

As a new orthodontic teacher, receiving Alfred P. Westfall Fellowship Award from AAOF is both great honor and privilege. Currently, I am a director engaged in full time teaching and research at the post graduate orthodontic department of Maimonides Medical center at Brooklyn, New York. Our new orthodontic program received an initial accreditation status and enrolled its first residents in 2004. This program is a hospital based, three year program covering the full scope of modern orthodontics with special emphasis on the treatment of craniofacial anomalies.

My educational background includes B.S in Chemistry from University of California at Davis and D.D.S. from Columbia University. After graduating from a dental school, I received Dentist Scientist Award from National Institute of Health that allowed me to pursue orthodontic training at Eastman Dental Center of University of Rochester. From that institution, I also received M.S. degree in Biochemistry and Dental Research. At Eastman Dental Center, my mentor was Dr. Subtelny, well known for his legendary teaching, not only helped me to become a competent board certified orthodontist but also he was a great motivation for me to decide to become an orthodontic educator.

As most orthodontic practitioners acutely aware, promoting orthodontic education and research is vital for a survival of our wonderful profession and I am extremely proud to be at the frontier of orthodontic education. However, in this period of the shortage in government funding, even the maintenance of the current level of orthodontic education is very challenging. Fortunately, AAOF fund established from the support of generous orthodontic practitioners is our great asset to educate residents and to do evidence-based research.

The fellowship award from AAOF will be used to prepare myself to be a better qualified educator and researcher. As an orthodontic educator, in addition to teaching conventional orthodontics, I also plan to teach the most modern developments such as tissue engineering, distraction osteogenesis, and implant as anchorage. Learning a new technique necessitates significant financial resources and a part of it will be funded by AAOF award: I will attend seminars, buy books and an implant kit to master and teach that technique to my residents. As a researcher, I would like to learn more about experimental design and statistics to do evidence based research. I will use AAOF fund to take on-line biostatistics courses, to buy a high speed computer system and software including SPSS, Mathematica, and Autocad.

Currently, a research project that is underway involves the management of lower arch crowding in the early mixed dentition. Orthodontists are often faced with lower anterior crowding after the eruption of the four anterior permanent teeth, but there is no consensus about how to manage this crowding. Some orthodontists initiate treatment immediately by extracting the primary canines, while some expand lower arch; some simply delay treatment. The diverse opinions among orthodontists may be due to the difficulty determining the available arch length for the permanent dentition. Because of the limitation of currently available static arch length analysis in the growing arch, a new form of analysis, called Dynamic Arch Length Analysis will be implemented to provide a decisive tool to manage lower arch crowding in the early mixed dentition. The aim of this research is to set clinical guidelines for clinicians to determine the treatment of choice in managing crowding in early mixed

dentition on the basis of findings using Dynamic Arch Length Analysis. This analysis will be a comprehensive, incorporating the growth of dental arch in all three dimensions, the ideal position of mandibular central incisors as well as a currently used static arch length analysis. By establishing the Dynamic Arch Length Analysis, clinical guidelines will be established for the timing and the modality of treatment such as serial extraction or the placement of lower lingual holding arch.

In summary, my career goal is to become an excellent orthodontic educator and researcher. I want to teach not just critical thinking skills; I want to foster development of high moral standards in my residents, because the ultimate goal of any treatment we provide is the well-being of our patients. With the fellowship award I received from of AAOF, I am now able to follow in the footsteps of our great teachers; I will pass along the current theories and trends in orthodontics, and will take part in the development of new advances in the field, in keeping with their legacy for the next generation.