

# AAMP Connections



## President's Update

Dear Academy Fellows, Members and Friends,

I trust you all continue to be well and safe with your families. Through continued assessment of risk and best practices, the officers and board of directors of the Academy have felt it best to resume our Scientific Annual Session through a virtual format. The dates proposed are the evening of Friday, October 22nd and morning of Saturday, October 23rd. Through added input from members, it was also decided to provide a monthly educational virtual meeting on Saturday mornings from November through March of 2022.

Registration information for the meeting will be mandatory so that we can provide ample bandwidth and quality delivery so that all can enjoy continuing education credits from reputable sources. Through special consideration of **Register and Join**, guests and prospective members can obtain special credit through this registration process with concurrent application to the Academy.

Please see the following link for an application to the AAMP: [https://www.maxillofacialprosthodontics.org/membership/categories/Affiliate\\_Fellow/](https://www.maxillofacialprosthodontics.org/membership/categories/Affiliate_Fellow/)

2021 Virtual Meeting Registration Categories:

Student Member: \$25

Member: \$50

Non-Member: \$100

Through CERP, we can provide continuing education credits in conjunction by administrative support from the American College of Prosthodontists. We acknowledge the ACP for their ongoing championing of the specialty. It's been a busy year of reconfiguring for us all.

Some of you have held steadfast and some perhaps moved on to different opportunities and others may have experienced hardships throughout this difficult time. Whichever the case, on behalf of the board of directors and officers I wish you the very best.

Thank you,

Thomas J. Salinas, DDS

President of the American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics

## Upcoming 68th Annual AAMP Virtual Meeting

### **October 22, 2021**

5:00 pm CST Keynote Speaker

6:00 pm CST Poster session - 4 presenters (10 min presentation and 5 min Q & A)

7:00 pm CST Social Event (Social Event)

### **October 23, 2021**

7:45-8:45 am CST Board of Directors meeting

9:00 am CST Scientific Session Business meeting

12:00-1:30 pm CST Business meeting & Installation of Officers

### **Monthly lecture series (Saturday morning 10:00-11:00 am CST)**

November 6<sup>th</sup> 2021

December 4<sup>th</sup> 2021

January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

February 5<sup>th</sup> 2022

March 12<sup>th</sup> 2022

**Central Standard Time**

## Invited Speakers

Dr. Roy Chemaly

Dr. Alex Won

Dr. Renata Ferrarotto

Dr. Martin Osswald

Patricia Montgomery & Dr. Theresa Hofstede

Dr. Rodrigo E. Salazar Gamarra

Dr. Richard Cardoso & Holly McMillan

Dr. Edmond Bedrossian

Dr. Betsy Davis

Drs. Jay Jayanetti & Edgar Davila

**Chaired By Dr. Theresa Hofstede**

**[www.aampconference.com](http://www.aampconference.com)**

# 2020-2021

## Executive Officers of the AAMP

Dr. Thomas Salinas (President)

Dr. Theresa Hofstede (Vice President)

Dr. Joseph Huryn (President - Elect)

Dr. Alvin Wee (Vice President - Elect)

Dr. Evan Rosen (Recording Secretary)

Dr. James Kelly (Executive Secretary - Treasurer)

Dr. Arun Sharma (Immediate Past President)

## AAMP Board of Directors

Dr. Joseph DiFazio, Dr. Martin Osswald,  
Dr. Richard Cardoso and Dr. JR Wilson.

Newly elected members:

Dr. Mark Hutten,

Dr. Ruth Aponte Wesson (re-elected)

## AAMP Committees

### Ad Hoc Committees

**Auditing:** [Villa Guillory](#)

**Awards:** [Arun Sharma](#)

**By-Laws:** [Harold Kolodney](#)

**Corporate Liaison:** [Richard Cardoso](#)

**Insurance & Oral Health:** [Betsy Davis](#)

**Life Fellowship:** [Lawrence Brecht](#)

**Nominating:** [Arun Sharma](#)

**e-Communications:** Ruth Aponte-Wesson

**Educational Standards:** Theresa Hofstede

**Ethics & Medico-Legal:** Harold Kolodney

**Federal Services:** Anton Petrich

**Maxillofacial Foundation President:**

Lawrence Brecht

**Historical and Archives:** Steven Wagner

**International Relations:** Martin Osswald

**Investment:** Mark Chambers

**Memorial:** David Reisberg

**Program:** Theresa Hofstede

**Chair of the Maxillofacial Foundation &**

**Academy Relations:** David Reisberg

**Research and Strategic Planning:** Evan Rosen

**Silent Auction Committee:** Sujei Morgan

**Strategic Alliances:** Gerald Grant

**Student Membership:** Olivia Muller

**Fellowship:** James Kelly

**Subspecialty Recognition:** Betsy Davis

**Time and Place:** James Kelly

**Website:** Suresh Nayar

## Highlights 67th Annual Virtual Meeting of the "American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics"

October 17, 2020 / 7:45 am -9:00 am PDT

[AAMP 2020 Student Poster Competition Presentations](#)

October 17, 2020 / 9:00 am -10:00 am PDT

[Osteoradionecrosis MD Anderson Data](#)

Dr. Stephen Lai

October 31, 2020 / 7:30 am -10:30 am PDT

[AAMP Annual Business Meeting & Officer Installation](#)

[Link to AAMP 2020 Annual Business Meeting Agenda](#)

November 14, 2020 / 9:00 am -10:00 am PST

[Long Term Follow up of Mandibular Rehabilitation - MSK Experience](#)

Dr. Evan Rosen

January 23, 2021 / 9:00 am -10:00 am PST

[Zygoma Implants for Maxillary Reconstruction - UCLA](#)

Dr. Jay Jayanetti

February 20, 2021 / 9:00 am -10:00 am PST

[Outcomes Assessment](#)

Dr. Martin Osswald & Dr. Thomas Salinas

March 13, 2021 / 9:00 am -10:00 am PST

[Emerging Digital Workflow in Maxillofacial Prosthetics](#)

Dr. Denny Chao

Largely favorable given the attendance metrics for each monthly seminar.

**Chaired By Dr. Joseph Huryn**

## The Importance of Fair Market Value for Maxillofacial Prosthodontists

In two surveys investigating the rationale of a career in maxillofacial prosthodontics<sup>1,2</sup>, personal satisfaction was the most important reason applicants chose maxillofacial prosthodontics. While personal satisfaction is important, other factors are equally important. One of those factors - salary - plays a predominant role in today's healthcare marketplace. Given the high student loan debt of students today, salary will play an even more prominent role in the future. Maxillofacial prosthodontics has an extremely high overhead and is labor intensive. In addition, reimbursement in many situations is poor. For many of our residents and fellows, it is disappointing to finish your education, only to find that a hospital values you as a general dentist. AAOMS has developed a salary range at different percentiles of salaries for an oral surgeon. However, due to the small number of maxillofacial prosthodontists and the varied work experiences, there isn't any data for maxillofacial prosthodontists.

Fair market value is an estimation of your value to an organization based on your job title, your education, your years of experience, your skill level and location. Historically, fair market value in healthcare primarily existed in corporate healthcare. With the implementation of funds flow in academic healthcare centers, fair market value is beginning to have a role in the academic environment. Something that the Academy or Foundation may want to consider is working with a consulting firm to determine the fair market value of maxillofacial prosthodontists. The data will hopefully help our young members to be paid appropriately.

### References:

1. Ariani N et al. J Otolaryngol Head Neck Surgery 2017;46:35.
2. Sheets JL et al. J. Prosdent 2016.12.020.

Dr. Betsy K. Davis

## American College of Prosthodontist Awards 2021

Congratulations to Drs. Betsy Davis and Robert M. Taft for being recipients of the American College of Prosthodontist Awards 2021. These awards are given to individuals for outstanding and substantial contributions to the the college. The awards bestowed were Distinguished Clinician and Educator of the Year Award respectively.

## The Maxillofacial Foundation

Some of you may be unaware of a special group that is watching over our academy. No, not the

Maxillofacial Fairygodperson's Guild. I mean a much more relevant group-The Maxillofacial Foundation.

The Foundation was founded with a sole mission to support the AAMP. It has been instrumental in continued support for research projects, educational seminars, the annual Maxillofacial Award, and other activities related to the advancement of Maxillofacial Prosthetics and the mission of the American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics.

Dr. Larry Brecht currently serves as President of the Foundation. He and his committee of several past AAMP presidents are looking out for our academy and hope to provide more and more support each year.

I am asking each of you to consider making a contribution to the Foundation in order to help it support its mission: Us! I am not asking for a king's ransom. I realize this past year has been a challenge for all. No, I am asking each one of you to consider any amount (and I do mean, any) just to show your support of the Foundation. And nothing could be easier as you can do it directly through our very own AAMP website. Just go to

<https://www.maxillofacialprosthetics.org/cgi/ex.cgi/page/AAMP/membership/donations>

and select an amount or enter any amount in your comfort zone.

And keep in mind that your support, in any amount, helps the Foundation when it applies for grants from outside groups to directly support AAMP projects. These groups of prospective donors that are considering awarding grants to the Foundation love to see that the AAMP membership is unanimous in its support of the Foundation. Thank you for your consideration as your support means a lot to our academy.

## The Maxillofacial Foundation Excellence Prosthetic Award

**The recipient of this year's award will be announced in the business meeting  
and presented in person at the Austin 2022 meeting**

## Meet one of our newly elected Board of Directors: Dr. Mark Hutten BD

Dr. Mark Hutten is the Director of both the General Practice Residency Program and Dental Oncologic Services at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, IL and an Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. He received his BS from Northwestern University in Biomedical Engineering with a Materials Science concentration. Dr. Hutten continued at Northwestern University receiving his DDS in 1989, his GPR certificate from Northwestern Memorial Hospital in 1990 and his Oral Oncology Certificate from Northwestern Memorial Hospital and Northwestern University Medical School in 1991. Dr. Hutten continued at Northwestern Memorial Hospital as a general dentist for two years before earning his Certificate in Prosthodontics from Northwestern University in 1996. In February of 1999, he completed the process of Board Certification becoming a Diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontics and a Fellow of the American College of Prosthodontists.



Dr. Hutten has held numerous leadership positions in the ACP at both the State and National levels. He is the current ACP President. Dr. Hutten was awarded Fellowship in the American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics in 2018 and became a Board Member in 2020.

Dr. Hutten is also a Fellow of the International Team for Oral Implantology (ITI) and served on the Membership Committee from 2006 until the restructuring of the US ITI Section committee structure in 2014. Dr. Hutten is a member of numerous professional organizations including the Academy of Osseointegration where he is a past member of the Membership Committee, the American Dental Association, the Illinois State Dental Society, the Chicago Dental Society and is a past president of the Chicago Academy of Dental Research

Dr. Hutten is a published author and most recently has authored an ACP Position Paper entitled "Medication Related Osteonecrosis of the Jaw" as well as co-authored an additional ACP Position Paper entitled "Oral Cancer Screening". In a special publication of General Dentistry focused upon prosthodontics, he authored an article entitled "Prosthodontic Considerations When Managing the Older Adult Patient". Dr. Hutten has lectured nationally and internationally on topics including the clinical aspects of fixed, removable, implant and maxillofacial prosthetics and on the dental care of patients with complex medical diagnoses.

***You hold the unique positions of AAMP Board Member and ACP President. How do you see the current relationship of these two organizations and what do you foresee for the future for the AAMP and ACP?***

I have been part of the ACP Board of Directors for nearly a decade in various roles first as Director of the Prosthodontic Forum. It was in this position that I realized how fragmented the Specialty of Prosthodontics really has become since the dissolution of the Federation of Prosthodontic Organizations in 1972.

Despite this fragmentation, the ACP and AAMP had a unique partnership evidenced by the fact that the AAMP had a seat on the ACP Board of Directors, the Maxillofacial Director. In addition, the ACP and AAMP Annual Meetings were with few exceptions held in tandem each year in the same host city. I have witnessed the symbiotic relationship of the two organizations grow stronger over my years in ACP leadership. During ACP's recent recertification process, the importance of maxillofacial prosthodontics as critical component to the field of prosthodontics was highlighted. Therefore, as Maxillofacial Prosthodontics seeks subspecialty recognition through the National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards (NCRDSCB), the relationship of the ACP and AAMP is destined to further strengthen given that the ACP will serve as the sponsoring organization for the recognition process.

As my service on the ACP Board of Directors continued and I served as Treasurer, Vice President, President-Elect and now President, I have seen glimpses of improved collaboration amongst the ACP and the other Prosthodontic Forum Organizations. I think the highlight of this collaboration has been that the communication and comradery between the ACP and AAMP have continued to strengthen. Upon becoming a member of the AAMP Board of Directors while ACP President-Elect, a unique bridge between the organizations was built that has facilitated the communication between the two organizations. In addition, several AAMP members serve in leadership positions within the ACP. In doing so, we are afforded greater opportunities to collaborate as well as understand the perspective of maxillofacial prosthodontists in patient care through collegial exchange. ACP and AAMP's relationship showcases what is possible when we come together to collaborate on behalf of the specialty by interweaving the diverse perspectives of prosthodontists.

Even though the past 18 months have been difficult for Dental Specialty Organizations due to the impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic, the ACP and AAMP have remained strong and focused on achieving their individual, yet complementary, strategic objectives. Membership has remained remarkably stable and has surpassed budget forecasts highlighting the membership commitment to the two organizations.

Both organizations have a leadership succession that will secure the future of each. Ultimately, we are all prosthodontists with unique training and experiences. When the Mission of the two organizations is compared, there is alignment in regards, to education, research and techniques to improve the treatment outcomes of our patients. The continued collaboration between the ACP and AAMP will secure our specialty and future subspecialty for decades to come. I am excited by what the future holds for both organizations and the life-long friendships that we have developed over the years.

## From chair of the AAMP website and social media committees to elected president of the British Society of Prosthodontics



**Congratulations on your recent election to the presidency of the British Society of Prosthodontics. An amazing accomplishment and honor. It points to the expanding international relationships of the AAMP. As chair of the AAMP Website and Social media committees, how do you see social media's role in engaging and educating both members and non-members in the US and around the world?**

Reaching out to its members has been the cornerstone activity of any organization. In the good old days, keeping in touch with members utilized the print media in its various forms and perhaps word of mouth. As organizations grew and in the digital era, this also evolved from print to the electronic media. With the rise of information technology and social media, the process of reaching out to members may appear to have become easier.

There are two terms that appear to be similar, to a lot of people - 'information' and 'communication' - but which have different meanings. Information is the process of giving out - such as a piece of news, about meetings etc.; whereas communication is about getting through and getting members to engage! With print media, information was being given out, however whether communication was being achieved or not, one had to wait till the conference or meetings. With the advent of digital and social media, information transfer was made easier and more regular. The information that is being sent out was asymmetric in the sense that there was no standardization, as it used to be with print media! The content, the length, the bite size nature, was all customized to fit the social media platforms and the classical writing standards were gone! Moreover, the frequency of information being disseminated could also be varied and made more regular throughout the year. And social media had the distinct advantage of not only engaging members but also non-members with a global reach; along with actively communicating with all concerned with option for a dialogue or two-way messaging and instant feedback as well.

Our organization has had its foray into social media quite recently. From humble beginnings, our social media platform of Facebook has grown to nearly 3000 followers - i.e., any of our communication posts reaches 3000 followers worldwide! And we are able to not just inform, but also communicate with our followers.

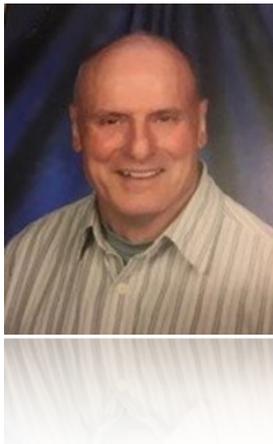
Social media has been useful in advertising and promoting AAMP and to some extent we have been successful in creating loyal followers! We will be looking at creating educational media for dissemination using our social media platforms. This hopefully can be used to attract more to see what AAMP offers and to build our organization base. Our younger members and followers are more adept in the use of social media and this provides an excellent platform to engage them. With time and increase in our membership base, we will be looking at expanding our social media platforms.

## In Memory of

It is always a sad time when our committee has something to report to you. Unfortunately, we have the unpleasant task of reporting the passing of three members, Dr. Robert "Bob" Hoar on November 2, 2020, Dr. Ronald "Ron" Fisher on February 4, 2021 and Dr. George Syros on July 10, 2021.

Whether or not you knew any of these members, we invite you to read through their obituaries below and as you do, please keep in mind that each shared the same passion for our profession and love of our academy that each of you has.

Dr. David Reisberg & Memorial Committee



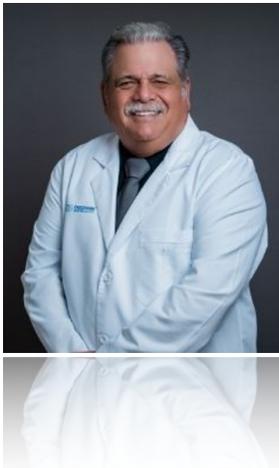
Robert Edward "Bob" Hoar Published: November 06, 2020.

Robert "Bob" Edward Hoar passed away peacefully in Eastern Pass-age on November 2, 2020 at 82 years of age. He was a loving husband to Maureen Hoar (Anderson); father to Jeff, Scott and Mike; and grandfather to Jacob, Sydney, and Sam. He was predeceased by his daughter, Wendy Oliver (Bayers); parents, Dell and Walter; and brother, Maurice. He is survived by his sister, Edie Calkin and nieces and nephews. Bob was born in Saint John, N.B., in 1938 and graduated from Saint John High School in 1956. He began his university education at Dalhousie University and graduated with a Doctor of Dental Surgery in 1962. He initially set up a dental practice in Dartmouth but shortly thereafter established a practice in Musquodoboit Harbour. During this time, he joined the Faculty of Dentistry at Dalhousie part time. He then went on to complete a Master of Science Degree at the University of Texas while doing a residency in maxillofacial prosthodontics at the MD Anderson Cancer Centre in Houston. Bob then returned to Halifax, joining the Dalhousie Faculty of Dentistry full time as a longstanding and influential educator and mentor with a staff appointment at the Victoria General Hospital. Bob was the first practitioner in Atlantic Canada to have completed graduate studies in maxillofacial prosthodontics and was the only maxillofacial prosthodontist east of Montreal for many years. He worked closely with other dental specialists and ENT surgeons treating patients with head and neck cancers. Among Bob's many roles, he served as Head of Removable Prosthodontics at Dalhousie, President of the Academy of Prosthodontists of Canada, and other national leadership positions. Bob was loved by his patients and students alike. He will be remembered by his patients for his empathy and fierce advocacy for their care when they really needed it. Students will also remember his empathy, and in particular his emphasis on the imperative of "getting things right": many will remember the life-sized poster of Lee Van Cleef in his office with the motto: "First you get good, then you get fast".

Outside of Bob's professional life, he enjoyed working outdoors, even more so when it involved heavy duty tools and equipment. Bob also enjoyed helping in the garden, especially when it involved using his chainsaw and tractor. In particular, he revelled in working with wood, so much so that he was affectionately known by his family as Bucky Beaver. His love of forests was passed down to all three sons, especially Mike who is a professional forester in British Columbia.

Further, the care Bob demonstrated for his cancer patients influenced Scott's work as a palliative care clinician. Bob loved spending time with his children and enjoyed a special relationship with his grandchildren. He was the rock that supported his extended family, quietly stepping in to support them through various crisis. He and Mern hosted numerous large family gatherings at their home in East Petpeswick, featuring lots of laughter, shenanigans, and occasionally small explosives.

The family would like to extend their gratitude to Bob's caregivers at Oceanview Continuing Care Centre in Eastern Passage where Bob was cared for during his last few months. A service will take place in Good Shepherd Church ([goodshepherdchurch.ca](http://goodshepherdchurch.ca)) at 3621 Lawrencetown Rd., at 2 p.m. on November 9th, limited to only family and closest friends due to the COVID pandemic. There will be a further celebration of Bob's life (open to all) at a later date. There will be a notice with details at that time. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Dalhousie Faculty of Dentistry, specifically for a dental student award/fund that will be established in memory of Bob (Dr. Robert Hoar Memorial Fund). <http://giving.dal.ca/hoar>



Dr. Ronald Fisher of Delray Beach, FL passed away Thursday, February 4, 2021.

Beloved husband of Claudia for thirty-nine years. Devoted father of Ashley Fisher. Survived by many family members, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

The family would like to thank the doctors, nurses, and staff at Delray Medical Center for their empathetic and superbly dedicated team.

The funeral service was held on Sunday, February 7, 2021 at Eternal Light Memorial Gardens in Boynton Beach, FL. Donations may be made to the American Cancer Society ([www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)) (800)227-2345) in memory of Dr. Ronald Fisher or a charity of your choice. Published in The Palm Beach Post from Feb. 15 to Feb. 16, 2021

Dr. Ronald Fisher - Prosthodontist

Dr. Ronald Fisher graduated from the University of Montreal Dental School. After obtaining a Doctorate of Medical Dentistry (DMD), he attended the University of Indiana School of Dentistry for specialty training in Fixed and Removable Prosthodontics. He received a Certificate in Prosthodontics and a Master of Science in Dentistry. Following his specialty training, Dr. Fisher worked in a one-year Maxillofacial Prosthetics Residency Program at the Indiana University School of Dentistry and Medical Center Hospitals.

Upon completion of his training, Dr. Fisher practiced and taught at Notre-Dame Hospital in Montreal, Canada. He was appointed Chief of Service of the Maxillofacial Prosthodontic Center for treating patients in the Province of Quebec, Canada. At the same time, Dr. Fisher became a part-time Clinical Professor and eventually an Assistant Professor for McGill University. He taught dental residents in a hospital clinic and treated patients focusing on implants and prosthetic rehabilitation.

Dr. Fisher has previously published internationally and continues to lecture dentists on implants and removable prosthetics. Presently, he teaches dentists and treats patients for the Atlantic Coast Dental Research Clinic at Palm Beach State College. With his experience and knowledge, Dr. Fisher restores the function of hard and soft tissues within the oral cavity.

Furthermore, as a member of numerous dental organizations, Dr. Fisher has been Past President of the following associations: Association of Prosthodontists of Quebec, Association of Prosthodontists of Canada, and South Palm Beach County Dental Association. He is a fellow in both the American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics and Academy of General Dentistry as well as a member of the American College of Prosthodontists.

In January 2020, Dr. Fisher joined the Friedman Dental Group after many years of private practice in Delray Beach, Florida. Crowns, fixed bridges, partial and complete dentures, maxillofacial prostheses, and implant prosthodontics are his specialty. Focusing on patient treatment and care is a priority for Dr. Fisher.

Dr. Fisher and his wife Claudia resided in Delray Beach and have a daughter, Ashley. His main pastime was playing golf which included participating in local and national tournaments. He enjoyed living in Florida as it was the ideal setting for both dentistry and golf.



It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of a colleague, friend, and mentor, Dr. George Syros. Dr. Syros passed tragically and unexpectedly over the July 10<sup>th</sup> weekend, leaving behind his loving wife, Georgia, and their two young children.

Dr. Syros was an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry at UIC from 2011 to 2014, teaching in both the predoctoral and postgraduate clinics. In that relatively short time, George touched many of our lives and formed lasting friendships.

Dr. Syros grew up in Greece and completed his undergraduate studies at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece in 2000. He played semi-pro basketball in Athens, Greece from 1997 to 2006. He completed his DDS at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, School of Dentistry in 2006 and served in the Greek Army as a dentist. In 2007, he moved to the US and attended the University of Iowa, College of Dentistry and received his Certificate in Prosthodontics in 2010. He was the first fellow to enroll in the Oncologic-based Maxillofacial Implant Fellowship Program at University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. He received his board certification in Prosthodontics in 2011. It was at that point, he joined the University of Illinois at Chicago, College of Dentistry as a faculty. For the last 7 years, Dr. Syros has been treating patients in private practice in Houston, Texas.

George possessed the unique combination of intelligence coupled with kindness and humility that made him liked and respected by all. He brought out the best in all those that he interacted with. The loss of George is not only a loss to the people who knew and loved him, but to the profession and the world as a whole.

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## **The Andrew J. Ackerman Memorial Award**

**The recipient of this year's award will be announced and presented in  
Austin 2022**



## The Editorial Council of the *Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry*

Poster awards for the virtual meeting are generously sponsored by the ECJPD. The abstract portal will start accepting submissions August 2, 2021. Please check the website for further updates.

### ***Job Opportunities full details on our website***

[https://www.maxillofacialprosthetics.org/membership/Job\\_Board/](https://www.maxillofacialprosthetics.org/membership/Job_Board/)

## **AAMP Speaker's Bureau**

Greetings AAMP Members,

From time to time, the Academy is contacted by other professional organizations to provide speakers at their meetings on a variety of topics. We have always felt this is a good thing as it helps us connect with related medical and dental organizations and raises awareness of our specialty and the varied and unique services we can provide to support patient care and an improved quality of life. The Public and Professional Relations Committee of the AAMP is charged with forming a list of members who would be interested in speaking before organizations on a variety of topics.

General topics may include: Congenital Craniofacial Conditions (cleft lip/palate, ectodermal dysplasia et al), Oral Changes Associated with Radiation Therapy/Chemotherapy and Their Management, Prosthetic Management of Head and Neck Cancer, Prosthetic Management of Craniofacial Trauma, New Technologies We Have Integrated Into Our Practices To Advance Patient Care. We realize these are broad areas but we think you get the idea.

If you would like to be added to our list of speakers who would be willing to participate in this program, please email to [dreisber@uic.edu](mailto:dreisber@uic.edu) and please include topic(s) you could address.

As this is our initial attempt at forming such a list, we realize it may be a work in progress and will take some tweaking, but we need to begin somewhere. We appreciate your input. Our committee looks forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,

David J. Reisberg, DDS, FACP, FAAMP  
Chair, AAMP Public and Professional Relations Committee  
Past President, AAMP

## An Illustrious MFP Career

### Dr. Thomas Vergo



#### **Please tell us a little about your personal life**

My wife, Elizabeth, and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary in August of this year. We are blessed with a blended family of seven children, 18 grandchildren and a great grandchild on the way in November.

#### **Tell us about your journey to becoming a dentist, a prosthodontist and eventually a maxillofacial prosthodontist**

I grew up in a small village, about 15-miles from Rochester, New York. My father was one of two dentists who serviced our village and surrounding towns. As I was transitioning into high school, my father decided to relocate his office from Rochester to our home in East Rochester. My dad and I did the renovation of our home basement converting it into a two-operator dental office with a dedicated dental laboratory space. Almost like a hobby, I would pour models and even set denture teeth in occlusion in the laboratory. So, I guess I was destined to become a prosthodontist early on.

During my preclinical dental school years, I was attracted to oral surgery and prosthodontics. I felt at the time, and still do, that prosthodontics fostered a life-long relationship with the patient. Early on in dental school I decided to specialize in prosthodontics.

During my junior year of dental school, Dr. Norman Schaaf presented an "overview of MFP" to our class and I fell in love with Maxillofacial Prosthetics. I was even so bold to approach Dr. Schaaf after the lecture to express my desire to become a Maxillofacial Prosthodontist. His immediate response was that I needed to become the best dentist I could be and then the best prosthodontist. And, then, he may consider accepting me into his MFP Residence at Roswell Park Cancer Institute. I started my career long love practicing MFP in 1975 as his resident!

**Please tell us about working as a Maxillofacial Prosthodontist in private practice and its challenges**

During my career, I have practiced MFP under the umbrella of Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, in a faculty private practice setting within Tufts and later exclusively in private practice settings. Retrospectively, it is clear to me that practicing MFP in an institutional setting was financially more forgiving than in private practice. The institute tended to be more forgiving regarding the MFP clinics receivable account in favor of the academic advantage of treating our MFP patients. In a private practice setting, collecting “fee for service” assured the financial health of the practice, requiring a dedicated staff to negotiate a variety of third-party insurance to maximize the patient’s coverage benefits.



**Please tell us about your collaboration with the National Foundation of Ectodermal Dysplasia**

Early in my prosthodontic training at University of Buffalo Dental School and the Buffalo VA Hospital, a family of three siblings presented to the dental school for treatment. All three were diagnosed with Dentinogenesis Imperfecta. The school administration realized that the family would be best treated by a prosthodontist rather than a pediatric dentist! I was assigned two of the siblings and Dr. Sal Esposito the third. In consultation with S. Howard Payne, who had never treated this category of patient. We established that there was adequate inter-tooth/ridge space to fabricate overdentures to restore oral functions. Early on at Tufts, I would give lectures to dental study groups, hygienists and medical groups, highlighting not just the head and neck prosthetic rehabilitation, but the congenital/developmental oro-facial defect patient. Eventually, referral of other pediatric patients found their way to my clinic, the first being a 2-year-old totally edentulous Ectodermal Dysplasia patient. A 40-year relation with the National Foundation of Ectodermal Dysplasias thus began, where I served on the patient care council for many years.

### **Can you share with us your vision for the future of our specialty and our organization?**

It seems like every year, over the past twenty or so years, the question of the future of the AAMP is discussed. Historically, before MFP training programs were formalized, MFP practitioners would meet informally at each other's office to share treatment strategies and techniques. With fewer training programs today, the AAMP remains a place to meet to share and learn! It will continue to be a place for collaborative training in the digital paradigm, for maxillofacial prosthodontists, prosthodontists and lab technicians. The AAMP also serves as a referral network for members and other health professional guests, and has always been a home and a social network for our spouses.

Interview By Dr. Akanksha Srivastava

## **Spacial thanks from the AAMP President**

As we enter a new administrative year, we acknowledge our Board Members, Committee Chairs and Officers of the Academy for their foundational work in promoting maxillofacial prosthetic care for the patients we represent. We also welcome all our student members that make the prospect for our future. Also, we appreciate the support all the membership has given us in being loyal to the times and challenges we are all faced with.

A special thanks goes to Vice President Theresa Hofstede and her committee for assembling our scientific program this year. In hearing preferences from most of our membership, it became apparent that there was an interest for both single day presentations and monthly ones into the new year. With what limited impact that virtual meetings seemingly have, they are our main mode of communication and transmitting ideas that have become novel and generate excitement and stimulation. Despite all these constraints, we have had unwavering interest and support by a few vendors that have generated an appreciation amongst us all as their dedication to our mission continues. One of the bigger areas of support from our meeting partner, RES Seminars, has certainly been a stronghold for us over the years. They have been a bigger part of our administrative operations recently by helping us negotiate with meeting venues, recapitulate program delivery, facilitate registration, interface with the ACP in obtaining continuing education credits, and many other significant daily operations. We express our gratitude to all our friends and colleagues for this great support. The ongoing agenda we have that maxillofacial prosthetics continues to gain support as a subspecialty becomes ever so critical in being distinct among medically based dental providers. In cooperation with the American College of Prosthodontists, the American Board of Prosthodontics, and the National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties, we will continue to work on assembling certification criteria and other qualifying distinction. As most of us become overwhelmed with the number of online presentations lately, we are astounded at the faithfulness that our membership has for this academy. I'm sure you all wanted to meet at Hotel del Coronado as I did but considering the circumstances, it's wise that we converted the meeting into virtual format. I look forward to meeting with y'all in Austin, Texas next year where our program and our fellowship will be truly special. It's been over three years since I have been able to see and greet all of you, and I certainly wish you the very best for you and your families in the great year ahead.

Very Respectfully,

Tom Salinas  
President, American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics

# Thanks to our Sponsors



## In Closing...

We would like to finish this newsletter thanking all of the members that helped us accomplish this year's edition. Regardless of the limitations posed by the lingering pandemic we have continued to move forward with the leadership of our President Dr. Salinas. We completed all of the virtual seminars for the year 2020-2021 and they were very well attended and received. Our in person AAMP national meeting was cancelled this year as many others have. Join us in another virtual setting, this year we have combined formats to encompass our members desires. We have an outstanding scientific program planned by Dr. Theresa Hofstede.

Another unequalled tragedy to this year was to loose three more esteemed and admired AAMP members. They will be truly missed, our respects to their families.

The academy is a platform rich in opportunities. It does not matter in what category you may fall into, a student member or a life fellow, the enthusiasm and contribution can be endless and so rewarding. Some of the most valuable features of our group are the collegial environment, the never ending pursuit of cutting edge knowledge, mentorships and achieving life long friendships. Let's give a special thanks to our President Dr. Salinas for guiding our organization this year in these unprecedented times. A warm welcome to our new President Elect Dr. Huryn. We hope you enjoyed the selected items in this year's newsletter.

*Ruth Aponte-Wesson &  
e-Communications Committee*