



The American Association of Orthodontists Foundation Announces Establishment of the *Robert James Bray Biomedical Research Award*

St. Louis, July 10, 2017 – The [American Association of Orthodontists Foundation](#) (AAOF) is pleased to announce the establishment of a new named award, the *Robert James Bray Biomedical Research Award*. The award is named in honor of Robert James Bray, DDS, MS, an orthodontist with offices in Somers Point, Absecon, Egg Harbor Township, Marmora, Brigantine, Mays Landing and Wildwood, New Jersey. He is a past president of the AAOF and the [American Association of Orthodontists](#) (AAO) and the current AAOF National Planned Giving Chair. The AAOF is the charitable arm of the AAO.



The award's establishment was made possible through the efforts of many professional colleagues, friends and admirers of Dr. Bray, led by Orhan Tuncay, DMD, a renowned author, lecturer and faculty member at the Temple University Kornberg School of Dentistry, Department of Orthodontics in Philadelphia.

“The idea to found the *Robert James Bray Biomedical Research Award* came to us in 2016,” said Dr. Tuncay. “As I contacted potential donors, I received the most enthusiastic responses. More than one donor stated they were in Dr. Bray’s debt. He has profoundly inspired many, many generations of orthodontists. The world of orthodontics knows Dr. Bray as a most giving person. Establishing an award in his name was much overdue. It has been a special and rare pleasure to coordinate the establishment of this award, as well as support it.”

Those who contributed to the establishment of the *Robert James Bray Biomedical Research Award* include (in alphabetical order):

- Dr. Richard Albright (Middle Atlantic Society of Orthodontists/Pennsylvania)
- Align Technology (AAOF Corporate Partner)
- Dr. Ross Crist (Midwestern Society of Orthodontists/South Dakota)
- Dr. Robert Fry (Southwestern Society of Orthodontists/Kansas)
- Mr. Robert Hazel (Friend of the Specialty)

- Dr. Ali Husain (Middle Atlantic Society of Orthodontists /Delaware)
- Mr. Tom Prescott (Friend of the Specialty)
- Dr. Ron Redmond (Pacific Coast Society of Orthodontists/California)
- Dr. Gilbert Snow (Pacific Coast Society of Orthodontists /California)
- Dr. Orhan Tuncay (Middle Atlantic Society of Orthodontists /Pennsylvania)

“This came as a complete and humbling surprise,” Dr. Bray said. “I am touched by the generosity of the donors whose gifts have made this award possible. Their benevolence will ensure that important orthodontic research can continue into the future – research that won’t be done by others in scientific community because it’s outside of their areas of interest, but research that’s critical to us as orthodontists to advance our specialty and the care we can provide to our patients.”

The AAOF National Campaign Chairman Fred A. Garrett, DDS, MS, of Sugar Land, Texas observed, “I have known Bob Bray throughout most of his orthodontic career. He has served our specialty in just about every capacity possible, including AAO president. He then came on the AAOF Board and as our [Keystone Society](#) chairman almost singlehandedly nearly doubled the number of our members that have pledged to remember the AAOF in their estate planning! When Bob takes on a job it gets done immediately and done right. He has been one of the most effective fund raisers that I have seen in the 24 years I have served on the AAOF board. He has served the orthodontic specialty with a dedication matched by very few of our members. It is very fitting that an award has been established in his name and I am glad it has the AAOF's name associated with the honor.”

AAOF awards are an important source of funding for orthodontic research and support of faculty. According to Rick W. Fuchs, DDS, of Mitchell, South Dakota, AAOF president, and chair of the AAOF [Vanguard Society](#), “These funds aid in maintaining full-time academicians and quality research, both of which may falter without our support as a profession.”

“Many past recipients of AAOF awards have gone on to become leaders in orthodontic academics, as well as our profession, in general,” added AAOF Board of Directors member Eric Nease, DDS, MS, of Spartanburg, South Carolina. “Dr. Bray is highly respected, and genuinely liked by all who meet him. He is a consensus builder who is able to bring people together for a common cause.”

Dr. Bray received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Dayton and later attended the University of Maryland School of Dentistry where he earned his Doctorate in Dental Surgery. Dr. Bray went on to obtain his Certificate of Orthodontics at the Eastman Dental Center in Rochester, New York, completing his Masters in Science at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry the following year with a

major course in genetics. He was a captain in the U.S. Air Force, serving as chief of orthodontics at Edwards Flight Test Center in California. He has been in the private practice of orthodontics since 1977.

Dr. Bray is an avid supporter of education. He has served on the Brigantine, New Jersey Board of Education, including working as the president of the Board for eleven years. Dr. Bray continues to serve as an Associate Clinical Professor at the Temple University Kornberg School of Dentistry in the Orthodontic Department and a visiting professor at the Eastman Institute of Oral Health, Rochester, New York.

An active member of his community, Dr. Bray has given generously of his time to a variety of organizations, among them the American Red Cross, the Boy Scouts of America and the Shore Medical Center.

Dr. Bray has been active in numerous professional organizations including the New Jersey Association of Orthodontists, the Middle Atlantic Society of Orthodontists, the AAO, the AAOF, the North Atlantic Component of the Edward H. Angle Society of Orthodontists, the World Federation of Orthodontists, the American Dental Association, the American Dental Education Association, the New Jersey Dental Association and the Atlantic Cape May County Dental Society. He is a Diplomate of The American Board of Orthodontics and a Fellow of both the American College of Dentists and the International College of Dentists. Recently Dr. Bray became the CEO of the Schulman Study Group, a national organization that fosters excellence in orthodontic practice and patient care.

Dr. Bray is the most recent recipient of the Eugene and Pauline Blair AAOF Distinguished Service Award, in recognition of his meritorious service.

He has lectured extensively nationally and internationally on the subjects of clinical practice, practice management, office design and the patient manager system.

Dr. Bray encourages continued support of the AAOF. "How lucky we are to be orthodontists. I strongly believe we should give back to our profession. The AAOF is the perfect vehicle to help us make a difference. Just keep on giving."

"The AAOF makes it easy and convenient to support orthodontic research and orthodontic education programs," said Dr. Garrett. "In fact, for anyone who would like to follow Dr. Tuncay's example and establish a named biomedical research award, there are six opportunities available. Details can be found at <http://www.aaofoundation.net/portals/0/Named-Award-Letter-website.pdf>, or by contacting the AAOF Executive Vice President, Robert Hazel, at 800-424-2841, ext. 546 or at rhazel@aaortho.org."

“We encourage anyone that wants to honor a colleague or friend who, like Dr. Bray, has touched many lives through tireless dedication to our profession, to take advantage of the remaining opportunities to establish an AAOF named award,” Dr. Fuchs said.

About the AAO Foundation

The AAO Foundation (AAOF), the charitable arm of the American Association of Orthodontists, provides support to orthodontic education programs and orthodontic research. Its mission is to advance the orthodontic specialty by supporting quality education and research that leads to excellence in patient care. Foundation funding ensures the future viability of the specialty by investing in the next generation of educators and researchers.

Since 1994, the AAO Foundation Awards Program has provided more than \$11.5 million in funding, primarily in support of junior faculty. The AAOF is incorporated as a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit corporation in the state of Missouri. The website is aaofoundation.net.

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