

DGAO presents sponsorship award

As a scientific society, the German Society for Aligner Orthodontics (DGAO) is dedicated to advancing research on aligner treatments both in Germany and internationally and promoting further improvements in this field. For this reason, every two years the DGAO awards a sponsorship award worth EUR 15,000. The first award ceremony took place in 2012 and since then 11 research teams have been honoured. Following the award ceremony, the winners publish the results of their research project in form of a poster, scientific article or lecture. Last year's winning project was presented at the 8th Scientific Congress of the DGAO in Cologne.

The jury was faced with the task of choosing only one of the numerous groundbreaking proposals submitted. Consisting of three external specialists the jury decides by high scientific quality standards and in all conscience. The paper titled "Cytotoxicity of a Novel Directly Printed Aligner in Orthodontics" submitted by the team of Dr Maximilian Bleilöb, Dr Claudia Welte-Jzyk, Dr Vanessa Knode, Dr Björn Ludwig, and Dr Christina Erbe from University Medical Center Mainz, Polyclinic for Orthodontics received the highest rating.

This planned cell culture study examines the biocompatibility of new resins used for direct printing in-house aligners. "It is the responsibility of science to test and scrutinise the materials the industry provides us", said DGAO President Dr Ralf J. Radlanski in his laudatory speech.

The Board of the German Society for Aligner Orthodontics extends its warm congratulations to the award winners and encourages researchers to apply for the 2026 DGAO Sponsorship Award. The application phase for the congress in 2026 has already started. Applications can be submitted until 30 May 2026.