



Dr. James Klarsch
President, MSO Director



Scenes from Annual Session in *Orlando*



Louise Ada Jarabak Award

Dr. Thomas Cangialosi was presented with the 2026 Jarabak Award during the AAO Leadership Reception. Dr. Cangialosi was nominated by his constituency (MASO) to receive the award for his dedication and accomplishments in orthodontic teaching and research.



Eugene & Pauline Blair

Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Richard Williams was presented with the Blair Award for his outstanding contributions to advancing the mission and vision of the AAO Foundation.



Salzmann Lecture

Dr. Maria Costanza Meazzini, *Research Director, Cleft Lip and Palate Center in Milan, Italy* presented the 2026 Salzmann Lecture during AAO Annual Session.





Front row (L to R): Frank Quinn, Tyler James, Sapna Nath, James Klarsch, Lili Horton, Mark Berkman, Christina Bonebreak Jackson, Cami Tussie

Back row (L to R): Brett Schott, John Carter, Normand Boucher, Sarandeep Huja, J. Martin Palomo, Navi Bharj, Frank Hemm, Kenneth Webb, Trey Lawrence

Not pictured: Robert Bray, Kaitrin Kramer, Anil Idiculla, Mark Olivieri

New Leadership at AAC Foundation



Dr. James Klarsch, President

The American Association of Orthodontists Foundation is pleased to announce Dr. James Klarsch as the new President of the Board of Directors. A respected leader in orthodontics and longtime supporter of education and research, Dr. Klarsch brings decades of clinical, academic, and volunteer experience to the role.



Dr. Mark Berkman, President-Elect

Dr. Mark Berkman has been named President-elect of the American Association of Orthodontists Foundation Board of Directors. With a strong history of leadership and service within the orthodontic community, Dr. Berkman will play a key role in advancing the Foundation's efforts to support innovative research, education, and the next generation of orthodontic professionals.

AAC FOUNDATION'S NEW LOOK



2026-2027 Resident Directors

Welcome **Dr. Tyler James** from the **University of Florida** as a new resident director on the Foundation's Board of Directors. Dr. James brings a fresh perspective and a strong commitment to the advancement of orthodontic education and research as she begins her service on the Board.

Also welcome **Dr. Cami Tussie** from **Harvard University** to our Board of Directors as a new resident director. As an emerging leader in the orthodontic profession, Dr. Tussie brings valuable perspective and enthusiasm to the Foundation's mission of supporting education, research, and the future of orthodontics.

AAO Foundation Grant Awards

AAO Foundation awarded more than **\$925,000** in grant funding for the next academic year. MSO institutions were awarded almost \$310,000!



MSO 2026 GRANTS \$309,862 AWARDED

- University of Illinois at Chicago - \$279,748
- University of Illinois - Midwestern - \$24,319
- University of Iowa - \$5,795

VIRTUAL WORKSHOP JUNE 26 11am-1pm CT

AAO Foundation is hosting a virtual workshop for anyone intending to apply for a 2027 grant. Registration required.



***2027 Applications will be accepted starting on July 1, 2026**



GIFTED SMILES FOCUS AREAS

Gifted Smiles is looking to strengthen its impact in the MSO community.

- **Illinois** has strong volunteer commitments, but we are looking for more patients, especially in **Cook County and DuPage County**.
- **Minnesota** is looking for more patients in the **Rochester and St. Paul** areas.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Tabitha Smith at TSmith@aaortho.org.

*Contact our office for brochures about this program.

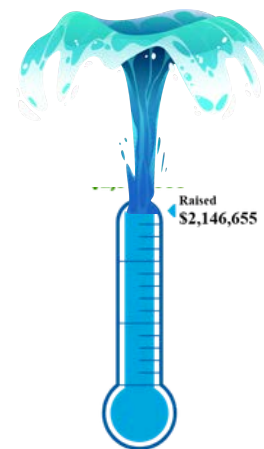
For the Future Campaign

The AAO Foundation's efforts to fund the Full-Time Faculty Fellowship is our way of ensuring that the future of orthodontics is led by the most qualified and passionate professionals.

The goal to raise \$1.8 million in 3 years continues through May 2027.

We are excited to announce that we are surpassing our goal and have raised nearly **\$2.15M** in two years!

You can continue to help us!



Courses for Orthodontic Resident Empowerment (CORE)



Residents - Register Today

Dr. Bill Layman leads residents through a six-module virtual course on business fundamentals. The AAO Foundation proudly sponsors this series.

