



## 2019 Eugene L. Gottlieb JCO Student of the Year PRESENTED BY AMERICAN ORTHODONTICS

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March 6, 2019

### Texas A&M University Student Dr. Katya Skillestad Wins 2019 Eugene L. Gottlieb JCO Student of the Year Award, Presented by American Orthodontics

The Journal of Clinical Orthodontics is proud to name Dr. Katya Skillestad from the Health Science Center at Texas A&M University as the winner of the 2019 Eugene L. Gottlieb JCO Student of the Year Award, presented by American Orthodontics. Dr. Skillestad was selected over 17 other students from schools around the United States in a two-stage, months-long competition judged by members of the JCO editorial board. Her prize includes more than \$8,000 worth of products and services from American Orthodontics, JCO, and Dolphin.

“I really appreciate the opportunity given to me by the JCO and American Orthodontics,” said Dr. Skillestad. “This competition was a great way to reflect on what I have been lucky to learn during my time at Texas A&M University College of Dentistry. Thank you so much!”

Dr. Skillestad was born in Uzbekistan in the former Soviet Union and arrived in the United States in North Carolina with her family as Jewish political refugees in 1992. She attended the University of North Carolina for both her undergraduate and dental school training. She then attended Texas A&M for her orthodontic education. She intends to return home to North Carolina after graduation. A complete profile of Dr. Skillestad will be published in the April issue of JCO and posted on JCO’s Facebook page.

Dr. Skillestad is the fourth Student of the Year award winner, joining Dr. Samaneh Mojarrad of the University of Pennsylvania (2018), Dr. Moataz Elmahdy of the University of Rochester (2017) and Dr. Krystian Jarosz of Rutgers University (2016). Texas A&M is the fourth different school to produce a winner over the four years of the competition. The award program grew out of JCO’s central mission to specialize in the clinical side of orthodontics. “We believed there was a gap in student recognition,” said JCO Editor Dr. Robert Keim. “Almost all of the awards were for research, which is of course important, but no one was rewarding clinical excellence. We thought we were the perfect vehicle to address that gap.”

JCO was founded in 1967 by Dr. Eugene L. Gottlieb, after whom the Student of the Year Award is named. Dr. Gottlieb died last October at age 99.



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“We could not be prouder of this award and the competition around it,” said Dr. Keim. “We surprised Dr. Gottlieb with the award three years ago, and he took the time each year to offer his congratulations to the winner in an e-mail. Although he will not be here to offer his congratulations to Dr. Skillestad this year, we are proud to have Dr. Skillestad as a representative of this award and extend congratulations on his behalf. Dr. Gottlieb’s grandfather was born in Russia, and it is a wonderful coincidence that about 100 years after his family came to the United States, Dr. Skillestad arrived from the same part of the world.”

The award’s title sponsor, American Orthodontics (AO), is the world’s largest privately held manufacturer of orthodontic products. Based in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, AO is dedicated to providing quality products, dependable delivery, and personalized service. “AO is dedicated to supporting orthodontic education and the future of the profession, and we are very proud to sponsor the JCO Student of the Year Award recognizing the best and brightest in orthodontics,” said Director of North American Sales, Todd Beaudoin.

The award is also sponsored by Dolphin, which provides 2D/3D imaging, diagnostic, treatment planning, case presentation, practice management, and patient education software for orthodontists. Mobile and Cloud applications are available.

The competition was held in two stages. Every school in the United States was allowed to nominate one current student. Each nominee submitted two letters of recommendation and a personal essay. Nominees were then given the materials from an unpublished case and asked to write a complete treatment plan, including all possible alternatives, within a two-week time frame. Three JCO board members whittled the 18 nominees down to 12 finalists in December.

Each of the finalists then submitted a complete report for a case he or she had worked on. A wider panel of JCO board members voted for the winner.

Published monthly, JCO is the only peer-reviewed publication that emphasizes the everyday clinical and management aspects of private orthodontic practice.

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