



ACP Resident and New Prosthodontist Mentoring Center



Commander Laleh Abdolazadeh, DDS, FACP earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, Cum Laude, from the California State University Long Beach, California in 2002. She subsequently attended the University of Maryland, Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, and was awarded the degree of Doctorate of Dental Surgery in 2008. Immediately after graduation, she entered a three-year residency program specializing in prosthodontics at the Naval Postgraduate Dental School (NPDS) in Bethesda, Maryland. In 2011, she was awarded her certificate in Prosthodontics from the Naval Postgraduate Dental School and was conferred the degree of Masters of Science in health sciences from the George Washington University, Washington, DC. In 2012, she completed a 1-year fellowship and was granted a certificate in Maxillofacial Prosthetics from the Naval Postgraduate Dental School.

Commander Abdolazadeh reported to Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth where she served as a staff maxillofacial prosthodontist, Prosthodontics Department Head, and Portsmouth Dental Laboratory Department Head from 2012-2015. She then served as chief of Prosthodontics, Dental Laboratory Officer and Assistant GPR Director at Hospital Dentistry, WRNMMC from June 2015 through April of 2016. She served as the Department Chair for Maxillofacial Prosthetics, Program Director for Maxillofacial Prosthetics Fellowship and L38A Technician C-school Programs at Naval Postgraduate Dental School from 2016-2021. Commander Abdolazadeh served as the Prosthodontic consultant to the White House Medical Evaluation Treatment Team (METT) from 2017-2021. She has served as the advisor to the Surgeon General of the Navy for Maxillofacial Prosthetics and Dental Implants from 2015 to 2019 and Prosthodontics from 2020 to 2024. CDR Abdolazadeh currently serves as the Department Head and Program Chair for Prosthodontics Residency Program at the Naval Postgraduate Dental School. She has been elected as the American College of Prosthodontists Region VI (Federal Services) Director while currently serving as a Director for the American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics.

Commander Abdolazadeh achieved board-certification in prosthodontics and became a Diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontics in 2012. She is a Fellow of both the American College of Prosthodontists and the American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics.



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COL Stephen "Shae" Cherrington, DDS, FACP currently serves as Chief of Prosthodontics and Prosthodontic Mentor FT Carson AEGD 1Yr Residency Program; Prosthodontic Consultant to The Surgeon General; and Deputy Commander FT Carson DENTAC.

COL Cherrington's previous duty assignments include Chief of Prosthodontics, JBSA FT Sam Houston TX DENTAC (2016-2017); OIC Rhoades Dental Clinic, JBSA FT Sam Houston (2017-2021); Air Force Maxillofacial Prosthetics Fellowship Program Mentor, JBSA FT Sam Houston (2016-2021); Deputy Commander JBSA FT Sam Houston (2019-2021); Maxillofacial Prosthetic Fellow, JBSA FT Sam Houston TX (2015-2016); Chief of Prosthodontics and Prosthodontic Mentor, FT Campbell KY 1 Year AEGD Residency Program (2009-2015); Brigade Dentist 1CAV Division, Mosul Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn (2011); Prosthodontic Resident, FT Gordon GA (2006-2009); general dentist, Snyder Dental Clinic FT Gordon GA (2005)

COL Cherrington is a graduate of Indiana University School of Dentistry (2005). He has a certificate of graduation from the Army Advanced Education in Prosthodontics Residency (2009) and Air Force Maxillofacial Prosthetics Fellowship Program (2016). He is a graduate of the AMEDD Officers Basic Course, AMEDD Officers Advance Course, CGSOC Intermediate Level Education, and Dental Management Development Course.

COL Cherrington is a Diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontics and Fellow of the American College of Prosthodontists.



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Carlo Ercoli, DDS, MBA, FACP is Tenured Professor of Prosthodontics, Periodontics and Implant Surgery and Chairman of the Prosthodontic Department at the University of Rochester, Eastman Institute for Oral Health where he also serves as the Director for the Center of Excellence for Digital Dentistry and Associate Director for Strategy and Innovations. He graduated from the “Enrico Berlinguer” Dental Technology Institute in Rome in 1987 and obtained his DDS from the University of Siena, Italy in 1993. He specialized in Prosthodontics in 1996 at the Eastman Dental Center in Rochester, New York and completed a specialty training in Orofacial Pain and Temporomandibular Joint Disorders in 1997. In 2012, he achieved specialty certification in Periodontology. In 2019, he obtained his MBA from the Simon Business School of the University of Rochester. In 2024, he completed the inaugural ADEA Council of Deans Fellowship.

Dr. Ercoli is a Past President of the American Prosthodontic Society, President-Elect of the Academy of Prosthodontics, Vice-President of the American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics, Honorary Member of the Italian Academy of Prosthodontics, Founding Member of the Italian Society of Prosthodontics and Oral Rehabilitation, Education and Research Director of the American College of Prosthodontists, Board Member of the American College of Prosthodontists Education Foundation, and Director of the American Board of Prosthodontics. Dr. Ercoli is a diplomate of the American Boards of Prosthodontics and Periodontology, an ITI Fellow and Chair of the USA ITI East Region, in addition to serving as a Member of the World Workshop on the Classification of Periodontal and Peri-implant Diseases and Conditions. He is the 2026 Scientific Program Chair of the Greater New York Academy of Prosthodontics. He holds memberships in the American College of Prosthodontists, American Academy of Periodontology, American Dental Education Association, Academy of Osseointegration, American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics, Greater New York Academy of Prosthodontics, and American Prosthodontic Society. He lectures nationally and internationally on dental implantology.



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Amir H. Nejat, DDS, MS, MSD is Assistant Professor at Louisiana State University (LSU) Health Science Center School of Dentistry in New Orleans, Louisiana. He graduated with a DDS from Mashhad University of Medical Sciences in Mashhad, Iran. He completed his Masters in Biomaterials at University of Alabama at Birmingham and then completed his residency in Prosthodontics at LSU School of Dentistry. His research focus is mainly on dental materials and their application in the field of prosthodontics.



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Igor Pesun DMD, MSc, FACP, FRCDC (Prosthodontics) is Associate Professor and the Founding Graduate Prosthodontic Program Director in the Department of Restorative Dentistry at the Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Manitoba. He completed his undergraduate dental education at the University of Manitoba, and a General Practice Residency at the Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon, Canada. After 4 years of practice as a general dentist he attended the Medical College of Georgia's (Currently Augusta University's, Dental College of Georgia) Graduate Prosthodontic Program and received a

Certificate in Prosthodontics and a Masters in Oral Biology. He began his fulltime teaching career at the University of Minnesota's School of Dentistry.

Dr Pesun is a Board-Certified Prosthodontist in the USA and a Fellow of the Royal College of Dentists of Canada in Prosthodontics. He is Chief Examiner for the Royal College of Dentists of Canada in Prosthodontics. Throughout his academic career he has maintained a private prosthodontic practice providing restorative, maxillofacial, implant and esthetic dentistry. He serves as a reviewer for a number of national and international dental journals and is active in many organizations. His research focuses on clinical evaluation of the short- and long-term outcome of treatments. He has lectured locally, nationally and internationally on clinical practice and educational methodologies.



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Samantha Rawdin, DMD, FACP received her dental degree from Midwestern University in Arizona, then continued her training in Prosthodontics at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx. She went on to complete a Fellowship in Implantology from Columbia University and currently works in private practice in New York City.

She is a Diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontics, a Fellow of the Greater NY Academy of Prosthodontics, a Fellow and current Program Chair of the NGS Academy of Multidisciplinary Dentistry, and previously served as the NPAW Chair for the American College of Prosthodontics. She is a published author, has been quoted as an expert in many articles and currently serves on the Advisory Board for Thommen Medical as well as a consultant for SURI oral care products.

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Juliet E.M. Tchorbajian, DDS, MS, FACP is a Diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontics, a Fellow of the American College of Prosthodontists, and a Board Certified Prosthodontist. She completed both her Postdoctoral Master Degree in Prosthodontics and her Doctor of Dental of Surgery degree from Columbia University College of Dental Medicine in NYC. Dr. Tchorbajian also serves as an attending faculty at Northshore LIJ University Hospital in the Implant Dentistry and Advanced Prosthodontics Program.

Her expertise is in restorative digital dentistry techniques, specializing in the use of 3D scanning and printing technologies. Her areas of focus include complete and removable prosthodontics, fixed prosthodontics, guided Implant placement, implant prosthodontics, laser therapy, and maxillofacial prosthetics.

She was honored with multiple awards during her training at Columbia University such as the:

- Divisional Excellence Award in Prosthodontics
- Quintessence Award for Clinical Achievement in Restorative Dentistry
- Minnervini Award for Achievement in Academics, Leadership, Professionalism and Community Service
- Was selected to be in the Comprehensive Implantology Continuum Honors Program.

Dr. Tchorbajian is an active member of the American College of Prosthodontists and the American Board of Prosthodontics. Currently she is Co-Chair of the National Prosthodontics Awareness Week Committee. She is a member of the American Dental Association (ADA), The New York State Dental Association, the Nassau County Dental Association, and the Professionalism Ethics Board.

Dr. Tchorbajian lectures locally and nationally, staying committed to a life of academic research and advancement in her field. Dr. Tchorbajian owns a Prosthodontic private practice in Long Island, NY.



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Bhavika V. Thakkar, DDS completed dental school in 2009 at MGD Dental College in India. She then graduated from the NYU Post Graduate Prosthodontics program from in 2018. She was honored to receive the Excellence in Teaching Award in 2018 which then started her career in academics. She was an Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of Missouri Kansas City for five years where she Directed the Fixed Prosthodontics Course for pre-doctoral students. Currently she has transitioned into full time private practice.



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Roberta A. Wright, DMD, MDSc, FACP is a board-certified prosthodontist who maintains a private practice in Oklahoma City, OK. She is the Co-Owner of Implant & Prosthodontic Associates, Restora Dental Studio, and the McGarry Implant Institute. She has been practicing for over ten years with a focus on surgical as well as traditional prosthodontics. She completed her dental and prosthodontic training at University of Connecticut SODM, where she developed a passion for teaching. Dr. Wright has maintained a part-time teaching appointment previously in Boston, MA at Harvard University SODM, and currently at the University of Oklahoma, where she teaches

prosthodontics and implant surgery in the AEGD program. She has significant research experience with several national and international publications.

Dr. Wright currently serves on the ACP Board of Directors as Director of the Prosthodontic Practice & Patient Care Services Division, and is the President of the Oklahoma State ACP Section. She maintains membership and holds executive positions in several other professional organizations, including the American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics, the American College of Dentists, the Oklahoma Dental Association, and the American Dental Association.