



**2024 RAA**

**Dr. Tanner Godfrey, University of Alabama**

**Biography:**

Dr. Tanner Godfrey completed his undergraduate studies in his hometown at Utah State University majoring in biochemistry. He completed the DMD PhD program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, with a PhD in biochemistry and molecular biology in 2022. After completion of his program, he stayed in Birmingham and is currently a third-year resident in

orthodontics.

Tanner is a proud father of 4 children and loves spending time with his family. He enjoys wood working, snowboarding, wake surfing and being in the outdoors.

**Project Summary and the Role of Foundation Funding**

For patients with cleft lip and/or palate, clinical treatment outcomes have a significant influence on the psychosocial and social function throughout the patients' lives. Relatively little studies have been focused on the social outcomes of these patients after completed orthodontic and surgical treatment. In this study we will assess the social outcomes of patients utilizing validated questionnaires for anxiety, depression, social function, oral health quality of life and cleft treatment outcomes. This allows for comparison against standards for the general population as well as between patients treated at different centers. Ultimately, we aim to better inform treatment decisions by providing long-term social outcomes for cleft lip and/or palate patients.

As questionnaire response rates are traditionally low without compensation, the funding for this project is instrumental in obtaining significant research data. This funding provides for participant compensation, broader dissemination of the recruitment materials and professional statistical analysis. Starting from a limited patient pool, having a high response rate is critical in collecting meaningful data.

Upon completing my residency, I plan to be involved in orthodontic education and research. This project will serve as a springboard, allowing me to have a basis for future research and academic involvement. In addition to positioning myself for success in academic orthodontics, funding research for future academicians helps address the shortage of educators in orthodontics.