2008 Journal awards announced

The B. F. and Helen E. Dewel Award for 2008 will go to a group of authors from Dresden, Germany, and Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The article, “Three-dimensional evaluation of surgically assisted implant bone-borne rapid maxillary expansion: A pilot study” was submitted to the Journal by Eve Tausche, Lars Hansen, Volker Hietschold, Manuel O. Lagravère, and Winfried Harzer (Am J Orthod Dentofacial Orthop 2007;131 [Suppl]:S92-99). This award, in the name of long-term editor B. F. “Tod” Dewel, is designed to recognize the best clinical research paper published each year. The purpose of this study was to evaluate 3-dimensional changes in dental, alveolar, and skeletal structures caused by a bone-borne implant-supported rapid maxillary expansion appliance. The treatment response to this expansion device was monitored with axial computed tomography scans taken immediately before and 9 months after expansion. The findings of this study describe a minimally invasive bone-borne expansion appliance that leads to greater skeletal than dental change. It is expected this type of skeletal change will lead to a more stable posttreatment occlusion. We look forward to more information published by this group when larger numbers of patients can be followed for 5 to 10 years posttreatment.

The CDABO Case Report of the Year came from an orthodontic department in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The article, “Orthodontic and surgical treatment of a patient with an ankylosed temporomandibular joint,” was submitted by Alexandre Motta, Rafael Seabra Louro, Paulo José D’Albuquerque Meideiros, and Jonas Capelli Jr (Am J Orthod Dentofacial Orthop 2007;131:785-96). This article describes the surgical and orthodontic treatment of a girl with facial deformities and functional involvement. The left temporomandibular joint was ankylosed, and the lower third of the face was markedly deficient, with mandibular retrusion and severe laterognathism to the left side. Her mouth opening was limited, and she had problems speaking and chewing. Two surgical procedures had been performed previously at another institution. The patient was treated with condylar surgery while she was still growing, followed by orthodontic treatment and another phase of orthognathic surgery after growth was complete. Twelve-year follow-up records make this a case report to be remembered.

The list of finalists in this year’s competition suggests that some very exciting research is being done by orthodontic departments in Europe, South America, and Asia. This is the first time that both Journal awards are going to departments outside the United States.

AAOF funding for research efforts

“To date, the AAOF has funded almost 300 peer-reviewed teaching and research projects concerned with the advancement of the specialty,” noted Jeff Cavanaugh, AAO Foundation President. Thirty-five proposals have already been received in 2008, requesting an additional $1.4 million in funding. The Planning and Awards Review Committee met in February to consider these proposals, and the Foundation Board followed up with a meeting in March to determine which proposals will be funded. To help the effort, several educators provided brief testimonials encouraging support of the AAOF Foundation.