of you to the Annual Meeting in Austin. Treloar & Heisel once again partnered with the Foundation to bring you the latest on estate planning. Our best and brightest brought you their innovative research during our well-attended Future Horizons in Periodontology CE session. We were able to celebrate the 2023 AAP Foundation award recipients at the joint Awards Ceremony we held with the AAP. We honored the contributions of our dear colleague, the late Dr. James T. Mellonig, with an incredibly special dinner gathering. After that, we enjoyed a fantastic historic Austin location and some live honky-tonk at our AAP Foundation Hoedown! With delicious Austin fare, cold drinks, cowboy hats and kerchiefs, we line-danced and two-stepped the night away. Our sincere thanks to the Avenues, Geistlich, Lynch Regenerative Medicine, and Pacific Dental Services for helping make these two memorable events possible. Finally, we are grateful to all the individual donors and companies who helped make the Silent Auction such a resounding success and we relished the opportunity to talk with so many of you in person at the Foundation booth.

When you support the AAP Foundation, you are connected to not only the award recipients who benefit from Foundation programs, but also to their patients, their students, and their families.

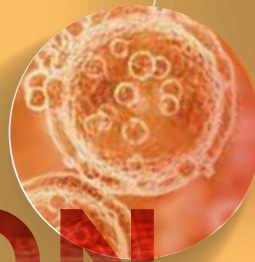
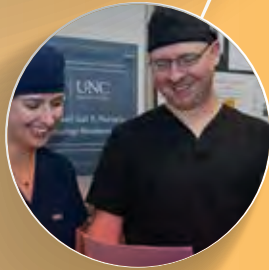
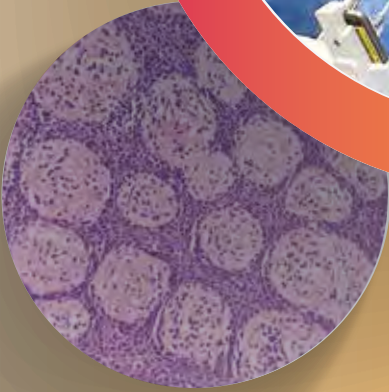
Your generosity connects you to those who benefit from AAP initiatives supported by the AAP Foundation, like the LEAD program that nurtures new leaders, the Regeneration Symposium, scholarships to attend the Annual Meeting, and more. Every dollar you entrust to the AAP Foundation makes you an active part of the future of our specialty.

"Dentistry has changed so much in the past decade," says Adam Lietzen, 2023 Teaching Fellow. "In this shifting landscape, the Foundation's recognition of upcoming leaders maintains our specialty's prominence. That generational support keeps periodontology strong."

Thank you for being an integral part of the Foundation's work. Together, the connections we make and the legacy we leave will ensure a very bright future indeed. We could not do it without you.

Joan Otomo-Corgel, DDS, MPH
President

Meet the AAPF
2023 award
recipients who
will inspire the
periodontists
of tomorrow.



EDUCATION



“Academia is competitive and difficult financially. I’m grateful to the Foundation for the trust they have put in me.”

Educator Scholarship

Zhaozhao Chen, DDS, MS, PhD

Clinical Instructor
University of Michigan
School of Dentistry



“The best part of my job is being actively involved in both the pre- and postdoctoral programs,” says Dr. Zhaozhao Chen. “I’m motivated to continue to improve myself and to teach both groups.”

“It’s rewarding to see students think outside of the box, master new techniques, and pass knowledge on to others. Watching predocs who initially struggled using a probe eventually fall in love with our specialty and get accepted into perio programs brings me great joy. They are on their way to becoming skillful clinicians and possibly educators. That progress makes the specialty better.”

“I was trained in prosthodontics in China,” she explains. “I was able to do some implant surgeries, but I lacked soft tissue management skills. I came to the United States to pursue perio training. I’m interested in the intersection of both specialties. Understanding both disciplines makes me a more well-rounded specialist. It’s easier to communicate with students, patients, and referring doctors because I can see cases from all sides.”

“For clinical research, I’m focused on digital dentistry and immediate implant placement. This year several of my manuscripts were accepted for publication. In the postdoc program, I’m actively involved in current literature review, implant literature, and practice management.”

“This scholarship validates my accomplishments and gives me confidence. It allows me to focus more on the teaching and research that I’m passionate about. Academia is competitive and difficult financially. I’m grateful to the Foundation for the trust they have put in me. For young clinicians and educators, these awards are so important and so helpful. No matter how much you are able to give, your generosity contributes to the development of the specialty.”



Educator Scholarship

Halide Namli Kilic, DDS, MSD, PhD
Clinical Assistant Professor
Indiana University



Other international dentists told Dr. Kilic, who is from Turkey, that it would be impossible to pursue a residency and practice in the United States. Fortunately, she didn't listen. Today, she is thriving in her academic career.

Dr. Kilic has a full schedule. She supervises first-year dental students in the predoc course and graduate level two courses, lectures in advanced periodontology for second-year residents, and teaches in the predoc and graduate clinics. Those responsibilities are in addition to a variety of research initiatives. Plus, she recently took the American Board of Periodontology oral exam.

“Donors might not understand how meaningful this recognition is for graduates who are struggling to pay their student loans. Organized dentistry is extremely beneficial to our field, and I’m glad we have grant programs and other activities to provide that solidarity.”

In addition to her specialty in periodontology, Dr. Kilic is also an oral surgeon. “I wanted to become a periodontist to work with soft tissue. I fell in love with mucogingival surgeries. I also enjoy bone grafts and sinus lifts,” she says. “Understanding both disciplines is a big advantage in teaching. I try to provide the residents with perspective on both.”

“I love the variety of teaching and having time to practice and see patients. It’s very satisfying to watch the residents and predoc students improve their surgical, diagnostic, and treatment planning skills. Eventually, I’d like to do solo research. My long-range goal is to become an associate professor and graduate program director.”

“I worked hard for this career. I was 37 weeks pregnant when I took the board exams, and I had a two-year-old during residency. My daughter is six now. The award was encouragement and justification for that effort. The financial support is nice, too. We have a lot of debt from tuition.”

“Donors might not understand how meaningful this recognition is for graduates who are struggling to pay their student loans. Organized dentistry is extremely beneficial to our field, and I’m glad we have grant programs and other activities to provide that solidarity.”

I am so happy to inform my students about how the Foundation supports educators. That assistance ensures that we have periodontists who are interested in pursuing an academic career,” explains Dr. Beatriz Bezerra. “This award motivates students to consider teaching. It validates my professional choice and is making an impact on my life and career.”

“The Tarrson Fellowship is a tremendous honor for a periodontist in academia. The support will help me advance my professional development. I’m focused on expanding the breadth of my knowledge in education so I can be better equipped to teach our future dental students and residents.”

“Unfortunately, you don’t learn how to be an educator during residency. In 2021, I received the AAP Foundation Fellowship to the Institute for Teaching and Learning in the Health Professions. That opportunity was a great introduction to the academic skill set. This program was a spark that made me want to perfect my skills. Being the best teacher to my students is what motivates me.”

“I am the third recipient of the Tarrson Fellowship at UCLA and I hope that I can continue to fulfill the goals of the Tarrson family. We have a lot of fun engaging our students and faculty in fundraising for the Foundation as we make the PerioDash a yearly event. I plan to continue promoting the Foundation throughout my career.”

Dr. Bezerra enjoys the diversity of her role as a predoctoral director. “I’m a coach for my students. That’s the most gratifying part of my role,” she says. “We discuss clinical cases, and I ensure that everyone is progressing toward their graduation requirements. I encourage students to participate in research and engage in other activities that will enhance their overall learning experience.” She is the faculty advisor for the Periodontics Study Club at UCLA and supports

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students interested in pursuing a career in periodontics. “I want to make sure they have the best experience while in dental school, so we organize lunch-n-learns and workshops focused on various topics in periodontics,” Dr. Bezerra explains.

“I love it when students approach me with ideas. My research focuses on the relationship between perio and systemic conditions, but if a student has a concept they want to explore, I support them. Currently, I’m working on systematic reviews related to vaping and periodontitis as well as the relationship between illicit drugs and periodontal disease.”

Dr. Bezerra hopes that her support for the Foundation will inspire others both to teach and to give. “I contribute to the Foundation so that periodontists who are interested in pursuing a career in academics can have that opportunity. This recognition makes a significant difference in how you see yourself and how others see you.”

**Bud and Linda
Tarrson Fellowship**

Beatriz Bezerra, DDS, PhD
Predoctoral Periodontal
Program Director
University of California,
Los Angeles





Teaching Fellowship

Rafael Siqueira, DDS, MS, PhD
Assistant Professor in Periodontics,
Graduate Program Director
Virginia Commonwealth
University

“I learn something new almost every minute,” says Dr. Rafael Siqueira. “I interact with so many people in a single day, including students, patients, staff, and peers from different specialties. It’s gratifying to make an impact on all these different lives and to have the opportunity to exchange ideas, knowledge, and experiences. I am constantly learning from these relationships.”

“The financial component of the Teaching Fellowship is important,” Dr. Siqueira notes. “But there are many other benefits. Becoming a periodontist is a long road with a huge cost. Monetary support helps alleviate some of that stress.”

“Receiving a prestigious award from people who recognize your efforts validates that you’re heading in the right direction. The Fellowship will also help with receiving future promotions as well as funding for research.”



“In addition, receiving a prestigious award from people who recognize your efforts validates that you’re heading in the right direction. The Fellowship will also help with receiving future promotions as well as funding for research.”

Dr. Siqueira is deeply involved with his students. “I work closely with them in the clinic,” he advises. “They are learning the basics of perio as well as advanced surgical procedures. I also make a point of teaching each month in the predoc clinic. Dental students are the future of our profession. We can make an impact on their education and learn about their needs and aspirations.”

Most of Dr. Siqueira’s research initiatives are devoted to implant dentistry. “I’m interested in the long-term outcomes of implant therapy, including the prevention and management of peri-implantitis,” he says. “There’s so much we don’t understand in this field.”

“I’m involved in a variety of other research and student mentoring activities, including an implant clinical trial, guided surgery, and studies on long-term tooth retention,” Dr. Siqueira advises. “We’re also incorporating new technology such as digital dentistry and digital workflows into our programs.”

Dr. Siqueira was attracted to perio’s link with systemic health and its preventative orientation. “We can impact patients’ lives in many different ways. We can save teeth, reconstruct hard and soft tissues, and replace missing teeth. Perio’s basis in biology means that it is never boring.”

“I look forward to seeing my first class of residents graduate, obtain their board certification, and begin developing themselves as successful periodontists and people. I hope to keep progressing in my academic career and support our program to become nationally and internationally recognized. And, of course, to continue evolving as a person, a professional, and a lifelong learner.”

“A gift to the Foundation is an important way for specialists to support their future,” Dr. Siqueira advises. “An academic career involves countless hours of training. We are educating the next generation so that the field can continue to advance. The Foundation is doing a serious job. When you support that mission, you guarantee that the specialty will continue to thrive.”

“When your colleagues open the door, take a chance and walk through,” says Dr. Adam Lietzan. “Keep doing your best and opportunities will find you.” That idea has certainly proved true in Dr. Lietzan’s career.

The 2023 Teaching Fellowship is Dr. Lietzan’s third Foundation grant. In 2020, the Dr. D. Walter Cohen Award launched his academic career. Then in 2021, a grant to attend the ADEA Institute for Teaching and Learning ensured that he would step into his new role with the skills to be successful in the clinic and classroom.

Dr. Lietzan sees this recognition as identifying his potential to make an impact on the specialty. “My colleagues recognize me as a future leader in the field,” he notes. “I feel privileged and grateful to be honored this early in my career, especially for a prestigious grant that has been presented to incredible pioneers over the years. The financial component is important, but the recognition from my peers is priceless.”

“I’ve always understood the importance of supporting the specialty, and receiving a Teaching Fellowship only increases my continued commitment to promote periodontology,” he adds.

As Dr. Lietzan matures into his role, his enthusiasm continues to grow. “I love being an educator, a researcher, and a clinician,” he says. “The novelty and excitement of all three roles makes every day unique. I appreciate how each pillar informs another to create a rewarding professional experience.”

“It’s fascinating to take learners on that journey towards an “aha” moment. Introducing new concepts can change a learner’s perspective on clinical dentistry and, most importantly, patient care. A chance to influence treatment excellence is one of the most rewarding aspects of my job. I love research, but educating and mentoring learners is my most meaningful career experience,” Dr. Lietzan explains.

Dr. Lietzan is grateful for the support that has helped him travel this far in his career. “It took a village to raise me. I can list countless people who have contributed to my growth and development. All these relationships have shaped who I am today. The variety of perspectives I’ve obtained throughout my career has made me a better educator, clinician, and researcher.”

“Dentistry has changed so much in the past decade. In this shifting landscape, the Foundation’s recognition of upcoming leaders maintains our specialty’s prominence. That generational support keeps periodontology strong.”

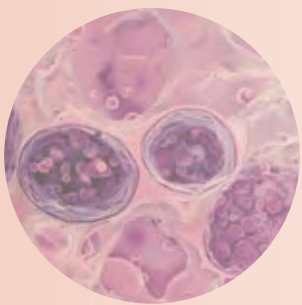
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Teaching Fellowship

Adam Lietzan, DMD, MS, PhD
Assistant Professor
The University of North
Carolina at Chapel Hill





Any award from the Foundation is significant, but the Nevins Award is a highlight of my career. It's given for clinical research—something about which I am passionate. Even before residency, I admired Dr. Nevins. This recognition will help me advance and remain motivated. The support will also offset the financial burden of residency."

Since receiving the Foundation's Schoor Award in 2022, Dr. Barootchi reports that his career is on track. He enjoys being able to exercise his curiosity, explore fresh topics, and interact with the residents. "It's great to be up to date and study the new knowledge that will move the profession forward," says Dr. Barootchi.

"We're currently utilizing AI to learn about peri-implant diseases. We're collecting large data sets to discover how implants get diseased and find strategies to recognize signs of infection early and prevent it. Along with Dr. Lorenzo Tavelli, I developed a new method for treating gingival recessions and mucosal defects around teeth and implants," explains Dr. Barootchi.



Nevins Teaching and Clinical Research Fellowship

Shayan Barootchi, MS, DMD
Assistant Professor
Harvard University
Adjunct Professor
University of Michigan

"Our specialty is facing challenges from private equity groups and dental service organizations. These awards make a big difference. We need people who will continue to advance the field. To keep the specialty robust and strong the focus must be on providing the highest quality patient care."

He adds, "We are going to see a surge in peri-implantitis and other complications. If you study the literature and clinical evidence, you see we still have not recognized the most effective treatment options. It is not a concept of one size fits all due to the complexity of implant therapy and all the variables of treatment. We have much more to learn, and I believe the most effective approach to peri-implant health is preventative care. Right now, the most predictable approach seems to be removal of the implant and starting over. There is also the issue of patient compliance. We know very little about the interactions of all the different components that have an impact on success."

"When it comes to implant complications, periodontists are the first resource people look to and the specialty must focus on learning more. We should be the world leaders in this area," emphasizes Dr. Barootchi.

"Our specialty is facing challenges from private equity groups and dental service organizations. These awards make a big difference. We need people who will continue to advance the field. To keep the specialty robust and strong the focus must be on providing the highest quality patient care."



**Nevins BioHorizons
Teaching and Clinical
Research Fellow**

Jennifer Chang, DDS, MSD
Predoctoral Periodontal
Program Director
University of Texas Health
Science Center
at Houston

“I’ve learned how compassion supports my role as a periodontist and an academic,” says Dr. Jennifer Chang. “I make it a point to connect with patients, listen to their stories, understand their concerns, and personalize their treatment plans. By being approachable and providing individual guidance and encouragement, I extend the same empathy to my students.”

That commitment to quality educational and clinical experiences also earned Dr. Chang the Foundation’s 2019 Mellonig Award and an ADEA Teaching and Learning Fellowship.

“Growing up with a father who was a computer science professor, I witnessed his joy at helping students excel,” Dr. Chang advises. “I was motivated to emulate and then surpass his example. Although my brothers followed his footsteps into programming, I chose periodontal education and I’m eager to support my patients, my students, and all their future patients with that same dedication.”

“I am committed to ongoing mentorship. To date, I’ve had the privilege of guiding over 40 students, many of whom have excelled as finalists and winners at prestigious events.”

Dr. Chang is an innovator who is excited to use new technology to support her teaching and clinical initiatives. “Recently, I launched a YouTube channel aimed at delving into the efficacy of video-based learning methods,” she says. “My team and I are deeply immersed in the integration of artificial intelligence technologies into dental diagnosis and treatment planning. We’re particularly focused on areas such as periodontitis, implant dentistry, and oral pathology.”

In addition to exploring technology, Dr. Chang is also establishing new partnerships and collaborations. “I spearheaded the development of two hands-on continuing education courses and established an International Visiting Student Program at UTSD. These initiatives extend the reach of dental education beyond our institutions to both local and international audiences.”

“Receiving the Nevins Fellowship marks a significant milestone in this career journey. I am deeply grateful for the recognition and the generous financial support. Programs like this play a critical role in shaping the future of periodontology. I appreciate AAPF’s foresight in creating such impactful opportunities.”

“My goals revolve around becoming an academic leader. I’m committed to serving the field of periodontics, striving to make meaningful advancements, and leaving a lasting impact through my work.”

“To those who may not yet support the Foundation, I’d like to highlight the profound impact that AAPF’s generosity and resources have had on both my career and the wider periodontology community,” Dr. Chang notes. “I am sincerely grateful for AAPF’s unwavering commitment to fostering excellence in our field. I look forward to supporting that mission, and I extend an invitation to anyone who shares this vision to join me.”

“My goals revolve around becoming an academic leader. I’m committed to serving the field of periodontics, striving to make meaningful advancements, and leaving a lasting impact through my work.”

The AAP Foundation
is grateful to
BioHorizons for their
sponsorship of
this award.



Dr. D. Walter Cohen Teaching Award

David T. Wu, DMD, DMSc
Lecturer in the Department of Oral
Medicine, Infection, and Immunity
Harvard School of
Dental Medicine



*“I’m grateful
to mentors
who inspired
me to pursue
this career as
well as to the
Foundation
donors who
are supporting
me early in my
development.”*

The Dr. D. Walter
Cohen Teaching
Award is sponsored
in part by
Carestream
Dental.

Dr. David Wu, who also won a 2022 Educator Scholarship, is deeply involved in his academic career. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, he is fascinated about the future of dental medicine and focuses his efforts on integrating healthcare innovation into dental education.

Along with his mentor Dr. William Giannobile, dean at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) and 1998 AAP Foundation Tarrson Fellow, Dr. Wu serves as Faculty Advisor to the Harvard Dental Innovation Society (HDIS). This group seeks to expand dentistry’s clinical and technological innovation and integrate it into dental education and clinical practice. The multi-dimensional program includes seminars on cutting-edge science and technology, fireside chats with successful innovators and entrepreneurs in dentistry, and keynote lectures with leaders in the field.

That future-focused agenda is reflected in Dr. Wu’s research activities. He is currently developing a variety of cell-instructive biomaterials for craniofacial tissue engineering and drug delivery, and complex 3D *in vitro* systems for predictive screening of therapeutics. He also works towards bridging the gap from discovery to patient care through preclinical studies and translational research. In collaboration with the Cornell School of Biomedical Engineering, he is studying a novel single-cell spatial sequencing technology for mapping the oral microbiome for periodontal and peri-implant diseases. A paper he co-authored on this topic was recently published in the prestigious journal *Nature Microbiology*.

“I see an intersection between clinical periodontology, biomedical engineering, and healthcare innovation, paving the way for our specialty to lead the dental

profession,” says Dr. Wu. “With the emergence of artificial intelligence, multi-omics, and computational biology, periodontology is in a unique position. We have the advantage of understanding disease at a level that was previously unattainable and can develop customized treatment for patients.”

Dr. Wu’s work has already begun to translate into practical applications. He is involved in developing a medical bioadhesive that adheres to wet, moving surfaces; seals wounds; and delivers drugs. This innovation, which has the potential to revolutionize treatments in oral surgery and dentistry, was recognized at the 2022 Harvard President’s Innovation Challenge and won the Healthcare and Life Sciences Grand Prize.

“The Cohen Award is a huge honor,” says Dr. Wu. “As I was preparing my application, I consulted with Dr. Paul Levi. He told me stories about Dr. Cohen’s character and philosophy. Those anecdotes inspired me to keep moving the specialty forward. I hope to be instrumental in fostering collaborations between perio and medicine, biomedical engineering, and computational biology that will make periodontology an integral part of the healthcare ecosystem.”

“I’m grateful to mentors who inspired me to pursue this career as well as to the Foundation donors who are supporting me early in my development. It’s not the size of the donation that matters. Promoting the spirit of giving back is what’s important. I like to reference a book called *Atomic Habits*. The premise is that even the slightest change can lead to a cascade of impact. Imagine a world where every member of the AAP contributes \$5, \$10, or \$100 per year. That generosity creates the synergy that makes our specialty a leader in pioneering innovation.”

“I feel grateful. There are so many deserving candidates. Being a recipient comes with a responsibility. In 20 years when I look back, I want to know that I’ve contributed enough to the field. I will always be involved in the AAP and AAPF, and I’m committed to being a life-long donor.”

ADEA/AAL Institute for Teaching and Learning in the Health Professions

The American Dental Education Association (ADEA) and the Academy for Advancing Leadership (AAL) collaborate on the Institute for Teaching and Learning (ITL) in the Health Professions (ADEA/AAL ITL) each year. The ADEA/AAL ITL provides six days of intensive onsite learning, discussions, and networking with faculty from the United States, Canada, and abroad. Created for early- and mid-career faculty and private practice dentists interested in a new academic career, participants receive hands-on experience with key instructional tasks such as evaluating student competence, presenting lectures, planning courses, constructing tests, working with challenging students, and providing feedback.

In 2023, the AAP Foundation provided 4 fellowships to this program to the following periodontists:

- **Luciano Andrada, DDS, MMSc**
Virginia Commonwealth University
- **Martinna Bertolini, DDS, MS, PhD**
University of Pittsburgh
- **Lan-Lin Chiou, DDS, MSD**
University of Connecticut
- **Vinayak M. Joshi, MS, PhD**
Louisiana State University

When asked about his experience, Dr. Luciano Andrada says, “The ADEA ITL program was a great opportunity to discover how we can improve and learn as educators. It taught us how to improve almost every aspect of teaching and learning, including how to make lectures more interesting to the new generation. When we choose to go into academia, we don’t start with any training in education. This type of support and networking is so important.”

Luciano
Andrada



“When we choose to go into academia, we don’t start with any training in education. This type of support and networking is so important.”

The Charles W. Finley Visiting Scholar Education Grant

The AAP Foundation is grateful to GluStitch, Inc. for their sponsorship of one Finley Award.

“Dr. Velasquez’s workshop was one of the best and most productive workshops I have ever attended.”

The Charles W. Finley Visiting Scholar Education Grant was established to honor the memory of Dr. Charles W. Finley and all the great periodontal leaders of the past, present, and future. Grants of \$2,000 are awarded to accredited U.S. periodontal programs to offset honoraria, travel, promotion, and seminars by speakers in periodontology. The grants must be matched by funds from each department or institution. Though the speakers spend much of their time with the periodontics department students and faculty, the grant requires that the speaker present a formal program to the entire dental school on a subject of interest.

In 2023, Charles W. Finley Visiting Scholar Education Grants were awarded to:

Rutgers University

University of Alabama at Birmingham

University of California, Los Angeles

University of California, San Francisco

University of Michigan

University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

University of Washington

The University of Washington School of Dentistry in Seattle, WA, hosted Dr. Diego Velasquez, who generously shared his profound expertise in microsurgical techniques and interdisciplinary therapy with dental students, residents, and faculty, including those in periodontics, prosthodontics, and general practice residency. Dr. Velasquez delivered a series of exceptional lectures, providing valuable insights into the application of microsurgical methods for periodontal regeneration, resective therapy, and soft tissue augmentation.

University of Washington

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Dr. Velasquez at UCLA

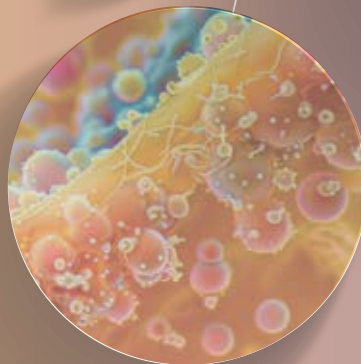
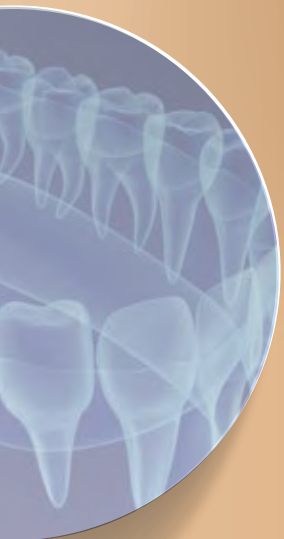
Dr. Yung-Ting (Lizzy) Hsu, Clinical Assistant Professor, Periodontics, at the University of Washington says, “We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the AAP Foundation for their generous support, which enabled us to host such a distinguished speaker. The opportunity for our students and residents to engage with Dr. Velasquez in person was both beneficial and deeply appreciated.”

The University of California, Los Angeles, also hosted Dr. Velasquez for their Finley presentation. Dr. Beatriz Bezerra, Associate Clinical Professor and Director of the Predoctoral Program in the Section of Periodontics at UCLA, says, “The Finley award was instrumental in helping us organize this event lead by Dr. Diego Velasquez. His passion for periodontal microsurgery is infectious and our residents enjoyed learning from him. This was a great first step to introduce microsurgical techniques in our program and we hope to build upon this momentum.” First year resident, Dr. Damian Sirous, adds, “Dr. Velasquez’s workshop was one of the best and most productive workshops I have ever attended. He had a unique, step-by-step method to teach us how to use the microscope, which was thoughtfully designed. Additionally, he individually helped us find our way to work with the microscope and walked us through the practices, which were very helpful and effective.”

The University of Alabama at Birmingham utilized their Finley award to host Dr. Marcelo Araujo, Dean of the State University of New York at Buffalo, who spoke with residents and the UAB School Of Dentistry community in two lectures about “How Science is Shaping the Future of Dentistry and Healthcare Policy.” Dr. Mia Geisinger, Chair of the periodontology program at UAB says, “We appreciate the support of the AAPF who made it possible for our UAB Perio and SOD community to learn with and from Dr. Araujo’s vast experience as a champion for evidence-based dentistry and periodontal science in industry, organized dentistry, and academia.”

Excellence

Meet the AAPF
2023 award
recipients who
are leading the
charge towards
the future.



**Dr. Mark K.
Setter Leadership in
Periodontology and Dental
Implantology Award**

**Kathleen Chloe M. Mascardo,
DMD, DMD, MMSc**
Harvard University
Private Practice,
Boston, MA



“Getting this award made a significant contribution to my professional growth. It is a catalyst for bigger initiatives that go beyond me. It promotes goodwill for periodontology.”

Dr. Kathleen Mascardo is an impressive multitasker. Before she moved to the United States, she opened a restaurant in her home country, the Philippines, while simultaneously learning and practicing all facets of dentistry, with support from her parents, who are dentists as well. Like many other casualties of the pandemic, the business closed in 2021, but by then she had committed to settle in the United States. She finished dental school for the second time at the University of Pennsylvania and then pursued specialty studies in periodontology at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine.

Dr. Mascardo loves her new specialty. She enjoys everything from performing complex surgeries to simply talking with patients. “I’m especially happy when I’m able to maintain the patients’ teeth and watch their hygiene improve,” she says. “Their motivation changes and they become excited to move forward with treatment.”

“Periodontology is the foundation for everything we do in dentistry. Without good periodontal health, nothing else will work. I want to treat patients comprehensively as a whole person – treating them proactively rather than reactively. My father, who has been doing oral surgery ever since I can remember, is my inspiration for pursuing periodontology. He taught me everything I know about surgery, and gave me a good foundation which helped me to excel in my chosen specialty.”

Following her graduation from Harvard, Dr. Mascardo joined several multispecialty offices, and was recruited to be the first associate under Leading Edge Periodontics and Dental Implants. Her practice is also the first periodontology office under the bigger specialist-led dental group, Leading Edge Specialized Dentistry, based out of New York.

Eventually, Dr. Mascardo would like to be a partner, own a practice, and teach part-time. “My mentors inspired me to consider academia,” she explains. “They contributed so much to my learning, and I would like to return that generosity. But I love clinical practice too much to teach full-time, so I am grateful for those that can. Life is all about balance.”

As a multitasker, Dr. Mascardo still has her hand in a variety of activities. “I’m currently involved in a Spear study club with my senior periodontist mentor and our referring doctors,” she says. “This collaboration will make it easier to plan and execute treatment for our mutual patients with the focus being on achieving periodontal health and stability in conjunction with the restorative process.”

“I would like to thank the AAP Foundation,” Dr. Mascardo says. “Getting this award made a significant contribution to my professional growth. It is a catalyst for bigger initiatives that go beyond me. It promotes goodwill for periodontology.”

“I gave a lecture in the Philippines that was about periodontology, the AAP, and the AAPF. My talk encouraged the dental students and general dentists who attended to learn more about the specialty and pursue avenues to further develop and improve their periodontology curriculum. I am personally motivated to hold myself to the highest standard and inspire others in promoting periodontology to continue Dr. Setter’s legacy.”

Philanthropy and community service are a big part of Dr. Mascardo’s life. She is a long-time supporter of a school for the blind in the Philippines and has been spearheading fundraising efforts for other charities in her home country. In the United States, she has participated in dental outreach events in her local community and is an avid donor to a large charity group (Compassion International) that aids in assisting impoverished children with their medical and dental needs.

Regarding her commitment to the specialty, she says, “When you benefit from an organization, you must give back as well. It needs to be a cycle. If you’re part of the perio community, you need to return the value you received.”

The Kramer Award is a huge honor," says Dr. Julia Lacy. "Dr. Kramer did remarkable things for the specialty. It's a privilege to be identified as someone who could follow in his footsteps. This recognition inspires me to continue growing as a person and as a professional. Being a Kramer recipient motivates me to pursue my dreams and aspirations and advance my career. I'd like to give back to new periodontists and the specialty the way that he did."

"I've loved teaching since I was in dental school," she explains. "Someday I hope to be in an academic environment at least part-time. Recently, I began a new position as a specialist in a general dentist's practice. There are several offices and I'll be moving from one location to another. I'm excited to help create periodontal treatment options for patients in this group."

"One advantage of my new position is the opportunity to teach hygienists more about periodontology and support their growth and development in their area of expertise," she continues. "I hope to start an AAP Hygiene Study Club and get it up and running in the fall."

"It's gratifying to help hygienists gain a better understanding of when to refer and advance their knowledge to improve patient care. When hygienists aren't exposed to periodontists, it's harder for them to recognize recession and other more complex conditions."

Dr. Lacy has another important new role. On April 26, 2024, she gave birth to baby girl Wyatt. "My parents are excited for us to have a family," she notes. "It's encouraging to see that women can enjoy a great career and also be wonderful mothers. I'm lucky to represent that goal and to demonstrate to my daughter, and other young women, that they can have a full family life and a productive profession. Being a periodontist gives you the flexibility to do both. Perio is a family-friendly profession."

"The Foundation is a huge blessing," Dr. Lacy observes. "This award jump-started my career. The financial assistance helped me make it through school. Then, in my first year after graduation, I was able to purchase the instruments I needed to be successful. It's an incredible service and benefit to launch new periodontists on a positive path."

**Dr. and Mrs.
Gerald M. Kramer
Scholar Award
for Excellence**

Julia Lacy, MS, DMD
Private Practice
Charleston, SC



"This recognition inspires me to continue growing as a person and as a professional. Being a Kramer recipient motivates me to pursue my dreams and aspirations and advance my career."

Research



**Meet the AAPF
2023 award
recipients whose
research will
inspire the
treatment of
tomorrow.**



**The Patty
and Paul Levi
Research Award**

Kayla Lieuw, BA
Dental Student
University of California,
San Francisco



“It was such an honor to receive the Levi Award before I even started residency,” says Ms. Kayla Lieuw. “I’m finishing my fourth year of dental school. This is the first academic recognition I have received, and it was an amazing experience.”

“I was able to attend the AAP Annual Meeting with everyone from UCSF, including some of my mentors. Celebrating with the colleagues who have supported me was especially meaningful.”

“The project I submitted for the Levi Award was a systematic review and meta-analysis of dental implant failure as it relates to antidepressant use,” Ms. Lieuw explains. “I collaborated with a UCSF perio resident and a UCSF perio faculty member. Our study was published in the *Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Implants*.”

With her other projects coming to a close, Ms. Lieuw is looking forward to starting her master’s thesis on factors related to peri-implantitis. She will begin a perio residency on July 1 at UCSF.

“Perio combines many of the things I enjoy most in dentistry,” says Ms. Lieuw. “I love that it is a hands-on specialty that includes a variety of surgical and nonsurgical procedures. And I enjoy the interdisciplinary approach and interacting with colleagues to treatment plan.”

“The mentorship opportunities are another significant reason I am pursuing perio,” says Ms. Lieuw. “I felt very welcome at UCSF. The faculty and residents are motivating. I can tell they’re dedicated to teaching. I’m also impressed with the evidence-based approach to cases.”

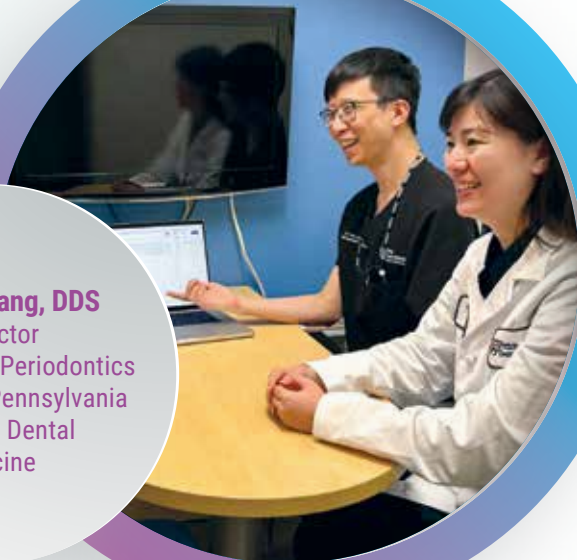
“Currently, I’m involved in a fellowship at UCSF for students interested in academia. I’m excited to begin my residency. UCSF gives us plenty of opportunities to teach predoctoral students, and that’s a good starting point for a potential academic career.”

“It’s great that the Levi Award chooses to support predoctoral students. The other awards are designated for residents and faculty. Donors have an opportunity to change the future of perio by supporting emerging leaders and practitioners of this profession. Those endorsements will ensure that the specialty’s academic and scientific initiatives remain vital in the coming years.”

“Donors have an opportunity to change the future of perio by supporting emerging leaders and practitioners of this profession. Those endorsements will ensure that the specialty’s academic and scientific initiatives remain vital in the coming years.”

Dr. Colin Richman and Family Perio-Ortho Interface Award

Tun-Jan Wang, DDS
Instructor
Department of Periodontics
University of Pennsylvania
School of Dental
Medicine



**Chenshuang Li,
DDS, DMD, PhD**
Assistant Professor
Co-Clinical Director
Department of Orthodontics
University of Pennsylvania
School of Dental
Medicine



***“This recognition
validates our
commitment to
interdisciplinary
collaboration
in dental
research and
patient care.”***

“We deeply appreciate this generous support,” says Dr. Chenshuang Li. “It means the relationship between periodontology and orthodontics is important. This connection has been overlooked for the past 20 to 30 years. At the University of Pennsylvania, we have a perio-ortho combined postgraduate training program.”

“The award made it possible to gather the preliminary data necessary to move a larger clinical trial forward. It’s also enhanced our career development, allowing us to attend conferences, learn from each other, and better understand both specialties and how they intersect.”

“Receiving the Dr. Colin Richman and Family Perio-Ortho Interface Award is a tremendous honor,” says Dr. Tun-Jan Wang. “This recognition validates our commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration in dental research and patient care.”

Drs. Wang and Li’s project explores the perio-ortho interaction for patients who have a high risk of periodontal recession during orthodontic treatment. They evaluated three different grafting protocols to identify the best option for patients.

“Recognition from Dr. Richman and the AAPF is so significant,” says Dr. Li. “We can’t achieve ideal orthodontic treatment without knowing the biological boundary from the perspective of periodontology.”

“The financial support enables us to gather crucial preliminary data for larger clinical trials and attend international and domestic conferences, which are essential for our professional growth,” adds Dr. Wang.

In addition to the Richman study, Dr. Li is working on 3D imaging to evaluate orthodontic treatment effects, basic translational research, and projects involving patients with craniofacial syndromes. She hopes to find a novel treatment strategy for patients with neural and craniofacial skeletal deformations.

Dr. Wang is researching material selection for alveolar ridge preservation and comparing different membranes. He is also the course director for predoc students and teaches in the pre- and postdoctoral clinics.

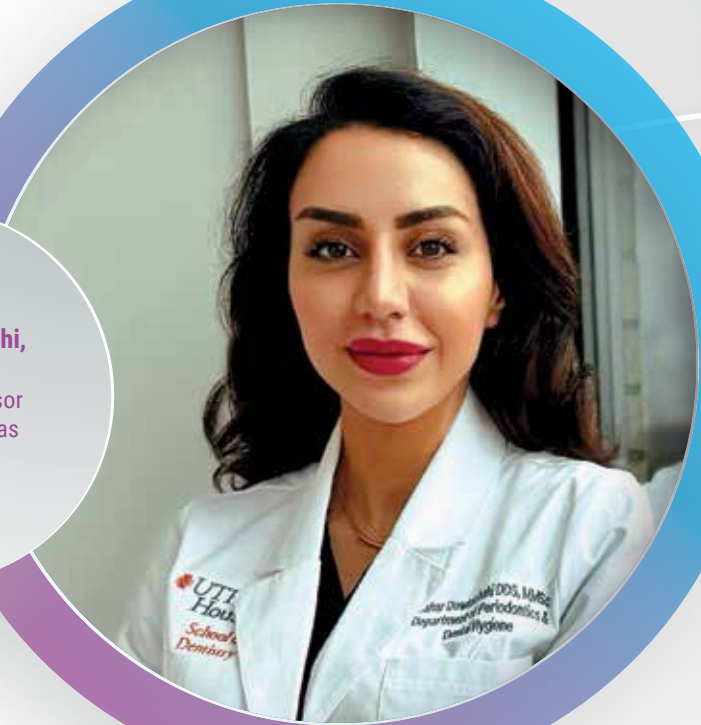
The feedback the two specialists receive from students enriches both their professional lives. “Whenever I receive a thank you card, I feel so rewarded,” says Dr. Li. “I want to pass the passion my mentors instilled in me on to others. When I have a student who is interested in an academic career, it’s very gratifying.”

“When we receive support for these studies, it is an endorsement for future funding. The Foundation helps us learn and that benefits the academic environment because we continue to use that knowledge in the clinic and the classroom.”

“This award enhances our teaching and allows us to provide a richer learning experience for our students,” says Dr. Wang. “It not only advances our research, but also enriches the entire academic environment, benefiting both our students and the broader dental community.”



**Sahar Dowlatshahi,
DDS, MMSc**
Assistant Professor
University of Texas
at Houston



“I came to the United States from Iran when I was 18,” Dr. Sahar Dowlatshahi recalls. “I arrived alone with six suitcases (mostly shoes) and I haven’t been back.”

“The adjustment was difficult,” she continues. “I attended the University of Missouri at Columbia. It’s a small college town with few Iranian residents. I didn’t have a support group to help me understand the culture. That barrier made it difficult to interact with other students. I knew I had adapted when, after two years, I could laugh at a comedy because I finally understood the references.”

Dr. Dowlatshahi found a home and a family at the University of Texas Houston. “I never imagined that I would end up in academia,” she says. “When I was a resident, I couldn’t wait to get out into private practice. By a turn of fate, I ended up becoming a faculty member, and it’s been the best experience of my life.”

“I’ve met so many wonderful people,” she explains. “And I enjoy a blend of clinical practice, teaching, and research. We call it teaching, but I learn so much from my students. Private practice can be isolating. Here I’m surrounded by my UT family. From the chair to my colleagues and all the residents, I have a huge support system. They encourage me to keep growing and improving. I was nervous about moving from Boston and private practice, but I love it here. When you have a network of colleagues, everything falls into place.”

“I am just getting my footing in academia,” she says. “The Richman Award presented an amazing opportunity to establish my niche. It opened a dialog with the ortho department for my residents and working with my ortho colleagues was important in my own learning. Sometimes the specialties in dentistry speak different languages. I’m learning more about malocclusion and orthodontic movement. I hope to continue sharing what I discover with the residents.”

“When we receive support for these studies, it is an endorsement for future funding. The Foundation helps us learn and that benefits the academic environment because we continue to use that knowledge in the clinic and the classroom.”

“We are working on a human study project and a meta-analysis on different techniques of surgically facilitated orthodontic therapy (SFOT),” she explains. “There isn’t a gold standard on the material to be used for SFOT. We don’t know if some bone grafting materials will be more effective than others or whether biotype modification will be more stable than another technique. It’s a wonderful opportunity for the two specialties to come together. My residents are collaborating with their ortho colleagues more frequently. It has opened so many doors for both groups.”

Dr. Dowlatshahi wants to expand the study’s sample size, look at distinct aspects of SFOT, and explore other strategies for how various departments in dentistry can partner and provide a more comprehensive treatment plan for patients.

“The Foundation stimulates these collaborative opportunities,” Dr. Dowlatshahi observes. “Practitioners can develop a better understanding of the knowledge they can share. When donors contribute, they aren’t just providing an award to one person, they are having an impact on a much larger group and expanding the entire dental field.”



The AAP Foundation Schoor Research Award

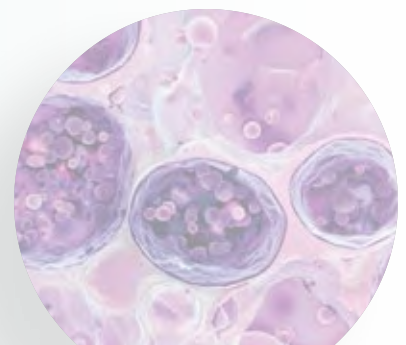
Julia Lacy, MS, DMD
Private Practice
Charleston,
South Carolina



“The Schoor Award not only recognizes the effort of conducting research, but motivates me to continue to perform research, learn, and advance the field.”

The American Academy of Periodontology Foundation supports resident research in the field of periodontology through the Robert S. Schoor Research Award Program, a \$2,000 annual award for resident-written manuscript. A wide range of research subjects that are significant to the clinical practice of periodontology are supported. The program is named in memory of Robert S. Schoor, DDS, a champion of periodontal education and students.

“Receiving the Schoor Award is a huge honor! As periodontists, we spend a lot of time enrolling patients, collecting data, and executing research projects to advance the field and it is a great honor to be recognized for that hard work. The Schoor Award not only recognizes the effort of conducting research, but motivates me to continue to perform research, learn, and advance the field.”



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2023 Financial Report



It is my pleasure to present this 2023 Financial Report to the generous friends and benefactors of the American Academy of Periodontology Foundation. The AAP Foundation's financial position remains strong despite the vicissitudes of the economy and financial markets. Your generosity, the vision of the Board of Directors, prudent management by staff, and a diversified portfolio are the ingredients of our success. We remain by far the largest federally tax-exempt public charity in the United States devoted to periodontal education and research.

Major and planned gifts continue. We are the beneficiary of more testamentary bequests than before. Dental industry continues to expand its support, indicating that the AAP Foundation inspires trust and confidence in what we do. The AAP Foundation stewards your dollars carefully and keeps operating expenses to a minimum so that maximum funding goes to our programs.

The AAP Foundation has continued its support of education and research and is poised for new initiatives in 2024 and beyond. We have awarded almost \$7 million in support of our specialty since our founding in 1990 and are determined to continue and grow this important work.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, volunteers, and staff, thank you for supporting our mission, our specialty, and the health of patients for over three decades.

Robert A. Vitas, Ph.D., CAE, CFRE,
Executive Director

Here are the sources of our support:

- Contributions and pledges totaled **\$749,305**.
- Programming garnered an additional **\$24,377**.
- Investment income rebounded at **\$1,018,607**, erasing the paper losses of the previous year.

What do we do with your hard-earned dollars?

- **\$327,000** granted in scholarships, fellowships and to periodontal programs reflects our unwavering commitment to periodontal education and research.
- Another **\$30,000** supported educational programming of the American Academy of Periodontology.
- Program support activities expended **\$119,653** and Outreach programs totaled **\$363,960**.
- Annual Meeting programs were **\$80,090**, including outlays for a successful Future Horizons in Periodontology session.
- Operational expenses held steady at **\$370,212**.

Ways to Give

The American Academy of Periodontology Foundation (AAPF) is a federally tax-exempt not-for-profit charitable organization and is the only entity of its kind dedicated to periodontists and the patients they serve. Your donations directly support education and research in the field of periodontology.

You can give to the AAP Foundation online, by phone, by mail, or through a planned gift. You can also donate in honor or in memory of a loved one. Choose from one of the following easy giving options:

- **Online:** You can make an online donation through our secure online giving form, 24 hours per day at www.periofoundation.org. You can use this form to make a one-time gift, set up a monthly recurring gift, or initiate a long-term pledge to be paid over time.
- **Phone:** Credit Card gifts are gratefully accepted at 312-573-3257 during regular business hours.
- **Mail:** You can mail your donation to the AAPF to:
AAP Foundation
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- **Planned Gift:** If you are interested in making a gift through your will, life insurance policy, a trust, or IRA, please visit periofoundation.planmygift.org to explore your options, or call 312-573-3256 for more information.

Thank you for your contributions to support the future of periodontology. Your generosity will have a lasting impact on the specialty's educators, researchers, practitioners, and patients.

Contributions made to AAPF qualify as charitable donations for federal income tax purposes and are eligible for income tax deductions to the extent provided by law. Please consult with your tax adviser to determine the amount allowed. No goods or services will be provided in exchange for your generous financial donation.



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Awesome in Austin — Annual Meeting 2023

Thanks to all who engaged with the AAP Foundation at the AAP Annual Meeting in Austin! Whether you stopped by the booth, bid on the Silent Auction, attended a meeting or event—we appreciate you all! Without your support, the AAP Foundation would not be able to award more than \$230,000 annually to support periodontal education, research, and excellence.

The AAP Foundation is grateful to the following companies that donated items to our Silent Auction:

A. Titan Instruments, Inc	Dr. Cassandra McKenzie
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AAP Foundation Support of AAP Initiatives

In 2023, the AAP Foundation again sponsored AAP programs that align with the Foundation's mission. These include the AAP/AAP Foundation/Osteology Foundation Regeneration Symposium, the Outstanding Periodontal Educator Award, the AAP's R. Earl Robinson Award, 10 Student Scholarships to attend the 2023 AAP Annual Meeting, and the LEAD (Leadership Engagement Action Development) Program.

Congratulations to the students who received AAP Foundation Scholarships to the AAP Annual Meeting:

Silie A Arboleda	Lincoln Nguyen
Rosalie Salus Braun	Aziz Saqr
Sandrine Couldwell	Paula Schlemmer
Kosuke Kashiwagi	Brett Silvers
Halide Namli Kilic	Dennis Sourvanos

The LEAD initiative is an exclusive two-day program that aims to identify future leaders in periodontics, help them develop the necessary skills to ensure success, and inspire a new cohort that is committed to advancing the profession.

Congratulations LEAD class of 2023!

Martinna Bertolini *	Ali Sajadi
Guo-Liang "Ike" Cheng *	Dylan Sattler
Anuja Doshi *	Lorenzo Tavelli *
Kayleigh Eaves Temple	Jacob Woodrow Zellner *
Adam Lietzan *	Yi-Chu Wu *
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**Indicates AAP Foundation Award Recipient*



2023 PerioDash

PerioDash 2023 was the AAP Foundation's largest "dash" yet! More than 500 participants from around the country (and some international!) showed their support for the AAP Foundation.

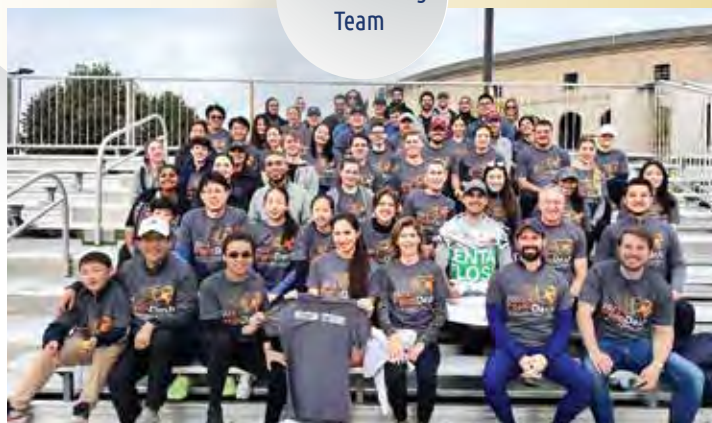
PerioDash is the AAP Foundation's virtual run/walk to support periodontal education. Participants paid a \$35 registration fee that included a t-shirt and medal, picked a day within the first two weeks of October, and either ran or walked, by themselves or with a team, indoors or outside – whatever worked best! Because this is a virtual event, it allows flexibility for individuals and teams to schedule their participation to accommodate their schedules.

With 20 teams and hundreds of individuals, the race was on! From Boston Strong to the LA Team, the Gum Chums to MichiGum, our teams were creative and had a blast! Congratulations to the LA Team for raising the most to support the AAP Foundation's mission. We hope to see you all again in 2024!

MichiGum Team



Boston Strong Team



UT Health Houston Team



LA Team



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John Herrin
Not pictured:
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