



53RD ANNUAL SESSION
OCT 25-28 • SAN DIEGO

DISTINGUISHED RESEARCHER AWARD

Recognizing outstanding contributions through original research, literature, teaching, or clinical applications



DR. KONSTANTINOS CHOCHLIDAKIS

Dr. Konstantinos Chochlidakis is an associate professor and the program director of the Prosthodontic Postgraduate Training Program at Eastman Institute for Oral Health (EIOH), University of Rochester, NY.

He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontics, Fellow of the American College of Prosthodontists (FACP) and holds several memberships in other dental organizations. Dr. Chochlidakis is a Director of the American College of Prosthodontists Education Foundation (ACPEF) and the Vice

President of the ACP Western NY section. Dr. Chochlidakis has received the Glen P. McGivney Scientific Writing Award for Systematic Review, the Iranpour Award for Excellence in Clinical Education and the ACP Distinguished Researcher Award in 2023. Dr. Chochlidakis has authored more than 60 scientific articles, abstracts and book chapters in peer-reviewed journals and textbooks and is lecturing nationally and internationally on several topics related to digital dentistry and implant prosthodontics.



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DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Recognizing outstanding service to the College and the characteristics of a true humanitarian



DR. HIROSHI HIRAYAMA

Dr. Hiroshi Hirayama is currently a clinical professor and the director of the Division of Postdoctoral Prosthodontics in the Department Restorative Sciences and Biomaterials at Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine.

He graduated with his DDS from Kyushu Dental College and received his certificate in prosthodontics from Tufts University of Dental Medicine. Dr. Hirayama began his teaching career at Tufts University and has taught 50 board certified prosthodontists.

Dr. Hirayama has lectured both nationally and internationally and has received numerous awards including the 2014 Educator of the Year award from the American College of Prosthodontists. He also has published over 70 articles and has advised on over 30 master theses.



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EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Recognizing exceptional skills as a dental educator



DR. AVINASH S. BIDRA

Dr. Avinash S. Bidra is a board-certified maxillofacial prosthodontist and professor and director of the Prosthodontics Residency Program at University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine. He teaches advanced prosthodontics, subcrestal prosthodontics (implant surgery), and maxillofacial prosthodontics to post-graduate dental residents. He lectures on dental implants at regional, national, and international meetings, as well as published extensively on implant surgery and prosthodontics in international scientific journals. He has developed diagnostic, treatment, and maintenance protocols for full-arch fixed implant prostheses that are used by many clinicians and prosthodontics programs worldwide.



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JUNIOR EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Recognizing exceptional skills as a junior dental educator



DR. AKANKSHA SRIVASTAVA

Dr. Akanksha Srivastava, is a maxillofacial prosthodontist at the University of Illinois Health Craniofacial Center in Chicago. She is board-certified by the American Board of Prosthodontics, is a Diplomate of the American College of Prosthodontists, and actively involved in several other esteemed dental organizations.

Dr. Srivastava specializes in craniofacial implants and prosthetic rehabilitation. Her research program encompasses oral morbidities associated with oncologic treatment which she conducts in close collaboration with the Department of Head and Neck Surgery at MD Anderson Cancer Center. She has over 60 published books, book chapters, abstracts, and manuscripts, has won numerous awards for her academic achievements, and is actively involved in various committees within the ACP and other dental organizations.



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DISTINGUISHED CLINICIAN AWARD

Recognizing outstanding contributions to clinical dentistry and sciences or health professions



DR. WILLIAM C. MARTIN

Dr. William C. Martin is a clinical professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of Florida's College of Dentistry. He completed his MS and certificate in prosthodontics from Baylor College of Dentistry in 1999, and currently serves as the Director of the Center for Implant Dentistry at the University of Florida. He maintains a part-time practice limited to prosthodontics within the Center for Implant Dentistry. He lectures both nationally and internationally on esthetic and implant dentistry.



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DENTAL TECHNICIAN LEADERSHIP AWARD

Recognizing outstanding service to prosthodontics and dental laboratory profession.



RICHARD M. LOPEZ

Richard Lopez is the Director of CAD/CAM, 59th Dental Support Squadron, 59th Dental Group, 59th Medical Wing, Joint Base San Antonio, Lackland AFB, TX. In 1998, he began his Air Force career by completing dental assisting training. In 1999 he was accepted to the Air Force Dental Laboratory Technology program, graduating with honors in 2000. Following his initial skills training Richard developed his skills and knowledge to become an Air Force Dental Laboratory Journeyman. In this role he was able to fabricate prosthesis for the Air Force's only Prosthodontics Residency Program.

Mr. Lopez has worked around the globe through the Air Force, including Kadena AB, Japan where he provided laboratory services for 52 dental clinics in the Pacific Theater. He currently works for the Air Force Postgraduate Dental School's Certified Dental Laboratory, supporting multiple dental specialties including prosthodontics. He continues to be innovative with digital and hybrid workflows to educate residents, staff doctors, and technicians to provide premier quality care for the US military.



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MAJOR GENERAL (RETIRED) BILL B. LEFLER FEDERAL SERVICES AWARD

Recognizing excellence in leadership, patient care, mentorship, and service



This award is proudly sponsored by:



U.S. ARMY



COL PAUL A. LONGO

Col Paul A. Longo currently serves as Flight Commander and Department Chair of the Graduate Prosthodontics Residency at the Air Force Post Graduate Dental School, 59th Dental Training Squadron, 59th Dental Group, Lackland AFB, Texas. He leads a 27-member flight including 4 training officers and 10 graduate residents.

He received his BS in chemistry from Rhode Island College in 1992. In 1997, he earned a DDM degree from the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine. In 2003, he received a certificate in prosthodontics from Wilford Hall Medical Center, and an MS in prosthodontics from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio in 2009.

Col Longo is a Fellow of the American College of Prosthodontists and a Diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontics.



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PRIVATE PRACTICE PROSTHODONTIST AWARD - REGION 2

Recognizing extraordinary collegiality, outreach, and community service



DR. ELAINE TORRES-MELENDEZ

Dr. Elaine Torres-Melendez was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico and graduated from Newcomb College of Tulane University. An early interest in basic science research was transformed into a career commitment to dentistry after a summer internship at a dental clinic. Upon graduating with her DMD from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine. She went on to complete a general practice residency at Rhode Island Hospital at Brown University, and completed specialty training at the Temple University Graduate Program in Fixed Prosthodontics.

Dr. Torres-Melendez established a solo practice limited to the specialty of prosthodontics in May 1986. Reaffirming her commitment to the specialty, she became board-certified in 2013. Throughout the last decade, Dr. Torres-Melendez has served the ACP across several task forces and committees.



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PRIVATE PRACTICE PROSTHODONTIST AWARD - REGION 4

Recognizing extraordinary collegiality, outreach, and community service

DR. HOWARD M. STEINBERG



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PRIVATE PRACTICE PROSTHODONTIST AWARD - REGION 5

Recognizing extraordinary collegiality, outreach, and community service



DR. JAMES S. EMERSON

Dr. James S. Emerson is a board-certified prosthodontist, practicing in Sequim, WA since 2007. He graduated with his DDS from the University of California, San Francisco in 1970. After graduation, Dr. Emerson served as a Captain in the United States Army Dental Corps, honoring a 2-year commitment. For the following eleven years he practiced general dentistry. He received a certificate in advanced prosthodontics from West Los Angeles VA hospital in 1985, and his certificate in maxillofacial prosthetics from UCLA in 1986. That same year he received his board certification from the American Board of Prosthodontics. For the next 20 years, Dr. Emerson conducted a private practice limited to prosthodontics and maxillofacial prosthetics in Monterey, CA, before moving to Sequim, WA where he currently practices.

Dr. Emerson is a Fellow of the American College of Prosthodontists and is an active member in several esteemed dental organizations.



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PRIVATE PRACTICE PROSTHODONTIST AWARD - REGION 7

Recognizing extraordinary collegiality, outreach, and community service



DR. BRENT P. WINNETT

Dr. Brenton Winnett is an alumnus of the Western University Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry, and the University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry Post-graduate Residency in Prosthodontics. During 18 years in the Canadian Armed Forces, Dr. Winnett served in multiple roles and locations around the world. Upon retirement from the Armed Forces, Dr. Winnett relocated his family to Victoria, BC, and now practices with Vancouver Island Prosthodontics, and Par-La-Ville Dental in Bermuda.

Dr. Winnett has held multiple leadership roles in several esteemed dental organizations throughout Canada. Academically, Dr. Winnett has collaborated in clinical research in prosthodontics and is published in numerous academic journals.



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DAN GORDON LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Recognizing lifetime achievement



DR. FRANK J. TUMINELLI

Dr. Frank J. Tuminelli received his DDS and specialty training in prosthodontics from Fairleigh Dickenson University School of Dental Medicine. Dr. Tuminelli is a Diplomate and Director, of the American Board of Prosthodontics and is currently the Program Director of the Advanced Education Program in Prosthodontics at the Manhattan Veterans Administration, New York campus. He is a past President of the American College of Prosthodontists, and has served in leadership positions in other esteemed dental organizations. He served as the Chair, and American College of Prosthodontists (ACP) Commissioner to the National Commission on Dental Specialty Recognition. Dr. Tuminelli is a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Dental Medicine at the Hofstra Northwell School of Medicine, and adjunct clinical assistant professor NYU School of Dentistry. He lectures nationally and internationally and has contributed to the scientific literature authoring multiple scientific papers. Dr. Tuminelli is also the recipient of the 2017 Educator of the Year Award from the ACP. He maintains a private practice limited to prosthodontics on Long Island and in New York City.



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PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Recognizing outstanding vision and leadership



DR. ROBERT M TAFT

Dr. Robert M. Taft received his DDS from Emory University School of Dentistry in 1983. He entered the Navy following graduation and was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Dental Corps.

Dr. Taft completed his prosthodontic residency at the Naval Postgraduate School in Bethesda, MD. After, he received his certificate in maxillofacial prosthetics at Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio. Following his specialty training, Dr. Taft served in various clinical and leadership positions at Naval Medical Center San Diego. In his tenure, Dr. Taft has served in many esteemed positions throughout his career including, chairman and program director for maxillofacial prosthetics fellowship program at the Naval Postgraduate Dental School, the director of graduate programs and medical joint service educator at the Navy Medicine Education and Training Command in Bethesda, MD, and the department chair for prosthodontics at the UT Health, San Antonio, School of Dentistry.

Dr. Taft is a Fellow and Past President of the American College of Prosthodontists, a Diplomate, Board Examiner, and Past President of the American Board of Prosthodontics, and has held numerous other leadership positions in many esteemed dental organizations and has received many awards for his dedicated service to the specialty of prosthodontics.