

# Research Award of the German Society for Aligner Orthodontics (DGAO)

*To facilitate readability of this text, all nouns and pronouns will only be given in the masculine form. However, this does not indicate any discrimination against the female gender or inter-gender persons but is absolutely gender neutral.*

The German Society for Aligner Orthodontics e.V. (DGAO) is awarding a research award of 15,000 euros for scientific research projects in the field of aligner orthodontics on the occasion of its scientific congress in 2026. The award winners will be announced during the DGAO scientific congress.

1. The DGAO Research Sponsor Award is presented for unpublished scientific research projects on the topic of aligner orthodontics.
2. The research project must be the intellectual property of the applicant(s).
3. Approval of the responsible ethic committee must be substantiated for each project.
4. If a group of researchers receives the award, it is awarded to all group members in equal shares. They all receive an award certificate. The group decides who of them is responsible for the allocation of the sponsorship funds.
5. The funds are to be used exclusively for the award-winning project.
6. All award winners are required to publish the results of their research project. This can occur as a poster, a scientific paper, or a lecture, but must be documented under all circumstances. The DGAO has always to be mentioned as the relevant sponsor. A reference to the respective publication will appear on the DGAO website.
7. Patent or design protection rights remain in any case with the award winner (group).
8. All applications must be submitted strictly anonymously in German or English, but with a code word, to the DGAO offices (German Association for Aligner Orthodontics e. V. (DGAO, c/o KFO 24 GmbH, Richard-Wagner-Str. 9-11, 50674 Cologne, Germany). Each submission must be accompanied by a sealed envelope with the code containing the contact details of the applicant(s).
9. The form of the application must correspond to that of a scientific publication and be no longer than 5 DIN-A4 pages, 1½ line space, font size 12 points.
10. The closing date for applications is June 30th, 2026.
11. The award review panel consists of three external well-acknowledged specialists, who irrefutably decide to the best of their knowledge.
12. Should none of the submitted research projects meet usual scientific quality criteria, no award will be granted.