Foundation Salutes Future Academic Leaders

AAE Foundation Fellowship Recipients 2004-2007

The future of the specialty depends on the quality of its academic leaders. They pass their values, expertise and enthusiasm for learning on to students. They also contribute to the specialty’s scientific rigor and vitality.

The Fellowship Award was created to foster educational excellence by supporting individuals who are committed to an academic career. The award provides tuition and a $2,500 per month stipend for up to three years to educators who agree to teach full-time for five years. Since the program’s inception in 2000, 18 awards have been granted and six Fellows have begun their teaching careers.

The Fellows profiled below are completing endodontic residencies or have recently graduated. The Foundation is proud to play a role in supporting these exceptional practitioners. Their contribution to the future of the specialty promises to be significant.

Asma Khan, B.D.S., Ph.D.

The John and Joyce Ingle Fellow
University of Texas at San Antonio
2004

In February 2007, Dr. Khan was appointed as a full-time faculty member in the department of endodontics at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Dr. Khan received the distinction of being named the John and Joyce Ingle Fellow. Prior to beginning her endodontic training, Dr. Khan pursued a two-year clinical Research Fellowship at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, National Institutes of Health. She holds a Ph.D. in neuroscience from the University of Maryland. Her goal is to “become a productive academic endodontist with an active clinical research program focused on the mechanisms and management of odontogenic pain. Receiving the Fellowship meant a lot to me,” said Dr. Khan. “It shows that the AAE is supportive of educators and of clinical scientists. I deeply appreciate this opportunity to learn, serve and give back to the specialty that has given me so much.” When she is not in the laboratory or the clinic, Dr. Khan enjoys spending time with her daughter.

Christopher Brett Owatz, D.M.D.

University of Texas at San Antonio
2004

Dr. Owatz is on the threshold of two significant life events. He’ll become an endodontist this spring when he receives his certificate from the University of Texas at San Antonio, and he is eagerly anticipating the birth of his first child in August. Dr. Owatz was in private practice for six years prior to beginning his residency. The Fellowship provided him with much needed financial relief during the transitioning period. He is attracted by the variety of an academic career and looks forward to the future.

Congratulations to Dr. Anne Williamson, the first Fellowship recipient to achieve Diplomate status. “Attaining Diplomate status was a very gratifying experience and I applaud anyone who goes through the process,” says Dr. Williamson. Dr. Williamson will receive her Diplomate pin at the Annual Session in Philadelphia.

Dr. Williamson and her husband at the 2006 Annual Session in Honolulu, Hawaii.
Dear Colleagues:

Not long ago, a $20 million fund was a dream. Today, that vision is almost a reality. Close to $1 million is available for grants in 2007! AAE members are responsible for this amazing success. Thank you for your generosity.

Endodontic industry has also been a strong partner in advancing our philanthropic goals. I am extremely pleased to announce that SybronEndo, a long-standing corporate supporter, will host a cocktail reception to recognize leadership donors at the Annual Session in Philadelphia. The event will take place on Friday, April 27 prior to the President’s Dinner. Guests will also enjoy preferred seating for Bill Engvall’s comedy performance. The company’s gift is intended to recognize past generosity and to stimulate new giving. The Foundation is deeply grateful for this special opportunity to honor our contributors. All donors with a pledge at the $10,000 level or higher are invited to attend. It’s not too late to take your pledge to the next level, if you would like to attend this special event.

This is a pivotal year as we decide how best to disburse our funds. As the endowment grows, the Foundation’s grant making is becoming increasingly sophisticated. At the November Interim Board Meeting, an entire day was devoted to strategic thinking. Emphasis was placed on analyzing current activities and evaluating their impact.

A number of significant awards that were approved in 2006 included:

- Up to $4 million over eight years for clinical research studies via a Request for Proposal process. The proposal deadline was January 31, 2007. This is a significant milestone for the specialty.

- $90,000 for the 2007 Educator Workshop—This seminar rotates annually among department chairs, program directors and predoctoral directors. Participants explore academic issues, exchange ideas and network with colleagues.

- $30,000 to Louisiana State University’s endodontic department in response to Hurricane Katrina’s devastation.

- $11,000 to the Advanced Programs in Clinical Endodontics Symposium—APICES is the only educational program designed by residents for residents.

- Funding to full-time educators to defray the cost of attending the AAE Annual Session.

All of these activities contribute to the goal of endodontic excellence. None would have been possible without you. The specialty’s future rests in its members’ hands. We are fortunate that so many care so deeply about its well-being. Please continue to offer your support through volunteerism and philanthropy.

Sincerely,

Denis E. Simon III, President
Dr. Mo K. Kang, assistant professor of endodontics at the University of California at Los Angeles, School of Dentistry, has been studying the molecular and cellular biology of human oral mucosal cells for the past 10 years. His persistence paid off in January 2007, when he learned that he would receive a five-year $1.8 million R01 research grant from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research of the National Institutes of Health. “This grant has tremendous meaning for my academic career,” said Dr. Kang. “Junior faculty members depend largely on extramural research funds to advance their academic careers and develop their independent research program.”

The goal of Dr. Kang’s study, Effects of Antiretroviral Therapy on Telomerase Function in Human Oral Epithelium, is to reduce or reverse the oral complications of antiretroviral therapy in patients infected with HIV. “This intriguing cell type of the mouth, termed normal human oral keratinocytes (NHOK), is unique in that they express unusually high level of an enzyme called telomerase,” said Dr. Kang. “Our laboratory first identified the presence of this enzyme activity in NHOK and their importance in normal and healthy function of human oral epithelium. Unfortunately, telomerase enzyme functionally and structurally resembles the viral protein called reverse transcriptase of HIV, which is the target of antiretroviral therapies at present.” HIV-positive patients therefore develop oral mucosal complications of antiretroviral therapies, including multiple oral ulcerations.

Dr. Kang’s group is seeking to discover the status of telomerase function in HIV-positive patients who have taken the medications, such as AZT, for extended periods of time. They hope to develop adjunctive therapies that will minimize the oral side-effects of the antiretroviral drugs. The researchers will test tissue samples from patients to assess the reaction to various substances. “This is a basic science study that will result in a very specific and direct clinical application,” said Dr. Kang.

Dr. Kang was the recipient of an AAE Endodontic Educator Fellowship Award in 2001. The Fellowship provided much needed financial support during his endodontic training at UCLA. Dr. Kang has also received first place Edward Hatton Awards for both predoctoral and postdoctoral categories from the International Association for Dental Research in 1999 and 2002, respectively. In addition to his current work on the biology and the human oral epithelium, Dr. Kang is establishing an endodontic research program. He is investigating the process of dentin mineralization attempting to identify novel cellular proteins necessary for reparative dentin formation.

Dr. Kang’s interest in endodontics began when he was a dental student. He enjoyed the biological and surgical aspects of endodontic therapy and found it rewarding to relieve patients’ discomfort and help preserve their natural dentition. At present, Dr. Kang is also actively involved in the endodontic teaching program at UCLA, where he chairs four didactic and clinical courses for the predoctoral and postdoctoral students and serves as the director for the Endodontic Research Program for the postgraduate endodontic students. Dr. Kang noted that “being an AAE Educator Fellow constantly reminds me that it is education that is the ultimate responsibility and privilege of an academician.”

In Appreciation
The AAE Foundation gratefully acknowledges these partners from industry for leadership support to endodontic research and education:

$1,000,000
Dentsply International
Dentsply Tulsa Dental Specialties

$75,000
Global Surgical Corporation
Treloar & Heisel, Inc.

$50,000
Acetone North America
Discus Dental Software
Obtura Spartan
Ultradent Products, Inc.
Carl Zeiss Surgical, Inc.

$35,000
Charles B. Schwed, Inc.

$280,000
SybronEndo

$75,000
ASI Medical, Inc.
Biomet 3i

$100,000
PBS Endo
Schick Technologies, Inc.

$25,000
El-Endo Ingenuity
J. Morita USA, Inc.
Nobel Biocare, USA, Inc.

$50,000
Endo Ingenuity
Pro-Dex, Inc.

$40,000
Biomet 3i
Sullivan-Schein Dental
From saving manatees to cutting taxes, people give to charities for reasons that are as unique as their personalities. Because a contribution is often the expression of deeply held convictions, we think of generosity as being individual and private. In reality, giving revolves around a complex network of relationships. The interaction between the AAE and its Foundation is a good example of the importance of partnerships to successful philanthropy.

Before writing a check, donors want to know that their contribution will make a difference. In the Foundation’s early years, that question might have been difficult to answer. The Foundation was a small nonprofit valiantly attempting to tackle challenges beyond the scope of its human and financial resources. Prior to 1994, the Foundation and the AAE did not coordinate their activities. Members were either unaware of the Foundation, or not well informed about its initiatives. Because there was no process for collaboration between the two organizations, the Foundation was not attuned to the Association’s goals and sometimes duplicated services that the Association was already providing. Its mission had yet to capture the interest of its constituents.

Compelling causes arise from critical needs. As the specialty grew, members became increasingly aware of its stature in the dental health community. In 1989, the ADA Council on Dental Education’s denial of the specialty’s application for re-recognition was a call to action. AAE leaders recognized that without strong research and educational initiatives the specialty would not attain the respect and recognition it deserved; they began to explore options. The government and industry spend millions of dollars on research, but large donors seek to advance their own priorities and have little interest in fledgling projects. The idea of raising an endowment arose from the realization that the only reliable source of funding for scientific and academic initiatives would be practitioners themselves. No other organization or agency would provide this support.

The dream of building an endowment to support research and education linked the Foundation’s success to the specialty’s future. It also aligned the Foundation’s goals with those of the AAE giving the organization a mission that every member could appreciate. In 1994, the Foundation was restructured to reflect this new synergy. To ensure communication between the two organizations the AAE president, president-elect, vice president and immediate past president would serve on the Foundation’s Board of Trustees. To allow the endowment to grow more rapidly, the AAE agreed to support the Foundation’s operating expenses.

The success of this partnership is apparent. Today, almost $20 million is invested in the fund and another $5 million is pledged. Interaction between the two organizations has evolved over time. AAE President John S. Olmsted describes the relationship this way. “Our partnership is symbiotic. It is characterized by strong mutual respect.” The Foundation looks to the AAE to set the overarching goals and provide special expertise that falls outside the responsibilities of the Board of Directors.

The research grant initiative is an ongoing area of collaboration that has been a model for other joint ventures. The AAE Research and Scientific Affairs Committee sets the scientific priorities and evaluates the grants. The committee’s recommendations are sent to the Foundation Board of Trustees who approve the final funding.

As the philanthropic dollars grow, sharing resources becomes even more critical to implementing effective programs. The average funding for a research grant has been about $11,000. The smallest grants have been about $1,000 and the largest around $35,000. This year for the first time, the Foundation will consider providing up to $4 million over eight years for a clinical research study. Proposals were solicited via a request for proposal process. The AAE Research and Scientific Affairs Committee and Evidence-Based Endodontics
Committee were both involved in writing the RFP. A special joint committee, which includes the chairs of both those groups plus the AAE and Foundation presidents, was formed to oversee the review process. The Research and Scientific Affairs Committee will evaluate the proposals in consultation with experts in biostatistics and clinical trials. Funding research at such a significant level represents the fulfillment of a long-awaited goal. It elevates the Foundation’s ability to take the specialty to a new level.

Strengthening endodontic education is a concern across dentistry. It is the Foundation’s other major area of responsibility and perhaps its most significant challenge. There is no easy way to assess which strategies will most effectively promote academic excellence. Education is clearly an area where strong collaboration between the AAE and the Foundation as well as outreach to other dental organizations is required.

The Endodontic Educator Fellowship Award was the specialty’s first response to the need to recruit endodontic educators. The award, which was inaugurated in 2001, was developed and continues to be administered by a joint committee of AAE directors and Foundation trustees. The committee interviews applicants and recommends candidates to the Foundation Board of Trustees. The Fellowship provides tuition plus a stipend to residents who agree to teach full-time for five years after graduation. The amount of the stipend was recently increased from $1,000 a month to $2,500. A total of 18 Fellowships have been granted and six fellows are currently teaching.

In addition to recruiting new educators, the Foundation seeks to enrich the academic experience for current faculty. Several collaborative initiatives highlight the importance of professional development to career satisfaction. Over the last three years the Foundation has supported the AAE’s summer Educator Workshop. This weekend seminar, organized by the Educational Affairs Committee, rotates among department chairs, program directors and predoctoral directors. In 2006, the focus was department chairs with a total of 52 programs participating. Full-time faculty are also eligible for a grant that defrays half the cost of attending the Annual Session and provides $250 for travel. To emphasize the importance of continuing education, educators are eligible to receive an award of $2,000 when they achieve Diplomate status.

The AAE’s new knowledge-based governance process is providing the framework to take these first steps to the next level. Knowledge-based governance is an innovative approach to organizational leadership. Decision-making is based on facts, analysis and discussion. Recently, a committee composed of Foundation trustees and AAE members used these techniques to develop a multifaceted faculty recruitment and retention program. After gathering information and conducting a thorough review of the data, they drafted recommendations that were presented to the Boards of both organizations. The final plan is a broad-based initiative that draws on the expertise of many different committees working in conjunction with the Foundation and even other dental organizations. Initiatives range from developing special workshops and forums for educators to investigating loan forgiveness and sign-on bonuses. Some of the activities will be easy to implement while others will probably require months of preparation and planning.

The partnership between the AAE and Foundation draws on the strengths of both organizations and creates the possibility for large-scale change. The leadership is committed to keeping this relationship strong and making sure it grows. “Each of us has contributes different resources,” says Foundation President Denis E. Simon III. “The AAE draws on the wealth of its members’ expertise from clinical knowledge to marketing savvy. The Foundation provides the philanthropic inspiration to create a culture of giving throughout the specialty. The trustees are responsible for ensuring that the endowment is appropriately stewarded.”

“A strong relationship between the two organizations keeps our research and educational infrastructure growing,” says Foundation Vice President Jerome V. Pisano, “and that is essential for the survival of the specialty.”

A gathering of some of the first donors to contribute at or above the $25,000 level during the 1997 Annual Session, pictured from left to right: Drs. John Myers, Mahmoud Torabinejad, Richard Rubininer, Gerald C. Dietz Sr., Herbert Schilder and Mr. Mark Oliver.
forward to teaching in the classroom, the clinic and being involved in practice.

To better understand the academic lifestyle, Dr. Owatz participated in an Endodontic Preceptorship, which allowed him to teach part-time in the undergraduate endodontic clinic as part of his residency. The faculty at UTSA has also been a role model. “They are very unique people and they have all influenced or guided me in different ways,” says Dr. Owatz.

In addition to training competent caring dentists and endodontists, Dr. Owatz hopes to contribute to the research that is used in everyday practice to make clinical decisions. Right now, he is focused on completing his thesis as well as finding a faculty position. “Educating future dentists is an awesome responsibility,” says Dr. Owatz. “I look forward to the challenge.”

**Natasha Flake, D.D.S., Ph.D.**

*University of Washington*
2005

Dr. Flake’s ideal academic position would be a balance of teaching, research and clinical practice. She hopes to be a mentor to all students who are interested in research and the scientific basis of treatment approaches. Dr. Flake’s primary focus is the neuroscience of pain. The topic of her doctoral dissertation was the pain associated with temporomandibular disorders. Dr. Flake has already had considerable success competing for grants to support her education. In addition to receiving an AAE Fellowship, she was also awarded an Individual Predoctoral Dental Scientist Fellowship from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research. With just four months left in her program, Dr. Flake has a full plate—completing didactic and clinical requirements, continuing her research, studying for the boards and securing a teaching position. She was grateful to receive the Fellowship because “it made a career in academic dentistry a feasible option…and increased my self-assurance in my career path, because it meant that the Fellowship Committee believed in me, and the AAE was putting its confidence in me to be an endodontic educator of the future.”

**Jennifer Gibbs, D.D.S., Ph.D.**

*University of California, San Francisco*
2005

An interest in science with potential clinical applications led Dr. Gibbs to choose pharmacology as the discipline for her Ph.D. Later, her studies in the areas of pain management and research in pulp biology stimulated her to pursue an academic career in endodontics. She hopes to make a significant contribution to the evidence base of practice through research and to become an accomplished lecturer, clinical instructor and mentor for students. Of her experience with students she says, “guiding a mentee who begins not knowing how to pipette, and then gradually develops the ability to design and execute experiments independently is very satisfying.” Dr. Gibbs is motivated by the knowledge that it is always possible to learn more and to do better. She has one year left in her residency.

**Drew R. Brueckner, D.M.D.**

*University of Southern California*
2006

Dr. Brueckner’s interest in education began early in his career. Prior to joining the residency program at the University of Southern California, he was an instructor at the University of Manitoba. Dr. Brueckner will graduate from USC in June 2008. He credits the Fellowship Award with allowing him “to be part of an exceptional group of individuals who genuinely value the importance of maintaining the discipline of endodontics.” Dr. Brueckner was motivated to pursue a certificate in endodontics by his mentors, Drs. Marshall Peikoff and William Christie. Present research interests involve the use of tissue regeneration techniques to restore compromised periradicular tissues. As an educator, Dr. Brueckner hopes, “to share the knowledge, foresight and ingenuity that are so valuable to our discipline.” When he’s not studying, Dr. Brueckner enjoys sailing, skiing and fishing, or spending time at his summer cottage.

**Tri Huynh, D.D.S., Ph.D.**

*University of California, San Francisco*
2006

Dr. Huynh completed the dual D.D.S./Ph.D. degree at University of California at Los Angeles. During this training, he was also a Fellow in the Bureau of Health Professions Geriatric Medicine Program at UCLA. The love of a technical challenge made endodontics especially attractive for him. With one year left in his residency, Dr. Huynh looks forward to teaching as well as returning to laboratory bench work. He recently received a K08 Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Award from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research. Dr. Huynh believes that the prospect of bioengineering new teeth in patients makes the future of endodontics especially exciting. Receiving the Fellowship has meant that he can focus on his studies without having to worry about debt accruing from student loans. In his free time, Dr. Huynh enjoys playing “air guitar” with his wife and two little guys.
Takashi Komabayashi, D.D.S., Ph.D.
The John and Joyce Ingle Fellow
University of Connecticut Health Sciences Center
2007

“The application of state-of-the-art research to the clinical setting is the key to excellent patient care and to providing innovative cost effective products and procedures,” says the Foundation’s newest Fellow, Dr. Komabayashi. He began his endodontic training at the University of Connecticut in July 2005. His interest in clinically relevant research is expressed in two current projects. Dr. Komabayashi is investigating the use of nanotechnology for the root canal and the use of electronics for dentin moisture measurement. Dr. Komabayashi was honored to be selected as the John and Joyce Ingle Fellow. In addition to the AAE Fellowship, he was also awarded the 2005 Henry M. Thornton Fellowship Award from the Student Clinicians of the American Dental Association. Dr. Komabayashi looks to forward making a life-long commitment to academic endodontics. He is very grateful to AAE members and was honored to be selected for the Fellowship award.

Grants to Research
The Foundation is committed to stimulating scientific investigation by supporting worthy projects. In the 2006 calendar year, the Board of Trustees approved $251,923 in new grants. Drs. Jennifer Gibbs, Tuong Nguyen Nguyen and Howard Sorensen won special $500 prizes for the highest-scoring student and nonstudent proposals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
<th>Grant</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Jennifer Gibbs*</td>
<td>$12,100</td>
<td>University of California at San Francisco</td>
<td>An anatomic evaluation of thermosensitive TRP ion channel expression in dental pulp</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
<td>Judy Melamed</td>
<td>$17,235</td>
<td>University of Maryland</td>
<td>Mechanotransducers in Human Pulpal Afferents</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
<td>Theodore Damas</td>
<td>$11,400</td>
<td>University of Illinois at Chicago</td>
<td>Regenerative Dentinogenesis Apexification Using a Dental Pulp Stem Cell/PLGA Scaffold Complex</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
<td>Rebecca Prescott</td>
<td>$13,700</td>
<td>University of Illinois at Chicago</td>
<td>Perforation Repair Using Pulpal Stem Cells and a Collagen Scaffold</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
<td>Raksha Mirchandi</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>University of Maryland</td>
<td>Are endodontic infections involved in the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Afua Somua Mireku</td>
<td>$14,000</td>
<td>University of Maryland</td>
<td>An In Vitro Investigation of the Influence of Age, Root Morphology, Dentin Thickness and Tubular Orientation on the Incidence Vertical Root Fractures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Jason Lambert</td>
<td>$18,146</td>
<td>University of North Carolina</td>
<td>Genetic Basis for Individual Variation in Pain Perception Among Endodontic Patients</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
<td>Ching Shan Wang</td>
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<td>University of North Carolina</td>
<td>Efficacy of 2% Chlorhexidine Gel in Disinfecting the Root-Canal System: A Clinical Study</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
<td>Lisa Alvarado</td>
<td>$18,095</td>
<td>University of Illinois at Chicago</td>
<td>TRPMs and TRPA1 expressions in normal and cold-sensitive human tooth pulp</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
<td>James Kitchens</td>
<td>$6,697</td>
<td>University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio</td>
<td>Transdentinal delivery of osteoprotegerin, alendronate, and calcitonin by both diffusion and iontophoresis</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
<td>Kenneth Wiltbank</td>
<td>$5,250</td>
<td>University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio</td>
<td>Physical properties of an accelerated set mineral trioxide aggregate</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
<td>Natasa Flak</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
<td>University of Washington</td>
<td>Plasticity in Cannabinoid Signaling Following Pulpal Injury</td>
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<td>Fall</td>
<td>Scott T. Baur</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>University of Florida</td>
<td>Propolis: An antiinflammatory medicament for resorption</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Anna Kirakozova</td>
<td>$15,500</td>
<td>University of North Carolina</td>
<td>The Effect of Intracanal Corticosteroids on External Root Resorption of Replanted Dog Teeth After Extended Dry Times</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Tuong Nguyen Nguyen*</td>
<td>$16,000</td>
<td>Oregon Health &amp; Science University</td>
<td>Assessment of the sealing ability and antibacterial properties of a Poly(ethylene Glycol)-based photopolymerizable hydrogel as new endodontic filling material</td>
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<td>Fall</td>
<td>Roberta Pileggi</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>University of Florida</td>
<td>A Novel Solution for Dental Resorption</td>
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<td>Fall</td>
<td>Hongui Situ</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>University of Illinois at Chicago</td>
<td>Biological markers for odontogenic perididucal periodontitis</td>
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<td>Fall</td>
<td>Howard Sorensen*</td>
<td>$4,300</td>
<td>University of Iowa</td>
<td>The Effects of Baclofen (GabaB Agonist) on Compound Action Potential in Rat Peripheral nerve</td>
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<td>Fall</td>
<td>Peter Z. Taiwai</td>
<td>$31,000</td>
<td>University of North Carolina</td>
<td>Periapical Microsurgery: An in-vivo evaluation of root-end filling materials</td>
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<td>Fall</td>
<td>Gaelle Villette</td>
<td>$10,500</td>
<td>University of Toronto</td>
<td>Development of an Ex Vivo Model for Quantification of Root Canal Bacteria During Endodontic Treatment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jason E. Wells</td>
<td>$6,500</td>
<td>Southern Illinois University</td>
<td>The Role of I(h) in Generating Pulpal Pain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2006 TOTAL: $251,923

* Indicates a winner of the Foundation’s special award for the highest-scoring student and nonstudent projects

Blue Bold face indicates a nonstudent

Vol. XII • Spring 2007

Foundation FOCUS • 7
“Fundraising is the gentle art of teaching the joy of giving.” – Hank Rosso

“Each of us is responsible for the specialty’s future,” says Foundation President Denis E. Simon III. “It is up to us to ensure that endodontics continues to be a leader in dentistry.” By passing that message on, volunteer fundraisers give others the opportunity to enrich both themselves and their specialty. Although every volunteer hopes to be a successful fundraiser, the most important goal is to educate their colleagues about the Foundation’s mission and activities. Dr. Simon also believes that “volunteers expand the culture of philanthropy within the specialty and their communities because without a strong specialty none of us would have the resources to support other meaningful causes.”

The Foundation gratefully acknowledges these members for their contribution to the 2006-2007 Campaign:

**FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION** educate their colleagues about the Foundation’s mission.

**STUDENT AMBASSADORS** educate residents at endodontic programs about the Foundation’s role in their future profession.

**With This Issue**

**Grateful Patient Form**
A gift to the AAE Foundation is a wonderful way to demonstrate appreciation for services received from an endodontist. Gifts may also be made in honor of or in memory of an endodontist. Patients who wish to contribute may use the enclosed form to provide a donation to the Foundation’s endowment fund.

**Guidelines for Gifts of Stock**
These guidelines provide the procedures to follow for individuals who wish to make a gift of stock to the AAE Foundation. A gift letter template is also included.