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AAO FOUNDATION *LEGACY 300* CAMPAIGN MEETS FUNDRAISING GOAL

**Funds Will Support AAOF Craniofacial Growth Legacy Collection,
an Unprecedented Undertaking to Preserve Historic, Irreplaceable
Growth Records of Children Who Did Not Have Orthodontic Treatment;**

Materials Available to Researchers Online

ST. LOUIS (DATE) –More than a month ahead of an ambitious, self-imposed deadline, the American Association of Orthodontists Foundation (AAOF) Legacy 300 Campaign met its goal in late November of raising \$1.5 million to create the AAOF Craniofacial Growth Legacy Collection. The Legacy 300 Campaign name refers to the maximum number of donors required to reach the \$1.5 million goal at the minimum recognition level of \$5,000. Donors include members of the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO), orthodontic industry representatives, friends of the specialty, orthodontic study clubs and orthodontic alumni groups. The donors' pledges were restricted to the AAOF Craniofacial Growth Legacy Collection, which is a component of the AAOF's overall **Continued Commitment to the Specialty®** fundraising effort. The Legacy 300 Campaign was launched by the AAOF Board of Directors in the fall of 2010 with the objective of reaching its goal by the close of 2011. All voting members of the AAOF Board of Directors are members of the Legacy 300.

The AAOF Craniofacial Legacy Growth Collection will preserve representative samples dating back more than 75 years of irreplaceable longitudinal craniofacial growth records of approximately 1,000 children and adolescents who did not have orthodontic treatment. Many of the older records are deteriorating due to the normal breakdown of radiographic images. The

complete sets of growth records are now in collections that are the property of a number of U.S. and Canadian universities.

Dr. Robert James Bray, the AAOF Foundation National Planned Giving Chair and a past president of the AAO, announced that final donation that fulfilled the goal was pledged by The Friends of Dr. J. Daniel Subtelny and Eastman Orthodontic Alumni.

“With the funds in place, we will be able to safeguard the work of hundreds of investigators. Some of the records date to the 1920s, when radiographs were cutting-edge technology. These records cannot be replaced or recreated. We are grateful to each donor who contributed to the Legacy 300 Campaign. Their generosity makes possible further investigation by clinicians, craniofacial investigators, students of human growth and interested members of the public to refine our collective knowledge,” said Nicholas D. Barone, DDS, president of the AAOF.

The existing collections of growth records, from which representative samples will be preserved in the AAOF Craniofacial Growth Legacy Collection, serve as the basis of most of the information in contemporary orthodontic literature on craniofacial growth in children who did not have orthodontic treatment. Each collection employed its own unique sampling and data collection strategies. The subjects studied were measured annually from as young as age 2, and continuing in many cases until the mid-20s, producing a rich longitudinal record of craniofacial development among children who did not receive orthodontic treatment. Orthodontic residents and researchers regularly tap these materials for investigational purposes.

The records to be preserved through digitizing include lateral and frontal cephalograms, hand-wrist films, dental radiographs, study casts and written records on the subjects’ physical development. The digital files are being uploaded to a searchable online [database](#). It currently houses more than 2,000 lateral cephalograms from nine collections, representing more than 200 cases. The contents may be viewed without cost at www.AAOFLegacyCollection.org

The AAOF Craniofacial Growth Legacy Collection is an unprecedented undertaking. According to Dr. Jeffrey T. Cavanaugh, a past president of the AAOF who continued his involvement with the Legacy 300 Campaign after his tenure on the AAOF Board ended, “The AAOF Planning and Awards Review Committee (PARC) considered requests as early as 2005 for funding that aimed to preserve several growth studies at a number of institutions. Rather than fund projects

separately, PARC recommended a more global approach. A call was issued for a collaborative proposal to encompass as many of the known longitudinal growth studies as possible. Dr. Mark Hans, chairman of the department of orthodontics at Case Western Reserve University, organized a meeting in 2007 with representatives from ten of the eleven known studies. It was from this meeting that the AAOF Craniofacial Growth Legacy Collection was launched. Everyone involved in this project deserves our appreciation for preserving our specialty's history for posterity."

Dr. Sheldon Baumrind, a professor of orthodontics and director of the Craniofacial Research Instrumentation Laboratory at the University of the Pacific, who serves as curator and Administrative Principal Investigator for the AAOF Craniofacial Growth Legacy Collection, characterizes the Collection as, "... a uniquely valuable tool that can be shared by all orthodontists and craniofacial investigators to advance teaching and research in our specialty and beyond. Clinicians and investigators of the future will have continued access to the irreplaceable legacy of the past."

About the AAO Foundation

The AAO Foundation, the charitable arm of the American Association of Orthodontists, provides support to orthodontic education programs and orthodontic research. Foundation funding ensures the future viability of the orthodontic specialty by investing in the next generation of educators and researchers.

Since 1994, the AAO Foundation Awards Program has provided \$8.2 million in funding, primarily in support of junior faculty.

The AAO Foundation is incorporated as a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit corporation in the state of Missouri.

The AAO Foundation's website is www.aaofoundation.net.

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