American Academy of Periodontology Foundation

2018 Annual Report
Our 2018 Annual Report At-a-glance highlights

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Empowering cutting-edge research
"I like transforming complex, new materials into teachable stories."
- Dr. Shaimaa Al Harthi, MS

Nearly $400,000 awarded to deserving periodontists to support the specialty in 2018

"Research is the basis for our specialty. It’s important for us to have enough educators to keep periodontology growing."
- Dr. Kang Ko, DMD

Empowering

THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THE CURIOUS, THE ONES WHO ARE NOT AFRAID TO TRY IT, EXPLORE IT, POKE AT IT, QUESTION IT, AND TURN IT INSIDE OUT.
Empowering Cutting-edge research

15 different awards are given to more than 30 individuals annually.

Dedicated to those who ask the questions...those who teach us how to ask questions...and those who support the asking and the teaching.

Cutting-edge research

Ensuring the future of periodontology by strengthening future generations.

We are visionary

Science is the work of centuries to bring together all the knowable phenomena of our world.

Our inspiring stories

Albert Einstein
The art and science of asking questions
is the source of all knowledge.

Thomas Berger
Dear Colleagues,

2018 was another exciting year for the AAP Foundation (AAPF), and I was grateful for the opportunity to serve as president of this vibrant organization. Through your support, the AAP Foundation was able to forge partnerships, support education and research, and strengthen the specialty in ways that will impact periodontology for years to come.

2018 saw the Foundation’s partnership with the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) on the LEAD (Leadership, Engagement, Action, Development) program come to fruition. Fourteen (14) bright young periodontists from various backgrounds were able to learn firsthand from prominent periodontists, including AAP and AAP Foundation leaders, key opinion leaders, and others who are making a significant impact on the specialty.

The AAP Foundation also supported the Women in Periodontology (WIP) initiative, which has mobilized to deliver a newsletter, webinars, and other targeted resources to address the specific challenges women face as periodontists. The Foundation was present at the inaugural reception that was held to commemorate WIP accomplishments at the 2018 AAP Annual Meeting in Vancouver.

The Vancouver Annual Meeting saw the AAP and the AAP Foundation collaborate on a very special Awards Ceremony, followed by the AAP Foundation Donor Appreciation Reception. The reception acknowledged our most generous donors with a bountiful buffet, an opportunity to meet current and past award recipients, and beautiful music in an elegant setting with a view of the water.

The New Century Committee composed of prior AAPF award winners conducted its sixth educational session, Future Horizons in Periodontology, at the 2018 Annual Meeting. It was the best-attended session to date. The topic was Peri-Implant Disease and Associated Regenerative Alternatives, moderated by Drs. Praveen Gajendrareddy and Hector Rios. Drs. Fernando Suarez Lopez del Arno, Sivaraman Prakasam, and Kevin Matthew Byrd shared their innovative research, demonstrating the impact of your investment in the AAP Foundation.

The Dr. James T. Mellonig Regeneration Research Award was made possible by a generous gift from Dr. Jo Rummelhart. After Dr. Rummelhart, the Mellonig Committee, Foundation staff, and Dr. Mellonig collaborated on the award specifications, we were proud to select the inaugural Mellonig Award recipient in 2018.

In addition to welcoming our largest PerioDash participation yet, fundraising efforts continue to bring The Patty & Paul Levi Research Award, The Dr. Connie L. Drisko-Women in Periodontics Leadership Awards, The William Giannobile Award, The AAP Foundation Research Fellowship, and The Dr. Daniel Buser Fellowship to their full potential as permanent Foundation award offerings. If fundraising is successful, these awards will contribute to the roughly $400,000 the Foundation currently distributes to outstanding individuals who are committed to a career in teaching, who are conducting innovative research, and who are exemplifying the excellence our profession has come to represent.

I hope you will continue to support the AAP Foundation as it fosters crucial research, exemplary education, and the best patient care we can provide. Our collective efforts are making an impact, and I can’t wait to see what the future of periodontology will hold.

Kindest regards,

Pamela K. McClain, DDS
President

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President
Meet the AAPF 2018 award recipients who will inspire the periodontists of tomorrow
In 2018, Dr. Amarpreet Sabharwal accomplished a much-awaited goal. He landed an academic position at the University at Buffalo and received an AAP Educator Scholarship. “The Foundation supports us through times of uncertainty and helps us fulfill our professional goals. This recognition is a point of pride—it’s inspired my enthusiasm and interest to pursue the career I believe in. I’m encouraged to see education as an activity that extends beyond teaching and to remind my students about the honor in serving others by providing quality dental care,” he says.

Dr. Sabharwal is involved in both clinical and translational research. His projects include studies related to microbial genomics and the oral microbiome. He is also partnering with colleagues in the computer sciences to develop machine-learning algorithms for radiographic analysis. In the area of patient care, he’s exploring a novel device which may be an adjunct to non-surgical periodontal therapy.

Since beginning his career in dentistry, Dr. Sabharwal has been focused on decision-making from an evidence-based perspective. Periodontology’s heavy research component, coupled with the use of data to inform decision-making, validate diagnostic accuracy, and measure progress, attracted Dr. Sabharwal to the specialty.

“To make theoretical learning and clinical application seamless, I am eager to explore novel teaching methods and philosophies,” says Dr. Sabharwal. He adds, “Computer applications can make learning interesting and interactive. I also hope to be a leader both within my institution and at a national level and look forward to serving the periodontal community. Wherever life takes me, I’ll be seeking to promote the many ways that periodontists contribute to health care and to represent the field in the best possible light.”
Dr. Lin's responsibilities center around teaching both predoctoral students and residents. His research focuses on evidence-based dentistry and implant-related clinical trials. He performs systematic reviews and meta-analyses as well as conducts clinical projects focusing on treatment of peri-implant disease. Being an effective mentor is a top priority, and he strives to stay abreast of the latest developments in periodontology. He says, “I’d like to introduce innovative technology, such as 3D printing, into our curriculum. Foundation support will allow me to provide more state-of-the-art devices and instruments to my students. I’ll also be able to attend the educational conferences and meetings that help to keep my skills and knowledge fresh. It’s an extraordinary experience to mentor a student all the way through their education. I feel honored to receive this great recognition and encouraged to be a role model for others.”

Foundation recognition is a testament to Dr. Guo-Hao Lin’s enthusiasm for an academic life. “The Foundation is a cornerstone for young professionals,” he says, adding, “The organization ensures that the next generation will be even stronger. This support really helped to launch my academic career.” In addition to his current Teaching Fellowship, Dr. Lin also received the Dr. Walter D. Cohen Teaching Award in 2016 and the ADEA/AAL Institute for Teaching and Learning Fellowship in 2017.

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AAP Teaching Fellow

Guo-Hao Lin, DDS, MS
Assistant Professor
University of California, San Francisco
A keen interest in periodontal care and gingival surgery surfaced early in Dr. Lin’s career. That, and the high prevalence of gum disease in Taiwan, where Dr. Lin is from, turned his interest to periodontology. “Even with conventional treatment, we sometimes don’t get the ideal outcomes,” he says. Dr. Lin realized that becoming a periodontist would enable him to care for patients effectively. As he learned about the specialty, he saw how much room there is for new research and discovery. “Periodontology allows us to do preventive care as well as help patients who have active disease. We provide treatment for wide-ranging issues that impact dental and systemic health,” he says.

Service to his community and his profession is a means for Dr. Lin to pay back the generosity that has advanced his career. He says, “Our free dental clinic, where I am a regular provider, is completely supported by volunteers. San Francisco is such an expensive place to live; many residents can’t afford dental care. The clinic is dedicated to helping the underserved population. I was proud to be recognized as Volunteer Faculty of the Year in 2018.”

Backpacking, hiking, and nature claim Dr. Lin’s attention when he isn’t with his students. San Francisco provides a perfect backdrop for those outdoor interests.

“The Foundation is a cornerstone for young professionals. The organization ensures that the next generation will be even stronger.”
Dr. Kang Ko discovered dentistry as a volunteer in the University of San Diego’s Pre-Dental Society community outreach clinic. Later as a dental student, he was drawn to the clinical complexities of periodontology and the extensive body of research available to justify clinical practice. “I saw many patients who had medical issues,” Dr. Ko says. “It was clear that there was a systemic component impacting their periodontal health.”

Diabetes and its relationship to bone healing is another early interest that has continued throughout Dr. Ko’s career. He is currently investigating the effect of diabetes on mesenchymal stem cells during hard and soft tissue wound healing and whether NF-κB inhibitor could be a novel treatment for diabetic fracture and gingival wound healing.

“Becoming an academician wouldn’t have been possible for me if I were crippled with student debt,” says Dr. Ko. “The Educator Scholarship has definitely helped to alleviate that stress. Our field needs teachers to progress. I have colleagues who would have been perfect for academics, but finances prevented them from pursuing a teaching career,” he adds.

As a scientist, Dr. Ko keeps clinical relevance top of mind. He seeks research projects that will allow him to investigate questions of importance to patients and the public. His goal is to eventually run his own lab and create an environment where he can mentor future academics and share his passion for learning. A training grant from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research should help him gain the practical experience he needs to be an administrator and the scientific expertise to secure future funding.

“Foundation grants enable people like me to pursue their goals,” says Dr. Ko. He adds, “Research is the basis for our specialty. Without scientists, our profession could become a technical occupation. It’s important for us to have enough educators to keep periodontology growing.”

Moving from sunny San Diego to Philadelphia was quite a change for Dr. Ko, but he’s adjusting to the climate. Other attractions, like Philadelphia’s many great restaurants, are making the transition smoother.
I came to the United States 15 years ago with $2,000 in my pocket,“ Dr. Vivek Math recalls. “It doesn’t go far, and I didn’t know anyone in the field. Over the years I was fortunate enough to have wonderful mentors and friends who were supportive, inspiring, and guiding forces. There are a lot of academics like me who may not be fortunate enough to receive the opportunities I did. I want to be an example to demonstrate how generosity and mentorship make a difference.”

Dr. Math completed his PhD and periodontology residency at the University of Minnesota. From there he received a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Now he has his own laboratory at the University of Maryland funded by a NIH K99/R00 grant. He and his research team have four primary areas of investigation:

• The human genetics of periodontal disease
• Oral microbiome-host immune interactions in periodontal disease
• Osteoimmunology in periodontal health and disease
• Mineralized tissue biology

Dr. Math is quick to emphasize that all of the studies are translational. “You can’t make scientific discoveries looking at a petri dish forever,” he says. “Unless a study has clinical relevance it doesn’t excite me. I’m a clinician at heart.”

Early in his career Dr. Math was attracted to surgery. He says, “Initially, I wanted to be an oral surgeon. But I realized that a career in surgery would probably not give me time for research. As a periodontist I can do both.” The strong evidence basis of the specialty and the quality of science are factors that convinced Dr. Math to pursue periodontology, and he is happy that he made the right choice.

“Receiving the Teaching Fellowship has given me peace of mind,” says Dr. Math. “It’s difficult to sustain an academic career when you invest so many years in training and end up having considerable student loan debt. This funding has helped me to feel more comfortable about my financial obligations. That makes my wife happy, too,” he says jokingly. “I can’t tell you how important the support is to us,” he adds.

Helping his students to gain a true understanding of what they are learning is very gratifying for Dr. Math. “When I was a dental student, I was focused on meeting the requirements, sometimes at the expense of the knowledge,” he says. “Good grades are important, but laying a strong clinical and didactic foundation is paramount. That’s what I emphasize to my students.” Dr. Math loves helping his undergraduate and postgraduate students grow in skill and transform their lives.
Each year, the AAP Foundation funds scholarships for periodontists to attend the American Dental Education Association/Academy for Academic Leadership Institute for Teaching & Learning (ADEA/AAL ITL) in the Health Professions. Created for early- and mid-career faculty and private practice dentists interested in a new career in academics, the ADEA/AAL ITL is dental education’s most comprehensive teacher training program. During the two-phase program, ADEA/AAL ITL scholars 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 2018 the ADEA/AAL selected 11 periodontists to receive the AAP Foundation Fellowship to the ADEA/AAL Institute for Teaching & Learning in the Health Professions. They are: Drs. Shan-Huey Erin Yu, University of Michigan; Carlos Parra Carrasquer, Texas A & M University; Daniel Thunell, University of Utah; Kevin Wanxin Luan, University of Illinois; Šuncica Travan, University of Michigan; Alex Gillone, East Carolina University; Abhiram Maddi, University at Buffalo; Jennette B. O’Bryhim, US Army Advanced Education Program in Periodontics; Vrushali P. Abhyankar, University of Tennessee; Lea El Hachem, Boston University; Himabindu Dukka, University of Louisville; Md Zahid Hossain, Najran University; and Carlos Garaicoa-Pazmino, University of Michigan.

When asked about his experience, Dr. Carrasquer says, “The AAL-ITL was a profound learning experience in regard to teaching and mentoring strategies. The program equipped me with various tools and techniques which I have already begun to implement when training students. Additionally, I met other peer educators who share a common passion for periodontology and with whom I expect to continue to exchange invaluable insight.”

Dr. Thunell adds, “Attending the ITL has been a transformative experience in helping me better connect not just with the students I teach, but with my own patients as well. It has helped me better identify my own teaching goals, and find ways to create more in-depth dialogue with my students.”
"Residency programs are geared towards training periodontists and not educators. There are no formal courses to prepare dental educators for a career in academics. Academia is a tough environment and requires on-the-job learning. The next generation of clinicians, researchers, and educators are watching us — their teachers — and it is our responsibility to provide them the best opportunities in education, professionalism, ethics, and leadership. The Institute for Teaching & Learning (ITL) is an excellent program designed to help early-career educators like me thrive in academics. The program presents top-notch, award-winning speakers who introduce concepts that are indispensable for educators at any stage of their careers. I would have no access to such information without this program. The professional connections and partnerships that I made through this program are so vital to my progress," says Dr. Dukka.

Dr. Abhyankar reflects on her experience, saying, "Although I have always been passionate about teaching, I have never had formal educator training. From early on, I struggled to find the right balance between my roles as a friend, philosopher, and guide in the academic environment. The AAL-ITL fellowship award helped me understand that there is no singular, all-encompassing teaching methodology, but numerous approaches that need not be uncomplementary. Interacting with peers and stalwarts of the profession provided me with an opportunity to increase my awareness of effective teaching methods in the complex health professional environment, allowing me to incorporate them harmoniously with my coaching ideology."

The AAP Foundation is proud to support these talented educators on their journey in academia.

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Carlos Parra Carrasquer
Texas A & M University
The Charles W. Finley Visiting Scholar Education Grant

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. This year’s recipients are Indiana University, The University of California at San Francisco, and The University of California at Los Angeles.

The University of California at Los Angeles welcomed Stefan Renvert, DDS, PhD, who delivered the presentation, *Treatment of Peri-Implantitis: What is Evidence Based?* Nearly 100 individuals from UCLA’s dental school attended, and attendees earned two hours of continuing education (CE) credit. Dr. Paulo Camargo, Professor and Chair, Periodontics, Tarrson Family Endowed Chair in Periodontics and Associate Dean of Clinical Dental Sciences at the UCLA School of Dentistry, says, “UCLA was proud to provide this unique learning opportunity for our dental students, residents, and faculty on the topic of peri-implantitis, which is a growing problem in patient care. This presentation by Dr. Stefan Renvert, who is a world authority on the subject, could not have occurred without the Charles W. Finley Visiting Scholar Education Grant. Dr. Renvert’s presentation highlighted the importance of properly diagnosing peri-implant diseases, and provided the audience with evidence-based and practical approaches to use non-surgical and surgical therapies in managing peri-implant pathology. It was outstanding!”

Dr. Purnima Kumar, Professor of Periodontology at The Ohio State University School of Dentistry, was kind enough to speak at the Periodontal Study Club at Indiana University. Dr. Kumar spoke on the topic titled “Antibiotic Wars: Revenge of the Bacteria,” giving the group a macro view on how resistance is developed. In addition, Dr. Kumar gave a most exciting and thought-provoking presentation titled “Periodontal Research — Life on the Cutting Edge.” Dr. Vanchit John, Chair of the Department of Periodontology and Professor at Indiana University, said, “The presentation opened our eyes in so many ways.”

The University of California at San Francisco was pleased to host Dr. Hom-Lay Wang, DDS, MSD, PhD, Collegiate Professor of Periodontics, Professor and Director of Graduate Periodontics at the University of Michigan. All residents, faculty, and alumni from the Periodontics and Prosthodontics divisions were invited to attend. Dr. Wang’s presentation was titled “Prevention of Implant Complications: Key to Success.” Attendees earned four hours of CE credit and learned how to recognize factors that contribute to implant complications and how to prevent future complications along with the most common ways of managing implant complications today.

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The Charles W. Finley Visiting Scholar Education Grants are sponsored in part by GluStitch, Inc.

Dr. Hom-Lay Wang with the periodontology residents at UCSF.

Dr. Hom-Lay Wang with residents and faculty at UCSF.

Dr. Stefan Renvert with residents and faculty at UCLA.
Dr. Irina Dragan's interest in periodontology grew from her experience as a patient. When she was a dental student in her home country of Romania, she needed an implant. “In Romania of 2006, periodontology wasn’t a specialty at that time,” she says. Later, participating in an externship at the University of Maryland provided her with a whole new perspective on dentistry and awakened the desire to pursue advanced training.

Having her accomplishments recognized was exciting. “I’m honored to be the recipient of this award and the first Tarrson Fellow from Tufts University,” Dr. Dragan says. “I’m also grateful for the support from my mentors and the committee that made the decision. Once you’re recognized as a potential leader, there’s a lot of weight on your shoulders. It’s a significant responsibility,” she adds.

Facilitating interdisciplinary and interprofessional relationships is one of Dr. Dragan’s special interests. She is currently teaching a course where residents across departments meet to discuss the same case. “If we are able to treatment plan with restorative dentists,” she notes, “it will be better for the patient and better for our colleagues.” Dr. Dragan is also teaching the critical evaluation of scientific literature and is often invited to lecture in literature review courses.

Along with fostering productive clinical relationships, using technology to facilitate the educational experience is another of Dr. Dragan’s priorities. “We’re just beginning to understand the potential. There isn’t a lot of research about how technology can impact teaching periodontology and surgery,” she says. She’ll be presenting information on simulation and demonstrating a touch surgery app that allows dentists to practice surgical techniques using their phones at the AAP Innovation Forum.

In the area of clinical research, Dr. Dragan is investigating the potential for soft tissue grafting using a new alternative material made of fish skin. Her focus on emerging techniques and the intersection of the digital and dental worlds has not gone unnoticed. She's been asked to serve as science and technology chair for a joint meeting of the American and European Dental Education Associations.

“As dental educators,” Dr. Dragan says, “we serve both patients and students. Through this award, I was able to continue some of the projects that will assure safer patient care and improve education. I love mentoring and seeing how students develop and mature. I tell them they are diamonds that just need to be polished and face the sun in the right direction so their light can be brilliant.”
Before dental school, Dr. Elissa Beth Green didn’t know what periodontology was. “I was set on becoming a general dentist,” she recalls. “When I started seeing my own patients, many had periodontal needs. I spent a lot of time in the department of periodontology shadowing instructors, and I loved the subject matter, doing surgery, and participating in the healing process. Drilling the tooth is a finite activity. Periodontists do more building than taking away,” she adds.

Foundation support helped get Dr. Green off to a strong start in her new career. “The award was hugely beneficial,” she notes. “I invested the money in instruments I needed for practice. This tremendous gift relieved the burden between finishing school and starting to work. It’s a constant reminder to try hard, do my best, and continuously improve. Having an organization that helps young people and motivates them to keep the specialty growing is terrific,” adds Dr. Green.

After her graduation in June 2018, Dr. Green began private practice and a part-time teaching position at University of California at Los Angeles. “I have always wanted to be in private practice,” she says, adding, “I joined a group of clinicians who I respect and want to model. It’s nice not to work in isolation and to also remain part of the UCLA family. The students ask questions that keep me on my toes, and I enjoy helping them through their first procedures.”

When she’s not in her office, Dr. Green spends time getting to know her new dental community. She lectures at her study club and makes it a point to meet other practitioners and build her reputation and referral base. “Getting patients and providers to know me is a process that never ends,” she says. Promoting research and education in her specialty will be another ongoing activity. She adds, “I think about living up to Dr. Kramer’s message all the time.”

Sharing her gifts with those who are less fortunate is also a priority. “I went on a mission trip to an island off the coast of Fiji,” she says. “I spent 10 days doing 40 to 50 extractions each day. It was an incredible experience. Many of the people had never been to a dentist. They were so welcoming and grateful,” she adds.

In addition to a growing career, Dr. Green also will be getting a new life partner. She recently became engaged and is managing to squeeze wedding planning into her already busy schedule.
The AAP Foundation is like home. I am really thankful,” says Fatemeh Momen-Heravi. “As a young scientist-clinician, receiving this award was a huge intellectual support. The recognition validates me and the next generation of periodontists.”

Dr. Heravi thrives on variety. The multiple facets of periodontology, including basic science, surgery, and the relationship to medicine and engineering, are a perfect fit for her energetic personality. She loves academia for many of the reasons she was attracted to periodontology, “It’s never the same!” she says. “Every day there are new challenges and excitement. Teaching and the basic science lab give me the opportunity to continue learning and to look at my work and my research from different angles. Also, being surrounded by the passion of all these young people is very rewarding!”

Dr. Heravi’s research focuses on the role of innate immunity, the molecular biology basis of periodontal diseases, and how these influences are related to cancer. Her commitment to science is matched by her enthusiasm for teaching. “In my interaction with students, I can influence and emphasize the importance of periodontics to overall health. I love showing them how diverse and exciting this profession can be,” she says. “Teaching is a two-way process. The students encourage me to constantly rethink my approach. I’m motivated to leverage my skills and to evaluate how I can improve to be my best,” says Dr. Heravi.

“We expect great things from researchers and educators like Dr. Heravi who are preparing the next generation of periodontists to treat oral healthcare with a more systemic approach,” says Ed Shellard, DMD, chief dental officer of Carestream Dental, which sponsors the Dr. D. Walter Cohen Teaching Award. He adds, “With growing concerns around peri-implant diseases, supporting Dr. Heravi in her research is more important now than ever before. We look forward to seeing what she achieves to advance the specialty, as well as how her students will benefit from her passion and knowledge.”

Along with mentoring and inspiring students, establishing her lab at Columbia University is another top priority for this young researcher. She hopes that her work, both as a scientist and an academic, will have a long-term influence on her chosen profession. Recent awards including the IADR Periodontal Research Group Past Presidents’ Travel Award, a Society for Leukocyte Biology Award, and grants from Columbia University indicate that she’s off to a good start. Dr. Heravi sees the AAP Foundation as critical to helping young academics and scientists realize their professional dreams. “Foundation donors are making a huge difference for us and we will eventually be able to return that generosity to society,” she says.

Life in New York City is a great fit for Dr. Heravi. Her love of learning isn’t limited to dentistry. She’s an avid reader and the city’s cultural diversity and opportunities are a constant source of interest and inspiration.
Meet the AAPF 2018 award recipients who will inspire the periodontists of tomorrow

RESEARCH
It’s an honor to be selected for this award and an incredible point of pride,” says Dr. Lorenzo Mordini. He adds, “My recognition reflects on all of the people who helped me get to this stage of my career — they’re all proud to be part of my education. Now I have more visibility among other colleagues and professors. I’m inspired to continue working hard. I want to be more involved with the Foundation because I understand its important role in supporting students and young faculty."

From the moment he entered dental school, Dr. Mordini knew he wanted to be a periodontist. Watching his mother, who was a dentist, work alongside a surgeon stimulated his interest in surgery. Today he is the surgical coordinator of implant surgical procedures at Creighton University. “The undergraduate surgical implant treatment at my school is very advanced,” he says. “Students learn the current standards of prosthetic-driven, digital and guided implant placement. They use digital scanners to help create more predictable outcomes. I also conduct simulation labs where students practice the techniques that we use on patients,” he says.

Steve Boggan, President and CEO of BioHorizons Implant Systems, Inc. says, “BioHorizons would like to congratulate Dr. Mordini on becoming the Nevins-BioHorizons Fellowship recipient. We look forward to his continued success as he mentors and enhances the support provided to both the students and patients at Creighton. Thank you to the AAP Foundation for providing an opportunity to support such an incredible cause and individual.”

In the future, Dr. Mordini plans to become even more involved in the Foundation and the world of periodontology like one of his mentors, Dr. Paul Levi. He is also grateful for Dr. Nevins, BioHorizons, and the other donors who made the Nevins BioHorizons Fellowship possible. “The Foundation changes lives,” he says, adding, “Academia is more financially challenging than private practice and the people who get these awards have a better chance of success. The grants motivate teachers and researchers to keep going.” For himself, Dr. Mordini plans to make academia his home. He hopes to someday be considered a great teacher and mentor and a pioneer of new horizons.

Dr. Mordini moved to the United States from Italy in 2011. He annually visits his home city of Modena, which he says is famous around the world thanks to opera singer Pavarotti, Ferrari, and chef Massimo Bottura. But he loves living in Omaha and makes it a priority to give back to the community by treating low-income and homeless patients in the university’s clinic. An interest in art, including ceramics, painting, and photography, gives Dr. Mordini a chance to develop creative abilities that enhance the innovation he brings to teaching and research.
Finding balance in her work and her life is a priority for Dr. Yung-Ting Hsu. The Nevins Fellowship was confirmation that she can have a career that combines teaching with research. A supportive family helps her to manage being a new mother and a busy academician.

Dr. Hsu participated in her first research project as a dental student. “I had a brilliant mentor who taught me how to think critically,” she says. “He also helped me to discover that periodontal research was more fun than I ever imagined. I completed my first residency at Kaohsiung Medical University in Taiwan because he was on faculty. To further explore periodontics, I decided to do another residency at University of Michigan, where I learned from the giants in clinic and research, who continue to inspire and guide my career in academia.”

Science plays a significant role in Dr. Hsu’s daily life. Along with her teaching responsibilities she has a robust research agenda involving multiple projects. Her primary interests are periodontal regeneration, the treatment and prevention of peri-implant diseases, and interdisciplinary therapy. She says, “Since 2015 I’ve been working on a cooperative project to develop a computerized model for a bone-and-implant system. I also work on projects involving phenotypes among races. We hope to share the preliminary results this year at the AAP meeting. In addition, I’m working with residents and my colleagues at the University of Detroit Mercy on other studies related to management and risk factors for peri-implantitis.”

The collaborative aspects of periodontology are especially attractive to Dr. Hsu. “Periodontists work as a team with the patient. We build a bond with our patients and we tailor the treatment plan to meet their needs,” she advises. “When I’m teaching my residents or dental students, I focus on critical thinking because there is no perfect technique or material. Specialists must understand the pros and cons as well as the risks to work with our patients to choose the best treatment plan.”

Dr. Hsu is grateful for the support she has received in her career. “I’m a very lucky person,” she says. “The award is recognition for me and everyone who has helped me along the way. I have great mentors and wonderful colleagues. I wouldn’t be here without them. The AAP Foundation provides opportunity. It opens doors for our youth who refresh society and keep science strong.”
Dr. Shaimaa Al Harthi believes in the importance of legacies. She looks to the AAP Foundation to fulfill that significant role. “Donations to the Foundation affect the lives of educators and scientists as well as the students and patients they support,” she notes. “When you contribute to research and education, the impact of giving outlasts your own life. Each contribution touches many people and becomes a far-reaching investment in the future,” says Dr. Al Harthi.

“I do not like doing the same thing every day,” Dr. Al Harthi says. “I enjoy being challenged. Periodontology brings me face-to-face with esthetics, pain relief, tooth replacement, and so many other areas of dentistry. I love being involved in the physical aspects of healing and it’s gratifying to see patients improve after surgery. Every case is a new encounter. By preserving my patients’ teeth and the supporting structure, I can contribute to their quality of life and give them a solid foundation for a healthy smile,” she adds.

Becoming an academic leader is one of Dr. Al Harthi’s dreams. “I am grateful for the support and the recognition the AAP Foundation has given me at this early stage in my career,” she says. “It affirms that I’m on the right track. I look forward to giving back to the Foundation and helping support future generations of periodontists.”

The combination of being a teacher, a researcher, and a health care provider offers the variety that Dr. Al Harthi craves. “Through our role as educators, we have unlimited possibilities to make a difference in the lives of our students,” she advises. “I like transforming complex, new materials into teachable stories. There is a tremendous sense of achievement when I see improvements in my students’ knowledge, skills, and confidence.”

Looking beyond the classroom and the clinic is a priority for Dr. Al Harthi. “I am a member of the Community Services Committee of the Faculty of Dentistry at Taif University. We go to public schools to educate the students about how to take care of their oral health and we organize campaigns to educate the public,” she says.

For the future, Dr. Al-Harthi plans to continue working in academia, treating patients and conducting research to bridge her clinical background with her scientific interests. She explains, “I hope my efforts will contribute to the body of knowledge and to the legacy of the many researchers who have made an impact on our field.”
When someone says, ‘Dr. Yu, I need your help,’ I know that I’m starting to grow because I’m able to support the students,” says Dr. Shan-Huey Yu. “I love being needed and knowing that the students rely on me when they have a patient care issue. I’m approachable, and they see that I understand the dilemmas they are facing,” she adds.

Renewed motivation has been one result of receiving the Lazzara Fellowship for Dr. Yu. “I was so happy when I got the Foundation’s check in my mail,” says Dr. Yu. “It’s hard to believe that there is this support for a fresh, young faculty member with no significant accomplishments. I’m honored that you trust me and are fostering my growth during the transition from student to faculty.”

Dr. Yu is enthusiastic about all the new experiences that her fellowship year is bringing. “The University of Michigan is great,” she explains. “In addition to seeing patients, I’ve started teaching in the graduate clinic, didactic teaching, and being involved in more research.” Completing her graduate student thesis is just one of Dr. Yu’s ongoing projects. She is comparing short implants with the standardized length and sinus lifting. Several other clinical trials, as well as benchside research working with animal models, are also keeping her deeply engaged in science.

“The concept of the flipped classroom encourages students to do the preparation to facilitate the discussion. It creates a very interactive environment.”
Dr. Ken Korman, Dr. Yu’s mentor, plays a big role in her academic journey. “Dr. Korman is an insider on a lot of famous studies,” says Dr. Yu. “He helps us to understand the details of the research,” she says. A fellowship to the Institute for Teaching and Learning provided Dr. Yu with another boost in discovering how to be an effective academician. “I took a class about the effectiveness of letting students take the lead in their education,” says Dr. Yu. “The concept of the flipped classroom encourages students to do the preparation to facilitate the discussion. It creates a very interactive environment,” she adds.

Teaching draws on Dr. Yu’s creative ability. She enjoys finding interesting strategies to help her students master challenging material. A Monopoly game based on inflammation pathways seemed a little silly at first. But at the end of the class, her students had absorbed this somewhat tedious information.

The fellowship award has given Dr. Yu the opportunity to be involved in clinical research projects and didactic teaching. “Long term, I’m really interested in pursuing both those paths,” she says. For the moment, she’s thrilled to be discovering more about how to help her students learn. Dr. Yu says, “I just graduated so I remember where I needed extra support. Now I’m on the other side. I know exactly how I can help my students.”

Will probiotics someday play a routine role in dental hygiene? Hanna Brody is on a fast track to find out. Ms. Brody is fascinated with microbiology, genetics, and the immune system. “When I was an undergraduate, I studied how variations on a single chromosome in a fruit fly can change aspects of that insect’s existence,” she says. As a fourth-year predoctoral student, Ms. Brody’s research focuses on identifying whether probiotics, in conjunction with scaling and root planing, have a positive impact on clinical outcomes.

Ms. Brody will take her research to a new level when she begins her periodontal training. University of California, San Francisco Dental School is the top NIH funding recipient for the 25th year. “It’s an exciting place to be a resident,” she notes. “There are endless opportunities for honing my surgical skills and learning procedures that I’ve only read about.” Ms. Brody’s goal is private practice, but a grounding in science and the importance of an evidence-based approach are values she learned from her father, who is an orthopedic surgeon. She’s interested in teaching part-time to ensure that her knowledge and clinical skills remain cutting edge.

“The Foundation award has helped me to pursue my career in periodontology,” Ms. Brody says. “The financial benefits allowed me to travel to all my residency interviews. I learned about research that was completely new to me. There is incredible diversity in the field. The amazing clinicians and scientists I met made me appreciate the depth and breadth of knowledge in this specialty. Although I’ve only been part of the Foundation community for a few months, the connections and mentorship opportunities have been plentiful. The experience has made a difference in my life and encouraged me to continue with my research.”

The Foundation is not the only organization to recognize Ms. Brody’s early accomplishments. She also received the William Kramer Award from the Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society, which is given annually to a student for academic and clinical excellence.

A desire to help others is a strong motivator for Ms. Brody to excel. Public health dentistry is one of her passions. With support from the SPEAR Open Wide Foundation, she coordinated a student outreach trip to provide care for an underserved community in Guatemala. She is also a weekly volunteer in the UCSF community dental clinic that provides service to the city’s homeless population. “I was raised in Palo Alto, and I’m proud to support my community,” she says.

In addition to research, clinic, and community service, a daily yoga practice keeps Ms. Brody focused and helps her use her best skills to care for her patients.
The intersection of periodontal research with other branches of science and medicine fascinates Dr. Dan Clark. Dr. Clark completed his periodontal program in 2016. Now, his PhD research is allowing him to explore those significant connections more deeply. His focus is on osteoimmunology and on a basic science understanding of the inflammatory processes that occur in bone. Specifically, he is interested to see how with age the inflammatory process changes in periodontal disease. By studying the cellular targets where inflammation becomes dysregulated, he hopes to influence clinical outcomes.

“When you are pursuing an academic career and have significant student loans, there is always pressure to go into private practice,” Dr. Clark advises. “Receiving support from the Foundation allowed me to continue with my PhD.” In addition to uninterrupted scholarship, Dr. Clark is also grateful for the encouragement that recognition brings.

Dr. Clark is impressed with the Foundation’s impact on the specialty. “Support for researchers and early-career investigators sets the field of periodontology apart,” he notes. “That’s one of the main reasons this discipline was so attractive to me. The specialty has the history and reputation of being at the forefront of dental science and it is also impactful in medicine. The Foundation continues to augment that tradition.”

The flexibility to use findings and principles that have been established in the orthopedic lab, and to incorporate those questions into his own research, are benefits of Dr. Clark’s current situation. But as much as he is interested in basic science questions, he also wants to be involved in the translation of knowledge from benchside to chairside.

Helping the dental students who work under him in the lab catch his enthusiasm for periodontology and science is one of the most rewarding aspects of Dr. Clark’s career. He’s excited to expose them to academic dentistry and to watch them build a foundation of knowledge for the future.

Professional and personal interests find common ground in Dr. Clark’s hobbies. As a native of Wisconsin, he brews beer, his state’s unofficial beverage. Tinkering with the microbial balance in his home brews keeps the science present, even in his leisure activities.
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President Dr. Pamela K. McClain presents Dr. Momen-Heravi with her Dr. D. Walter Cohen Teaching Award
It is my pleasure to present this 2018 Financial Report to the generous friends and benefactors of the American Academy of Periodontology Foundation. The AAP Foundation’s financial position remains strong thanks to your generosity, the vision of the Board of Directors, prudent management by staff, and a diversified portfolio. We remain by far the largest federally tax-exempt public charity in the United States devoted to periodontal education and research.

Most of you know that the market took a steep dive in the last two months of 2018, resulting in a less than desirable December 31 financial snapshot. I stress that these losses were on paper only and the value of our investments has bounced back. Meanwhile, actual dividends, interest, and realized gains on strategic sales of investments were robust. Major and planned gifts have increased. We are the beneficiary of more testamentary bequests than before. The dental industry continues to expand its support, indicating that the AAP Foundation inspires trust and confidence in what we do. The AAP Foundation is a careful steward of your dollars 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 2019 and beyond. We have awarded $5.5 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 a quarter century.

Robert A. Vitas, PhD, CAE, CFRE, Executive Director

Here are the sources of our support:

Contributions and pledges totaled $737,924, which is about a 30 percent increase over the previous year.

Actual realized investment income was $470,440 on a portfolio of $8 million.

Programming garnered an additional $7,525 in revenue.

What do we do with your hard-earned dollars?

$372,000 granted in scholarships and fellowships reflects our unswerving commitment to periodontal education and research.

Another $50,000 supported educational programming of the American Academy of Periodontology.

Program support activities expended $178,596.

Annual Meeting programs were $47,772, and Outreach programs totaled $352,049.

Operational expenses were $331,522, an increase from 2017 due to expenditures related to a capital campaign feasibility study.
The Visionary Society encourages gifts of future assets, thereby ensuring the AAP Foundation’s strength and viability over the longer term.

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This year roughly 200 participants ran or walked to support periodontal education in the AAP Foundation’s 4th annual PerioDash virtual run! PerioDash was held during the first two weeks of October, and was supported by individuals, school teams, and practice teams. With team names like the “Vertical Defects” and “top gum”, we know that people have a lot of fun with this event while raising money and awareness for the AAP Foundation. This year’s PerioDash raised nearly $7,000 to support the AAPF’s education and research mission. Thanks to all our 2018 participants – hope to see you again next year!
American Academy of Periodontology

The American Academy of Periodontology is deeply grateful for the foundation and corporate support it received in 2018 for its annual meeting, conferences, and key strategic priorities.

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AAP Foundation Silent Auction Donors 2018

The AAP Foundation would like to thank all who contributed items to the AAP Foundation 2018 Silent Auction. Your generosity helped to make this year’s auction one of our best yet! Nearly 100 winning bidders raised just under $25,000 to support the Foundation’s education and research mission. Thank you!

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