

## Foundation Report to the General Assembly

### Dr. John M. Nusstein

### Friday, April 29, 2022

When I began my term as Foundation president in 2020, the world had just turned upside down and pretty much shut down. However, the Foundation endured and moved forward. The Foundation has continued to make progress even since I addressed you virtually in 2021. Our Trustees and staff have been hard at work this last year, developing a strategic plan to serve as a roadmap for the years to come as well as other projects. The new plan focuses on endodontic research, education, access to care, and engagement.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our generous donors; *you* are the reason the specialty of endodontics is moving forward. I am thrilled to share how we are putting your generosity to work! Due to your continued support, the Foundation has provided funding and resources to help the specialty continually evolve. In 2021 the Foundation budgeted over \$1.1 million to:

- Assist residents in their research efforts and help launch the careers of endodontic investigators
- Advance the highest quality of endodontic education with direct support to full-time educators and endodontic departments, and
- Provide patients in a variety of U.S. communities access to quality endodontics.

To continually support the next generation of endodontists and committed educators, Endo1 Partners has committed to a five-year pledge of half a million dollars to be applied toward two new programs:

- The Foundation for Endodontics & Endo1 Partners Annual Meeting Resident Development Scholarship
- and the Foundation for Endodontics & Endo1 Partners ADEA Scholar

It is the mutual goal of the Foundation and Endo1 Partners to provide support preparing future endodontists to launch their careers. The resident scholarship reimburses AAE annual meeting eligible expenses up to \$500 for those in their final year of training! If this applies to you, please visit the Foundation booth for more information.

This partnership will also sponsor one endodontic educator's participation in the ADEA Leadership Institute, annually. The Leadership Institute helps further develop dental faculty and enables a growing pool of outstanding academicians to become academic leaders in dental institutions, like deans. I would like to thank Endo1 Partners directly for this transformative support.

The Foundation prioritizes programs that serve as a catalyst for scientific innovation. A one-time \$500 Resident Research Grant is available to every post-graduate resident to fund activities related to research and education. In 2021, Brasseler U.S.A. committed to generously supporting the program for all residents during 2022. Brasseler U.S.A. is committed to removing financial barriers for residents embarking on endodontic research. We are grateful for this support!

One of our highest priorities is to ensure that endodontics is being taught by skilled endodontists, ensuring the brightest future for the specialty. The Endodontic Educator Fellowship Award aims to achieve this. In 2021, Dr. Ana Cristina Andrada, assistant professor at Virginia Commonwealth University, was named the Endodontic Educator Fellow. As Director of Predoctoral Endodontics at VCU, Dr. Andrada mentors students' dental expertise while fostering their judgement around which cases belong in the hands of specialists. We are thrilled to see what your career as an educator unfolds, and we believe you will help us sow promising seeds for the future.

As a research and educator, I am so proud of the work the Foundation is doing to support research and education. Beyond the resident research grants and educator fellows award, there are a variety of opportunities, big and small to support that I encourage you to explore.

I am thrilled to report our growth in providing access to endodontic care!

Although the pandemic put our international program on hold, we look forward to and are committed to safely returning our volunteers to the clinic in Treasure Beach, Jamaica at the appropriate time. Until then, we are grateful to our corporate partner the Henry Schein Cares Foundation, committed to the humanitarian and philanthropic experience of providing endodontic access.

2021 brought the launch of our domestic access to care program! The program allows AAE members who are endodontists the opportunity to positively impact your community with funding to provide free access to the highest level of specialty care to underserved patients.

We are grateful to our partner U.S. Endo Partners for the monetary commitment to sustain the program through 2025. Congratulations to the 2021 grantees!

Please consider what *you* can do for *your* community in 2022. Proposals detailing a well-designed project plan inclusive of how and where it will serve their community will be reviewed for funding following the June 1 deadline. The application process is live.

As I stated before, none of this great work would be possible without the generous support of so many, including our industry partners. First, I would like to extend a special thanks to our first-time corporate donor Endo1 Partners. I would also like to thank our longtime corporate partners who have increased their commitment to the Foundation during the current campaign Brasseler, Pacific Dental Services, and Coltene. I am so grateful to these corporations, and others, whose contributions have a direct impact on the specialty's future growth and development.

Each one of you is part of our Foundation. You are not only the beneficiaries but the supporters. No matter your history with the Foundation, today I challenge you to step up and pay it forward, to support the profession that has provided you a fulfilling career and assist us in ensuring a bright future for Endodontists to come.

I am honored, humbled and grateful for the opportunity to have served as President of the Foundation, and I will always be a friend of the Foundation for Endodontics! I hope all of you will too. Thank you.