



American Association of Orthodontists®



Do You Know Where the Money You Pledged to the AAO Foundation is Going?

By Dr. Dave Angus, NESO's Representative to the AAOF BOD

Since 1994, the AAOF Awards Program has been actively contributing to orthodontic education and research, totaling \$10.8 million awarded to date. This has been primarily in support of junior faculty for their work and research. These awards have been extremely important in assisting young orthodontists interested in academics and research to be able to pursue their dreams. Of those junior faculty members supported by the AAOF, 80% have remained in full-time academics after five years, resulting in numerous publications, lectures and professional advancements. To date, at the 72 graduate orthodontic residency programs in the U.S. and Canada, there are 31 Department Chairs and/or Program Directors who were funded while they were junior faculty, along with numerous tenured, associate and full professors.

Your donations are extremely important. The Foundation is the only program where awards are made to our orthodontic programs annually in support of the advancement of the specialty of orthodontics. To date, orthodontic programs in NESO have received \$1,135,000. Although the AAOF has received close to \$30 million in paid pledges, the funds available for awards annually still fall short for the awards the AAOF would like to provide to our orthodontic departments.

With the AAOF's most recent campaign, **Continued Commitment to the Specialty®**, AAO Members are asked to pledge a minimum of \$5,000 over five years with this restricted for Research Initiative. This can be either a first-time pledge or a pledge increase.

Your gifts can also:

- Be restricted to the AAOF Endowment and be invested in perpetuity with only the annual earnings from the investments used in support of orthodontic research.
- Be in support of the Craniofacial Growth Legacy Collection Project.
- Be used for orthodontic education and operational expenses at the discretion of the AAO Foundation Board of Directors!

All of these options benefit the future of the specialty of orthodontics as we know it today. Please consider making a new commitment to our specialty today. More information and the opportunity to pledge is available on the AAOF website: www.aaofoundation.net or by calling the AAOF office at (800) 424-2841, #546. ▸