

Report from the Foundation for Endodontics

The Foundation for Endodontics has had a wonderful year, and the Board of Trustees is honored to provide an update to members of the AAE.

The Foundation works to elevate the specialty with programs that support endodontic research, education, and access to care. Although the Foundation is a nonprofit organization independent of the AAE, the two organizations have a shared purpose to serve the specialty. In 2024, the Foundation did so with over 1.4 million dollars in grants.

The Foundation is grateful to its supporters; we are financially sound and strong, and we extend our gratitude to each donor. Your generosity is why the Foundation can continue to fund storied programs that secure the future of endodontics.

The strategic planning process identified *new* programs subsequently launched in 2024, including:

- The Foundation & Dentsply Sirona Freedom Scholarship which provided \$50,000 for tuition and fees for three endodontic residents.
- With a new partner supported by the Sandals Foundation, the International Access to Care Program allowed us to send four endodontic residents and two endodontist mentors to the Caribbean to care for an underserved population.
- The Part-time Educator Development Grant provided nearly \$15,000 to fourteen endodontic educators from eleven programs supporting their continuing education.

In 2025, we are pleased to announce another new addition to our program portfolio aimed at honoring New Diplomates to the American Board of Endodontics.

In recognition of the commitment and dedication required for an endodontist to become a Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics, the Foundation, in partnership with Cornerstone Dental Specialties, is thrilled to provide this opportunity.

The award will recognize newly board-certified endodontists with a \$500 gift as a token of appreciation for their commitment to the specialty. The board certification process is integral to maintaining endodontics as a recognized specialty with the National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards. Thank you, Cornerstone, for your three-year financial commitment to this program.

The Endodontic Educator Fellowship Award is a flagship program that helps ensure that endodontists teach endodontics. In 2024, Dr. Xiaofei Zhu, assistant professor and research director of endodontics at Boston University, became the 29th recipient of this award. Dr. Zhu has a strong commitment to education. He continuously hones his teaching skills

through student engagement in didactic and clinical instruction. He is an expert in teaching translational science, which allows his residents to practice evidence-based dentistry. He also gives his students the necessary tools to become life-long learners. We applaud your critically essential contributions to Endodontics...

2024 was a successful year for our Domestic Access to Care Program. The Foundation funded five projects across the United States, enabling local volunteers to provide access to endodontic care to some of our country's most vulnerable populations, including the homeless and others living below the poverty level. Thank you to our industry supporter, Specialized Dental Partners, for their commitment to continue this program through 2025. Each beneficiary in 2024 previously received a grant-a testament to the Foundation's sustainable impact. Since the program began in 2021, patients have substantially benefited. For example, within a 2-year period, the Foundation donated over \$118,000 and over 2,500 volunteer hours were spent treating 666 patients, completing 1,329 root canals. If you are currently providing pro bono care or are interested in doing so, you can seek funding to impact your community positively. The deadline for applications is June 30th.

During the 2024 – 2025 campaign, the Foundation graciously received first-time and repeat pledge contributions from many industry partners. Thank you Enova/Zumax for your first-time pledge to the Foundation! Welcome to the family! Thank you to longtime Foundation corporate donors, Cornerstone Dental Specialties and J. Morita, who increased their pledge to the Foundation. Your contributions directly impact the specialty's future growth and development.

Finally, I am pleased to announce several grassroots efforts to honor this year's Edgar D. Coolidge Award recipient, Dr. Kenneth M. Hargreaves, and the I.B. Bender Lifetime Educator Award recipient, Dr. Bradford Johnson. Drs. Hargreaves and Johnson, your colleagues led fund-raising efforts that resulted in contributions from your friends, peers, and former residents who feel they are better for having known you.

In recognition of the *Spirit of Service New Practitioner Dental Community Volunteer Award* and the *Edward M. Osetek Educator Award*, colleagues of Dr. Francisco Neives and Dr. Carla Falcon raised funds in their honor. It is encouraging to witness these dedicated young professionals who share our core values already impacting our specialty.

Congratulations to each of you and the sincerest thank you to everyone who contributed!

AAE25 marks the end of our 24 – 25 campaign. The Foundation has a robust goal to raise \$826,000 to support its programs. It is the shared duty of all endodontists to invest in the future of the specialty; please consider what you can do for endodontics.