

**Contact:**

Cathy Haibach  
[haibachc@ada.org](mailto:haibachc@ada.org)  
312.440.2544

**ADA Foundation Announces Multi-Year, \$375,000 Grant  
To Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center**

*Funds Support AIMMC Special Needs Dentistry Expansion Project/Dental Anesthesiology Residency*

**Chicago, May 29, 2019** – The ADA Foundation will award a three year, \$375,000 grant to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center (AIMMC) to support a new program designed to improve access to oral health care for children with special needs.

The grant funding will support AIMMC's Dental Anesthesiology Residency Program, which will operate in conjunction with the General Practice Residency and Special Needs Dentistry programs to deliver exceptional oral care to patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The new program will be a model for the advanced training of dental anesthesiologists, who play an important role in the provision of oral health care to children with developmental and physical disabilities. Such children frequently require deep sedation or general anesthesia for safe dental care and their access to such care is often limited by the availability of hospital operating room time. AIMMC's new program aims to increase service capacity and ensure that more children with special needs are connected to a dental home, thereby improving oral health outcomes among this vulnerable population.

"The Special Needs Program at Advocate Illinois Masonic is truly impressive," said Dr. William R. Calnon, president of the ADA Foundation. "Children with all types of disabilities, both developmental and physical, are provided with access to excellent treatment. The Dental Anesthesia Residency is a very innovative addition to an already superb program, and will allow more kids to avoid hospital operating rooms."

Program goals include:

- Expanding AIMMC's Special Needs Dentistry Program to serve more children at an earlier age through referral relationships that link children with special needs to a dental home at the Dental Center;
- Improving care for children with special needs through increased capacity to manage cases in an outpatient setting; and
- Providing a model program for improving the oral health status of children with special needs.

"We are grateful to the ADA Foundation's support of our dental anesthesia residency program. This generous grant will enable us to enhance our special needs dentistry program by further expanding access to oral care for this very vulnerable patient population," said Dr. James Benz, chair of dentistry at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center. "This residency program is only the eighth of its kind in the country, highlighting our institution's commitment to high-quality patient care and medical education."

The Special Needs Dentistry Program is a unique dental program that Advocate Illinois Masonic launched in 1970. Advocate Illinois Masonic's dental anesthesia residents will work alongside general practice residents in the treatment of patients with special needs in the operating room and a newly built anesthesia suite in the Department of Dentistry. The program is enhanced by a mobile dental van, which residents rotate weekly with staff to offer oral care to special needs patients who otherwise may not have access to this type of care.

To make a donation to the ADA Foundation or to learn more about this and other programs, visit [ADAFoundation.org](http://ADAFoundation.org).

***Editor's Note: Reporters are invited to follow the ADA on Twitter @AmerDentalAssn***

###

#### **About the ADA Foundation**

As dentistry's premier philanthropic and charitable organization, the ADA Foundation is a catalyst for uniting people and organizations to invest in better oral health for all, together. The ADA Foundation annually provides grants, scholarships, awards, and facilitated in-kind product donations to programs that are in alignment with the organization's efforts to advance oral health, expand access to dental care, and drive game-changing research. As part of these efforts, the ADA Foundation oversees the Give Kids A

Smile® program and also oversees the ADA Foundation Volpe Research Center in Gaithersburg, Maryland (formerly the Paffenbarger Research Center). For more information about the ADA Foundation, visit [ADAFoundation.org](http://ADAFoundation.org).