

Spotlight on ACPEF Research Fellowship Awardee

Dr. Ahmed Mahrous, 2014 Awardee

The ACPEF Research Fellowships are supported in part by an unrestricted educational grant from Procter & Gamble Company.



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What did it mean for your project to receive the Research Fellowship?

It meant a great deal! My project was ambitious and with no funding, I was in dire need of funding and applied to the ACPEF. It was a very happy day when I received the grant.

How did receiving the Research Fellowship impact your career?

Receiving the Research Fellowship has made it possible for me to complete my clinical trial. In fact, it has allowed me to complete my residency, because without the Fellowship I would have probably been delayed.

What are some of your highlights since winning the Research Fellowship?

Completing my MS degree and residency, starting my career, and having my first child.

Where are you now and what is the main focus of your work?

I am an Assistant Professor at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry (where I graduated from) and my focus is teaching, patient care, and research.

How would you describe the process of applying for the award and do you encourage others to apply?

The process was simple as I recall it. It is a stressful part of our lives as students, but the application system itself was simple, and I would definitely encourage others to apply.



Spotlight on ACPEF Research Fellowship Awardee

Dr. David Chen, 2016 Awardee

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What did it mean for your project to receive the Research Fellowship?

I spent quite some time discussing potential research ideas with my current director Dr. Radi Masri for my master's research project. I know there were many applicants for the fellowship and to receive the scholarship at the beginning of my residency was truly an honor. On a lighter note, it also meant that I am under more pressure to complete my research.

How did receiving the Research Fellowship impact your career?

Now that I am in my last year of residency, I have been thinking about what to do after graduation. I have considered going into academia, and having this Research Fellowship definitely adds to my CV if I choose this path.

What are some of your highlights since winning the Research Fellowship?

The school bulletin wrote an article after I received the Research Fellowship and I was the face of the bulletin for a while. I expect to submit my research results once I've finished the research.

How is your research project going?

There have been a few hiccups along the way of getting my research going. Obtaining the cells and proprietary samples for my project took some time. My focus is to complete my research and hope that all goes smoothly as hypothesized.

How would you describe the process of applying for the award and do you encourage others to apply?

I worked on my application while working on the outline of my master's research thesis. The process should start with identifying a question then figuring out a scientific method to answer that question. The logistics of applying is not challenging at all. I strongly encourage every prosth resident with a research project to apply for the Research Fellowship. The application can be an encouragement to critically think about their research project. Receiving the Fellowship is even more motivation to finish research as a required aspect of prosth residency.



Spotlight on ACPEF Research Fellowship Awardee

Dr. Diana Cuesta, 2017 Awardee

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What did it mean for your project to receive the Research Fellowship?

It's really an honor to have received the Research Fellowship from the ACP. I was thrilled, personally, because my research project is very important to me and also excited for my mentors and my school which have been a critical part in developing my research idea and promoting my research project.

How did receiving the Research Fellowship impact your career?

This Research Fellowship has not only supported me financially to complete my master's thesis project, but it has motivated me to contact other prosthodontists researching my topic and to build new relations for my future career.

What are some of your highlights since winning the Research Fellowship?

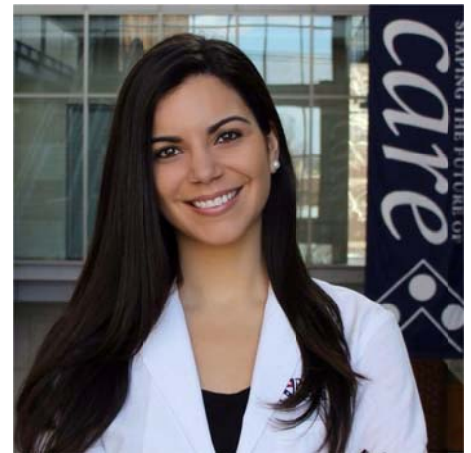
Just getting to work closely with my mentor Dr. Thalji has been very rewarding.

Where are you now and what is the main focus of your work?

The main focus of my research is to determine the effects of different implant abutment materials (zirconia, gold hue and titanium), ceramic thickness, and luting cement on the color of monolithic milled e.max crowns. The aim is to be able to provide some clinically relevant information that can aid clinicians in providing esthetic implant crowns using lithium disilicate.

How would you describe the process of applying for the award and do you encourage others to apply?

If you have a research topic that you are passionate about, the application process is painless and straightforward. Essentially, a detailed research proposal including background information, methods, timeline, and budget are required, along with support from your research mentor. I encourage everyone to apply to the ACPEF Research Fellowship! The application process is straightforward and the professional and personal rewards are so worth it!



Spotlight on ACPEF Research Fellowship Awardee

Dr. Amy S. Au, 2013 Awardee

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What did it mean for your project to receive the Research Fellowship?

The Research Fellowship provided me with the resources to complete my Master's thesis research and help mature the project to more comprehensive aspects. When I first started the project, I did not foresee all the permutations of samples and paths that the results would present, and the Research Fellowship allowed me to further develop the project.

How did receiving the Research Fellowship impact your career?

The Research Fellowship helped foster and grow the research side of me. Research has helped me organize my thoughts and gain a deeper appreciation for research and published scientific literature. It has helped me understand and analyze other researchers' work better as well, and I am a better dentist for it.

How would you describe the process of applying for the award?

Applying for the award is very much like applying for a research grant. When you put a research project together, you are essentially assembling a grant application. It is not extra work. Research can make us more mature providers and clinicians in understanding how treatments and products are initially formulated and how they should be evaluated, which may not always be the same thing.

What are some of your highlights since receiving the Research Fellowship?

I presented my presentation at the 2015 John J. Sharry Research Competition and was awarded second place. I also was able to share my work with the Pacific Coast Society of Prosthodontics as a lecturer in 2016.

Where are you now and what is the main focus of your work?

I just purchased a prosthodontic practice in the San Francisco Bay Area. I look forward to getting to know my patients better and learning how I can help them achieve optimal health, function, and esthetics. I have also been enjoying teaching as an Assistant Clinical Professor at University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry.

Anything else you'd like to add?

Although it's only the beginning, I am so thankful to be living my dream. I find prosthodontics fun and rewarding for the soul and am so glad that research was among the many experiences offered in my rigorous prosthodontics residency at the University of Illinois at Chicago. My background, my mentors, and my clinical experience have all helped prepare me for the new step in my career. I look forward to learning from my patients.



Spotlight on ACPEF Research Fellowship Awardee

Dr. Chin-Chuan Fu, 2005 and 2007 Awardee

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What did it mean for your project to receive the Research Fellowship and how did receiving it impact your career?

Receiving this Research Fellowship represented a huge compliment of the efforts I put into my research project as a resident, and I felt motivated and encouraged to keep my project on track. Winning this Research Fellowship inspired me to continue pursuing a career in the research and academic field, which provided me another path for my career in addition to being a clinician.

What are some of your highlights since receiving the Research Fellowship?

Since receiving the Research Fellowship, I was able to advance my research project to another level to compete at John J. Sharry Prosthodontic Research Competition and received 3rd place in 2008. I accepted a faculty position at University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). I became board certified in prosthodontics and I have continued building an extensive research portfolio and presenting my research outcomes at national and international conferences.

My current position is an Associate Professor at UAB. The focus of my work includes didactic and clinical teaching to pre-doc and post-doc students and I also serve as a mentor for students' research projects.

How would you describe the process of applying for the award?

The process of applying for this award was described very straightforward on ACP website. You can find all the information you need there. I definitely strongly recommended others to apply.

I really thank ACP for continuing support the research for young prosthodontists.



Spotlight on ACPEF Research Fellowship Awardee

Dr. Walaa Ahmed, 2016 Awardee

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What did it mean for your project to receive the Research Fellowship?

It is a great personal achievement and honor to have received the ACP Research Fellowship, and it gave me a great deal of encouragement and support during my research project.

How did receiving the Research Fellowship impact your career?

Winning this prestigious fellowship will enrich my career, as it indicates that I am doing high-quality research. This award impacted me in different ways. It gave me the motivation to work harder on my project, which will help advance my career. This, in turn, will enhance my research skills and knowledge and eventually enable me to publish my work. The award also gave me additional financial support for the materials needed in my research, in addition to boosting my educational profile and academic recognition. My supervisor and research committee members are proud of my fellowship and willing to help me to complete my projects.



How would you describe the process of applying for the award?

Since winning the award, I have started running the pilot samples and collecting their data. My main advice for every future applicant is to have a real interest in their project, which will be reflected in their application. I am sure this is a key factor that is easily noted by the experienced selection committee. Research is all about passion and dedication. I believe that anyone with these two aspects can be a good candidate for the ACP Research Fellowship. Owing to my great interest in academia and research specifically, receiving such a significant award has also enabled me to encourage my colleagues as well as our future prosthodontic graduate students to apply for it. The process is very clear and fair. The application process is a great learning experience that I would recommend to everyone in order to improve their academic and administrative abilities.

Anything else you'd like to add?

I would like to offer a big thank you to my supervisor Dr. Ricardo Carvalho for his continuous support, mentoring, and substantial guidance throughout my research process. I would also like to extend my thanks to my committee members, Drs. Chris Wyatt, Anthony McCullagh, and Tom Troczynski, for their constant advice and help. Finally, I would like to thank you very much for the great support. It truly means a lot. I will continue to work hard on my research to prove that I deserve this fellowship.

Spotlight on ACPEF Research Fellowship Awardee

Dr. Caroline T. Nguyen, 2008 Awardee

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What did it mean for your project to receive the Research Fellowship?

Receiving the ACPEF Research Fellowship was one of the most exciting milestones during my prosthodontics training. As a resident at the University of Maryland, I needed to complete a research project towards completion of a Master's degree as part of the requirements for the certificate in Prosthodontics, and all residents were responsible for securing necessary funding for their research. Receiving the ACPEF Research Fellowship was a great joy and a guarantee that I would be able to complete this requirement of my residency program.



How did receiving the Research Fellowship impact your career?

Receiving the Research Fellowship was a validation that the research I was doing meant something and was valuable to my peers. It motivated me to continue including research as part of my career.

What are some of your highlights since receiving the Research Fellowship?

Since receiving the Research Fellowship, I have won 3rd place at the 2008 ACP Table Clinics Competition. I have graduated from prosthodontics at the University of Maryland and from maxillofacial prosthodontics at MD Anderson Cancer Center, and am board-certified in prosthodontics both in USA and in Canada. I have tried to motivate the new generation of residents to get involved in research as Chair of the ACP Table Clinics for the last 3 years. I also became the Vice-President of the Association of Prosthodontists of Canada who offers bursary to Canadian prosthodontics residents and supports them during their program and when they need to enter the workplace.

Where are you now and what is the main focus of your work?

I am an assistant professor at the University of British Columbia, and the Provincial Practice Leader in Prosthodontics for the BC Cancer Agency. My work has many different focuses, from teaching dental students and prosthodontics residents, to treating cancer patients, and conducting research meant to improve cancer patients' treatments, rehabilitation, and quality of life.

How would you describe the process of applying for the award and do you encourage others to apply?

The process of applying for the award was very straightforward, and also helped me get a better outline for my overall research project. I greatly encourage all my students to apply every year. Two of my students have been recipients of the award in recent years: Dr. Ian Thornton and Dr. Vincent Lee.

Anything else you'd like to add?

The ACPEF Research Fellowship was the first grant I received in my prosthodontics career. It was a big achievement and I am proud to have been one of the recipients. I hope the ACPEF can continue supporting many residents for years to come so that everyone can contribute to the advancement of our great specialty.

Spotlight on ACPEF Research Fellowship Awardee

Dr. Terry Y. Lin, 2011 Awardee

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What did it mean for your project to receive the Research Fellowship?

Being chosen as one of the 5 recipients in the nation that year was a great honor for me at the time. From the financial point of view, ACPEF Research Fellowships provided us with the funding needed to acquire critical materials and equipment to complete the research project to perfection. From the merit point of view, ACPEF Research Fellowships validated our research topic and valued the importance of our findings in advancing our specialty to the next level.

How did receiving the Research Fellowship impact your career?

Receiving the Research Fellowship solidified the validity of our research topic. The impact was that it became an important gateway to the John J. Sharry Research Competition for me.



What are some of your highlights since receiving the Research Fellowship?

I was blessed to have won two local ACP research competitions prior to receiving the 2011 ACPEF Research Fellowship. Since the recognition as a recipient of the ACPEF Research Fellowship, I have been given numerous awards: First place at the 2011 American Prosthodontic Society Resident research competition; First place at the 2011 American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics poster research competition; 2011 NYU Kenneth Addisman Award for clinical excellence; First place at the 2011 John J. Sharry Research Competition; 2012 Diplomate of American Board of Prosthodontics; and 2012 American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics Joseph B. Barron Award.

Where are you now and what is the main focus of your work?

After graduation, I have dedicated my time in private practice. My practice is focused on esthetics and digital and implant dentistry.

How would you describe the process of applying for the award and do you encourage others to apply?

The process of applying requires a team effort. An interesting research topic, a dedicated and experienced research mentor, and a diligent resident are the minimum requirements. I strongly encourage any interested residents to apply.

Anything else you'd like to add?

Just give the best efforts on everything as a resident so there is no regret looking back!

Spotlight on ACPEF Research Fellowship Awardee

Dr. Vincent S. Lee, 2014 Awardee

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What did it mean for your project to receive the Research Fellowship?

It was integral to the initiation and completion of my project! Without the financial support of the Research Fellowship, I would not have been able to acquire the materials and equipment required. In addition, it provided some financial support to the travel costs incurred as part of the poster competition at the ACP Annual Session.

How did receiving the Research Fellowship impact your career?

As a novice researcher, it was important for me to gain some experience and understanding of research and research methodology. Writing my project proposal and being selected for the Research Fellowship has provided me with a sense of accomplishment with regards to the research aspect of prosthodontics and it has provided some research credentials, which are extremely important to novice researchers like myself.



What are some of your highlights since receiving the Research Fellowship?

As a result of the project supported by the Research Fellowship, I have had the opportunity to present a poster of my project on two occasions. In addition, my work was referred to in a seminar conducted by my research supervisor. Furthermore, my supervisor, Dr. Caroline Nguyen, and I have been asked to present the results of this project to the Head and Neck Tumor Group at the BC Cancer Agency in the fall of 2016.

Where are you now and what is the main focus of your work?

The project is now complete and a first draft of my thesis has been completed. I will be defending my thesis in the summer of 2016 and following that I hope to continue to be involved in projects at the BC Cancer Agency.

How would you describe the process of applying for the award and do you encourage others to apply?

The application process was very straightforward and I was able to complete the process with very few questions or revisions. I would wholeheartedly encourage everyone, especially graduate prosthodontic residents, to apply as it is an opportunity to gain financial support for your project, but more importantly it is an opportunity to showcase and hopefully gain some recognition for your research endeavors.

Anything else you'd like to add?

I wanted to express my appreciation to the American College of Prosthodontists and the Research Committee for this honor and privilege to be selected for a Research Fellowship.