

Lifetime Achievement Award for Orthodontic Research, 2021

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In 2015, the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO) established a new award, the Lifetime Achievement Award for Orthodontic Research. Previous recipients include Dr Proffit (2017), Dr Johnston, Jr (2018), Dr Buschang (2019), and Dr Kuijpers-Jagtman (2020). Nominations for the next award were solicited in 2020.

Nominees are intended to be those who have made significant contributions to the science related to the specialty of orthodontics. Their research should be considered original, outstanding, and innovative. An additional consideration is given to those who have established a legacy of research and discovery that is inspiring to the academic community. Likewise, it is important that the nominee has produced information that is useful or potentially useful in advancing the practice of orthodontics.

It is an honor to confirm that Professor James A. McNamara, Jr, was selected to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award for Orthodontic Research for 2021 (Fig 1). He will receive his award in Boston, Mass at the AAO Annual Session in June. Dr McNamara will also make a presentation entitled “Carriere 3 Treatment in Minimally-growing Patients: How Does It Work?” during the meeting. At the conclusion of his presentation, the recipient of the 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award for Orthodontic Research will be announced.

Dr James A. McNamara, Jr, was born in San Francisco and raised in Bay Area. He attended the University of California Berkeley, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech. He then attended the University of California San Francisco, where he received his dental and orthodontic education. Subsequently, he attended the University of Michigan, completing his Doctor of Philosophy degree in Anatomy in 1972.



Fig 1. James A. McNamara, Jr.

Dr McNamara has been a member of the University of Michigan faculty since 1970 and now is the Thomas M. and Doris Graber Endowed Professor Emeritus in the Department of Orthodontics and Pediatric Dentistry in the School of Dentistry. He also is Professor Emeritus of Cell and Developmental Biology in the School of Medicine and Research Professor Emeritus in the Center for Human Growth and Development, an interdisciplinary research unit on the Ann Arbor campus.

Since 1971, Dr McNamara has maintained a practice limited to orthodontics in Ann Arbor, Mich, which he now shares with his daughter Laurie McNamara McClatchey. Being able to move seamlessly between the university laboratory and clinical practice has been a hallmark of his career. Dr McNamara is a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics, a Fellow of the World Federation of Orthodontists, and a Fellow of the American College of Dentists.

Dr McNamara continues to serve as the curator of the University of Michigan Growth Study, a position he has

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All authors have completed and submitted the ICMJE Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest, and none were reported.

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held since 1986. Furthermore, he was a principal player in the establishment of the Craniofacial Growth Legacy Collection sponsored by the American Association of Orthodontists Foundation (AAOF) that brings together the best of the longitudinal growth records of untreated patients from 9 major growth studies in the United States and Canada. This Internet-based collection makes these irreplaceable records available to researchers worldwide.

As with most professionals, Dr McNamara's career has evolved over the decades. Initially, he was primarily a basic scientist in the Department of Anatomy, teaching histology and embryology to dental and medical students. In 1984 he transitioned to the Department of Orthodontics in the School of Dentistry, serving as Interim Chair from 1987 to 1991. Subsequently, he has been a key participant in the Graduate Orthodontic Program at the University of Michigan for nearly 4 decades, teaching orthodontics to orthodontic residents, dental students, and residents from other disciplines.

His move from Anatomy to Orthodontics also signaled his gradual transition from basic and translational research to clinical research and a definite increase in research activity. Dr McNamara and his colleague have been responsible for well over 325 publications in peer-review journals. In addition, he has written, edited, or contributed to 80 books, including his textbook *Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics*, which has been read by residents and clinicians worldwide. Dr McNamara has given courses and lectures in 45 countries.

His research and publications have focused on several important topics, beginning with normal and experimental alteration of craniofacial growth in the rhesus monkey, normal craniofacial growth in humans, and then treatment effects produced by orthodontic, orthopedic, and surgical interventions. In addition, he has provided guidance on morphometrics, cephalometric analysis, occlusion and temporomandibular disorder, nasorespiratory function, cleft lip and palate treatment, and the assessment of maturation as it applies to the timing of treatment.

Over this period, there also has been a steady stream of investigations by Dr McNamara's research groups that considered various orthopedic appliances (eg, Herbst, bionator, activator, Twin-block). They have also investigated molar distalizing appliances such as the Pendulum and Pendex appliances and the Distal Jet. Other investigations also have dealt with the treatment effects produced by modalities used to correct Class III malocclusion (orthopedic facial mask, chin cup, Fränkel-3 appliance, and the bone plate protocol of De Clerck). Open bite and deepbite problems also have been

examined. Importantly, the use of rapid maxillary expansion in growing patients has been a primary thrust of Dr McNamara's research for the last 4 decades. The most recent research area that Dr McNamara has undertaken concerns the use of the Carriere appliance in the treatment of sagittal malocclusions.

Dr McNamara has been involved in many organizations, at many important levels, on many occasions. This includes the Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists, AAO, and the Midwest EH Angle Society of Orthodontists. He chaired the Oral Biology and Medicine Study Section of the National Institutes of Health (1978–1981).

As might be expected, Jim has accumulated a remarkable list of awards in orthodontics throughout his career, beginning with the Milo Hellman Research Award in 1973. In addition, he received the Jacob A. Salzmänn Award (1994) and the B. F. Dewel Biomedical Research Award (1997) given by the AAOF, the James E. Brophy Distinguished Service Award (2001) by the AAO, and the Albert H. Ketcham Award (2008) by the American Board of Orthodontics. In 2015, the AAOF established the James A. McNamara Orthodontic Faculty Fellowship Award in his honor.

Dr McNamara has been involved with the annual Moyers Symposium since its inception nearly 50 years ago, serving as program coordinator for most of the symposia. He also served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Craniofacial Growth Monograph Series* (currently 56 volumes published by the University of Michigan) until his retirement.

However, from a professional standpoint, Dr McNamara considers his most important contribution to be the founding of the Graduate Orthodontic Residents Program in 1989. This annual meeting, sponsored by the AAO, its constituents, and the AAOF and corporate partners, is attended by over 500 orthodontic residents from the United States and Canada who gather each summer for a long weekend of socializing and professional development. The meeting is the first in dentistry or medicine to provide a venue for this type of interaction among residents that strengthens professional and personal relationships that will last a lifetime (Figs 2 and 3).

Finally, Dr McNamara has mentored many men and women over the years, just as he has been mentored by numerous men and women throughout his career. The most obvious group is orthodontic residents, although he has mentored and counseled residents in other disciplines as well. This reach also extends to junior faculty, dental students, undergraduate university students, high school students, and even patients. A great



Fig 2. The first Graduate Orthodontics Residents Program in 1989.



Fig 3. A recent Graduate Orthodontics Residents Program meeting at the AAO Headquarters.

strength of Jim is also evident in his joy in working in a collaborative way with orthodontists from around the world. He thrives in such an environment.

Dr Jim McNamara, although officially retired from the University of Michigan, has not retired intellectually. He still sees patients, teaches orthodontic residents, is writing a new edition of his textbook with Drs Franchi and McClatchey, and continues to conduct research investigations on topics of significant clinical interest. He says that his 50-year orthodontic career, buoyed by his supportive wife and family as well by his many collaborators, has been a wonderful experience—rewarding in so many ways, some anticipated, many more not.

Dr McNamara's record provides ample evidence that his career has been broad, productive, and important.

We offer our respect and gratitude to Dr McNamara in the form of the Lifetime Achievement Award for Orthodontic Research for 2021.

I know the price of success: dedication, hard work and an unrelenting devotion to the things you want to see happen.

Frank Lloyd Wright, architect and writer

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The description of Professor McNamara was fashioned almost entirely from nomination materials provided by Gregory Oppenhuizen of the Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists, Dr Chris Roberts, a friend and colleague of Jim, and my own recollections of Jim that span many decades.