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## ADA Foundation Announces Winner of 2015 Dr. Ray Bowen

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**ADA Foundation Announces Winner of 2015**

**Dr. Ray Bowen Student Research Award**

*Andreas Jorge Alvarez, University of Florida College of Dentistry Receives Award*

CHICAGO, February 27, 2015 – The ADA Foundation (ADAF), in cooperation with the Academy of Operative Dentistry, has announced the winner of the 2015 Dr. Ray Bowen Student Research Award. Andreas Jorge Alvarez, a first-year dental student at the University of Florida College of Dentistry, received the award for his proposed research project “A New Arginine-based Bonding Agent with Long-lasting Anti-caries Activity.”

“I am thrilled to have received this prestigious award. It is a true honor,” said Mr. Alvarez. “I look forward to the opportunity to further my research interests and to represent the University of Florida, College of Dentistry on this national landscape.”

The biennial Dr. Ray Bowen Student Research Award is open to dental students at all levels, including residents and Masters of Science degree candidates, who wish to undertake research relevant to contemporary operative dentistry. The award provides \$6,000 to the awardee to perform the proposed research and an additional \$1,000 to help meet their obligation to present a table clinic based on the research proposal at the Academy of Operative Dentistry’s scientific session. The student must have a research mentor who is a member of the Academy of Operative Dentistry at his/her institution to provide guidance and act as a co-investigator.

"We are very proud that the ADA Foundation is able to partner with the Academy of Operative Dentistry to support and encourage dental students as they explore careers in dental research, especially research that is relevant to preventive and operative dentistry," said Dr. Gary Schumacher, Director of Administration and Chief of Clinical Research, ADA Foundation Dr. Anthony Volpe Research center. "These young, promising scientists are essential for the future of oral health care."

"This program provides the ADAF with the unique opportunity to observe the work of young researchers and to encourage and support them in their careers in dental research," said Dr. Ronald Bushick, Chair, ADA Foundation Science Committee. "We are proud to work with the Academy of Operative Dentistry to make this program possible."

Mr. Alvarez' mentor is Dr. Marcelle Nascimento, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Restorative Dental Sciences department, Division of Operative Dentistry University of Florida, College of Dentistry. His co-mentors are Dr. Saulo Geraldeli, D.D.S., Ph.D., Associate Professor, Restorative Dental Sciences department, Division of Operative Dentistry, University of Florida, College of Dentistry; and Dr. Christopher Batich, Ph.D. Materials Science and Engineering Department, Public-Private Programs Director for the Clinical Translational Science Institute (CTSI), University of Florida.

"Receiving this important award has given Andres and our research team a tremendous amount of encouragement to continue to pursue research in the areas of cariology, operative dentistry, and biomaterials. We would like to thank the ADA Foundation and the AOD for recognizing Andres' great potential as a young investigator and for supporting his research project," said Dr. Nascimento.

Dr. Geraldeli added, "Life is a gift, and for one of our students to receive such an award as the ADA Foundation Dr. Ray Bowen Student Research Award makes it even more worth living, mentoring, and researching. We feel deeply honored to be able to explore the growth inhibition of cariogenic bacteria by adding some new concepts to the unique material developed by Dr. Bowen, which has changed the way dentistry is done worldwide."

“The Academy of Operative Dentistry was extremely pleased with the number of applicants for the Ray Bowen Student Research Award this year. On behalf of the Academy, I would like to personally extend congratulations to Mr. Alvarez and his mentor for their excellent research,” said Dr. Michael Cochran, President, Academy of Operative Dentistry.

The award honors the nearly 60-year career of Dr. Ray Bowen, the inventor of resin composites and dentin adhesives and an internationally recognized authority on composite materials. Dr. Bowen is a former director of the ADA Foundation Dr. Anthony Volpe Research Center (VRC), formerly the Paffenbarger Research Center, and is presently active as Distinguished Scientist at the VRC. The award is administered by the ADA Foundation through and in collaboration with the Academy of Operative Dentistry. The award was known as the George C. Paffenbarger Student Research Award between 2007 and 2013.

“Since 1956, Dr. Ray Bowen has been a pioneer in composite technology adhesive dentistry and he started the revolution in esthetic dentistry with his development of Bis-GMA-based resin composites,” said Dr. Reneida Reyes, President, ADA Foundation. “Even today, he is active in his research efforts pursuit of improved composites and bonding agents.”

The Dr. Anthony Volpe Research Center laboratory facility is operated by the ADA Foundation and is located on the grounds of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, a federal government research campus, where it has been since 1928. Previously named the Paffenbarger Research Center and operated by the ADA and then jointly by the ADA and the ADA Foundation, the lab conducts unique research in cutting-edge fields of biomaterial and tissue engineering technologies.

To make a tax-deductible donation to the ADA Foundation, visit [www.adafoundation.org](http://www.adafoundation.org) or call 312.440.2547.

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**About the ADA Foundation**

As dentistry's premier philanthropic and charitable organization, the ADA Foundation is a catalyst for uniting people and organizations to make a difference through better oral health. In 2013, the ADA Foundation provided more than \$1,371,000 in grants, scholarships, and awards to programs that are in alignment with the organization's four mission pillars: Charitable Assistance, Access to Care, Research, and Education (C.A.R.E.). As part of these efforts, the ADA Foundation provides funding to Give Kids A Smile®-related efforts and also oversees the Dr. Anthony Volpe Research Center in Gaithersburg, MD (formerly the Paffenbarger Research Center). For more information about the ADA Foundation, visit [www.adafoundation.org](http://www.adafoundation.org).