

Foundation for Endodontics Report Dr. Margot T. Kusienski, Foundation President

As my term as President of the Foundation comes to a close, I have been blessed to have had the opportunity to lead the Foundation. Our Board has worked diligently to elevate our specialty of endodontics through fulfilling our mission of supporting endodontic research, endodontic educators, endodontic outreach and engagement.

Throughout the year, the Foundation has taken opportunities to meet with many of you at CE lectures, endodontic programs across the country, and at endodontic events. These engagements allowed us to take stock and best determine how the Foundation could help raise the bar for our specialty of endodontics. I'd like to share with you how the Foundation continues to remain relevant as our specialty moves towards the future.

But first, I must extend my gratitude to each of our [generous donors](#); *you* are the reason we can purposefully and thoughtfully ensure a promising future for endodontics. I am happy to share how we are putting your generosity to work!

In 2023 the Foundation budgeted nearly \$1.1 million toward grants and programs to:

- Elevate the scientific advancements of endodontics
- Advance the highest quality of endodontic education with direct support to full-time educators and endodontic departments, and
- Provide underserved patients in eight U.S. communities access to quality endodontics.

Based on needs, identified through our engagement efforts which led by our strategic planning process, the Foundation is thrilled to share several new programs available in 2024, including:

- [The Foundation & Dentsply Sirona Freedom Scholarship](#)
- The return of the [International Access to Care Program](#) with a new host organization.
- The [Part-time Educator Development Grant](#) to support dedicated part-timers who are vital to predoctoral and postgraduate programs.
- The reimagined [Endowed Faculty Matching Grant](#) to ensure relevance and impactfulness.

Many of us carry or have carried the burden of student debt. According to the ADA, the average student loan debt for a dentist is approximately \$300,000, with student debt for specialists far exceeding that amount. For the first time, in 2024, we are thrilled to offer three \$50,000 scholarships, to cover the cost of post-graduate endodontic tuition, courses, equipment, books, and/or fees for training related purposes.

The Foundation is grateful to Dentsply Sirona for supporting the Freedom Scholarship which was named aptly for its efforts to help alleviate the future burden of student debt. I wish an opportunity like this had been available during my residency, but I am excited the Foundation engaged, listened, partnered, and is now supporting residents in this way.

Thank you again to Dentsply Sirona for your valued partnership and financial commitment to supporting the specialty.

As we enter the third year of a half million-dollar pledge from Specialty1 Partners we are pleased to share the continuation of their support for the:

- The [Foundation for Endodontics & Specialty1 Partners Annual Meeting Resident Development Scholarship](#), and
- The [Foundation for Endodontics & Specialty1 Partners ADEA Leadership Institute Scholarship](#)

If you are a resident presenting at AAE24, you are *all* eligible for up to \$500 to help cover the cost of your meeting expenses. This expanded eligibility and program coverage will support even more new endodontists in 2024 and beyond.

Thank you again to Specialty1 Partners for your valued partnership and commitment to resident and educator development.

The [Endodontic Educator Fellowship Award](#), one of our flagship programs, helps to ensure that endodontics, at every level, is being taught by skilled endodontists, ensuring the brightest future for the specialty. In 2023, Dr. Christopher Hogden, assistant professor at University of Iowa Department of Endodontics, became the 28th Endodontic Educator Fellow. It was clear to the selection committee that Dr. Hogden is a natural born mentor, finding joy in the success of his students. He works to foster a sense of curiosity, a desire to learn, and the ability to critically think. I am pleased to recognize Dr. Hogden during the AAE24 General Assembly

2023 was a rewarding year for the [Domestic Access to Care program](#); eight projects across the U.S. were funded, providing access to endodontic care to a variety of vulnerable populations, including low-income seniors and veterans. Thank you to our industry supporter, Specialized Dental Partners, for their commitment to sustain this program through 2025.

If you are currently providing free endodontic care or interested in doing so you have the opportunity to seek funding to positively impact your community. The deadline is June 30th for applications. Visit the Foundation booth or our website for more information about the application process.

Between 2016 and 2022, our volunteers provided over 400 endodontic procedures through our international access to care program. We are happy to announce that in 2024, Foundation volunteers will travel to Jamaica with a new host partner, Great Shape! Inc. to provide the highest standard of endodontic care.

During the 2023 – 2024 campaign, the Foundation has graciously received first-time and repeat pledge contributions from [a variety of our industry partners](#). Thank you to Endo Mastery and Endodontic Supersystems Inc. for supporting the Foundation with a pledge for the first time. Welcome to the family! I would also like to thank our longtime corporate partners who have increased their commitment to the Foundation during the current campaign Acidental, ASI Medical, Inc., Carl Zeiss Meditec, Dentsply Sirona, Global Surgical, Kerr Endodontics, and Meta Biomed.

Please know your contributions have a direct impact on the specialty's future growth and development.

Each one of you is a key part of our endodontic community, and I appreciate the opportunities I have had to engage with so many of you in the past two years. I look forward to seeing how the Foundation flourishes under the leadership of Drs. Patty Tordik and Clara Spatafore. I wish them and the Trustees of the Foundation the most successful year yet!

Thank you!