

FOCUS

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## **Sustaining a Passion for Excellence**

If you grew up with a mouse in one hand and a cell phone in the other, it may be difficult to imagine the dark ages of hard-wires and the U.S. mail. What we are accustomed to, we take for granted.

Now that the specialty's pockets are \$20 million deep, the urgency that inspired the Foundation's early efforts no longer exists. New members may not even realize that there was a time when funding for endodontic research and education was either hard to come by or nonexistent.

Thanks to foresight, leadership and generosity, the specialty is now in the enviable position of being able to invest \$1 million a year in its infrastructure. But complacency is the enemy of progress. The energy and enthusiasm that built this important resource must continue. It is critical that younger members appreciate the impact this funding has on the specialty's development, the progress that has occurred over a short time and the ongoing imperative to keep endodontics on the leading edge.

Over the last decade, the Foundation has allocated almost \$3 million for research at 52



different institutions. That support includes two six-figure studies comparing implants to endodontic retreatment. With the implant projects nearing completion, a new challenge is being offered to the research community: the organization has issued a multi-million dollar Request for Proposal for regenerative endodontics.

The RFP is part of a major initiative to launch the specialty as a leader in stem cell biology. Since 2002, the Foundation has funded over \$500,000 in grants related to regenerative topics. Some researchers, like Dr. George T.J. Huang, parlayed those pilot studies into significant government funding. Dr. Huang's research proved that several types of oral stem cells have the ability to regenerate pulp-like and dentin-like tissues in an emptied root canal space. "These cells reside in tissues that endodontists deal with on a daily basis," noted Dr. Huang. "If there is one specialty that should understand their biology and study their clinical potential, it is endodontics. I urge every AAE member to begin learning more about this exciting new frontier."

Dr. Huang will be presenting his work on stem cell markers and identification at the First International Conference on Dental and Craniofacial Stem Cells in New York. That conference, which takes place at the New York Academy of Science from April 27 – 29, 2011, promises to be a groundbreaking event.

In addition to their potential for endodontics, stem cells may also offer new hope for individuals who suffer from chronic diseases, traumatic injuries, congenital anomalies and tumors. The road to discovering these new clinical applications promises to engage endodontic scientists in a broad and far-reaching dialogue with researchers from many other disciplines.

Since the initiation of the Endodontic Educator Fellowship, the Foundation's first grant to educators in 1991, funding to education has grown to over \$800,000 annually. There are now a total of 10 different grant options available to educators, departments and residents, and the Foundation supports every accredited

### **Training Top Notch Educators**

The American Dental Education Association/Academy for Academic Leadership's Institute for Teaching and Learning (ITL) allows dental educators the opportunity to become better teachers by developing skills that facilitate confidence and professional development in academics.

One of the AAE Foundation's newest grant opportunities allows current and prospective educators the opportunity to attend the Institute for a fraction of the cost.

The AAE Foundation will fund half of the cost of the Institute for AAE members who have secured a full-time academic position and wish to attend. All Foundation fellowship recipients will be covered for full registration of the workshop, transportation and lodging. The Foundation has \$25,000 available to support full-time educators in a calendar year.

Dr. Amir Azarpazhooh, recipient of an Endodontic Educator Fellowship Award, took advantage of the Foundation's ITL grant during its first year in 2010 and attended the workshop during August (Phase I) and October (Phase II) at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. As a fellow, Dr. Azarpazhooh has committed to at least five years in education after his graduation date from his endodontic residency program at the University of Toronto. Looking forward to his future career in education, Dr. Azarpazhooh benefited from what he called the chance "to connect to the leaders in dental education as well as those with the particular interest and applicable experience in the field."

Though he will not graduate from his endodontic program until June 2011, he has had several years of experience in dental education as both a lecturer and researcher. "I found this workshop particularly useful in my transition as a part-time educator to a full-time one," explained Dr. Azarpazhooh. "I used it to refine my teaching skills, to develop and evaluate curricula and to plan for my professional growth."



One of the Foundation's Endodontic Educator Fellowship Award recipients, Dr. Amir Azarpazhooh, attended ITL through the Foundation's new grant opportunity.

During Phase I of the ITL workshop, 50 participants covered a variety of concepts including learning styles and characteristics of adult learning, teaching style and the perceptions of teaching excellence, best practices for teaching and learning in didactic and clinical dentistry, strategies to assess comprehension of biomedical concepts and clinical knowledge and strategies for building an academic career—among other things.

Throughout each phase of the workshop, there were small group breakout sessions. Phase II, held in late October, focused on some of the trials of educators, including working effectively with challenging students, types and characteristics of positive feedback in clinical dentistry, assessing a student's progress toward clinical competency, instructional design and course planning, and methods to conduct and chair effective meetings. An impressive schedule of materials was included in the six-and-a-half-day curriculum. With all 50 participants bringing a wealth of diversity in years of

practice, teaching and education, there were fantastic networking opportunities and the availability to develop ongoing mentorships.

At the end of the two phases, Dr. Azarpazhooh noted that "the workshop has provided the means and organized resources to apply to the science to achieve my goals." The AAE Foundation supports educators attending ITL in order to help refine and sharpen teaching skills, while helping maintain a life-long learning process.



*The 2010 ADEA/AAL ITL class of educators had the opportunity to network, gather and become better educators.* 





Dear Colleague:

What if a generous friend gave you a check each year to invest in your practice? Think about the improvements you could make and the impact that gift could have over time.

That is what the AAE Foundation does for our specialty. The Foundation invests \$1 million annually in endodontics. And although you may not receive a check, you benefit in many ways. This funding supports every accredited endodontic program in the United States and Canada and ensures that endodontics continues to grow. In 2010 the Foundation provided:

- \$450,000 to researchers,
- \$140,500 to residents and endodontic departments, and
- \$428,504 to prospective and current educators.

So many Association leaders have stressed the importance of research and education that it hardly seems necessary to explain why this investment is critical. But I don't think we always connect the dots between what we want to accomplish and what we must do to get there. Every discovery starts with an idea, and without financing even the best ideas have nowhere to go.

The Foundation fills a significant void in the funding continuum. It provides seed money for researchers to develop a hypothesis prior to moving forward with a larger study. It supports initiatives that are a priority for endodontists. And it offers every resident the opportunity to become engaged and involved in science. We are also now able to fund a limited number of six-figure clinical studies; you may have seen the Request for Proposal for a major project on regenerative endodontics. Most of all, the Foundation gives us control over our future.

I am sometimes asked why, with a \$21 million fund, we need to continue raising money. The truth is that we could do much more to promote excellence. As the fund grows, the requests for grants increase proportionately. In order to ensure that we will always be leaders, we must replace what we spend.

What does it take to raise \$1 million? There are no short cuts or special secrets to success. It takes enthusiasm, it takes hard work and it takes you. The AAE is fortunate to have wonderful donors and volunteers. To those who have already contributed to our amazing success, I extend a heartfelt thanks.

For those who have yet to pledge, I hope you will join us. If a volunteer calls you, ask questions, learn more about the Foundation's activities and then become part of this exciting initiative. Each year the Donor Honor Roll is displayed at the Annual Session. That roster includes 65 percent of Active AAE members. If you want your practice and our specialty to be the best it can be, your name should be there too.

Sincerely,

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A. Eddy Škidmore, D.D.S., M.S. President

### Winners' Circle

During the Fall and Spring Research Grant cycles, the highest-scoring resident and faculty research grant applicants receive a \$500 cash award. The goal of this small token is to improve research quality and to pay tribute to those applicants whose efforts reflect the highest quality science.

The Foundation Research Grant Application can be downloaded from the Foundation website at *www. aae.org/foundation.* For any questions about the grant, Please contact Alyson Hall, development coordinator, at 800/872-3636 (North America) or 312/266-7255 (International), ext. 3008, or by sending an e-mail to *ahall@aae.org.* Following are the stories of the 2010 winners and their research.

#### **Early Detection Leads to Proper Healing**



"Diagnostic tests have not changed throughout the years as the rest of our technology has advanced," said Dr. Marc A. Pacheco, a resident at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center at San Antonio. Dr. Pacheco believes that dentistry, and endodontics more specifically, must be evidence-based, requiring higher level research in all

Dr. Marc A. Pacheco

categories to validate both the practice and the overall specialty. "We still tap on a tooth with a mirror handle to determine if healing is taking place on a tooth that was previously diagnosed with symptomatic apical periodontitis," Dr. Pacheco observed.

Dr. Pachecho's Spring 2010 Research Grant proposal, *Evaluation of the Predictive Value of Preoperative Mechanical Allodynia on the Healing of Apical Periodontitis After NSRCT*, proposes to demonstrate that a simple diagnostic test will allow endodontists to predict healing in cases with apical periodontitis. The goal of the project is to "help provide a diagnostic method that can very early and accurately detect if healing is taking place in a tooth with symptomatic apical periodontitists." The key to this is an easily performed, minimal-cost test that provides a quantifiable indicator to determine early on if the treatment provided is working.

This impressive proposal landed Dr. Pacheco the highest-scoring resident award. Before entering his endodontic residency, Dr. Pacheco practiced general dentistry for eight years. He discovered he had a passion for helping patients save their teeth, especially when they were in pain. "It is easy to make a quick, uninformed decision to extract a tooth when you are in pain," said Dr. Pacheco, "but having the opportunity to gain your patient's trust and take them out of pain while saving their tooth is my passion." In his spare time, Dr. Pacheco enjoys working out and spending time with friends and family.

#### Understanding the Importance of Fighting Infection



Dr. Mo K. Kang

that fighting against infection and inflammation of pulp tissue plays in endodontics. Dr. Kang is a clinician-scientist, actively engaged in patient care. During the Spring 2010 Research Grant period, he claimed the highestrize. The proposal was developed from

Dr. Mo K. Kang, associate

endodontics at the University

of California at Los Angeles, understands the important role

professor and chair of

scoring faculty prize. The proposal was developed from his ongoing investigation of Bmi-1's role in keratinocyte stemness. His initial studies investigated Bmi-1's role in pulpal stem cells.

"Our goal is to find ways to modulate the hard tissue formation and development through regulating the dental mesenchymal stem cell function and mitigating the effects of pulpal inflamation," Dr. Kang explained. The first part of the project is complete, and a manuscript outlining the work has been submitted and accepted for publication in the *Journal of Endodontics*. Still to be done are some animal studies to validate prior findings.

When asked about the importance of the study, Kang shared, "The significance is that dental mesenchymal stem cell's function relies on its ability to maintain its differentiation potential."

His strong background in research earned him a spot on the AAE Research and Scientific Affairs Committee. In his free time, Dr. Kang enjoys playing guitar and has recently taken up golf. Since the arrival of his daughter, his second child, he is enjoying each moment with his family.

#### Study Investigates Factors to Promote Regeneration in Mature Teeth

Energized by his passion

for helping patients and the

challenges in diagnosis and

the highest scoring resident

student at the University of

Texas Health Sciences Center at

San Antonio, Dr. Bose assisted

Grant period. As a dental

during the Fall 2010 Research

treatment of pain, endodontic

resident Dr. Raison S. Bose was



Dr. Raison S. Bose

Dr. Kenneth M. Hargreaves with a study that evaluated radiographic outcomes in immature teeth with necrotic pulp in root canals that had been treated with regenerative endodontic procedures. This projected stimulated Dr. Bose's interest and led to the development of his award-winning research project. "The goal of the research proposal is to evaluate the effect of apex size as a factor that may influence the regenerative response of the dental pulp," Dr. Bose said. Thus providing important information related to possible future use of regenerative techniques to treat fully developed teeth.

Dr. Bose is also excited about the application of new imaging techniques like cone-beam-computed tomography. The recent addition of a Kodak CBCT machine at his program has heightened this interest. After receiving his M.S. in endodontics and conservative dentistry in 2006 in India, Dr. Bose moved to the U.S. to join his family in Texas. He spent two years attending an International Dentist's Education Program at UTHSCSA, and graduated with his D.D.S. in 2009 before beginning his residency. Dr. Bose enjoys hiking, fishing, watching movies and spending time with his family and friends.

# Understanding Genetic Behavior May Lead to Better Therapies



During the American Society of Microbiology meeting, Dr. Christine M. Sedgley found her initial interest in research involving the evaluation and comparison of CRISPR-Cas in oral, endodontic and hospitalacquired multi-drug resistant *E. Faecalis* isolates. Dr. Sedgley is the chair of the department of endodontology at the Oregon Science & Health University.

Dr. Christine M. Sedgley

Her work impressed the Research and Scientific Affairs Committee, landing her the highest-scoring faculty research proposal in Fall 2010.

The goal of Dr. Sedgley's project is to obtain a better understanding of the mechanisms by which acquisition of virulence and antibiotic resistance genes are controlled in endodontic microorganisms. Dr. Sedgley hopes that this "may help explain different clinical presentations of endodontic infections and in turn ultimately contribute to the identification of therapeutic targets." With experiments well underway, she and her co-investigator are currently analyzing DNA sequences. Following her analysis, she will begin writing the manuscript.

New to the Portland, Ore., area, Dr. Sedgley and her husband enjoy exploring and hiking the beautiful landscape of the Pacific Northwest. At the same time she relocated to Oregon, she joined the *Journal of Endodontics* editorial board. Though the project is time consuming, her talent is a good fit for the board.

### **Postgraduate Fellowship Recognition**

The 2010 Postgraduate Fellow, Dr. Jeffrey H. Janian, was recognized at the University of California at San Francisco School of Dentistry's 115<sup>th</sup> Dental Alumni Association Scientific Session on Saturday, January 15, 2011. The AAE Foundation awards this fellowship to a private practitioner who agrees to teach full-time for five years.

At the annual luncheon and awards ceremony, School of Dentistry Dean Dr. John Featherstone invited AAE Foundation President Dr. A. Eddy Skidmore to the podium to say a few words about Dr. Janian. Dr.



Dr. Jeffrey H. Janian was recognized by the University of California at San Francisco in January for his commitment to endodontic education. From left to right: Dr. John Featherstone, Dr. Jeffrey H. Janian, Dr. A. Eddy Skidmore.

Skidmore recognized Dr. Janian for his motivation to transition to a career in education after three years of volunteer teaching. "Dr. Janian exemplifies the zeal for learning that we seek to promote through our specialty," said Dr. Skidmore. "We hope that he will be an inspiration to others who have a passion for mentoring students and shaping the future."

#### Sustaining a Passion for Excellence, continued from page 1

endodontic program in the United States and Canada. There are grants for educators to attend the AAE Annual Session, AAE Fall Conference and ADEA meetings, as well as recognition for accomplishments such as Board certification and 10 continuous years of academic service.

These grants are moving the specialty to a level of scientific involvement and sophistication that would not otherwise be possible. But continued growth requires an ongoing investment. The passion for excellence that built this resource must be sustained and passed on to a new generation. "To go where our discoveries lead us, we must continuously replenish our fund," says Foundation President Dr. A. Eddy Skidmore. "That task falls to the new generation of endodontists. I urge you to approach the future with the same enthusiasm as your predecessors. Learn about the Foundation and what it does for you, then make a generous contribution to that important goal."

## **2010 Research Grants**

Endodontics researchers have produced another outstanding slate of grants. During the 2010 spring and fall research grant periods a total of \$334,949 was funded in competitive research grant awards. Exploring uncharted territory in the specialty is a valuable resource to the future of endodontics. Once again, the specialty has been well represented by its scientific community.

#### FALL 2010 Grantees Total: \$103,364

Applicant	Funding	Institution	Project
Raison S. Bose *	\$19,100	University of Texas at San Antonio	Human Stem Cell Regeneration of the Pulpodentin Complex
Yvonne F. Chiu	\$7,000	University of California at San Francisco	An Evaluation of the Role of the TRPM8 Receptor in Mediating Cold Pain in Rodent Molar Teeth
Brock A. Droll	\$15,975	Ohio State University	A Prospective, Randomized Study of the Local Anesthetic Efficacy of the Inferior Alveolar Nerve Block in Red- Haired Females
Andrew A.M. Halford	\$4,747	University of Toronto	Endodontic Biofilm Disruption by the Synergistic Effect of Microbubbles and Sonic or Ultrasonic Vibration
Mark A. Limosani	\$11,250	Nova Southeastern University	Stem Cell Therapy to Regenerate the Roots of Teeth
Umadevi P. Nair	\$5830	University of Florida	Use of Curcumin as an Anti-Inflammatory and Antiresorptive Agent in Endodontics
Mary T. Pettiette	\$3,000	University of North Carolina	The Effect of Statin Drugs on Altering Calcification Patterns of the Dental Pulp
Christine M. Sedgley *	\$5,162	Oregon Health & Science University	To What Extent do Oral and Root Canal Enterococcus faecalis Isolates Contain the Prokaryotic Immune System CRISPR-Cas?
William D. Stanley	\$8,000	Ohio State University	Effect of Nitrous Oxide on the Success of the Inferior Alveolar Nerve Block in Patients With Irreversible Pulpitis
Qian Xie	\$7,000	University of Illinois at Chicago	Efficacy of a Novel Natural Antimicrobial as an Endodontic Irrigant Against Mixed-Culture Endodontic Biofilm in an In Vitro Tooth Model
Sheng Zhong	\$15,300	University of North Carolina	microRNAs: Novel Players in the Regulation of Endodontic Diseases

#### SPRING 2010 Grantees Total: \$231,585

Applicant	Funding	Institution	Project
Mey A. Al-Habib	\$32,250	Boston University	Characterization of Subpopulations of Dental Pulp Stem Cells
David C. Bird	\$8,500	Baylor College of Dentistry	Physical and Biological Properties of a New Endodontic Material
Callee E. Cosby	\$22,570	University of Texas at San Antonio	The Use of Biosensors to Detect Toll-Like 2 and Toll-Like 4 Receptor Activators in Infected Root Canal System
Joshua E. Fein	\$13,420	University of Maryland	Endodontic Healing in Diabetic Patients: The Relationship Between Diabetic Control and Periapical Lesion Resolution
Mo K. Kang*	\$29,210	University of California at Los Angeles	Rejuvenation of Dental Mesenchymal Stem Cell Function by Bmi-1
Bekir Karabucak	\$8,000	University of Pennsylvania	An In Vitro Study of Bone and Odontogenic Cell Cellular Response to a Resin-Based Root-End Filling Material
Richie Kohli	\$27,000	University of Minnesota	Diagnoses for Persistent Dentoalveolar Pain Following Root Canal Therapy: A Nested Case-Control Study
Babak Nurbakhsh	\$31,230	University of Toronto	Post-treatment Resolution of Maxillary Sinus Mucositis Associated With Apical Periodontitis of Maxillary Teeth: A Cone-Beam CT Investigation
Adam W. Orgel	\$9,900	University of Maryland	The Effects of Microbial and Clinical Factors on Long-Term Healing of Endodontic Infections
Marc A. Pacheco*	\$7,800	University of Texas at San Antonio	Evaluation of the Predictive Value of Preoperative Mechanical Allodynia on the Healing of Apical Periodontitis After NSRCT
Alysen L. Phee	\$3,450	University of Toronto	Assessment of Bacteriophage Therapy for Suppression of Pseudomonas Aueruginosa In Vitro
Richard L. Raymond	\$5,500	Nova Southeastern University	Investigation of De Novo Bio-Root Creation and Regeneration Therapy
Jared I. Seltzer	\$7,255	University of Maryland	Detection of Endodontic Pathogens in Atheromatous Plaques
Kumar Subramanian	\$8,000	Nationwide Children's Hospital	Pulpal and Preiradicular Biomarkers to Predict Ankylosis
Sung-Ming S. Young	\$17,500	University of California at Los Angeles	Analysis of Microbial Flora Associated With Endodontic Infections Using PCR-DGGE Technique
			* Indicates recearchers who received \$500 ground for highest ecering proposal

\* *Indicates researchers who received* \$500 *award for highest scoring proposal.* **Boldface** indicates a nonstudent researcher.

### **Celebrating a Decade of Success in Education**

Dr. John M. Nusstein began his career in education at the Ohio State University, and over the last decade, he has discovered a passion for teaching. "The moments when you see the light bulb go off for dental students, when you are explaining various endodontic procedures or techniques, are priceless," Dr. Nusstein said.

The vigorous work of educators solidifies the future of the endodontic specialty. The AAE Foundation encourages and strives to reward this very desire to teach and inspire.

With the 10-Year Anniversary Grant, the Foundation has established a way to recognize the determined work of committed endodontic educators. Available since January 2011, the grant provides \$10,000 to any AAE member who has been teaching full-time for ten consecutive years. The grant is not retroactive; each year it commemorates those celebrating their tenth year in education. Associate Professor and endodontic Department Chair Dr. Nusstein is one of the first recipients of the grant.

Dr. Nusstein, who says he is "in it for the long haul," relishes his career in education far too much to make a change now. "To watch the development of rather unskilled first-year residents into highly skilled, knowledgeable endodontists, ready to take on the challenges of practice, is very rewarding."

Although it is rewarding, a career in education is no cakewalk. Dr. Marc E. Levitan, an associate professor at the Medical University of South Carolina, is also celebrating his tenth year in endodontic education. He admitted, "Being an educator is not for everyone. Entering the educational format is not a simple transition for all clinicians." Moving into the bureaucratic system can take time, as many endodontists have no formal training as educators.



*Dr. Marc E. Levitan (left) with resident Dr. Justin McAbee has found that his time in education has become more enjoyable with each year.* 

These challenges make their work in education all the more commendable.

The disparity between an educator's salary and the income of a private practitioner will remain, but the Foundation strives to encourage endodontists to go into, and stay in, academia. The 10-Year Anniversary Grant is just one strategy to give accolades to those mid-career educators. A career in endodontic education will last long beyond the personal relationships formed in the classroom. Endodontic educators are "preparing the next generation of endodontists, dentists and endodontic educators," Dr. Nusstein said.

The need to impart the most advanced endodontic concepts and techniques in the classroom is another important reason strong endodontists are needed in dental programs. Dr. Levitan commented, "Endodontists participating in the educational format

> are fundamental for the cultivation of a reciprocally positive rapport and developing a referral thought process essential to the existence of endodontic clinical practices."

Much like Dr. Nusstein, Dr. Levitan foresees an ongoing career in higher dental education. "The educational process has become more enjoyable with each subsequent year, and as a corollary, each year has enabled me to become better as an educator. I learn something from each student. As long as the symbiotic relationship continues, I envision remaining an educator."

The AAE Foundation formally congratulates Drs. Nusstein and Levitan as the first two recipients of the 10-Year Anniversary Grant. Here's to your first ten years, and many more to come!



Since he began at The Ohio State University ten years ago, Dr. John M. Nusstein has sustained and grown his passion for teaching.

# **2011 Budget Sets Priorities for Giving**

If you are a Foundation donor, you should know how your gift is being invested. Each year, the Board of Trustees sets the Foundation's annual budget. The goal is to support activities that will have the greatest impact on the growth and development of the specialty. In 2011, \$1,305,830 is available for grants. The list below summarizes how those dollars are allocated. Approximately 65 percent of the funding is designated for education and 35 percent for research. There are opportunities available for educators, residents and endodontic programs.

One question donors often ask is what percent of

#### **2011 Grant Initiatives**

#### For Residents

• \$11,000 for APICES

• \$100,000 for a \$500 research grant to each new resident

#### **For Research**

• \$260,000 for 2011 research grants, plus \$175,000 for special studies related to implants and regenerative endodontics

#### For Current or Prospective Educators

- \$118,925 to attend the Annual Session
- \$32,375 to attend the Fall Conference
- \$248,000 for tuition and stipends for Fellowships

• \$100,000 for a Postgraduate Fellowship for an endodontist who has been in practice 10 years or less

a nonprofit's budget goes to fundraising. Based on the Foundation's 2009 audit, fundraising represented just 11 percent of total expenses.

"There is board-based support for research and education in this budget, and we hope that every eligible endodontist will take advantage of these programs," says Foundation President A. Eddy Skidmore. For more information about grants, visit the Foundation Website at *www.aae.org/foundation*, or contact Alyson Hall, development coordinator, at 800/872-3636 (North America) or 312/266-7255 (International), ext. 3008, or by sending an e-mail to *ahall@aae.org*.

#### **For Current and Prospective Educators**

- \$100,000 10-year anniversary grant to educators
- \$8,000 for newly certified educators
- \$31,000 for educators to attend the ADEA Institute for Teaching and Learning
- \$82,000 for one educator from each program to attend the ADEA Meeting
- \$85,000 for the AAE Educator Workshop
- \$2,000 AAE membership dues subsidy for new educators

#### **For Endodontic Programs**

- \$100,000 for a matching grant for an endowed faculty position
- \$30,000 for programs where each resident makes a pledge



