



Just since 2004, the ACPEF has:

- Awarded \$280,000 in **scholarships** to dentists pursuing prosthodontics as a specialty,
- Added more than \$320,000 to the ACP's **public relations** outreach promoting the specialty to patients and consumers,
- Funded start up costs for a **new post-graduate prosthodontic program** at Queens Hospital,
- Paid for equipment that will **enhance dental technology** students' experience, making them better able to serve the needs of prosthodontists upon their graduation,
- Provided support for the Graser Fellowship fund designed to **recruit and retain qualified prosthodontic faculty**,
- Underwritten two seminars aimed at **strengthening post-graduate prosthodontic programs**,
- Sponsored the **ACP Summit** on Reframing the Future of Prosthodontics, a symposium of leaders who evaluated the future of prosthodontics in order to produce a meticulous plan for achieving the goals identified by the group as crucial to continuing and expanding our specialty,
- Sponsored the ADEA Summit on **Advanced Dental Education**,
- Funded **prosthodontic-related research**,
- Aided graduate students, faculty and ACP members displaced by Hurricane Katrina,
- Created an **endowment fund** of more than one million dollars.

In 2007, the ACPEF will co-sponsor the inaugural Scope of Prosthodontic Research with UNC School of Dentistry. The goals of symposium are to:

- Assess and evaluate the current scope of research among Prosthodontists and in prosthodontics
- Identify current and emerging priorities in prosthodontics-related research
- Direct the future of prosthodontics-related research to the highest priority, most immediate patient-care impact projects
- Identify opportunities for collaboration to increase success, minimize costs, and increase alignment in the specialty
- Create a compelling case for support to increase resources for funding prosthodontics-related research

Increased prosthodontic-related research funding and activity will propel the advancement of patient care. It will also elevate the position of prosthodontic programs in the larger biomedical industry, which promises to broaden recognition for the specialty in undergraduate dental schools, among undergraduate students of dentistry and in the public's awareness. This symposium is the first step toward reframing the future of prosthodontics in terms of research.

UNC/ACPEF Scope of Prosthodontic Research Symposium

The names of the leaders in prosthodontic research are instantly recognizable, in large part due to their talents and scientific accomplishments.

But there is also what Christian S. Stohler, DMD, describes in his article “Prosthodontic Research: Breaking Traditional Barriers” as “a decade of low priority for research, with a heavy focus on old questions ...” that has, perhaps, limited the number of prosthodontists who have chosen to focus on research and has led to what the article deems “negative consequences for the discipline of prosthodontics and those who practice the specialty.”

In an effort to advance the promise and achievements of prosthodontic research, the ACP Education Foundation (ACPEF) is partnering with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Dentistry to host the first-ever “Scope of Prosthodontic Research” symposium. This symposium, to be held on Jan. 11 and 12, is being coordinated by Dr. Lyndon Cooper of the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Dentistry’s Department of Prosthodontics. Researchers from across the nation and beyond are expected to attend the event.

“We are honored to host this important symposium, which comes at a critical time in the life of prosthodontic research,” said John N. Williams, DMD, MBA, dean of the School of Dentistry. “Within our own School of Dentistry and at dental schools nationwide, we are seeing how this research is translating into expanded treatment options for a wide variety of patients. It is crucial that we do all we can to further encourage the advancement of prosthodontic research.”

Leading investigators involved in prosthodontic research that includes interests ranging from materials science to neuroscience to salivary biology will present to an audience represented by every post-graduate prosthodontic program in the United States. The symposium’s purpose is to examine the scope of prosthodontic research today and create a plan for its future that incorporates the strengths of this research and meets both existing and emerging patient needs.

The ACPEF, created by the ACP in response to demand for research support, has funded prosthodontic-related research since 1985. All of this particular research has been conducted by post-graduate students completing their specialty training. In supporting this prosthodontic-related research, the ACPEF has provided necessary and otherwise unavailable funding for more than 120 projects that have increased the overall understanding of many dental conditions and promising treatment outcomes.