

## **Report from Foundation for Endodontics**

The Foundation for Endodontics had a wonderful year, and the Board of Trustees is honored to provide an update to members of the AAE, reflecting on the organization's progress and reaffirming its commitment to advancing the specialty.

The Foundation exists to ensure the specialty continues to lead in research, education, and access to care. Although the Foundation operates as an independent nonprofit organization, it works closely with the AAE to advance a shared mission: protecting and strengthening the future of the specialty.

In 2025, the Foundation invested more than \$1.25 million in programs supporting educators, researchers, residents, and practicing endodontists. These investments help fuel groundbreaking scientific advancements, strengthen academic programs, and expand specialty care to patients in need.

The strength of the Foundation reflects the dedication of the endodontic community. Through the generosity of donors and the service of volunteers, the organization continues to remain financially strong and strategically focused. Each contribution represents confidence in the future of the specialty and a shared commitment to ensuring that endodontics continues to thrive.

The Foundation continues to continue and expand key initiatives designed as strategic investments in leadership, professional standards, and long-term sustainability.

- The Foundation and Dentsply Sirona Freedom Scholarship, the organization continues to reduce financial barriers for residents pursuing endodontic certificates.
- The International Access to Care Program is approaching its tenth year, and in 2025 the Foundation deployed residents and mentors to three Caribbean nations, delivering specialty-level care. The program highlights the profession's dual commitment to scientific excellence and compassionate service.
- The Foundation & Cornerstone Dental Specialties New Diplomate Award recognizes endodontists who achieve diplomate status with the American Board of Endodontics. By supporting those who pursue the highest standards of certification, the program helps preserve the specialty's credibility and professional recognition.

One of the Foundation's most important priorities is ensuring that endodontists continue to teach the next generation of dentists. The longstanding Endodontic Educator Fellowship Award recognizes an individual annually dedicated to advancing academic endodontics. In 2026, the Foundation honored Dr. Rachel Garoufalos, assistant clinical professor and

director of predoctoral endodontics at the University of New England College of Dental Medicine. She was recognized for her commitment to education, mentorship, and innovation—efforts that help ensure the specialty remains vibrant, evidence-driven, and uncompromising in its standards.

Through a partnership with Specialized Dental Partners, the Foundation funded three Domestic Access to Care projects in 2025, expanding specialty care into new communities across the United States.

During the first four years of the program (2021 – 2024), the program achieved significant impact:

- Delivered in 8 states
- 2,724 volunteer hours contributed
- 830 patients treated
- 1,499 procedures completed

At the end of 2025, Specialized Dental Partners committed to supporting the program for an additional five years, from 2026 through 2030, ensuring continued access to specialty care for underserved populations. The Foundation is thrilled to continue the partnership.

During the 2025 – 2026 campaign, the Foundation graciously received first-time and repeat pledge contributions from many industry partners. Thank you, Mani, for your first-time pledge to the Foundation! Welcome to the family! Thank you to longtime Foundation corporate donors, Edge Endo, Septodont, and Specialized Dental Partners who increased their pledge to the Foundation. Your contributions directly impact the specialty's future growth and development.

The Foundation honors Dr. Alan S. Law receiving the AAE's 2026 Dr. Edgar D. Coolidge Award. Colleagues and friends contributed generously in tribute to Dr. Law, recognizing the lasting influence he has had on the profession. These contributions have also established a Full-time Educator Award in Dr. Law's name, which will support educator development annually in perpetuity.

The Foundation's 2025–2026 fundraising goal is \$770,000. The campaign reflects more than a financial target—it represents a commitment to sustaining the programs that support research, educator development, and patient care.

It is the shared duty of all endodontists to invest in the future of the specialty; please consider what you can do for endodontics.