

## Orthodontic Faculty Development Fellowship Award

### Dr. Thikriat Al-Jewair, *State University of New York at Buffalo*

Dr. Thikriat Al-Jewair, BDS, MSc, MS, FRCD(C) has been an Assistant Professor and the Director of the Advanced Education Program in Orthodontics at the State University of New York at Buffalo since 2015. She obtained her MS and a Certificate in Orthodontics from the same university. She has also completed a Masters in Dental Public Health from the University of Toronto and a one-year Certificate program in Clinical Research from Harvard Medical School. Further, she is a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics and a Fellow of the Royal College of Dentists of Canada in both Orthodontics and Dental Public Health. Currently, she is actively involved in postgraduate didactic and clinical teaching, as well as mentoring postgraduate orthodontic residents and dental students.



Dr. Al-Jewair's current research focuses on the effects of clear aligner therapy (CAT) on upper pharyngeal airway dimensions in adults with Class II malocclusion. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the issues of abnormal sleep patterns and snoring can be remedied by inserting clear aligners to treat Class II malocclusion with Class II elastics. The minor bite opening attributed to the thickness of the aligners and the Class II malocclusion correction achieved through the treatment is thought to result in anterior and inferior positioning of the mandible. This eventually improves breathing, potentially producing an effect similar to the one produced by mandibular advancement devices used for obstructive sleep apnea. In a prospective cohort CBCT and sleep questionnaire study, Dr. Al-Jewair aims to characterize the upper airway morphology when clear aligners are inserted, and to evaluate the post-treatment effects of CAT on upper airway dimensions and on daytime sleepiness. She is also the Co-PI of a single-blinded randomized controlled clinical trial on the effects of vibrational devices on maxillary canine retraction and the perceived pain. There is little high-quality research on the effects of intermittent vibrational forces on orthodontic tooth movement and this study will contribute to the understanding of these effects. The aims of this study are to assess whether complimentary vibrational devices used during maxillary canine retraction accelerate the rate and total amount of tooth movement, and whether they reduce the level of pain perceived by patients.

Dr. Al-Jewair is thankful to the American Association of Orthodontists Foundation (AAOF) for their generous support with the Orthodontic Faculty Development Fellowship Award. The funds will be used to purchase research equipment and materials and supplement the support received from Dr. Al-Jewair's institution. The funds will also support her development as a clinician and an educator. This award comes at a significant time when her career is progressing towards tenure. The AAOF has been instrumental in advancing the orthodontic profession and supporting faculty's development as successful academicians and researchers.