

**Dr Grace Nichols, Graduate Women NZ Fellow**  
**Progress Report, 2021**

My name is Gracie Nichols and I have just completed my Doctorate of Clinical Dentistry (Orthodontics) with the University of Otago. Throughout my postgraduate degree, I have conducted robust longitudinal research with the Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development study to see whether childhood malocclusion has detrimental psychosocial effects in adulthood if left untreated. My research identified significant socioeconomic disparities, both in the provision of dental and orthodontic care but also in how much the dentition deteriorates by adulthood. My research found that certain malocclusions, such as congenitally-missing teeth and increased overjets, were associated with poor psychosocial health in adulthood if left untreated. I published this work as a thesis and am currently preparing for journal publication. In addition to the research that I conducted, I have successfully passed the final examinations for DClinDent(Ortho), MRACDS(ortho) and MOrth RCSEd (Part A). Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, I have postponed my London Craniofacial Fellowship however I am now setting my sites closer to home and am focusing on how I can make a difference within my own clinic whilst striving to be a strong role model for women aiming to pursue careers in health. I am so grateful for the ongoing support and mentoring from Graduate Women New Zealand.