The “Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General” described the effect of the “silent epidemic” of dental and oral issues: “...many experience needless pain and suffering, complications that can devastate overall health and well-being, and financial and social costs that significantly diminish the quality of life.”

Since its founding in 1986, the Foundation has secured and stewarded resources into the areas of research and education – all towards the goal of advancing the specialty to the forefront of restorative patient care. Support from ACP members enables the Foundation to fund its cornerstone programs each year, preparing prosthodontic leaders of the future to address the issues of oral health head-on. In order to ensure these programs continue for years to come, the ACPEF has launched a member pledge drive.

“I have been a member of the ACP since I was a resident at the University of North Carolina in 1986. I have seen our College grow in numbers and influence within the dental community since that time. A big part of that growth and influence is due to the programs that have been made available because of our Foundation.”

Dr. Karen Bruggers, ACPEF Vice Chair
Louisiana State University Health School of Dentistry, Department of Prosthodontics

1/3 OF ADULTS AVOID SMILING AND USE OTHER TACTICS TO HIDE THEIR TEETH*

TREATING THE SILENT EPIDEMIC
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PROSTHODONTISTS HAVE A vision

...that everyone can enjoy the confidence and well-being that comes from a healthy mouth and an attractive smile. More than 30 years ago, the American College of Prosthodontists (ACP) Education Foundation (ACPEF) was formed to make this vision a reality. Through the diligent efforts of forward thinking leaders, prosthodontists have led the way in treatment, technology, and dental education.

*Survey by Wakefield Research for the Children’s Dental Health Project in 2015
**CORNERSTONE FUNDING**

**RESIDENTS**

For 15 years, the ACPEF has funded all prosthodontic residents’ membership in the ACP, facilitating full interaction and development within the specialty.

Over the past five years alone, the ACPEF has funded 750 resident memberships and 1,200 travel stipends to the ACP Annual Session. As a result, 75% of residents have maintained their ACP membership upon program completion, many of them serving in leadership positions within the College, the Foundation, their institutions, and communities.

With approximately 150 residents entering prosthodontic programs on an annual basis, there is an ongoing need to provide them with resources to complement a traditional academic experience.

“A leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.”
*President John F. Kennedy*

**CORNERSTONE FUNDING**

**RESEARCH**

In addition to its support of residents, the ACPEF has also maintained its commitment to the pursuit of knowledge. In its 33 year history, the ACPEF has encouraged, acknowledged, or funded nearly 400 research projects through four annual research competitions.

ACP members pursue knowledge, strive for continuous improvement, and rely on innovative research to inform the care of their patients. In an ever-changing specialty with new residents joining the workforce each year, this pursuit of research remains a core funding priority of the ACPEF.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>John J. Sharry Research Competition</th>
<th>ACP Annual Session Poster Competition</th>
<th>Innovator Award</th>
<th>Research Fellowships</th>
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<tr>
<td>The research award with the longest history with the ACPEF encourages original research in prosthodontics by residents</td>
<td>An engaging and energetic event at the meeting highlighting residents’ and dental students’ early scholarly activity</td>
<td>Offered to full-time faculty and their institution to encourage these rising stars in their pursuit of becoming career researchers</td>
<td>Offered to prosthodontic residents, often assisting them in fulfilling program requirements to secure funding for a research project</td>
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A resident’s membership in the ACP provides them with access to premier educational resources that include:
- Practice Board Exam
- Subscription to the Journal of Prosthodontics
- Access to Prosthedia
- Eligibility for Annual Session Travel Stipends

With the majority of prosthodontic residents taking on significant student debt, the ACP receives requests from approximately 400 residents for Annual Session travel stipends annually. With continued financial support, the Foundation can provide an opportunity for each of these residents to:
- Expand professional and personal networks through collaborative on-site competitions and social events
- Enjoy an environment that fosters the development of mentoring relationships
- Engage with potential employers (academia or private practice)
- Explore industry opportunities

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**Past Research Award Recipients**

- **50%** Graduated to leadership positions within the ACP, including the board of directors
- **50%** Shared the gift of knowledge by presenting their findings at prestigious dental events
- **65%** Contributed to the prosthodontic body of knowledge through published articles
- **82%** Acknowledged that receiving the research award enabled them to expedite their career advancement

“This award is very competitive and is acknowledged highly by organizations and institutions. I am very honored and humbled to receive the Innovator Award for my project. I was able to utilize the funds to answer the research questions and extrapolate to the science at large. This award had a significant impact on my research career, as well as my academic promotion and enhancement.”

*Dr. Cortino Sukotjo, 2011 Innovator Award Recipient*

*University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry, Department of Restorative Dentistry*

While the ACPEF is proud of these accomplishments, the focus remains on the future. By expanding the reach of current programs, and breaking new ground into others, the Foundation can amplify its impact even further.
Join us as together we build on the successes of the past, create a bright future for the next generation, and secure the prosthodontic specialty for years to come.

Dr. Cramm Wiltz
ACP/ACPEF 2019-21 STRATEGIC PLANNING TASK FORCE

“As a resident, I appreciated that the ACPEF supported my resident membership as I was able to access a wealth of knowledge. Prosthedia was a good supplemental educational resource and the national prosthodontic resident exam made me realize specific areas that I needed to be strengthened in my knowledge base, not to mention the subsidized registration for the ACP Annual Session. Supporting the ACP/ACPEF is supporting the lifeblood of our great profession!”

PLEDGING YOUR SUPPORT

The ACPEF’s commitment to the next generation’s growth has had an enormous impact on developing the workforce to address the silent epidemic of the general population suffering from oral issues. The drive for a million will ensure that the Foundation’s cornerstone programs can be protected for the next 5-years and enable the Foundation to explore ways to build on its success. In order to ensure these projects can be sustained, the Foundation is challenging all ACP members to consider making a 5-year pledge.

As you consider your personal commitment to this effort, reflect on what the specialty represents to you as well as the impact that the ACP and ACPEF have had on your career and the lives of the patients you help smile with confidence each day.

ACPEF DRIVE FOR A MILLION STEERING COMMITTEE

The ACPEF also seeks to provide additional value to private practitioners, who make up more than 50% of the ACP’s 3,900+ members. During ACP’s most recent strategic planning process, providing private practice members with additional resources, particularly in the area of practice management, was identified as a significant need. To that end, ACP leadership is launching a practice management course in August 2019 and an online financial literacy course. These programs will be supported by the ACPEF and will focus on launching, managing, and sustaining a practice, ultimately benefiting the communities in which they operate.

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“With the ACPEF’s support, I attended the ACP Annual Session as a resident and participated in the John J. Sharry Prosthodontic Research Competition. A few years later, with the aid of ACP professional connections and the ACPEF hosted Joint Dental Educators Conferences, I developed and currently direct a Graduate Prosthodontics Program. I am grateful for the tremendous support by the ACPEF; my residents now become ACP members on the first day of the program, just like I did.”

DR. EVA ANADIOTI
FOUNDING DIRECTOR, ADVANCED PROSTHODONTICS PROGRAM, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA