



foundation  
for endodontics

**FOCUS**

VOLUME XXIV Spring 2020



# Endodontics: A 360° VIEW

# Dear Colleagues,

My service as president of the Foundation for Endodontics has been a **career highlight.**

**Our Foundation is the only organization dedicated solely to supporting the future of your specialty.**

The opportunity to serve and represent our specialty in the dental community, helping to ensure that your generous donations are put to work supporting research, education, public awareness and access to care, has given me a full, **360-degree view of endodontics.**

It takes the work and commitment of clinicians, researchers, residents, Foundation volunteers, trustees and staff to solidify a bright future for endodontics. Watching novel ideas go from submitted proposal to funded grant and, ultimately, outcomes that benefit patient well-being is fulfilling and makes me beam with pride.

Throughout this issue of FOCUS, you will have the opportunity to learn about funded grantees, research outcomes, outstanding educators and the lifeblood of the Foundation: its volunteers. My hope is that these accounts help illustrate the complete story of the Foundation for you.

Every initiative that the Foundation funds is an investment in endodontics and you. In 2019, the Foundation budgeted nearly \$1.5 million to support endodontic research, education, public awareness and access to care. Although this investment may not come in the form of a check in your mailbox, you will benefit in many ways. Foundation programs support every accredited endodontic program, high-caliber research, access to deserving patients and full-time educators who are mentoring future generations of specialists. Each of these deserving causes benefit your work, your patients and your future.

The ability to have a hands-on role in guiding and developing our specialty in the last 10 years has been incredibly exciting. As we begin a new decade, I find myself continually encouraged by the spirit of endodontic residents, amazed by a generation of new scientists and impressed by the commitment of endodontic educators. There is so much good in our specialty.

Please consider how you can become part of the Foundation's success story. For those of you who have generously contributed to our organization in the past, I extend a heartfelt thanks. If you have not joined us yet, I urge you to ask questions, learn about our vision and mission and reflect on how you can support endodontics.

**I promise to ensure that the Foundation continues to make a significant impact on the future of our specialty.**



My best,

*Mary T. Pettiette, DDS*

**Mary T. Pettiette, DDS**  
Foundation President



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# 2019

## THANK YOU

for investing in  
endodontics through  
your support to  
the Foundation.

**Your contributions  
made our success  
in 2019 possible.**

Throughout the year, funds  
gifted to the Foundation  
were invested in a variety of  
programs to support endodontic  
research, education, access to  
care and public awareness.

Our mission-driven initiatives  
provide resources and  
opportunities to endodontists in  
every stage of their careers.

Reflect back on the past year  
and explore the various ways  
your generous donations fueled  
the Foundation's work.



### APRIL

Leaders in philanthropy stepped up with  
overwhelming support at AAE19, **helping  
the Foundation exceed its \$1 million  
fundraising goal for the 2018-2019 year!**

Thanks to **Edge Endo** for helping the  
Foundation cross the campaign finish line.

### JULY

Over the course of two outreach trips to  
Treasure Beach, Jamaica, **63 root canal  
treatments were donated to those in need.**



**The IQ Slim-LED  
Microscope used at  
the Helping Hand  
Clinic in Jamaica has  
been on generous  
loan from Seiler  
Instrument & Co.,  
Inc. since 2016.**



# Another Successful Year for the Foundation!

## FEBRUARY

The AAE and Foundation relocated their HQ to a bright and sunny new home at Prudential Plaza in Chicago!

**\$42,330** in funding was awarded for Spring 2019 competitive research grants.



## MARCH

During the first two International Outreach Program trips in Treasure Breach, Jamaica, a collaboration with Henry Schein Cares Foundation, **49 root canal treatments were donated to those in need.**



## JUNE

The Foundation for Endodontics proudly announced a new Research Fellowship Award aimed at developing a pipeline for junior faculty in endodontics to become impactful, independent investigators who will advance the art and science of endodontics.

The 2019 award was sponsored by **Dentsply Sirona**.



## AUGUST

The Foundation's REACH committee met during APICES 2019 to discuss the future of endodontics and identify innovative ways the Foundation can continue supporting the specialty and ensure even more success in the future.

**300 residents attended APICES 2019**, a weekend of education and networking exclusively for residents, with support from the Foundation and many other event sponsors.

## SEPTEMBER

Dr. Lorel Burns was named the 2019 Educator Fellow, **receiving \$250,000 over the next five years to support her commitment to education.**

Learn more about Dr. Burns and how the Foundation is helping to achieve her goals on **page 13**.



## NOVEMBER

The Foundation for Endodontics was honored with an ADEA Gies Foundation William J. Gies Achievement Award for its educational funding initiative and efforts to fund **19 years of Endodontic Educator Fellowship Awards.**

## DECEMBER

**\$90,231** in funding was awarded for Fall 2019 competitive research grants.

The Foundation wrapped up a successful year of philanthropy supporting the specialty and began preparations for a new year focused on the further growth and development of its programs.

# A Decade of *FOCUS*



2010

First Endowed Faculty Matching Grant awarded to the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston to help fund the John R. Ludington Jr., DDS, MSD Distinguished Professorship in Endodontics.



2011

First 10-Year Anniversary Grants and ADEA/AAL ITL Award granted.



2012

To meet growing needs the Foundation added a new staff position, Corporate Relations Manager, to its team.



2013

*FOCUS* was redesigned from a two-color, eight-page newsletter to a full-color, 12-page publication.

The Foundation added non-trustees to its working committees for the first time.



2014

The first year of regenerative RFA funding was distributed to three multi-centered research groups, beginning a six year study.



**As a new decade is ushered in**, the Foundation for Endodontics is pleased to look back on the 2010s and highlight the accomplishments and news celebrated in the endodontic community.

To dig deeper into Foundation accomplishments from **the past 10 years**, visit [aae.org/foundation/news/focus/](http://aae.org/foundation/news/focus/)



**2015**

\$277,570 in competitive research grants were awarded to 18 deserving researchers.



**2016**

Fifty years after its inception in 1966, the Foundation celebrated its golden anniversary.

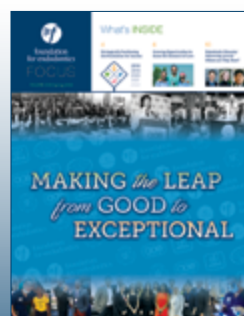
The inaugural members of the Resident Expert Advisory Council, or REACH, allowing endodontists in training to learn about organized dentistry and developing their potential as future leaders.



**2017**

A fresh, new strategy and brand brought new life to the mission, vision, value and look of the Foundation.

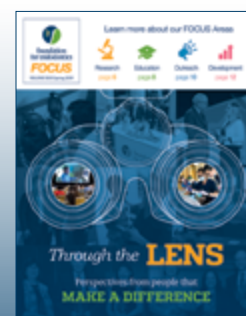
The first access to care projects funded by the Foundation are celebrated.



**2018**

The most recent website redesign and strategic plan progress are highlighted.

The life and legacy of Dr. Jacob B. Freedland, a founding father of the Foundation, is celebrated.



**2019**

The four focus areas of the Foundation's strategy are emphasized, including perspectives from researchers, educators, volunteers and donors.

# The Foundation: A 360° View

## RESEARCH

Enabling ongoing advancements in endodontics

## EDUCATION

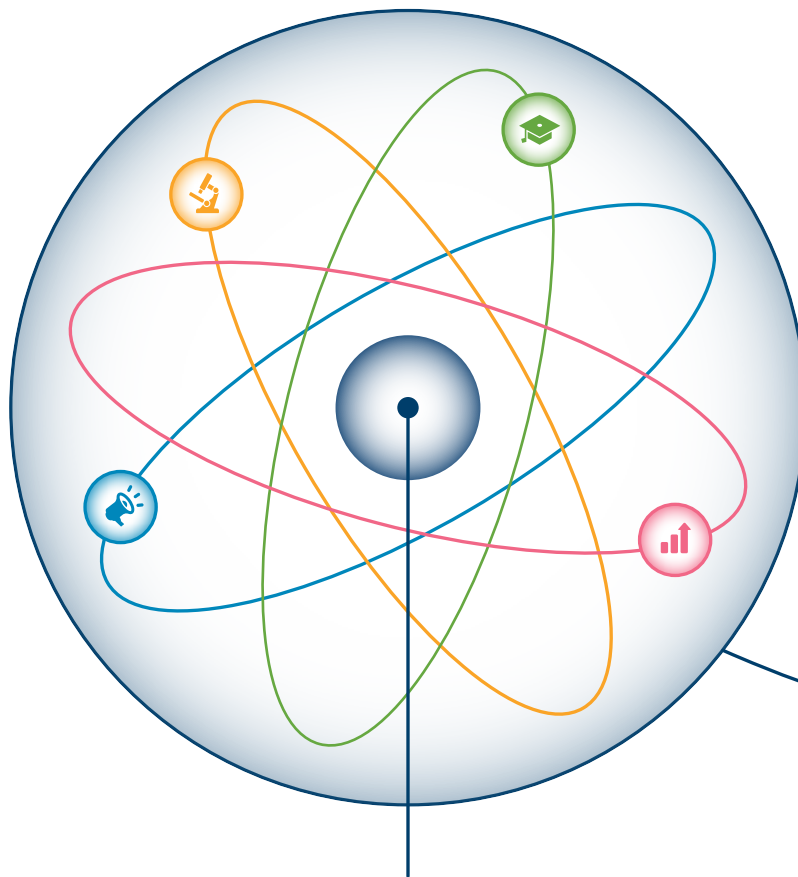
Supporting outstanding educators and departments

## OUTREACH

Providing life-changing care to people in need

## DEVELOPMENT

Funding research, education, public awareness and access to care






## CORE VALUES


Integrity | Accountability | Responsiveness | Innovative | Collaborative | Impactful

## IMPACTFUL OUTCOMES

Pursuit of excellence in the field  

Recognition of the specialty  


Advocating for the specialty   

Providing access to care 

Advancing new methods and technologies 

Hands-on volunteer opportunities 

Global connection  

Sharing success 

Mentorship  

Growing relationships and strategic partnerships 





Successfully supporting and developing endodontics in pursuit of excellence in the field of dentistry.

In 2019, your Foundation for Endodontics committed **over \$1.5 million** to a variety of mission-driven programs that propel the specialty forward, leave a lasting impact, and elevate the standard of patient care.



## Today's INVESTMENTS

The work of the Foundation is made possible by contributions from generous donors and through the philanthropic culture of the individuals who make up the specialty.



## Generating Ongoing BENEFITS

Those same individuals become the beneficiaries of our grants and opportunities.

## Fueling the FUTURE OF ENDODONTICS

### THE COMMUNITY

The work of the Foundation is made possible by contributions from generous donors and through the philanthropic culture of the individuals who make up the specialty.

Residents

Researchers

Educators

Endodontic  
Departments

Practitioners

General Dentists

Patients

Foundation Trustees  
& AAE Directors

Foundation  
Volunteers

Corporations

Foundation Staff





Groundbreaking  
**research** fuels the  
specialty and gives  
endodontists the tools  
to achieve excellence  
in patient care.



Dr. Mo K. Kang presented a concern in a letter to his colleagues on the Board of Trustees in March 2018:

“As a full-time faculty member at a dental school, **I feel there is a tremendous shortage of new junior investigators in endodontics** who will carry the torch in the science of endodontics, conduct research with broad and deep impact in dentistry, all funded by governmental agencies. There is clear disparity in funded NIH grants that specifically deal with pulpal diseases when compared with other disciplines, such as cariology or periodontal diseases. **This represents a serious, missed opportunity for our specialty in securing federal resources,** which is crucial for enhancing our understanding of pulpal biology and elevating the level of scholarship in endodontics as whole.”

The reaction was visceral, and Trustees immediately began discussing how to alleviate the issue. Finding the appropriate avenue to address this concern was in line with the research focus area of the Foundation's strategic plan.

Over the course of a year, a team of Trustees and staff worked to create program designed to help a junior researcher become an impactful, independent investigator making significant contributions to scholarship in endodontics, advance science in the service of the specialty and harness extramural resources to do so. Summer 2019 marked the launch of the Research Fellowship opportunity.

Candidate interviews were held the following November, and the board approved **Dr. Annie Shrestha, Assistant Professor, University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry**, as the 2019 Dentsply Sirona Research Fellow.

With poise and professionalism, Dr. Shrestha fielded selection committee questions about her submitted research proposal and plan for success. Her project, entitled “Immune Dysbiosis in Diabetes and Apical Periodontitis – Role of Cell Microenvironment,” elucidates the role of immune dysbiosis in adaptive immune cells in the development of apical periodontitis and increases understanding of how diabetes mellitus influences this process.

In addition to securing strong mentorship through the course of the fellowship, the Foundation requires Dr. Shrestha to submit applications for extramural grant funding by the end of funding year three (of five). The hope is that this study will provide significant information on the role of adaptive immune dysbiosis and apical periodontitis. Such scientific information can then be used to develop immunotherapy in which specialized biomaterials may attract and activate adaptive immune cells in order to modulate healing of apical periodontitis in immunocompromised patients.

Groundbreaking research fuels the specialty and gives both established and developing endodontists the tools to achieve excellence in patient care, saving natural teeth whenever possible. Coupling dedicated resources with Dr. Shrestha's irrefutable talent, the Foundation hopes to meaningfully impact the future of endodontics.



During Spring 2019, Dentsply Sirona committed to a partnership with the Foundation in order to fund the first fellowship for a five-year period.

Pictured: Dr. Annie Shrestha, Assistant Professor, University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a patterned scarf and a dark jacket, is speaking at a podium. A microphone is visible in front of her. The background is dark and out of focus.

**Education** has  
been central to  
the Foundation for  
Endodontics' mission  
since its inception.



Annually, the Foundation raises at least \$1 million to fund programs like the Endodontic Educator Fellowship Award which supports outstanding educators who commit a minimum of five years to a full-time academic career in endodontics. Recipients of the award receive up to \$250,000 in funding, disbursed over five years, in recognition of the critical role educators play in strengthening the specialty. The fellowship ensures that outstanding educators and departments have the support needed to confidently train endodontists and dentists alike.



In the summer of 2019, the Foundation was pleased to name **Dr. Lorel Burns, DDS, MS**, the 2019 Endodontic Educator Fellow. Dr. Burns is an instructor in the Department of Endodontics at New York University and founded the NYU College of Dentistry Saturday Academy, a pipeline program for underrepresented minority high school students. The program has been presented nationally and has had outcome data accepted for publication in the Journal of Dental Education. We are excited to see Dr. Burns' leadership and expertise flourish as an educator fellow and beyond.



*Gies Awards*

The Foundation has remained dedicated to supporting educators like Dr. Burns, awarding 24 individuals with the Endodontic Educator Fellowship since 2001.

**This impactful program was awarded the Gies Award for Achievement in 2020.**

The ADEAGies Foundation William J. Gies Achievement Award – Public or Private Partner recognized the Foundation for its initiative to support full-time endodontic educators.

By supporting educators through grants and fellowships, the Foundation demonstrates that education is key to making a lasting impact on strengthening the endodontic specialty.

“Supporting full-time educators, who bring value and experience to the clinic where future specialists are being educated, is only possible thanks to our generous donors who believe in excellence and a strong future for endodontics.

**We are thrilled and honored to win the Gies Award for Achievement – Public or Private Partner.**

The Foundation for Endodontics is an outstanding example of how excellence in dental education can be cultivated and rewarded, and I couldn't be prouder of our organization!”

— **Mary T. Pettiette, DDS**  
Foundation President

# Faces of the Foundation

**Dr. Juheon Seung is a friendly and familiar face around the Foundation for Endodontics.**

His expertise and positive attitude have been instrumental in guiding our programs since he first became involved as a resident in 2015.

As a member of the inaugural class of the Resident Expert Advisory Council—better known as REACH—Dr. Seung helped create our access to care initiative, which evolved to include an international program in Jamaica and two domestic pilot programs in Boston and Philadelphia.

During his time on REACH, Dr. Seung participated in one of the first trips to Jamaica during which he helped save 43 teeth—the most of any trip in the history of the program. When his term on REACH ended, Dr. Seung continued to volunteer for the Foundation, serving on the Special Committees on Marketing and Fundraising from 2017-2018 before being appointed to the Foundation's 2019-2020 Board of Trustees. Currently, he is the Board's New Practitioner Trustee and the chair of our Special Committee on Outreach, in which he guides the programs that his class of REACH helped create.

For many residents and new practitioners, gaining a foothold in the world of organized dentistry is daunting. With debt, many new responsibilities and aspirations, navigating a career path and finding time to volunteer can be overwhelming.

**One of the most frequent questions that Foundation staff is asked is:**

**“I want to become more involved with the Foundation. How can I begin volunteering?”**







**Foundation for Endodontics:** You got involved with the Foundation in 2015. Now that it's 2020, you've got five years' worth of experiences and memories with our organization. What's been your favorite?

**Dr. Juheon Seung:** My favorite and most rewarding experience I've had was participating in the Foundation for Endodontics/Henry Schein Cares International Outreach Program. This experience was profound on many levels. The program was an idea that was conceived by the inaugural REACH committee. We wanted to provide endodontic care to people who typically have no access to dental care of any kind. Seeing this unrefined, imaginative idea become a substantial working program was amazing. When I got to the clinic in Jamaica, hundreds of people from all over the island stood in line for hours to receive treatment. Not one person complained about the wait or the heat. After receiving treatment, they were so appreciative to us for saving their teeth. A lot of the patients smiled for the first time in months, unashamed of their teeth and no longer in pain. Providing care in this severely underserved area was a transformative experience for me and knowing that it was our Foundation that made this happen was very exciting. Within a year of this idea being discussed by residents, the Foundation's Board and staff created an international program to treat people who would have otherwise lived in pain or lost their teeth. This gave me so much faith in my specialty and the Foundation that supports it.



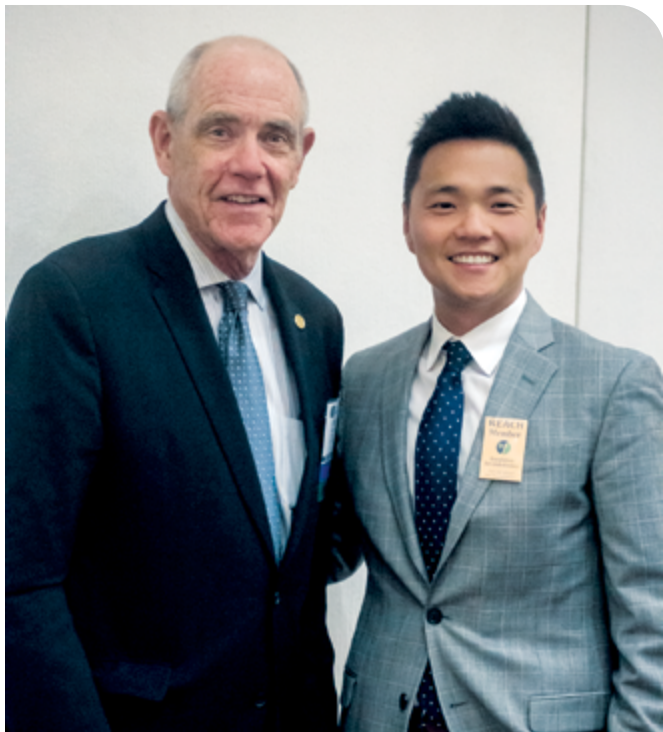
**FDN:** What motivated you to continue volunteering after your term on REACH ended?

**JS:** I joined REACH as an individual resident, but what came from the whole council was an idea that grew into this impactful, inspiring new program. That experience showed me that individual endodontists have the power to make a big difference when they work together toward common goals. Now that I'm in private practice, I am still motivated by this idea. I'm excited that I can help contribute to my specialty and shape its future. I believe it's important to volunteer, not only to give the next generation of residents and endodontists the same experiences I was fortunate to have, but to help the Foundation achieve its mission and vision.



**FDN:** As you took on more responsibilities with the Foundation, moving from REACH member to committee member, to serving as the New Practitioner Trustee on our Board, were you ever intimidated or nervous about "stepping up"? Did you have a mentor on the board who guided you through this experience?

**JS:** Yes! Every time I take on more responsibility, I'm a little unsure of whether I can bring value to the organization in my new role. It is intimidating to be in a room full of leaders in our specialty that I've looked up to for years. These people are amazingly intelligent and talented and I have wondered if I belong.



What helped me through this was having people like past Foundation President Dr. Peter Morgan and past Secretary Dr. Fiza Singh, who have always encouraged me to stay involved with the Foundation. They believed in me and gave me the encouragement to take on leadership roles. They helped me realize the value that everyone brings to the Board. I'm very thankful for past and present Trustees for their camaraderie and encouragement in this experience. Due to their willingness to find value in a young and inexperienced endodontist like myself, I have the confidence to take on more responsibility.

**FDN:** What would you tell someone who is considering getting involved with the Foundation or another non-profit organization?

**JS:** I would tell them that it has been the most rewarding experience of my professional life. I recommend getting involved in any capacity. Because the Foundation supports all aspects of our specialty, including education, research, outreach and development, there are opportunities for any endodontist to get involved and contribute, no matter their interests or areas of expertise. It doesn't matter if the volunteer is in academics or in private practice, and it also doesn't matter if you are just out of residency or toward the end of your career. There are many ways to contribute. This is what I would tell them: **DO IT!**

**FDN:** Congratulations again on five years of volunteering. We are so glad to have you. Reflecting on the past five years, is there anything else you'd like to share?

**JS:** I never expected the Foundation to be such a large part of my professional life. Volunteering with the Foundation has given me pride in what my specialty does to help people. It has given me an appreciation for the leaders who have guided our profession to what it is today. And it has given me a purpose—beyond my own practice—to work for a more perfect profession of endodontics.

**I'm excited to see where the Foundation for Endodontics goes from here. I'm honored to be a part of it.**



Are you interested in becoming a volunteer for the Foundation for Endodontics?

Write an email introducing yourself, your interests, and to ask any questions to [foundation@aae.org](mailto:foundation@aae.org)

# 2019 Research Grants



NAME



INSTITUTION



PROJECT



AWARD

SPRING 2019

|                    |  |   |          |
|--------------------|--|---|----------|
| Gillian Landzberg* | University of Toronto                                | Self-Mineralizing Antibacterial Tissue Repair (SMART) Varnish to Condition Root-end Dentin in Endodontic Microsurgery | \$9,561  |
| Ariadne Letra*     | University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston | Host-Pathogen Interactions in Apical Periodontitis  | \$32,769 |

Total Funding for SPRING 2019 \$42,330

FALL 2019

|                  |   |   |          |
|------------------|---|---|----------|
| Hacer Aksel      | University at Buffalo, The State University of New York | Characterization and Implementation of Bioactive Colloidal Gel with Tunable Mechanomorphology for Angiogenic and Odontogenic Differentiation of Cells | \$16,400 |
| Priya Chand      | University of Maryland                                  | The Efficiency of 3D Dynamic Guided Endodontics in Removing Fiber Posts: An <i>in vitro</i> Study   | \$5,000  |
| Karren Komitas*  | University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston    | The Role of Aging and Inflammation and the Effect of Enamel Matrix Derivative (EMD) on Dental Pulp Cells <i>in vitro</i>                              | \$9,443  |
| Muna Marashdeh*  | University of Toronto                                   | Antimicrobial Efficacy and Physical Properties of Root Canal Sealers Loaded with Drug-silica Co-assembled Particles                                   | \$9,000  |
| Kelsie Pittel    | University of Iowa                                      | DPSC Functionality and Differentiation Potential After AuNP-PLL Complex Incorporation   | \$11,088 |
| Philip Stashenko | Boston University                                       | Hormonal Modulation of Disseminating Endodontic Infections  | \$39,300 |

Total Funding for FALL 2019 \$90,231

Total Overall Funding \$132,561

\* Indicates researchers who received \$500 awards for the highest scoring proposal.





foundation  
for endodontics



The Foundation proudly thanks the following companies for their generous contributions to support endodontic research, education and outreach.

**\$2,700,000**



\* \$1,000,000 from Tulsa Dental Products

**\$740,000**



**\$400,000**



**\$300,000**



**\$200,000**



**\$190,000**



**\$170,000**



**\$110,000**



**\$100,000**



**\$75,000**

Acadental  
ACTEON North America  
ASI Medical, Inc.

**\$50,000**

Aspen Dental  
XDR Radiology

**\$25,000**

American Dental Partners  
Avalon Biomed  
Legally Mine  
Maruchi  
Meta Biomed  
Pacific Dental Services  
PreXion  
Seiler Instrument and Manufacturing  
U.S. Endodontics Partners

**\$70,000**

Elsevier, Inc.

**\$30,000**

Cornerstone Dental Specialties  
Septodont, Inc.

**\$55,000**

Coltene

**\$5,000**

Jordco, Inc.



## Ariadne Letra

SPRING 2019  
Faculty Winner

Dr. Ariadne Letra is an associate professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston where she joined the School of Dentistry faculty in 2011 to be part of the school's Center for Craniofacial Research.

She also holds an adjunct faculty position at the Department of Endodontics and at the Pediatric Research Center of UTHealth Medical School and the UT MDACC Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Dr. Letra has lectured nationally and internationally on various topics and has published more than 80 peer-reviewed manuscripts and two book chapters in the fields of craniofacial genetics and endodontics.

Prior to joining the UTHealth School of Dentistry, Dr. Letra did a postdoctoral fellowship and became an assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine from 2006 to 2010.

Outside of teaching and conducting research, Dr. Letra enjoys volunteering with the American Association of Endodontists as well as the Foundation for Endodontics. She also enjoys spending time with her husband and her two sons, being a 'hockey mom', traveling, and being with friends.

During the spring and fall research grant cycles, the highest-scoring resident and faculty research grant proposals receive \$500 cash awards.

The goal is to pay tribute to those applicants whose efforts reflect the highest-quality science.



## Gillian Landzberg

SPRING 2019  
Resident Winner

Dr. Gillian Landzberg is a third-year endodontic resident at the University of Toronto where her interests in endodontic research stem from her own clinical experiences. "We are often limited in our abilities to help our patients by the tools and materials that are available to us," says Dr. Landzberg. "With the development of novel materials, we can broaden the scope of what is possible and what is treatable in order to provide the best possible outcomes for our patients."

Fractures in root-filled teeth pose a distinct challenge in endodontics, as there are few adequate treatment strategies. Dr. Landzberg's research project, Self-Mineralizing Antibacterial Tissue Repair (SMART) Varnish to Condition Root-end Dentin in Endodontic Microsurgery aims to provide new hope for patients who wish to retain their natural teeth, even in compromised situations. The study will focus on developing and testing a novel varnish that utilizes the principle of biomineralization to seal the resected root end in endodontic microsurgery. In addition to self-mineralizing capabilities, this varnish possesses bioactivity and antimicrobial effects. Dr. Landzberg states that the ultimate goal of developing this varnish is not only to seal cracks, but also eliminate microbes in these regions while providing an optimal condition to promote healing post-surgery.

Providing patients with a high standard of care is a primary motivator for Dr. Landzberg. She loves endodontics because she feels it is a constant challenge, motivating her to become better each day. "One thing I look for in my work is to be challenged. I am interested in applying novel and creative methods to address clinical problems that have been largely considered untreatable." When not in the lab, Dr. Landzberg enjoys teaching and hopes to continue to participate in clinically relevant research activities in the future. She feels this is where she can contribute most to the advancement of endodontics.

Outside of endodontics, Dr. Landzberg enjoys traveling, live music and spending time with family and friends.



## Karren Komitas

FALL 2019  
Faculty Winner

Dr. Karren Komitas is currently a faculty member at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston where his focus is developing translational research projects in the field of dental pulp regeneration in collaboration with the Department of Endodontics.

His goal is to continue dental pulp research and identify emerging clinical areas that require evidence-based answers.

Dr. Komitas is a periodontist. However, he has also been engaged with research focusing on the dental pulp for the past decade as both a Master's and PhD student.

In his research project, The Role of Aging and Inflammation and the Effect of Enamel Matrix Derivative (EMD) on Dental Pulp Cells *in vitro*, Dr. Komitas expects to demonstrate that the effects of EMD depend on a person's age and the state of inflammation of the dental pulp tissue.

Dr. Komitas says these findings are of significance to endodontics because by gaining insight into the age- and inflammation-dependent effects of EMD, the ability to enhance its clinical efficiency through improved case selection is increased.

Speaking further about his interest in the topic, Dr. Komitas says that tissue regeneration is essential for the restoration of the lost tissues.

Current research and clinical efforts have been dedicated to improving the outcomes of regenerative endodontic procedures using EMD.

However, the evidence has demonstrated its limited efficiency in regenerative endodontic procedures.

**Learn more about  
this year's winners at  
[aae.org/foundation/  
winnerscircle](http://aae.org/foundation/winnerscircle)**



## Muna Marashdeh

FALL 2019  
Resident Winner

While pursuing her PhD in biomaterials at the University of Toronto, Dr. Muna Marashdeh's research investigated the physicochemical properties of root canal sealers and their interaction with dentin and pathogenic bacteria. Now, as a third-year endodontic resident, Dr. Marashdeh is elaborating on her PhD project by trying to improve the antimicrobial and physical properties of root canal sealers.

Her project, Antimicrobial Efficacy and Physical properties of Root Canal Sealers Loaded with Drug-silica Co-assembled Particles investigates the ability of novel highly-loaded Drug-silica Co-assembled Particles (DSPs) to improve the antimicrobial properties of root canal sealers. When speaking about her project, funded by the Foundation in fall of 2019, Dr. Marashdeh shared that nanoparticles are gaining popularity in the medical and dental fields due to the superior physicochemical properties when compared with their counterparts. The use of nanoparticles has been suggested for root canal disinfection and they can also be used as an irrigant or added to root canal medicaments and sealers.

Dr. Marashdeh feels that as endodontic materials and technologies advance, clinicians become more confident and outcomes become more predictable. "However," she said, "even well-restored root canals might leak with time and be exposed to bacterial proliferation." She hopes that, through her project, incorporating DSPs into root canal sealers will give the sealers prolonged antimicrobial properties, allowing them to prevent interfacial biofilm formation and proliferation and potentially increase the quality and effectiveness of endodontic treatment.

Outside of conducting research, Dr. Marashdeh considers herself a life-long learner. She enjoys teaching and spending her free time with her husband and children. Dr. Marashdeh is grateful to have the Foundation's support in her project.

**“It's motivating to receive a research grant from the Foundation.**

**It encourages me to continue with my research projects and do all I can to contribute to our specialty.”**



# 2019 - 2020 Leadership

The **RESIDENT EXPERT ADVISORY COUNCIL (REACH)** provides insight into the perspectives and values of the newest generation of endodontists.

**Kelly A. Barbera, DMD**  
Tufts University  
(2020)

**Alexandria L. Butler, DMD**  
Harvard University  
(2019)

**Lindsey S. Chang, DMD**  
Texas A&M University  
(2020)

**Rachel Kalman**  
University of Connecticut  
(2021)

**Carolyn A. Kilbride, DDS**  
University of Connecticut  
(2019)

**Steven K. Kim, DMD**  
Columbia University  
(2020)

**Lauren E. Kuhn, DMD, MSD**  
Medical University of  
South Carolina (2020)

**Gordon S. Lai, DDS**  
University of the Pacific  
(2020)

**Yagnik Patel, DDS**  
University of Illinois  
at Chicago (2020)

**Kortnie K. Strother, DDS**  
University of Texas  
at Houston (2020)



## We are deeply grateful for the leadership of our volunteers.

The Foundation's success and influence on endodontics relies on the many volunteers who dedicate their time to help define impactful initiatives, develop and refine programs, review grant applications, educate peers about the work of the Foundation, and fundraise.

Our **BOARD OF TRUSTEES** works hard to ensure the Foundation is meeting its mission-driven objectives while planning for a strong future and shepherding success.

### Trustees

**Patrick E. Dahlkemper, DMD**  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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The Foundation for Endodontics was created to serve endodontists and ensure that the specialty has access to sources of funding and support for research and education. Ultimately, the goal is to strengthen the cornerstone of endodontists by filtering resources through these two mission-driven initiatives. In the past 54 years, our mission has expanded, and the need to serve endodontists has grown. Now is the time for **YOU** to give back and ensure the Foundation's mission is provided for and that its vision stays strong for years to come.

## There are a variety of ways to contribute to the 2019–2020 fundraising campaign.

Staff is happy to discuss options and payment plans to make a generous gift, a multi-year commitment or planned gift.

No matter the vehicle, we hope endodontists at every level of their career can find a way to give back. Your contribution will help the Foundation achieve campaign success and, ultimately, a stronger specialty.

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