November 20, 2017

**The American Academy of Periodontology Foundation**

**Preserving a Legacy –Transforming the Future**

**Introducing the Case for Supporting Periodontal Research and Education**

***“We are standing on the shoulders of giants. We should cherish what we have accomplished and foresee how our profession will grow and how we can contribute.”*** *Jeff C.W. Wang, DDS, DMSc, AAP Educator Scholar, Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Michigan School of Dentistry*

**We Are Partners**

***“The true strength in our classroom lies in the collaboration of learners, not in the knowledge of one expert.”*** Dr. Yung-Ting (Elizabeth) Hus, DDS, MDSc, Ms, ADEA scholarship recipient, University of Detroit Mercy

The American Academy of Periodontology Foundation is the philanthropic sister organization of the American Academy of Periodontology. The two organizations are opposite sides of the same coin. Each group plays a unique part in keeping the specialty strong.

The academy, which was founded in 1914, represents 8,200 members. Its purpose is to provide advocacy and education that advances clinical practice and quality patient care. The Foundation’s role is to strengthen the educational and scientific base which supports periodontists and their practice. The Foundation invests in the specialty’s most precious resource—its human potential. A portfolio of grants, with funding available for educators and scientists throughout their careers, ensures that the talent needed to transform the future will be ready and available.

**We Are Values**

***“Character over brilliance, attitude over skill…This phrase will stick with me for the rest of my life. Patients depend on us to do what’s right for them. They want someone with high character and a positive attitude toward their field.”*** *Jeff McCullough, DMD, MS, The Dr. and Mrs. Gerald M. Kramer Scholar Award for Excellence, private practice, Los Alamitos, CA*

The Foundation strives to reflect values that will make our friends, donors, and grantees proud. These are the principles by which we live. They inform our decision making and guide our activities:

Vision

Optimal periodontal health for all.

Mission

The mission of the American Academy of Periodontology Foundation is to improve the periodontal and general health of the public through increasing public and professional knowledge of periodontal diseases and their therapies, stimulating basic and clinical research to generate new knowledge, and enhancing educational programs at all levels to create opportunities in periodontal education and practice.

Guiding Lights

* Acts as a trusted steward of its charitable contributions and will use them effectively to support and fund meaningful programs that improve the public’s periodontal health.
* Recognizes that strengthening and improving the specialty of periodontology is important for everyone.
* Supports science-based research and its transfer into practice.
* Advocates life-long learning, scholarships and other initiatives that promote and sustain excellence in periodontal education.
* Believes that good periodontal health improves people’s overall health and quality of life.
* Seeks synergistic partnerships to generate and leverage resources.
* Actively solicits within and outside the dental community to support its research and education programs.

**We Are Our Founders**

***“When we started out there were many doubting Thomases who questioned our ability to raise $5 million. To make a long story short, we met that goal in 1998.”*** Leonard S. Tibbetts, DDS, MSD, founding APP Foundation president.

It takes visionaries—people who are unafraid to dream big. In 1990 Dr. R. Earl “Robbie” Robinson made a remarkable gift to periodontal research and education. His generosity was the spark that inspired a small group of volunteers to believe that they could convince others to follow that example. They dared to imagine that the newly formed American Academy of Periodontology Foundation could raise the unprecedented sum of $5 million. The fact that their optimism was not widely shared didn’t dampen their enthusiasm. The founders were entrepreneurial, energetic, and committed to building a fund that would ensure their specialty’s place as a leader in dentistry.

By 1998, not only was the $5 million goal achieved but, more importantly, a culture of philanthropy had been established. That spirit—the desire to leave the world better than you found it—has grown and taken root throughout the specialty. Today, the Foundation has more than doubled the initial goal.

These statistics reflect the organization’s success over the years:

* $11 million in resources.
* $5 million invested in research and education.
* $450,000 in annual grants to educators, scientists, and residents committed to a career in education.
* 98 percent of over 250 award recipients currently involved in academics.
* 300 volunteers have served on the board and committees.
* 200 volunteers have served as ambassadors, student ambassadors, and fundraisers.

As impressive as the numbers seem, they are just a small piece of the Foundation’s story. Our largest accomplishment cannot be so easily quantified. At the heart of our mission are our people—the award recipients whose careers we support. Their curiosity, commitment to excellence and enthusiasm for a life dedicated to learning is our most precious resource.

Our job is to nurture that talent so that the greatest generation of intellectual leaders will always be the next generation. This ambitious goal is not something we can accomplish alone. It requires that every periodontist who is proud of the profession and who wants the specialty to be as respected tomorrow as it is today, take a stake in that dream. We also look to our partners in industry to join us in developing the academic leaders who will be ready to explore innovative technology and products and to foster new levels of patient care.

To honor our Foundation’s pioneers and their perseverance, we seek to add another $5 million to our fund by 2022. Like our founders, we are optimistic and certain that we can convince others to adopt this vision as their own.

**We Are Education**

***“The investment others have made in me drives me. It encourages me and reminds me that I am making a difference. The students are the best part of teaching. They have the passion, drive, and thirst for knowledge that reminds me why I am doing what I am doing.”*** Dr. Harlan Shiau, DDS, DMSc, Nevins Teaching and Clinical Research Award Fellow, Associate Professor, University of Maryland

Mentors played a significant role in Dr. Harlan Shiau’s career, and he attributes winning the Nevins Fellowship to their guidance. As at most institutions, the University of Maryland’s budget for professional development is spoken for quickly. Dr. Shiau was grateful that his grant provided extra funds to invest in continuing education. He is confident that honing his skills will make him the outstanding mentor his students need to succeed.

Without mentoring, teaching is simply the exchange of knowledge—facts to be memorized, cases to be analyzed. Mentors are the profession’s moral compass. They are the role models students emulate and aspire to become. This relationship is at the heart of a quality education. To imagine that the development of outstanding academic leaders can occur without this wise counsel is dangerous to patients and practitioners. A shortage of mentors, like those who supported Dr. Shiau, could very quickly erode the quality of education for students and compromise patient care.

There Is no Lack of Talent, Only a Lack of Funds

More than other areas of dentistry, periodontics is grounded in biology and science. There is no shortage of clinicians with a passion for learning. But enabling potential academic leaders to pursue a career in education is an ongoing challenge. The income disparity between teaching and clinical practice creates a significant barrier to recruiting and retaining faculty. The Foundation grants bridge this gap and allow more brilliant minds to discover their intellectual home.

Support to aspiring and current academics is more critical than ever. What were once bumps in the road have become boulders preventing all but the most tenacious from making a commitment to teach. The cost of dental education, particularly in this specialty, stands perilously close to outpacing the ability to pay back student loans on a feasible timeline. To choose a career in teaching can equate to choosing a lifetime of debt.

The Foundation exists to ensure that residents and dental students will have trusted advisors who embody impeccable ethics and perpetuate clinical excellence. Our grants support and encourage:

* Visibility and prominence for periodontic departments.
* Recognition for those who excel in academics and research.
* Periodontic training for dental students by periodontists.
* Continuing education and leadership training for faculty.
* Peer-to-peer mentoring and support to grantees through a growing network of award recipients.
* The highest standards of patient care.

The Foundation exists to give every periodontist with a desire to teach the opportunity to realize that dream. We also seek to inspire outstanding educators to continue on their chosen career path. A first step in achieving that goal is to ensure that new teachers develop the skills to enjoy a fulfilling career. In 2016 and 2017, 22 grantees received funding ($4,950) to attend the ADEA/AAL. This comprehensive program is designed to put new educators on the track for professional success and to solidify their commitment to academics.

**We Are Research**

***“When we try to understand disease and wound healing, biology, microbiology, and immunology all come together… I enjoy this deeper understanding; the science of what makes things tick and how we can help patients."*** Salvador Nares, DDS, MS, Phd, Graduate Program Director, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Curiosity – or as Dr. Nares describes it—the desire to understand “what makes things tick,” drives invention and progress. Although the properties of cells, molecules, and genes can seem esoteric and far removed from a patient in the dental chair, without a scientist’s commitment to evidence, clinical practice rests on a house of cards. The Foundation’s responsibility is to keep periodontology grounded in scientific truth and to expand the specialty’s ability to translate research into exceptional patient care.

In 2009, Dr. Nares was the inaugural recipient of the Nevins Teaching and Research Fellowship Award. His scientific focus is the characterization of microRNA’s and their ability to regulate the intensity of important biological processes. His early projects and Foundation support were a springboard to larger funding from the National Institutes of Dental Health as well as the American Academy of Implant Dentistry Research Foundation. We are proud to support dedicated scientists who are putting periodontology at the center of the most exciting discoveries in oral health. Foundation grants advance promising careers by:

* Providing seed money for pilot projects that can lead to large-scale funding.
* Giving new researchers the opportunity to publish findings.
* Positioning faculty to be eligible for tenure.
* Validating the decision to pursue a career in research.
* Giving grantees prestige and credibility in their institutions and throughout the specialty.

The Foundation Preserves the Specialty’s Leading Role in Science

Regenerative approaches to treating periodontal disease and the impact of periodontal disease on systemic health are among the topics that promise to change our landscape. The Foundation is a leader in supporting that development as well as in advancing overarching scientific concerns that directly impact every clinician.

The 2012 Workshop on Periodontitis and Systemic Disease was an international forum for scientists to explore new directions for investigating this relationship. The conference, which was a joint effort of the AAP and the European Academy of Periodontology, stimulated research that is being conducted today. The Foundation provided $85,000 to fund the publication of the proceedings and disseminate the results.

Incredible advancements are also being made in regenerative biology. The Foundation is a major player in nurturing this cutting-edge science. We invested $100,000 in the 2014 Enhancing Periodontal Health Through Regenerative Approaches conference in Chicago. Attendees came together to share their knowledge and to provide a perspective on how regenerative therapies are benefitting practice. They summarized the existing literature, evaluated clinical applications and identified new avenues for research. They also explored concepts such as minimally invasive surgical and diagnostic procedures and the current evidence supporting the reconstruction of lost periodontal hard and soft tissues for regeneration. Through the Dr. James T. Mellonig Regeneration Research Award, the Foundation continues to invest $10,000 annually targeted to regenerative science.

The November 2017 World Workshop on Classification of Periodontal and Peri-Implant Disease was a milestone for the specialty. The Foundation provided $100,000 to the Academy to host this conference in conjunction with the European Federation of Periodontology. More than 100 researchers and practitioners from around the world gathered in Chicago to review the literature and arrive at consensus on updated guidelines for diagnosis. They reevaluated past evidence, incorporated recent findings and provided innovative directions for patient care.

Support for these watershed events reflects the Foundation’s commitment to advancing the art and science of periodontology. The synergy of intellect and information that was created at these gatherings will resonate throughout the dental community.

**We Are the Future**

***“People like me are so enthusiastic and hopeful that we can make a difference in the future. If you give the right people the right opportunities, it comes back to you one-thousand fold.”*** Ann Decker, DMD, University of Michigan

Dr. Ann Decker, a 2016 AAP Educator Scholar, has been fascinated by dental surgery since she underwent a procedure when she was 18 years-old. Periodontology allowed her to marry her passion for immunology research with patient care and the surgical component that inspired her as a teenager. She credits her AAP Educator Scholarship with providing the validation she needed to continue pursuing her goal of becoming a tenure-track faculty member and a clinician-scientist.

The AAP Foundation is working to populate every dental school with periodontists who share Dr. Decker’s excitement and enthusiasm for learning. Our New Century Committee, composed of former award winners, affirms that commitment and gives it a tangible presence in our community.

The Campaign for Perio Innovation and Education

The Campaign for Perio Innovation and Education responds to the need to develop a continuous pipeline of talent. We have a base of funds dedicated to specific research and educational goals. We must grow beyond that benchmark to create a resource that can meet unanticipated needs and sustain current funding initiatives.

Although we can’t predict how the coming decades may unfold, we can prepare. The fourth industrial revolution is at our doorstep. Innovation is occurring at an unprecedented speed. Nanotechnology, biotechnology, and robotics announce an era where the lines between what is biological and what is artificial will blur. Scientists and educators who are not up-to-speed will be left behind.

**You** **Are Our People**

***“The Foundation depends on patrons and their largest patrons should be periodontists because it is their future that we are trying to effect, and their support of the Foundation should be vibrant and strong.”*** Donald S. Clem, III, DDS, Past President, AAP Foundation, Past President AAP, Assistant Professor, Loma Linda University, Adjunct Clinical Professor, University of Texas, San Antonio.

We cannot wait to build the bridge that will carry us successfully into tomorrow. That is a job for today, and it is a job for you. Your support to our specialty is not charity. It is an extraordinary opportunity to:

* Put the best and brightest leaders in the clinic, the lab, and the lecture hall.
* Groom mentors who will perpetuate our mission, vision, and values.
* Recruit faculty with the questing minds, talented hands and dedicated hearts to move our specialty forward.

When you invest in the AAP Foundation, you are investing in our people. They will become your legacy, and, together, we will build the future.

**How You Can Invest in the Foundation**

***“As the AAP Foundation approaches 30 years of forging periodontology’s future, we join in to celebrate. With you helping us lead the way, we will build on our tradition of excellence and leadership in education, research, and service. We invite you to be part of this important and vital endeavor – the campaign for Perio Innovation and Education.”*** Gregory L. Fauth, DDS, President

While every gift is welcome and appreciated, the following are the suggested levels of generosity that will help the Foundation to achieve its goals most efficiently.

**Recognition Levels**

Platinum (Hyperextension): $500,000+

Gold (Implant): $100,000 – $499,999

Silver (Occlusion): $50,000 – $99,999

Cobalt (Gum): $25,000 – $49,999

Copper (Bone): $10,000 – $24,999

Bronze (Enamel): $5,000 – $9,999

Friends (Ligaments): $1,000 – $4,999

Donor (Roots): Up to $999

**How the Foundation Invests in You**

***“There was a time when I thought I might have to leave teaching. The Nevins BioHorizons Fellowship reassured, encouraged, and motivated me to pursue my passion for education and research.”*** Yumi Ogata, DMD, DDS, MS, Assistant Professor, Tufts University School of Dental Medicine

Every award on the list below has impacted many lives. For each outstanding teacher who the Foundation supports, countless students reap the benefits, and for each graduate who developed skills and values at the hand of a caring mentor, hundreds of patients receive better care.

**Current Scholarships and Fellowships**

**AAP Teaching Fellowships -- $100,000 ($50,000 to two grantees annually)**

Intended to support the young periodontal educator's commitment to a career in academia by providing debt relief to qualified applicants.

**Richard J. Lazzara Fellowship in Advanced Implant Surgery -- $50,000**

Intended to provide educational and clinical experiences that reflect the most current techniques in implant dentistry.

**AAP Educator Scholarships -- $50,000 ($25,000 to two grantees annually)**

Financial relief to students intending to pursue careers as full-time teachers at U.S. periodontal programs.

**AAP Foundation Fellowship to the Institute for Teaching & Learning in the Health Professions -- $50,000 ($5,000 to 10 grantees annually)**

To provide tuition to the Institute's Program for Dental School Faculty. Through these courses, new faculty members, or private practitioners who are interested in teaching, learn about best practices, the academic environment, and career opportunities.

**Nevins Teaching and Clinical Research Fellowship and Nevins BioHorizons Fellowship -- $40,000 to two grantees annually**

To address the retention of top periodontal clinical researchers and educators early in their careers. These Fellowships honor Myron Nevins, a leader in periodontal clinical research.

**Bud and Linda Tarrson Fellowship -- $30,000**

Established to recognize and reward the best and brightest scientific and clinical minds with a demonstrated facility for teaching and to encourage these individuals to pursue an academic career in periodontology.

**Volpe Basic Science Research Fellowship -- $20,000**

To address the retention of top periodontal basic science researchers and educators early in their careers. The award was created through the generosity of the Colgate-Palmolive Company, in honor of Dr. Anthony Volpe.

**Dr. and Mrs. Gerald M. Kramer Scholar Award for Excellence -- $10,000**

Established to honor the contributions of periodontal leader and legend, Dr. Gerald M. Kramer, and his wife Sylvia. The Kramer Award celebrates their lifelong commitment to personal and professional excellence by recognizing and rewarding these virtues in future periodontal leaders.

**Dr. D. Walter Cohen Teaching Award -- $10,000**

For a beginning periodontal educator to help launch their career. Candidates must display a strong interest in periodontal education and demonstrate excellent character, integrity, a record of academic and personal achievements, and an aptitude for teaching and research.

**Dr. James T. Mellonig Regeneration Research Award -- $10,000**

Recognizes excellence in original research by a periodontal resident that advances clinical therapies in periodontal regeneration. Applicants must have completed original research and produced a manuscript. The scholarship was created through a transformational gift from Dr. Jo Rummelhart in honor of Dr. Mellonig and the National Naval Medical Center's Periodontics

Residency Program in Bethesda, Maryland.

**Patty & Paul Levi Research Award -- $5,000**

An annual $5,000 award to a periodontal faculty member mentoring a predoctoral student or students doing research related to preventative periodontology. The research project must be completed by a predoctoral student or students with the periodontal faculty mentor as principal investigator. The research will be associated with prevention of periodontal or peri-implant diseases.

**Charles W. Finley Visiting Scholar Education Grants -- $2,000 to multiple applicants annually**

Awarded to accredited U.S. periodontal programs to host leading speakers in periodontology.

**AAP Foundation Schoor Research Award -- $2,000**

For a resident-written manuscript.

**Your Gift Will Work to Fund These Future Scholarships and Fellowships**

The Dr. Connie L. Drisko-Women in Periodontics Leadership Awards, aimed at increasing the numbers of academic women periodontists in leadership positions, to inspire young women to follow in Dr. Drisko’s footsteps.

The William Giannobile Award will be made to a graduating periodontal resident with the commitment to become a full-time academic member in periodontology, immediately following graduation.

The AAP Foundation Research Fellowship to provide funding to our most promising junior scientists in periodontics who are current or recent recipients of NIH “K awards.”