



**Periospectives**

PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PERIODONTOLOGY

# International Periodontics



SPRING – SUMMER 2025

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**Periospectives**

## COVER STORY



### Beyond the Practice

International partnerships are essential to the field of periodontology, which is why the Academy is proud to be hosting the 111<sup>th</sup> AAP Annual Meeting in Toronto in collaboration with the Canadian Academy of Periodontology. Additionally, the Dental Hygiene Symposium at the Annual Meeting will be held in collaboration with the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association.

Learn more beginning on page 6.

### Mission

To champion member success and professional partnerships for optimal patient health and quality of life.

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SPRING – SUMMER 2025





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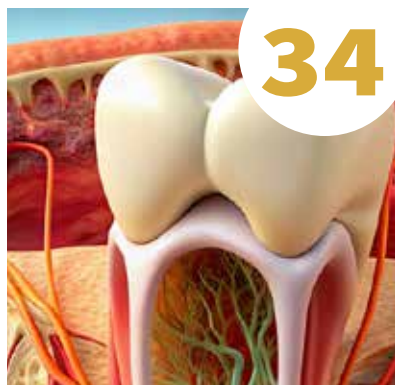
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## President's message

BY DR. MIA L. GEISINGER



The elevator that opens to my office lobby has a quote on it that inspires me daily: "Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success." -Henry Ford. This spirit of collaboration, unity, and connection is integral to the AAP Annual Meeting and are the heart of our profession. As we look ahead to the 2025 Annual Meeting in Toronto, it's the perfect time to highlight these values in this issue of *Periospectives*.

This year's meeting, held in collaboration with the Canadian Academy of Periodontology from Oct. 15-18, offers a unique opportunity to share knowledge, explore new research, and foster meaningful connections with our Canadian colleagues and periodontists from around the world. Toronto sets the stage for vibrant collaboration and the exchange of ideas that will shape the future of our specialty.

We're excited to welcome a dynamic lineup of Canadian speakers presenting at multiple sessions this year, including Dr. Peter Fritz and Dr. Véronique Benhamou. Don't miss Dr. Fritz at two sessions this year—*Say Hi to AI: Deep Learning Applications in Periodontics* and *The Art of Patient Care Beyond the Chair*. And make sure to catch Dr. Benhamou at this year's Dental Hygiene Symposium, a key highlight of our programming. An impressive lineup of sessions covering relevant topics for attendees at all stages of their careers is coming our way this year, offering insights and tools that attendees can

bring back to their practices. For a sneak peek of the 111<sup>th</sup> AAP Annual Meeting, explore the Annual Meeting Program Preview and Speaker Profiles on Dr. Fritz and Dr. Stephanie Ganter in this issue!

The AAP recently interviewed the Presidents of the Canadian Academy of Periodontology (CAP) and the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA)—Dr. Trudy Nwachukwu, and Alexandra Sheppard, respectively—to share important information with our AAP members. Dr. Nwachukwu shared her insights on the significance of international partnership, what attendees can look forward to from the Canadian perspective, and the value of international collaboration in advancing periodontal care, while Alexandra Sheppard shared CDHA's perspective on the evolving role of dental hygienists in periodontal care, opportunities for collaboration with periodontists, and current initiatives that may resonate with our members. You can read more in the Beyond the Practice section.

Our commitment to global collaboration continues beyond North America. AAP staff members and I recently traveled to Vienna in May for EuroPerio11, where we represented the Academy and participated in discussions with periodontal leaders and experts from all over the globe.

To learn more and see more of AAP's presence at EuroPerio11, visit the International Periodontics section.

We're thrilled to once again feature reflections from Dr. Cassandra McKenzie, Dr. Maria Cecilia La Torre Sanchez, Dr. Max J. Perlitsh, and Ryan Lark in our Gen You section. They each share personal insights on what makes the Annual Meeting meaningful to them—from connections with colleagues to memorable sessions that have shaped their professional journeys, as well as what they're looking forward to in the future. Check out Gen You to learn more about these four incredible individuals and their experiences.

Whether you're a first-time Annual Meeting attendee or a seasoned member, I hope this issue inspires you to explore how global collaboration and international periodontics is shaping the future of periodontology. From Toronto to Vienna and beyond, our specialty thrives when we exchange ideas across borders and cultures. Together, we're advancing periodontics, not just locally, but globally. ■

Sincerely,  
**Dr. Mia L. Geisinger**

President, American Academy of Periodontology

**P.S.** Don't miss our Ask the Board section, Dental Hygiene Engagement Initiative Update, AAP Journals Roundup, Education Updates, and more!



## COVER STORY



Dr. Trudy Nwachukwu



Dr. Alexandra Sheppard

*International partnerships are essential to the field of periodontology, which is why the Academy is proud to be hosting the 111<sup>th</sup> AAP Annual Meeting in Toronto in collaboration with the Canadian Academy of Periodontology. Additionally, the Dental Hygiene Symposium at the Annual Meeting will be held in collaboration with the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association. To properly encapsulate the significance of these collaborations, the Academy reached out to two important individuals – the President of the Canadian Academy of Periodontology, Dr. Trudy Nwachukwu and the President of the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association, Alexandra Sheppard – to share their insights. Hear from them below!*

**Dr. Trudy Nwachukwu, BDS, MDPH, Dip(PDS), MRCPS(Glasg), MFD RCSI, MDent(Perio), FRCD(C)**

“The CAP welcomes the opportunity to partner with the AAP this year. We appreciate the collegiality between the AAP and the CAP, whether it is in the form of joint meetings or attending each other’s conferences. This collaborative meeting will be a fantastic time for knowledge sharing, as well as networking for periodontists. I am excited about knowledge sharing, exploring new and innovative techniques for our periodontics and dental implants patients. I recognize that there may be slight differences in the practice

“ Collaborations like these are extremely important as it helps us all to be focused on the same goals—friendship, collegiality and updating our knowledge banks/ techniques to improve oral health for our patients.

of periodontics in each country, we are more similar than we are different, and we should take advantage of all opportunities to learn from each other. I also hope my AAP colleagues will take advantage of this meeting to visit Canada and explore the beautiful city of Toronto. The current landscape of Periodontology in Canada is evolving and very dynamic. Periodontists are performing even more advanced surgical procedures, aimed at improving oral health for our patients. Collaborations like these are extremely important as it helps us all to be focused on the same goals—friendship, collegiality and updating our knowledge banks/techniques to improve oral health for our patients. Education is the key to achieving all these goals and the AAP and CAP joint meeting is an excellent starting point as there will be lots of engaging and dynamic speakers scheduled for this conference! We are honoured to have the opportunity to practice periodontics, and we play a vital role in the overall health and well-being of our patients. This year’s meeting in Toronto is an exciting occasion for all periodontal colleagues to come together and learn from each other. The scientific program focuses on new advances in periodontal care and will provide excellent opportunities to gain experience with new techniques and exchange shared knowledge and experiences. It is also a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones!”

**Alexandra Sheppard, RDH, BA, DipDH, Med CDHA | ACHD President**

“Dental hygienists are primary health care providers. Although the standards of practice are slightly different from coast to coast, dental hygienists are taking a leading role in assessing the periodontal health and disease of their patients. Dental hygienists use periodontal probes to assess the depth of the pocket, determine the clinical attachment level, and diagnose the appropriate periodontal classification based upon the 2017 Classification of Periodontal and Peri-Implant Diseases and Conditions.

In many provinces and territories, dental hygienists make the independent decision to prescribe and take radiographs to assist in the diagnosis of the classification. The majority of dental hygienists in Canada graduate from educational programs that have met accreditation standards as set out by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC). Dental hygienists are implementing non-surgical periodontal therapy with their patients as well as educating them about their oral health and interventions, self and professional, to improve their oral, and subsequently, their overall health.

The amazing advocacy by staff of the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA) and by CDHA’s board of directors, who have continuously met with politicians from all political parties, senators, and key policy officials. Every politician has a dental hygienist. CDHA advocated for increased access to oral health care and was a key contributor in ensuring that the Canadian Dental Care Plan would come to fruition for all ages as of May 2025. Cost is an enormous barrier to professional oral care for many Canadians, and hopefully, by having an opportunity to seek out affordable preventive dental hygiene treatments, they will reduce their risks of experiencing oral disease.

I believe there has always been collaboration between dental hygienists and periodontists in Canada. Dental hygienists are regularly employed by periodontists and often spend the majority of their career with the periodontist. Certainly, periodontology is the dental specialty that most values the role of the dental hygienist.

It is exciting for dental hygienists to be able to attend this event in Canada! I do believe there is a benefit in having collaborative events with all members of the oral health care team attending, learning with each other, and learning about each other. In 2010 I attended AAP events held in Vancouver and in Honolulu. I was so impressed with the inclusiveness and value placed upon

the dental hygienist as an integral member of the oral health care team.

In 2019, the World Health Organization reported that 24.7% of the population in Canada, 15 years of age and over, had severe periodontal disease.<sup>1</sup> That same year, the total productivity losses due to five oral diseases were more than \$6.5million (US).<sup>2</sup> The five oral diseases were caries, periodontal diseases, edentulism, oral cancer, and noma.<sup>3</sup> Going forward, we need to realize that we are all managing disease. I attended EuroPerio11 in Vienna, Austria, in May 2025. An important take-home message for me was providing patients and the public with appropriate therapies to manage periodontal disease so that they can enjoy life, living longer and better.” ■

### References:

1. World Health Organization. Prevalence of severe periodontal disease in people 15+ years [Internet] [cited 2025 May 20]. Available from: <https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/prevalence-of-severe-periodontal-disease-in-people-15--years>
2. World Health Organization. Total productivity losses due to 5 oral diseases in million (US\$) [Internet] [cited 2025 May 20]. Available from: [https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/total-productivity-losses-due-to-5-oral-diseases-in-million-\(us-dollar\)](https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/total-productivity-losses-due-to-5-oral-diseases-in-million-(us-dollar))
3. World Health Organization. Oral health [Internet] [cited 2025 May 20]. Available from: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/oral-health>

# Beyond the Practice



# The AAP Annual Meeting visits Toronto for the first time in four decades!

Spend Oct. 15 through Oct. 18 with our neighbors to the north as the AAP’s Annual Meeting visits the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

The Academy is celebrating 111 years of gathering periodontal educators, researchers, clinicians, and residents from around the world for a weekend of collaboration, learning, and fun!

Here are just a few of the many things taking place at the meeting.

## Exhibit Hall

Visit over 250 booths and support the vendors that support you! The AAP Exhibit Hall offers a wide array of features such as:

- Morning coffee
- Daily lunches
- Global Speaker Pavillion
- Speaker Studio
- Lunch & Learn
- Member Resource Center
- Charging Lounge
- CE Pavilion
- Networking Reception

### Exhibit Hall Dates and Hours

Thursday, Oct. 16, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 17, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.



## AAP Foundation

**Advocacy, Research, and Education**  
Don’t miss these AAP Foundation highlights at the Annual Meeting:

### AAP Foundation Booth and Silent Auction

Swing by to help us celebrate 35 amazing years of supporting the specialty. Learn about the AAP Foundation’s mission and programs, grab fun giveaways, snap a selfie, and bid on a variety of unique silent auction items—right from your phone. It’s fun, easy, and all for a great cause!



### Practice Transition, Retirement, and Estate Planning Breakfast, Friday, Oct. 17

Enjoy a morning of valuable insights as a financial expert and experienced estate planning attorney break down the essentials of building your financial future.

*Sponsored by Treloar & Heisel, Inc.*

### AAP Foundation Future Horizons in Periodontology, Friday, Oct. 17

Be inspired by the next generation of periodontal innovators. Join us for this session addressing artificial intelligence and its potential applications to contemporary clinical periodontology practice, presented by past AAP Foundation award recipients.



## The American Academy of Periodontology is an ADA CERP® Recognized Provider.

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Attendees can earn up to **28 continuing education (CE) credits**.

## Meeting Highlights \* Indicates ticketed event

### Wednesday, Oct. 15

- EV12: AAP/AAP Foundation/Osteology Foundation Regeneration Symposium: Tissue Is the Issue\*
- EV1: Sedation and Anxiety Management Part 1: You are Getting Sleeeeeeepy\*
- EV2: Sedation and Anxiety Management Part 2: You are Getting Sleeeeeeepy\*
- EV24: Elevating Scholarship: Peer Reviewing and Writing for the AAP Journals\*
- Corporate Forum
- Clinical Innovations and Periodontal Research Symposium sponsored by District 8
- ABP1: American Board Review Part 1
- ABP2: American Board Review Part 2
- Balint Orban Memorial Competition

### Thursday, Oct. 16

- GS1: Opening General Session with entrepreneur, philanthropist, and author Tiffany Dufu and Presidential Address with Dr. Mia L. Geisinger
- IP1: Advances in Periodontics
- IP2: Advances in Periodontics
- NCE1: Hard Lessons from Soft Tissue Complications
- NCE2: Is the Cure Worse than the Cause?
- NCE3: The Oracles of Delphi: Which Prognostic System Works?
- FCE1: Can We Even Prevent Peri-Implant Diseases or Are We Too Late?
- FCE2: Obstacles or Opportunities: Resilience Makes the Difference
- FCE3: Robert J. Genco Perio-Systemic Symposium
- GS2: Regeneration: A Microsurgical Approach

ANNUAL MEETING

AAP AM meeting in Toronto  
Continued from page 9

Meeting Highlights

Friday, Oct. 17

- GS3: Say Hi to AI: Deep Learning Applications in Periodontics
- EV21: The Perfect Dental Claim: Carrier vs. Provider (Ticketed Course)
- EV22: Dental Coding Workshop\*
- AAPF1: AAP Foundation Future Horizons in Periodontology: Artificial Intelligence Applications in Clinical Periodontics
- NCE4: Optimizing Periodontal Health in Orthodontic Therapy
- NCE5: It's High Time We Talk About Cannabis and Perio
- NCE6: Translating Tissue Engineering from Bench Top to Chair Side
- FCE5: New Approaches to Periodontal Regeneration – AAP/EFP Collaborative Session
- FCE6: Soft Tissue Grafting at Teeth vs Implants: Same Game, Same Outcomes?
- FCE7: Implant Therapy at Molar Sites: Everything You Need to Know
- IP3: Rising Stars
- GS4: Single Implant in the Esthetic Zone: Lessons Learned and Unlearned

Saturday, Oct. 18

- GS5: Ask the Experts: Oral Pathology, Oral Medicine, and Oral Radiology
- EV3: Dental Hygiene Symposium\* In collaboration with the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association
- EV4: Educator Symposium: Are We Graduating Truly Competent Professionals?\*
- EV23: Medical Coding Workshop\*
- FCE8: Initial Findings of the AAP/OF/SEPA Joint Consensus on New Technologies in Oral Reconstructive Medicine
- FCE9: Implant Site Augmentation: A Battle of Concepts
- FCE10: Interdisciplinary Management of Compromised Teeth
- FCE11: The Art of Patient Care Beyond the Chair
- FCE12: Highlights of the AAP-AO Consensus Conference on Peri-Implant Diseases: Clinical Implications
- IP4: Perio Open Mic



View the  
entire schedule

AAP 2025

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111<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

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2025 AAP Annual Meeting Speaker Profiles



Stephanie Ganter, DDS, MS, FACD, FICD

Dallas-based periodontist Dr. Stephanie Ganter brings more than just professional insights to this year’s Annual Meeting session **FCE2: Obstacles or Opportunities: Resilience Makes the Difference**. Speaking alongside Dr. Sharon R. Bannister and ADA President Dr. Brett Kessler, Dr. Ganter will bring her lived experience and explore how mental, emotional, and professional challenges can become powerful opportunities for growth.

“We’re going to be talking about overcoming obstacles and why resilience matters. For me anecdotally in residency, that’s when I really needed to start learning about resilience. There are all kinds of challenges, both emotional and mental health wise, that come up.”

Her perspective on overcoming challenges is deeply connected to her values, which extend beyond the clinic. In addition to her private practice, Dr. Ganter is deeply committed to humanitarian work. She has helped locals through Texas Mission of Mercy and been on mission trips to Guatemala, Nepal, and Ukraine. “Mission work is about compassion. I studied for several years to become a periodontist.

All that bookwork, all those hours spent reading article after article, and none of it prepares you to connect and reconnect with the compassionate side of dentistry. That’s what mission work does for me. I’ve enjoyed my time working at home through Texas Mission of Mercy and abroad through international mission trips. I just got back from Nepal—great people in Kathmandu Medical Center, and my mission trips to Ukraine and Guatemala. **Magic happens when you take a step outside of your comfort zone.**”

Dr. Ganter also advocates for intentional work-life balance. For colleagues seeking balance in a demanding career, she offers a thoughtful approach: “Some say balance cannot exist. I like to think you can achieve balance with some intentionality. I admire leaders like Dr. Mia Geisinger, our AAP President, who I feel can match her passions and her practice and balance it all. Prioritizing what fulfills you, perhaps by making a values list, can definitely get you started on how to delegate your time... Also, I’ve learned setting healthy boundaries in your practice life and personal life can really help you set the stage for balancing everything that you want to do in life.”

And for the next generation of periodontists and dental students? Her advice is clear and empowering: **“Stay curious, find mentors, and remember, it is a journey, not a sprint.”**

Looking forward to the meeting, Dr. Ganter encourages attendees to bring colleagues from other specialties as well. “I’m bringing an oral surgeon: my partner Dr. Bob McNeil. Together, we can learn from each other and achieve so much more.”



Peter C. Fritz, DDS, PhD, MBA, BSc, FRCD(C), LLM

As artificial intelligence becomes more integrated into clinical practice, Dr. Peter Fritz is demonstrating how these tools can enhance efficiency and patient outcomes in periodontics. Dr. Fritz is a practicing periodontist, researcher, and educator based in Ontario, and will share his expertise during two sessions at this year’s AAP Annual Meeting: *GS3: Say Hi to AI: Deep Learning Applications in Periodontics* and *FCE11: The Art of Patient Care Beyond the Chair*.

“We’ve been using AI in our periodontal practice for the past two and a half years,” Dr.

Fritz explains. “We’ve done a lot of deep learning ourselves. In *Say Hi to AI: Deep Learning Applications in Periodontics*, you’re going to discover what works, what doesn’t work, and how to optimize your practice to become more efficient.”

Dr. Fritz’s interdisciplinary background – which involves periodontics, surgery, innovation law, and technology – has shaped his unique approach to both clinical care and education. As an Adjunct Professor at McMaster University and Adjunct Professor at Brock University, he encourages cross-disciplinary learning to drive innovation in periodontics.

“I believe you have to visit different ecosystems in different sectors, gather information that isn’t typically in dentistry, and then bring this back to your patch so that you can innovate the collaborative specialty of periodontics and redefine the patient experience which is what it’s all about,” he says.

His second session, *The Art of Patient Care Beyond the Chair*, offers a look at how his practice is extending care through technology. “I’m really excited to show you what we’re doing in our clinic to deliver impact to our patients after they’ve left the chair: things like AI-generated brochures and treatment plans and follow-up messages generated with AI technology.”

With a strong belief in lifelong learning, Dr. Fritz lives by the motto, “Never stop learning because the world around you never stops teaching.” He shares advice for periodontists and dental professionals looking to stay ahead in this evolving field, encouraging embracing change and collaboration. “As dental professionals, we are built to learn and adapt. However, gaining inspiration from other clinicians from all over the world when they assemble at meetings like the American Academy of Periodontology is very powerful and it creates an impact that may shape the future of your practice.”

Looking ahead to Toronto, Dr. Fritz emphasizes the value of in-person connection: “Society is shaped by relationships and information, and there’s no better way to cultivate relationships and trade reliable, cutting-edge information than at the AAP Annual Meeting in Toronto. Come, join me—we’re going to celebrate the energy, celebrate being periodontists, and how we can create more happy people in the world!”

Dr. Ganter and Dr. Fritz’s stories are just a glimpse of what’s to come in Toronto. This year’s speakers reflect the dynamic spirit of the AAP community. We look forward to welcoming you to the 111th AAP Annual Meeting which will be filled with discovery, collaboration, and a celebration of what it means to be a periodontist! ■



## Advocating for Perio



Dr Adam Saltz

*In addition to serving on the AAP Membership Sustainability and Growth Committee, ADA Liaison Committee, and the Resident Retreat Workgroup, Dr. Adam Saltz amplifies the voice of periodontists nationwide by serving many roles within the ADA. Catch a glimpse of Dr. Saltz's work here.*

### What is your involvement with the ADA?

I am president of the Maine Dental Association and District 1 representative and vice chair-elect of the ADA New Dentist Committee. I chair multiple state and regional committees in these roles and act as our district whip at the ADA House of Delegates. I also serve on the ADA Future of Dentistry Study and the Election Commission and Campaign Rules for Elective Office Task Forces. This past March, I chaired the inaugural Elevate Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. I have been a consultant to the ADA Council on Membership and Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention.

### What prompted you to extend your involvement beyond the AAP to the ADA?

I “grew up” in organized dentistry, attending ADA meetings with my family, as my dad moved through the chairs of our state association. In dental school, I served on the ASDA Board of Trustees as editor-in-chief. So, in many ways, I have come full circle. I joined the ADA to better understand current trends and challenges then got involved to help solve them. As a newer periodontist, it has been a meaningful way to bring our specialty into wider conversations about dental practice, education, and advocacy.

### What do you personally get out of your active involvement with the ADA?

The ADA has been a powerful catalyst for my personal and professional growth. I've had the privilege of providing testimony on state legislation, co-creating ADA policies, and developing financial resources and leadership programs for students and new dentists. But it's the mentorship I've both received and paid forward that has been the most rewarding. I've learned from clinical experts, academicians, scientists, and industry leaders ways to break down complex problems and respond thoughtfully and with compassion. They deepened my sense of purpose as a clinician, leader, editor, educator, and business owner. Today, helping students, residents, and early career dentists discover their voice and place in leadership not only strengthens the future of our profession but constantly renews my own commitment to serve, advocate, and evolve.

“ Today, helping students, residents, and early career dentists discover their voice and place in leadership not only strengthens the future of our profession but constantly renews my own commitment to serve, advocate, and evolve.

### What should AAP members know about the important work you and other AAP members are doing for the ADA, and why does it matter?

Our presence in the ADA ensures that we are centrally involved in oral health policy, education, and clinical standards that frame periodontal and implant care. We are advocating for stronger interdisciplinary collaboration, highlighting the oral-systemic connection— a link that is being questioned by changing politic interests. When we participate in policy development, strategic planning, and resource creation, we position the AAP as an essential partner in comprehensive patient care. This representation enables us to shape new models of care, dental education, reimbursement frameworks, workforce shortages, and public health initiatives for the benefit of our patients, our profession, and the future of integrated healthcare.

### What would you say to other AAP members who may be considering representing our specialty by getting involved with the ADA?

Joining the ADA isn't just about professional service— it's to ensure our specialty isn't left out of decisions that affect how we all practice. If we're not at the table, someone else speaks for us. Your leadership at the local, state, and/or national level helps protect and advance the work we do every day. ■



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## Leadership and Volunteer Activities-Summer 2025

- The **Education Committee** selected the 2025 recipient of the Outstanding Periodontal Educator Award and are developing this year's Education Symposium that will be held at the 2025 Annual Meeting in Toronto.
- The **Patient Benefits and Advocacy Committee** discussed potential CDT code applications to submit to the ADA for consideration at the 2026 Code Maintenance Committee meeting.
- The **Research Submissions Committee** reviewed the abstracts submitted to the Balint Orban Memorial Competition and the Research Forum Poster Session and Competition, and selected finalists for each competition.

- The **Scientific Strategy Committee** reviewed the results of the disease classification survey that was sent to the AAP membership earlier this year.
- The **Peri-Implantitis Workgroup** discussed new resources to support the publication of the AO/AAP Consensus on Prevention and Management of Peri-Implant Diseases and Conditions.
- The **Saving Teeth Workgroup** developed a series of webinars that will launch this summer. ■



## Ask the Board



### When will the 2024 AO/AAP Consensus Workshop on the Prevention and Management of Peri-Implant Diseases and Conditions be published?

-Life Active Member, Allentown PA

Dear Member,

I'm pleased to announce that the AO/AAP Consensus Workshop on the Prevention and Management of Peri-Implant Diseases and Conditions has been published and is available now in the **Research and Science** section on [perio.org](http://perio.org).

For those who may be unaware, the 2024 Academy of Osseointegration/American Academy of Periodontology (AO/AAP) consensus aimed to integrate the best available evidence and expert opinion into a unified framework for the prevention and management of PID and conditions.

The research has been published in several journals which include:

- Group 1: Risk Factors, Indicators, and Determinants of Peri-Implantitis
- Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses published in the *Journal of Periodontology*
  - Clinical Translation Paper published in *Clinical Advances in Periodontics*

Group 2: Management of Peri-Implantitis and Other Implant-Related Complications

- Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses published in *The International Journal of Oral & Maxillofacial Implants*
- Clinical Translation Paper published in *The International Journal of Periodontics & Restorative Dentistry*

You can also read an interview with the co-chairs on page 36 of this issue.

Thank you for your question, and thank you for your membership in the AAP! ■

Sincerely,

**Dr. Joseph P. Fiorellini**  
District 2  
AAP Board of Trustees







111<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

**TORONTO**

October 15-18, 2025



Register today at  
[am2025.perio.org](https://am2025.perio.org)

Network, learn, and be a part of something great with:

- A keynote address from entrepreneur, author, and advocate Tiffany Dufu
- AAP/AAPF/Osteology Foundation Regeneration Symposium
- Dental Hygiene Symposium  
*in partnership with the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association\**
- Global Speaker Pavillion
- And much more!

The 2025 Annual Meeting will be a new  
Wednesday – Saturday format

The 111<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting is being held in collaboration with the

CANADIAN ACADEMY OF PERIODONTOLOGY  
ACADÉMIE CANADIENNE DE PARODONTOLOGIE



FOR YOUR PRACTICE

## Dental Hygiene Engagement Initiative



Do you want to expand your network and position yourself as a periodontal expert in your local area? Become an AAP Dental Hygiene Study Club host! As a Study Club host, you get access to a slate of resources to help facilitate a Dental Hygiene Study Club in your local area.

Study Club resources include video modules to use as the main presentation during your meetings, best-practice resources on how to build and sustain a successful dental hygiene study club, invitation templates, and promotional materials, all designed to make hosting a dental hygiene study club easy for you, the Study Club host.

Interested in hosting an AAP Dental Hygiene Study Club? Visit [dentalhygiene.perio.org](https://dentalhygiene.perio.org) to sign up!

### Don't Miss Out on Our New Study Club Feature!

Study Club subscribers can now pay for the continuing education (CE) fees for dental hygienists who attend their study club meetings!

Here's how it works:

- Study Club subscribers can request a coupon code unique to their event to share with their hygienist attendees who will use it when completing the CE elements associated with the Study Club.
- Study Club subscribers who take advantage of this new feature will be billed quarterly for each hygienist who uses their unique code.



**Dental Hygiene  
Study Club**

This feature provides Study Club leaders with an extra benefit to share with their hygienist attendees and may help drive expanded participation.

Log in to your Study Club host profile on [dentalhygiene.perio.org](https://dentalhygiene.perio.org) to request a coupon code!

### Dental Hygiene Symposium

Bring your hygiene team to the Dental Hygiene Symposium at AAP's Annual Meeting in Toronto! The Dental Hygiene Symposium is a full-day program taking place on Saturday, October 18, and will cover an array of periodontal topics relevant to dental hygienists. This year's symposium is held in collaboration with the Canadian Dental Hygienists' Association. Learn more at [am2025.perio.org](https://am2025.perio.org).

Thank you to AAP's hygiene partners for sponsoring the Dental Hygiene Engagement Initiative! ■



PHILIPS



## FOR YOUR PRACTICE

# Your income, inflation, and practice values have all gone up. How is your life insurance keeping up?

Contributed by  
**Shawn M Johnson, ChFC®, CLU®, CLTC**  
Vice President, Business Development  
Treloar & Heisel, Inc.

“

If you are a partner in private practice, you may have noticed that practice values have gone up dramatically in recent years. This is because private equity firms have entered the dental and medical space and have started acquiring practices, thereby driving up prices.

If you're like most dentists and physicians, you likely incurred a substantial amount of debt to fund your education. Upon graduation, that debt trend shifted (or will shift, if you're still in training!) as you begin to make money. At some point, you will be able to save money toward future goals. You may purchase your home, perhaps you will start a family and choose to provide opportunities for your children. All of this is possible.

### How will your family continue living the way you envisioned?

When all this growth is happening in your life, it's easy to ignore the potential risks that could get in the way of your vision for the future. From a life insurance perspective many of you are woefully underinsured. Basically, this means that if you were to unexpectedly pass away, your family would not be able to maintain the lifestyle to which they have become accustomed based on your income.

### A significant portion of the population is underinsured.

According to research conducted by the Life Insurance Marketing and Research Association (LIMRA) and *Life Happens*, "Overall, 52% of American adults report owning life insurance, and 41% of adults — both insured and uninsured — say they don't have sufficient life insurance coverage."



As a dentist or physician, and it's possible that you, too, may be among the 41% of the American population that doesn't have sufficient life insurance coverage. For example, unless there are significant additional assets, a specialist earning say \$400,000-500,000 a year may not be appropriately covered with just \$2 million of life insurance.

Whether you make more or less than this in annual income is not the question. The point is: when was the last time you sat down to calculate how much insurance you truly need? People tend to buy life insurance in their thirties when they are thinking of having or starting a family. Many never go back to revise that amount as their family grows, or as their income grows.

### Private equity has driven up the price of practices.

If you are a partner in private practice, you may have noticed that practice values have gone up dramatically in recent years. This is because private equity firms have entered the dental and medical space and have started acquiring practices, thereby driving up prices. If you were to have a valuation done on your practice, and it showed an increase in value, that should propel you to increase your life insurance coverage to adequately fund your buy-sell agreement.

Other things that have been trending upwards in the past few years are incomes — which ties into another upward trending factor, namely inflation. Rising inflation means that the cost of everything is going up, and with it naturally the replacement cost of everything in your life is going up. Your life insurance policies need to be updated to reflect these increases in price.

### How do you know how much life insurance you need?

The simplest answer is that your life insurance need is the amount of money your family will need in the future to live minus the assets (including retirement plans) and life

insurance you currently have. This will give you a ballpark number. If you work with a financial professional, they will ask you how much you're saving, how much taxes you're paying, what assets you have and how they are invested. That will give you a more accurate picture.

Typically, we do not include your home as an asset in these calculations because if you pass away, your family will still need a place to live and will likely incur costs associated with this expense. Anyway, you do the math, and you will probably realize that you are underinsured.

### Review your existing life insurance coverage with an experienced professional

The best gift you can give yourself and your loved ones is to set up a meeting with an insurance professional to accurately calculate your life insurance need. The best place to begin is to figure out how much life insurance you truly need. Once you know that, you can move to the next step of determining how best to fill your insurance coverage gap.

If you have any questions about this, feel free to reach out to me!

### About Treloar & Heisel

*Treloar & Heisel, an EPIC Company, is a financial services provider to dental and medical professionals across the country. We assist thousands of clients from residency through retirement and strive to deliver the highest level of service with custom-tailored advice and a strong national network.* ■



## FOR YOUR PRACTICE

# Ask the Coding Coach

Over the last several months, osseous surgery and regeneration procedures involving both natural teeth and implants in the same area of the mouth has been a recurring problem. Let's use an example: osseous surgery is completed in four quadrants, with only the third molars missing, as well as implants present in the areas of teeth #13, #29, and #30. Bone grafting using resorbable membranes was completed on tooth #14, and the implants for #13 and #30. Biologic material was used on tooth #14.

In most instances, the osseous surgery code is used correctly, D4260 x4. The codes for regeneration, however, are where the problems occur. In this case, the maxillary left quadrant should be coded as follows:

**ULQ D4260** osseous surgery four or more contiguous natural teeth

**#14 D4263** bone replacement graft -retained natural tooth -first site in quadrant

**#14 D4265** biologic materials to aid in regeneration

**#14 D4266** guided tissue regeneration, natural teeth, resorbable

Also, for this quadrant:

**#13 D6102** debridement and osseous contouring of a peri-implant defect surrounding a single implant

**#13 D6103** bone graft for repair of peri-implant defect

**#13 D6106** guided tissue regeneration, resorbable, per implant

The mandibular right would be coded as follows:

**LRQ D4260** osseous surgery, four or more contiguous natural teeth

**#29 D6102** debridement and osseous contouring of a peri-implant defect surrounding a single implant

**#29 D6103** bone graft for repair of peri-implant defect

**#29 D6106** guided tissue regeneration, resorbable, per implant

**#30 D6102** debridement and osseous contouring of a peri-implant defect surrounding a single implant

**#30 D6103** bone graft for repair of peri-implant defect

**#30 D6106** guided tissue regeneration, resorbable, per implant

The mistake occurs when it is assumed that the treatment performed will be covered by the codes for natural teeth. In these cases, although it may seem redundant, each implant must be coded individually for each procedure. It does not matter if the implants are adjacent or not since the coding is per implant. When this is not done, claims can be denied, or benefits may be reduced. It is important to remember, however, that plan limitations may also affect reimbursement. As with any claim, obtaining a pre-treatment estimate will avoid problems with both the carrier and patient.

**Q: There are times when I am exposing an implant for restorative treatment and placing the abutment, and I then decide that an apically positioned flap will preserve attached tissue on the facial of the implant. How would I code for these procedures?**

We always say code for what you do. The easiest way to determine if you are coding correctly is to look at the procedures you have performed in the order in which they are completed. In your case, the implant was exposed first. In most cases, this is accomplished with either a punch-type procedure or small partially elevated flap. D6011, surgical access to an implant body (second stage implant surgery), would describe this. Since you are placing the abutment, this second step would be coded for either D6056, prefabricated abutment, or D6057, custom fabricated abutment.

The last procedure was to elevate a flap (or further elevate the small partial flap from when you exposed the implant) and position it apically to provide keratinized tissue on the facial of the implant. This would be coded D4245, apically positioned flap. In most instances, only the D6011 would be used, but if you do perform both procedures you may use both codes to describe what has been done. In many cases, a carrier will only cover the most inclusive code and may not cover both.

**Q: I get confused as to the meaning of "site." Can you explain the differences between sites for teeth, implants, and edentulous areas?**

It can be confusing because the term "site" means different things in different situations. There are three times a site applies when



submitting claims. The first is soft tissue grafting, which is straight forward. A single tooth is considered a site. Submit one code for each tooth.

When dealing with any procedure involving missing teeth, such as ridge augmentation, a site is considered an area of two tooth positions or less. If you are treating the mandibular posterior, for example, where teeth #29-32 previously were, then this would be submitted as two sites and thus two codes.

Osseous defects are the most confusing. Simplified, if there is a defect on only one tooth then that is a site and one code is submitted. If one defect affects two adjoining teeth, communicating, then this is also a single site and one code is used. Osseous defects on adjacent teeth that cannot be probed from one defect to the other (a section of bone is between the defects) would be two sites, and two codes would be appropriate.

This is further explained at the beginning of the Periodontics category of the CDT.

Implants are not considered by "site." Implant codes for treatment of peri-implantitis or mucositis are submitted per implant.

Submit your third-party questions to **insurance@perio.org**. Members with coding questions or difficulties with insurance claims can also contact the AAP's third-party specialist, Michelle Flesch, at 312-573-3241 or **michellef@perio.org**

## 2025 Annual Meeting Live Insurance Workshops

Do you prefer to learn about coding and insurance in person? The AAP's Dental Coding and Medical coding workshops will be presented live at the AAP's Annual Meeting in Toronto!

- **Dental Coding Workshop:** Friday, Oct. 17 from 2-5 pm
- **Medical Coding Workshop:** Saturday, Oct. 18 from 9 am-12 pm

Learn about best practices for submitting claims directly from the AAP's Insurance Consultant and representatives from the insurance industry. This course will feature a case study discussion of insurance claims that will highlight the appropriateness of submission, reasons for denial, and issues to avoid when submitting a claim. There will be plenty of time for Q&A with the panel to discuss issues specific to your practice.

- **Insurance Panel:** Best Practices for Submitting Claims: Friday, Oct. 17 from 9 a.m.-Noon

For more information and to register for these courses, visit **am2025.perio.org** ■



Perio People You  
Should Know



**Dr. Stuart Segelnick, DDS, MS, elected president of the Northeastern Society of Periodontists (NESP) and new editor of The New York State Dental Journal**

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Segelnick, who was elected president of the Northeastern Society of Periodontists (NESP) and is currently serving as the new editor of *The New York State Dental Journal*.

A member of the AAP since 1992, Dr. Segelnick was the recipient of the ICD Journalism Silver Scroll Award in 2016, the ICD Journalism Newsletter Award in 2019, 2021, 2022, and the ICD Golden Pen Honorable Mention Award in 2023. Dr. Segelnick won

third place in the ADEA Gies Foundation Editorial Award competition in 2022. He has co-edited five books on dentistry and has co-authored articles in the *Journal of Periodontology* and recently *Clinical Advances in Periodontology*. He is a fellow of the Pierre Fauchard Academy, the International College of Dentists and the American College of Dentists. He is an Adjunct Clinical Professor at NYU Dentistry in the Department of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry and a diplomate of the ABP. ■



Educator Updates

The following individual has been named **Predoctoral Program Director**:

James Fine, DMD  
Columbia University

The following individuals have been named **interim Postdoctoral Program Director**:

James Burke Fine, DMD  
Columbia University

Ioannis Kormas, DDS  
University of Minnesota

Elli Anna Kotsailidi, DDS  
University of Rochester

Ioanna Tsolaki, DMD, MS  
Rutgers School of Dental Medicine

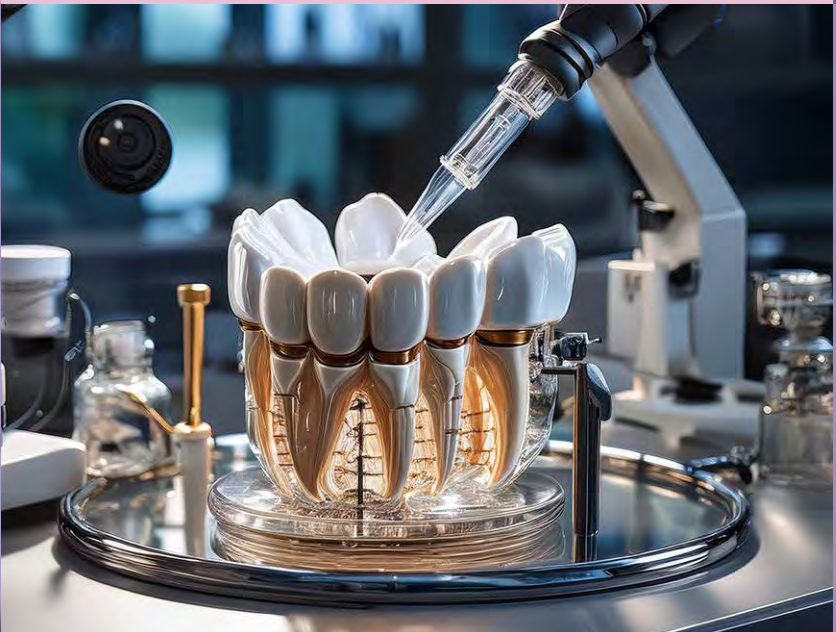
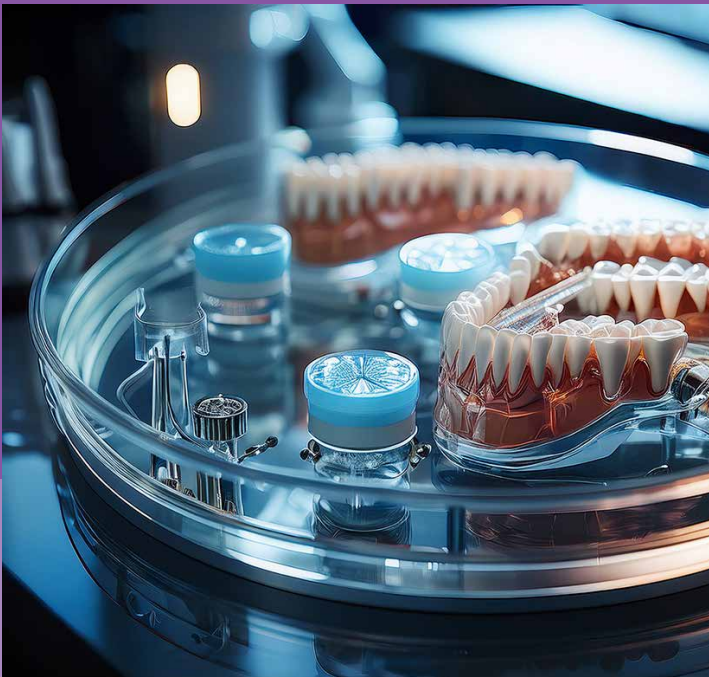
Othman Shibly, DDS, MS  
VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System

Rafael Siqueira, DDS, MS, PhD  
Virginia Commonwealth University

Dr. Jason Starace  
New York University

The following individual has been named **Interim Chair**:

Dr. Sebastiano Andreana  
New York University





## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

It's time to dive deeper into our conversations with our Gen You individuals! What have they learned from previous Annual Meetings? What are they looking forward to at future Annual Meetings, including this year's 111<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Toronto? What has been their most memorable Annual Meeting to date?



Find out below!



**Ryan Lark**  
Student  
AAP Member since 2024

Hi! My name is Ryan Lark. I'm a D4 at NYU and I'm graduating in a few days and applying to perio this

summer. Attending the 2024 Annual Meeting was a gamechanger. I got a front row seat to some of the latest advances in periodontology, and I got to connect with some amazing people. I felt like I walked away with a deeper understanding of cutting-edge techniques and some of the implant workflows, but also a renewed inspiration and sense of purpose that was a reminder why I'm choosing this specialty—not just for the procedures but for the impact that we can have on people. Moving forward, I want to build this momentum by pushing my clinical skills, staying ahead of some of the emerging technologies, and learning from leaders that are shaping the future of perio. I'm super excited for the next meeting later this year and I hope to explore more of these amazing technologies, collaborate with other professionals, and see all the innovation going on. Connecting with AAP members, whether they are residents, seasoned clinicians, educators, has reinforced my desire to be a periodontist and maybe someday a leader of the profession. I want to be someone who contributes and supports the next generation of specialists. Thank you for listening! I hope to see everyone at the meeting!



**Dr. Maria Cecilia La Torre Sanchez**  
First-Year Resident  
AAP Member since 2024

Hola, hola! This is Dr. Maria La Torre, and I'm currently a periodontics resident at the University of Detroit Mercy Dental. As I prepare for our upcoming Annual Meeting,

I'm most excited about diving deeper into advanced surgical procedures, particularly soft tissue grafting and osteo regeneration, as well as implantology because these areas are pivotal in periodontics and the opportunity to learn from leading experts is valuable for my professional growth. I'm eager to attend sessions by clinicians such as Giovanni Zucchelli, Dr. Otto Zuh, Dr. Lorenzo Tavelli, as well as Dr. Dennis Tarnow, as he's very well known for his contributions to implant dentistry and education, as well as Dr. Hom Lay Wang who has been known for advancing our understanding of periodontal regeneration. Witnessing demonstrations from these experts will provide unparalleled insights into their techniques and of course, decision-making processes for me in the future.

The Academy has been an excellent platform for building connections to various events and online forums. I've had the chance to engage with peers and mentors who share the passion for periodontics like me. These interactions have fostered a sense of community and have been instrumental in my education journey. This year, I aim to enhance my skills in soft tissue manipulation around

implants, and I want to explore advanced regenerative approaches for intrabony defects. It would be nice to attend a live surgery, if possible, but even just insights from our speakers into surgical techniques will help us with clinical decision making in the future, as we can learn from them. I look forward to applying these learnings to improve patient outcomes in my practice and just to become a better periodontist as I learn and thrive through this beautiful journey. Thank you everybody!



**Dr. Cassandra McKenzie**  
Clinician  
AAP member since 2021

The AAP Annual Meeting is extraordinary in a variety of ways. In addition to running into old pals and feeling that solidarity of being surrounded by like-minded journal junkies

and gum gangs, you also have the opportunity to rub elbows with periodontal superstars. Last year, I was completely starstruck to moderate for Dr. Zadeh. The CE that's offered is conveniently packaged into different trajectories so you can choose the trajectory where you need the most growth. I look for what I call "Monday Morning CE" which means I want to come back to my office on Monday morning doing something different that is going to benefit my patients, my team, and hopefully our community. With that being said, I'm looking forward to seeing you at the next perio party in Toronto!



**Dr. Max J. Perlitch**  
Clinician and Educator  
AAP Member since 1964

I attended my first Annual Meeting in 1964. All the Annual Meetings, from 1964 to 1984 were exciting to attend as they

were characterized by quite heated debates between two schools of thought: European-Scandinavian vs. American-Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. Confused, conflicted and controversial views were prevalent on the role of Primary and Secondary Trauma from Occlusion (TFO) and Progressive Pathologic Tooth Mobility (PPTM).

On Friday afternoon, September 21, 1984, I presented a paper at the 70th Annual Meeting entitled "The Argument Against Splinting Using Hypermobile Teeth in the case of Zander, H. A., Polson, A. M. & Heijl, L.C. vs Ante, I. H. My lecture took the format of a mock trial in which the periodontist-attendees participated in the role of jury members to hear and judge the scientific evidence against treating hopelessly involved teeth.

I stay actively involved with other practicing periodontists by my years of Fellowship in the American Academy of Dental Science (founded in Cambridge, MA in 1867) and the American College of Dentists (FACD). I also use Google Scholar to read PDFs on the most current science studies of the NLRP3 Inflammasome, first discovered in 2002, review the studies reported in the *Journal of the American Dental Association* and the *Journal of Periodontology* and many others, and attend AAP Town Hall Meetings with our District Trustees.

Retired members of the Academy must continue to mentor the younger generation of the Academy, drawing upon their rich years of clinical experience. ■



Welcome New Members

Congratulations to the new members of the Academy who joined between Feb 12 2025 and May 8, 2025.

New Member	Location	Category
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<b>District 1</b>		
Madison Cairo	New Haven, CT	STUDENT
Fadi Farah	Charlestown, MA	ACTIVE
Jennifer Chang Sullivan	Lexington, MA	ACTIVE
Ian M Turner	North Andover, MA	ACTIVE

<b>District 2</b>		
Abhijeet Ajay Gupta	Morgantown, WV	STUDENT
Guru Prasad Ramani	Pittsburgh, PA	STUDENT
Mark Silberg	Pittsburgh, PA	RETIRED

<b>District 3</b>		
Haider Alramli	Jacksonville, FL	ACTIVE
Valentina Baez	Boca Raton, FL	ACTIVE
Kalie Krueger	Birmingham, AL	STUDENT
Monika Madan	Virginia Beach, VA	ACTIVE
Anne Miller	Richmond, VA	STUDENT

<b>District 4</b>		
Ardit Ajdini	Chatham, IL	STUDENT
Shahad Alhazmi	Ann Arbor, MI	STUDENT
Khawla AlJohani	Rocky River, OH	ACTIVE
Samuel Allen	Coralville, IA	STUDENT
Mohammed Alrubaie	Naperville, IL	ACTIVE
Ana Janic	Whitelake, MN	ACTIVE
Wen Lu	Wheaton, IL	ASSOCIATE
Aniruddh Nitin Narvekar	Chicago, IL	ACTIVE
Hamoun Sabri	Ann Arbor, MI	STUDENT
Michael Spector	Iowa City, IA	ACTIVE

New Member	Location	Category
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<b>District 5</b>		
Mhd Firas Al Yafi	Plano, TX	ACTIVE
Shreena Bhakta	Seabrook, TX	ACTIVE
Lauren Getz	Dallas, TX	STUDENT
Randhir K Kapoor	Keller, TX	ACTIVE
Tyler Stevens	San Antonio, TX	STUDENT

<b>District 6</b>		
Steven Chiu	Huntington Beach, CA	STUDENT
Kirk Davidson	Coeur D Alene, ID	STUDENT
Alexander Ko	Bellevue, WA	ACTIVE
Michelle Ko	Bellevue, WA	ACTIVE
Margaret Lotowski	Las Vegas, NV	STUDENT
Jennifer Ren	San Gabriel, CA	STUDENT
Gino Reynoso	Murrieta, CA	STUDENT
Kinnari Shah	Saratoga, CA	STUDENT
Armin Haghsheenas	North Hollywood, CA	STUDENT
Haochun Adam Yang	Tustin, CA	STUDENT

<b>District 7</b>		
Renato Casarin	Buffalo, NY	ASSOCIATE
Dahee Chung	New York, NY	STUDENT
Fernando Contreras	Brooklyn, NY	STUDENT
Brynn Gwartzman	New York, NY	STUDENT
Vikas Mittle	Syosset, NY	ACTIVE
Meghan Pandya	North Brunswick, NJ	ACTIVE
Natalie Reiss	New York, NY	STUDENT
Eric Schroeder	Buffalo, NY	ASSOCIATE
Liana Umbrio	Rochester, NY	STUDENT

<b>District 8</b>		
Brett Weatherington	San Diego, CA	ACTIVE

INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS

New Member	Location
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Michael T Barber	Toowoomba, Australia
Bernardo Bogarin	Tijuana, Mexico
Rodrigo Carvalho De Souza	Rio De Janiero, Brazil
Jung-Tsu Chen	Taipei City, Taiwan
Antoine Bernard Clarke	Nassau, Bahamas
Varun Dahiya	Long Sault, Canada
Carlos Duarte	Brazilai, Brazil
Jumana Hassoun	Mississauga, Canada
Anastasios Tassos Irinakis	Vancouver, Canada
Bagavad Gita Jayaraman	Chennai, India
Hongfei Ju	Ottawa, Canada
Vasiliki Koidou	Thessaloniki, Greece
Po-Jan Kuo	Taipei City, Taiwan
Derrick Lee	Wembley, Australia
Clarisa Luken	Mecicali, Mexico
Jian Ma	Richmond Hill, Canada
Yoshitaka Nara	Kanagawa, Japan
Luan Ngo	Carlton, Australia
Claudio Mendes Pannuti	Sao Paulo, Brazil
Mahidul Syed	Brossard, Canada
Masachika Takiguchi	Gotemba/Shizuoka, Japan
Hiroyuki Takino	Kyoto-Shi, Japan
Kang Wei Tu	Tainan, Taiwan
Shin Cherng Wang	Taipei, Taiwan
Jeremy S Werbitt	Westmont, Canada

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MEMBERS

New Member	Location
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Rosalie Carrier	Quebec, Canada
Georgios Chatzopoulos	Thessaloniki, Greece
Khalid Dobaian	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Sara Mahmood	Lahore, Pakistan
Luke Nogalo	Toronto, Canada
Tarek Saied Suliman	Al Ain, United Arab Emirates





SCIENCE & COLLABORATION

*The AAP has gone international once again! From May 14-17, AAP President, Dr. Mia L. Geisinger, CEO Erin O'Donnell Dotzler, and Deputy Executive Director Meg Dempsey represented the Academy at EuroPerio11 in Vienna.*

EuroPerio is the world's leading congress in periodontology and implant dentistry. The congress featured a rich and varied scientific program, including live surgeries, interactive sessions, and the joint symposia between the European Federation of Periodontology (EFP) and the AAP. See more of the AAP at EuroPerio11 [here!](#)



International  
Periodontics



2025 Signature Diamond Sponsors

The AAP thanks its Signature Diamond Sponsors for their generous support in 2025.





## AAP Journals Roundup



### Discover the Latest in Periodontology on *Probing Perio*

Have you listened to the latest episodes of *Probing Perio*? The official AAP podcast covers exciting research topics in periodontology and implantology and dives deep into the process behind the research. Our journal editors interview authors on a specific article and explore their research and clinical careers. Listen in for valuable insights, fascinating science, and personal anecdotes in periodontology. Check out some of the highlights from the first season of *Probing Perio*. Scan the QR code to listen on your mobile device.

### Using the Socket Shield Technique

A somewhat controversial procedure, the socket shield technique involves partial tooth extraction, shaping and preserving a thin buccal shield, then placing an implant. Dr. Pedro Trejo shares his experience using a digitally supported socket shield technique and discusses the benefits, risks, and outcomes of this procedure.



### Ultrasonography for Wound Healing Evaluation

Ultrasonography provides new opportunities for non-invasive imaging in dentistry. Drs. Albert Chan, Oliver Kripfgans, and Benyapha Sirinirund discuss the when, where, and how of using ultrasonography in dentistry as well as how ultrasonography compares to other widely used imaging technologies in medicine.



### AI in Periodontal Education

The prevalence of artificial intelligence chatbots like ChatGPT continues to increase in many spheres including education. Can chatbots be used as an effective learning tool? In this episode, Dr. Saynur Vardar discusses her study looking at the accuracy of ChatGPT in answering questions from the AAP in-service examination.

*Probing Perio* posts a new episode each month. Subscribe to the podcast on **Spotify** or **Apple Podcasts** to receive new episodes directly to you. You can also rate the podcast or leave a review. ■



### BROCHURES

#### Beyond the Mouth: The Link Between Periodontal Disease and Other Health Conditions

A patient-friendly overview of the perio-systemic link.

50 pack

MEMBER PRICE: \$38 NON-MEMBER PRICE: \$48



#### Calm and Comfortable

A patient's guide to sedation and anesthesia for periodontal procedures.

50 pack

MEMBER PRICE: \$38 NON-MEMBER PRICE: \$48



#### Crown Lengthening

A patient-friendly description of the dental crown lengthening procedure.

50 pack

MEMBER PRICE: \$32 NON-MEMBER PRICE: \$42



#### Dental Implants

Highlights the benefits of dental implants.

50 pack

MEMBER PRICE: \$38 NON-MEMBER PRICE: \$48



#### How to Brush and Floss

A patient-friendly guide demonstrating the correct way to brush and floss.

50 pack

MEMBER PRICE: \$38 NON-MEMBER PRICE: \$48



#### Periodontal Disease Treatment: Restoring the Health of Your Smile

A look at surgical and non-surgical periodontal disease treatments.

50 pack

MEMBER PRICE: \$38 NON-MEMBER PRICE: \$48

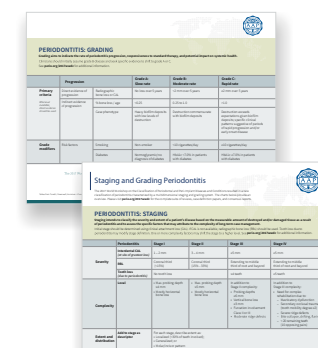
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**Not a member?** Join today at [perio.org/join](https://perio.org/join)

### HANDOUTS



#### Chairside Guide to Periodontitis Staging and Grading

This two-sided, laminated chart outlines the new staging and grading classifications of periodontitis developed at the 2017 World Workshop. These handouts are perfect to share with your dental staff and referring colleagues.

10 pack

MEMBER PRICE: \$24  
NON-MEMBER PRICE: \$34



#### What is Periodontal Disease Handouts

Handouts explaining periodontal disease, prevention, risk factors, and treatment.

50 pack

MEMBER PRICE: \$27  
NON-MEMBER PRICE: \$37



## Upcoming Education and Collaborations

### Coming this Summer: Global Consensus on Innovation in Oral Reconstructive Medicine

In a landmark collaboration, the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP), the Osteology Foundation (OF), and the Spanish Society of Periodontology (SEPA) are joining forces to host a global consensus workshop on new technologies in oral reconstructive medicine. Taking place near Madrid in September 2025, this high-level meeting will bring together world-renowned experts to explore advancements in scaffolds, biologics, and personalized regenerative strategies. The outcome: five systematic reviews and three consensus reports to be published in a special issue of the *Journal of Periodontology* in 2026.

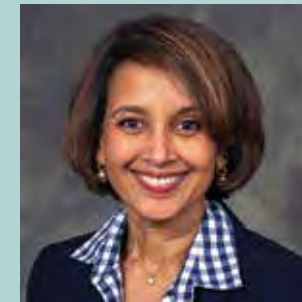
Stay tuned for insights from this international initiative driving the future of oral reconstruction, starting with a presentation of the initial findings at the 2025 Annual Meeting in Toronto!

### Coming in 2026: AAP Launches Best Evidence Consensus on Prevention of Peri-Implant Diseases

Building on the success of the 2024 AAP/AO Consensus Conference on Peri-Implant Diseases, the AAP is proud to announce its next Best Evidence Consensus (BEC), focused on prevention strategies for peri-implant diseases. Led by co-chairs Drs. Gustavo Avila-Ortiz and Purnima Kumar, this invitation-only meeting of experts will address a critical need: how to prevent the onset, progression, and recurrence of peri-implant conditions.

Stay tuned as the AAP takes the next step in advancing patient care and implant success through prevention. Look for publication of the proceedings, including systematic reviews, a consensus report, and appropriate use criteria (AUC) in the *Journal of Periodontology* in late 2026.

**What the Co-Chairs Are Saying:** *"The central theme of the upcoming AAP Best Evidence Consensus (BEC) is Prevention of Peri-implant Diseases. As periodontists, we are finely attuned to the concept of disease prevention and recognize its importance. However, given the high prevalence of peri-implant mucositis and peri-implantitis, we have to address disease prevention even before placing the implant (primordial prevention) and continue to address it even after resolution of peri-implantitis (primary and secondary prevention). A series of comprehensive reviews related to risk factors for peri-implant diseases and risk-informed primordial, primary and secondary prevention strategies will form the foundation for the BEC in-person deliberations, scheduled for Spring 2026. We are honored to lead this initiative and are deeply grateful to collaborate with a distinguished panel of global experts from both academia and private practice settings. This collective effort aims to produce practical, evidence-based resources to support clinicians in delivering optimal care to patients with dental implants. In addition to the review articles and the consensus overview, we envision a key outcome: the development of an interactive tool designed to assist in clinical decision-making throughout the continuum of care for implant patients."*



**Dr. Purnima Kumar, DDS, PhD**  
BEC Co-Chair



**Dr. Gustavo Avila-Ortiz, DDS, MS, Ph**  
BEC Co-Chair

### The AAP's Emerging Technologies for Saving Teeth Workgroup is proud to launch the Saving Teeth Webinar Series in Summer 2025.

This innovative 14-part series brings together world-renowned experts to explore the latest science, technologies, and interdisciplinary strategies that enable clinicians to predictably preserve natural dentition.

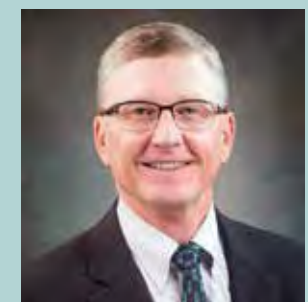
From core questions like *"Why and When Should We Save Teeth?"* to the latest advances in regenerative therapies, host modulation, and precision periodontology, this bi-monthly series challenges outdated paradigms and redefines what success looks like in modern periodontal therapy.

Each session will feature expert-led presentations, dynamic panel discussions, and live Q&A designed to inspire both reflection and action in your clinical practice.

**What the Co-Chairs Are Saying:** *"It is a great honor for us to have had the opportunity to work with the members of the workgroup in designing this webinar series, which we hope will inspire clinicians around the world to prioritize the retention of natural dentition whenever reasonably possible."*



**Dr. Gustavo Avila-Ortiz, DDS, MS, Ph**  
Workgroup Co-Chair



**Dr. Brian Mealey, DDS, MS**  
Workgroup Co-Chair

For more details and to register, please visit [perio.org](https://perio.org). ■



# AO/AAP Consensus- Co-Chair Interview

In this special feature, we sit down with Dr. Hom-Lay Wang and Dr. Paul Rosen, Co-Chairs of the AO/AAP Consensus Workshop on the Prevention and Management of Peri-Implant Diseases and Conditions, as they share the origins, goals, and key takeaways from this important collaborative effort.



**Dr. Hom-Lay Wang,**  
Workshop Co-Chair



**Dr. Paul Rosen,**  
Workshop Co-Chair

### To start, can you tell us where the idea for this consensus workshop originated?

The idea for this consensus workshop originated from Dr. Wang, who served as both the President of the Academy of Osseointegration (AO) and as the Chair of the AAP's Peri-Implant Diseases and Conditions Workgroup. During a strategic planning meeting, peri-implant diseases were identified as a growing concern and a topic of high relevance to both AAP and AO members. The realization that a joint effort could more effectively address this issue and benefit both memberships led to this collaborative initiative.

### What inspired this collaboration, and why was this topic selected?

Peri-implant diseases are a significant and evolving clinical challenge. With Dr. Wang's leadership roles in both organizations, a natural connection was formed. The goal was to combine the resources and expertise of AAP and AO to develop clear, evidence-based guidance on managing peri-implant conditions. Given the growing prevalence of implants and the complexity of related complications, this topic was ideal for a joint consensus workshop. The concept of collaborating on this topic was brought up at a Zoom meeting of the AAP's peri-implantitis workgroup aimed at identifying potential initiatives on this subject. Dr. Rosen was at first a bit reticent as the AAP has typically pursued projects like this through the Best Evidence Consensus model. However, he quickly realized that by collaborating with the AO, this would bring in more stakeholders such as oral surgeons, prosthodontists, and restorative dentists who would provide a much broader perspective to the topic. Most other groups/

organizations that have looked at the issues of dental implant complications have done so with the limited perspective of a single specialty.

By working together, we could address this multifactorial condition from a variety of perspectives. The collaboration allowed us to create a more unified and comprehensive clinical approach grounded in the best available science while filling in any gaps with a wide diversity of expert opinions.

### What value did each organization bring to the table, and how did this strengthen the process?

The AAP contributed substantive expertise in the biological basis and surgical management of peri-implant diseases. The AO, with its diverse membership—including prosthodontists, oral and maxillofacial surgeons, and general dentists—added critical insights into prosthetic design, occlusion, restorative techniques, materials, and surgical considerations. By integrating these complementary perspectives, the consensus recommendations became more robust, practical, and impactful for clinicians.

### Without giving too much away before the papers are published in June, can you share any general themes or insights that emerged during the consensus workshop?

The consensus, to be published in June 2025, includes systematic reviews and practical guidance. Two central themes emerged:

1. Risk Factors, Indicators, and Determinants of Peri-Implantitis
2. Management of Peri-Implantitis and Other Implant-Related Complications

In addition, a summary paper titled AO/AAP Consensus on Prevention and Management of Peri-Implant Diseases and Conditions: Summary Report will offer clinicians clear, actionable takeaways and treatment algorithms to guide patient care.

### What stood out to you or sparked the most engagement among the participants?

The depth and breadth of discussion were exceptional. Experts contributed insights from both clinical experience and cutting-edge research. Particularly engaging topics included identifying risk factors—local, systemic, surgical, and soft tissue phenotype—and approaches for decontaminating implant surfaces. There was also considerable interest in evaluating surgical options, such as resective and reconstructive procedures using either submerged or non-submerged methods. Moreover, the workshop underscored the inflammatory nature of the biologic complications and ways in which clinicians might approach both prevention and treatment that had received limited attention.

### What are the most important messages or implications that AAP members and clinicians should take away from this work?

AAP members and clinicians should understand the complex interplay of factors that contribute to peri-implant diseases—including prosthetic design, occlusion, medical conditions, and soft tissue phenotype. The consensus outlines effective

methods for implant surface decontamination and current best practices for treating both peri-implant mucositis and peri-implantitis. Decision-making tools, including treatment flowcharts, are provided to assist clinicians in managing these conditions effectively in daily practice.

### Do you think these findings will influence or change current clinical practice in periodontology and implant dentistry? If so, how?

Absolutely. This consensus is expected to have a significant impact on clinical practice. By focusing on the identification and management of risk factors and by offering decision trees for clinical treatment, it provides accessible tools—such as flowcharts and evidence-based guidelines—that clinicians can readily apply. These resources will enhance diagnostic accuracy, improve treatment planning, and ultimately lead to better patient outcomes and long-term implant success.

### What's next? Are there plans to build on this consensus with future research?

Yes, the consensus has highlighted several areas that warrant further study. Future research directions include assessing the impact of maintenance protocols, understanding the role of occlusion in peri-implant disease progression, and optimizing patient education for both personal and professional hygiene around implants. Additional consensus workshops and follow-up studies are already in development, with strong support from the AAP, to continue advancing the science and practice surrounding peri-implant disease prevention and management. ■

The proceedings from the AO/AAP Consensus on Prevention and Management of Peri-Implant Diseases and Conditions are now available online at [perio.org](http://perio.org). Look for the consensus report and the review papers from the Risk Factors, Indicators, and Determinants of Peri-Implantitis group in the June print issue of the *Journal of Periodontology*.

This workshop would not have been possible without the generous support from BioHorizons, Colgate-Palmolive Company, Crest + Oral-B, Dentium USA, Dentsply Sirona, Geistlich, Nobel Biocare, SDS Swiss Dental Solutions, and Straumann.





# ABP

## DIPLOMATE INTERVIEW



**Jeffrey A. Rossmann, DDS, MS**  
Director of Examinations  
American Board of Periodontology  
Plano, Texas

### How has Board certification shaped your career in Periodontics?

My initial motivation to become board certified came during my residency program at the U.S. Army Institute of Dental Research, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, DC. Board certification was expected of us to be competitive for promotion in the Army Dental Corps. At first that was enough motivation and personal fulfillment. However, once board certified, this opened opportunities I could never anticipate at the time, such as academic opportunities after my military service and serving as an Examiner for the ABP. The result has been a wonderful career including 25 years as a faculty member at Baylor/Texas A&M School of Dentistry, serving the ABP for 18 years, culminating in my current

position as Director of Examinations. Every position I've held in periodontics was contingent on my being a Diplomate of the ABP, including my private practice in the Dallas area for 25 years with my business partner and good friend, Mike McQuade. I cannot overstate how critical that decision to become board certified affected my success in all those endeavors.

### The Director of Examinations provides substantive guidance to the ABP Board of Directors on examination policy and best practices, oversees the examination process, and supports candidates throughout the process. How did you come to serve in this role and when did you start in this position?

My last year of a six-year term as a Director on the ABP Board was 2017. The Executive Director, Kent Palcanis, announced his retirement effective 2018 and the Board of Directors determined it was time to take a new direction for future growth of the Board and established the position of Director of Examinations. This newly developed position would separate the duties from the Executive Director's position and concentrate on the process of certification and oversight. I was elected to that new position in 2018, and it has evolved into the description mentioned above.

### During your time as Director of Examinations, what challenges and opportunities did you encounter?

The position of Director of Examinations is all about relationships. Establishing trust with the candidates and providing them the confidence to challenge the certification process, knowing it will be fair and equitable for all. It is also important to establish a solid



relationship with the Examiners, so they are motivated to participate in an arduous week of examinations and proud to have the distinction that comes with being an Examiner. I am happy to report that our examiners overwhelmingly feel this duty is the culmination of their professional careers.

The biggest challenge came in 2020 with the advent of the COVID pandemic. It was no longer feasible to plan an in-person oral examination for the 200 candidates challenging board certification that year and bring 50 examiners together to administer the exam. We attempted to develop an alternative online (virtual) examination maintaining the same criteria and standards we've upheld in past examinations; however, the issues of security, internet connectivity, confidentiality, etc. became overwhelming. In the end, we did not hold an oral examination in 2020, and the Board gave each candidate an additional year of eligibility. This led to the next challenge for 2021, which was adding approximately 20 new examiners to the active pool to administer a calibrated in-person exam. We met those challenges and successfully tested 300 candidates in 2021.

The opportunities have included upgrading the examination process to incorporate the latest technology. This can best be described as taking a completely analog paper examination using test

booklets and paper score sheets in 2021 to a fully digital iPad examination in 2023, as well as moving to a testing center in 2021 in Raleigh, NC that is designed specifically for our needs. We now can accommodate 250 or more candidates each year in a state-of-the-art facility, giving five days of examinations and utilizing 55 examiners annually.

### Do you have any advice for those considering pursuing Board certification?

You will never regret becoming board certified in Periodontology and Dental Implant Surgery. It has become the standard of care for many third-parties of interest, as well as your referring doctors and patients. Although it is always a personal achievement for which you will take pride in accomplishing, it is now considered the expectation by our professional peers and patients. It is never too late in your career to consider challenging the certification process and I would encourage everyone in Periodontics to do so. Board certification is the highest standard to which we hold the profession and you owe it to yourself to become a Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology. ■





2025 QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

The 2025 Qualifying Examination was administered Jan. 27 – Feb. 3, 2025, to approximately 230 candidates. The following is a list of successful candidates. These candidates will be eligible to challenge the 2026 Oral Examination.

Tareq Abdulrasoul	Anna Chang-Chien	Fady Eid	Kailing Ho
Janelle Aguirre	Yu-Hsin Chen	Thuraya Elgreu	Ernest Holden
Hoda Albaqawi	Kevin Chen	Ahmed Farid	Benjamin Horn
Sara AlHachache	Chifan Chen	Neela Fatapour	Carson Hunt
Youssef Ali	Andrea Chien	Maliha Fatima	Jonathan Jackson
Rowaida Almalki	Ifeoma Chikelu	Roy Faulks	John Jafarian
Asma Almijlad	Ashley Jae Hee Choi	Moisey Fazylov	Whitney Johnson
Reema Alnuaimi	DoHeum Choi	Garrett Finney	Vinayak Joshi
Rami Alsabbagh	Yong Choi	Joelle Foster	Stephen Kelleher
Rayan Alsuwailem	Efstratios Choreftakis	Alexander Gatten	Tyler Kemerer
Layla Arab	Chan Kwon Chung	Alan George	Hazel Kerr
Silie Arboleda	Claire Coleman	Andee Goldstein	Afnan Khalifah
George Athansios	Chandler Conner	Octavio Gonzalez Duque	Anahat Khehra
Ara Bakian	Fernando Contreras	Abhijeet Gupta	Su Jung Kim
Ethan Barkin	Kailand Cosgrove	Aixa Guzman	Keun Hwan Kim
Michele Bhagwagar	Christopher Cruz	Kevin Hahn	Han Kim
Atheer Binzouman	Otto Czechner	Jonathan Haller	Eric Kim
Jeremy Bobera	Marah Damdoun	Xiaoze Han	Hyongsup Kimm
Deborah Bodunde	Arsalan Danesh	Mitchell Hanson	Catherine King
Chlo�� Boucher	Aierress Davis	Chelsea Harris	Jessica Koster
Kela Bowman	Richard Davis	Abdulkareem Harunani	Amber Kreko
Yael Breziner	Nabat Davrani	Dalia Hasso	Sandy Ku
Alexis Brito	Yash Desai	Blake Hauer	Cynthia Kuang
Christina Brown	Prita Dhaimade	Eman Hefni	Amy LaCoste
April Bumpers	Kyle Dority	Meghan Hegarty	Yen Le
William Carter	Stephanie Drake	Caroline Henderzahn	Edward Lee
Laura Cavallari	Christopher Dunlevy	Betsy Henson	Eric Lee
Kristofer Ceredon	Angelika Dzieza	Amanda Heydari	Jacqueline LeNoir
Gregory Chan	Tala Ebrahimian	Hailey Hildenbrandt	Vincent Li

Emil Liakhovetski	Tu Nguyen	Francesca Racca	Brady Skytland
Caroline Littlejohn	Andrew Nordlie	Dorin Reyhani	Clara Sous
Austen Lucena	Thomas O'Connor	Kristen Richey	Shad�� Stewart
Syeda Mahub	Ryan O'Donnell	Christopher Ricker	Sima Tafreshi
Kevin Malakov	Kyuchul Oh	Erik Rivas	Martin Talia
April Martinez	Alireza Oryan	Jeffrey Rogers	Kenneth Tang
Luis Martinez Ortiz	Rouzbeh Ostadsharif Memar	Christopher Rollins	Matt Tokarski
Lori Martinez-Rubio	Ben Ottoson	Lauren Roy	Alexandra Tomasino-Perez
Rafael Martins Afonso Pereira	Alexander Padalino	Aleksandr Rubinov	Sepehr Torabi
John Mazzocco	Nathalia Paiva de Andrade	Alexandra Rutwind	Rebecca Vaeth
Nicole McKee	Shaunak Pal	Daniel Patrick Ryan	Ajay Varghese
Olanrewaju Meeks	Alka Panwar	David Sabbah	Lahari Vattikunta
Christine Melch	Venkata Parachuru	Manal Sabir	Maria Vera Rodriguez
Talin Mirzoyan Kalach	Manushi Parikh	Zena Sakka	Rebecca Vizzi
Neha Mithia	Jungweon Park	Klara Salib Rasla	Tam Vu
Sean Mojaver	Jun sang Park	Rocio Sanchez Padilla	Jonathan Wang
Gregory Montgomery	Nisha Patel	Shayda Sarraami	Rachael Weiss
Tahina Mukit	Krishna Patel	Yahya Sayed Suliman Atassi	Phillip Weller
Mary Namy	Alessandro Pedercini	John Schuetz	Kameron Wilding
Nima Natanzi	Teerarat Phuatrakoon	Steven Sheibley	Yating Young
Daniela Naumovski	Elysha Pomerantz	Kevin Shepherd	
Scott Newman	Nefeli Protogeraki	Jaret Simonsen	
Jeanny Nguyen	Fatima Qamar	Michael Siy	

2025 ORAL EXAMINATION

The 2025 Oral Examination was held May 5 - 9, 2025 in Raleigh, North Carolina. The following periodontists served as examiners for the 2025 Oral Examination. The Board is grateful for the commitment and dedication of all the examiners who served this year.

**ABP Directors:** Drs. Paul Luepke, Leena Palomo; Bryan Frantz, Angela Palaialogou-Gallis, Craig Yonemura, Richard Kao, Douglas Dixon, Nicolaas Geurs, Mary Beth Neill, Dimitris N. Tatakis.

**ABP Examiners:** Ramzi Abou Arraj, Mary Aichelmann-Reidy, Srinivas Ayilavarapu, Jennifer Bain, Mitchell Bloom, Grishondra Branch-Mays, Joseph Califano, Caitlin Darcey, John Dmytryk, Benjamin Duval, Robert Eber, Henry Foerster, Kerri Font, Arnold Freedman, Alon Frydman, Scott Gruwell, Yusuke Hamada, Vincent Iacono, Kimberly Inouye, Y. Natalie Jeong, James Katancik, Clara Kim, Wayne Kye, Binnaz Leblebicioglu, Guo-Hao Lin, Jose Mellado, John Mumford, Tae-Ju Oh, David Paquette, Carlos Parra Carrasquer, Charles Powell, Christopher Richardson, Srinivas Rao Myneni Venkatasatya, Robert Sabatini, Mabel Salas, Hector Sarmiento, Harjit Sehgal, Harlan Shiau, Brian Stancoven, Marc Stein, Sejal Thacker, Ricardo Vidal, Roger Warren.

Job Task Analysis (JTA) Project

The Job Task Analysis (JTA) Steering Committee met in Chicago, March 14 – 16, 2025, to review the results of the Job Task Analysis survey and begin work on revising the Qualifying and Oral Exam blueprints. New exam blueprints will be used starting with the 2027 exams. The ABP is grateful to Dr. Palaialogou-Gallis, Chair, and all the hardworking members of the JTA Steering Committee for their commitment to this important endeavor.



NEW DIPLOMATE MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE

The ABP is pleased to offer several products to promote your Diplomate status. The Diplomate tri-fold brochure is ideal for display in your reception area and provides your patients with useful information about the value of seeing a board-certified periodontist. Brochures are available in a standard format, or, for a small additional, one-time fee, may be customized with your information. For the customized version, you may add your office contact information on the back of the brochure. You may also replace the cover photo with your own

Continued on page 42



ABP Update Continued from page 41

high-resolution head shot photo, or you may opt to add both customization options to the brochure. For more information, contact the ABP Office.

ABP golf shirts and quarter-zip fleeces are also available! For more information, please log into your Diplomate portal at [www.abperio.org](http://www.abperio.org) or contact the ABP office.

2025 ELECTIONS – DIRECTORS OF THE ABP

The ABP encourages all Active and Life Active members of the Academy to review the qualifications of the candidates for ABP Director and to cast a ballot in the annual Academy elections. Diplomates interested in running for ABP Director may access more information on the Academy’s website. Information on ABP Nominating Committee positions may also be obtained from the AAP or from your District Trustee.

UPDATE YOUR PROFILE AND IMPROVE YOUR VISIBILITY

Did you know the “Find a Board-Certified Periodontist” search tool is the most visited page on the ABP’s website? Make sure you are visible by adding a profile photo and website address. Do you have multiple offices? We can help you with those listings. Contact the ABP Office if you have any questions or need assistance updating your profile.

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

- Oct. 31, 2025: 2026 Oral Examination Registration Deadline
- Nov. 20, 2025: 2026 Qualifying Exam Registration Deadline
- Jan. 26 – 30, 2026: 2026 Qualifying Examination
- April 27 – May 1, 2026: 2026 Oral Examination ■

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THE ABP IS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The American Board of Periodontology recently launched Instagram and Facebook accounts. Please like and follow the pages!



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Perio PERKS Programs



Exclusive savings and value available only to AAP members

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The CareCredit healthcare credit card can help bridge the gap between patient benefits and cost of care.



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Banking Built for Doctors, by doctors: Panacea Financial is a doctor-founded and expert-driven digital bank that caters to Periodontists. Whether moving for residency, opening a practice, or consolidating debt–Panacea Financial was built specifically for you.



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Aspida offers a HIPPA compliant encrypted email solution, which includes email archiving, retention and backup for six years along with robust spam and malware protection.



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# AAP FOUNDATION

*Kyle Gorden became executive director of the AAP Foundation in January. Sarah VanAmburg, director of development programs, sat down with him to discuss his background, what he has learned about the Foundation so far, and his vision for its future.*

## Profile of Kyle Gorden

**SV: How did you come to the American Academy of Periodontology Foundation?**

**KG:** My entire career has been in the advancement profession – for arts organizations and in several alumni relations and development roles at my alma mater, the University of Chicago. I spent the last decade as a consultant for nonprofits of all types, from major universities to small social service organizations. Two in particular – the Urban Land Institute Foundation and the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities – introduced me to associations and what I see as their largely untapped potential for philanthropic impact. Since most health-related associations are headquartered in the Chicago area – where I have spent most of my adult life – I decided to keep an eye out for opportunities in the field.

**SV: As a newcomer to the specialty, what are your impressions of periodontology and the AAP Foundation?**

**KG:** It’s a remarkable time to be joining the Foundation, in its 35th anniversary year. I’m incredibly fortunate to be inheriting an ambitious fundraising campaign that has already launched with great enthusiasm, a rush of initial support, and a strong volunteer leadership team in place. The number of AAP members who have already stepped up with

unrestricted gifts is a testament to the trust that the community has in this organization, reflecting our long history of support for periodontal education. More than 350 periodontists have received at least one award from the Foundation, and every one that I’ve spoken to has told me how dramatically it impacted the course of their career, including those with relatively modest monetary awards. The support from the AAP itself and from the American Board of Periodontology just confirms the strength of the mutually beneficial relationships between all three organizations and their shared constituencies.

**SV: What are the Foundation’s fundraising priorities in the near term?**

**KG:** The Foundation for the Future campaign is focused on unrestricted gifts, so that’s our top priority. There are also numerous opportunities for donors to support existing award programs without dedicated funding sources, including some of our most prominent awards. We also welcome inquiries from donors with more ambitious ideas to create new programs, although we’ll ask them to consider making portions of their gifts unrestricted to ensure that we have the capability to execute those new programs.

**SV: What about in the longer term? Where do you see the Foundation in five or ten years?**

**KG:** Most philanthropic dollars in the biomedical field fund research. While the Foundation supports research by recognizing and awarding those who perform it, it hasn’t historically made many investments that fund direct research costs. There’s a real gap in the research funding pipeline between basic science and clinical trials, what’s

called “translational” research, and I think that’s an area where the Foundation’s donors can have a major impact in the coming years.

**SV: Where do you see the biggest opportunities for fundraising growth?**

**KG:** The Foundation was established by the Academy to assist periodontists in realizing their ambitions to positively impact the specialty through philanthropy. We’re renewing our focus on planned or strategic giving – leveraging opportunities for gifts that advance our mission while also offering benefits to the donor. Planned giving isn’t just about bequests—it turns out that many of the Foundation’s largest gifts were made by donors in their 50s and 60s. This year we’re renaming our annual planned giving event at the Annual Meeting the Practice Transition, Retirement, and Estate Planning Breakfast, to reflect that.

**SV: The Foundation’s mission is “to advance the specialty of periodontology and dental implant surgery through advocacy, research, and education.” You’ve spoken about the education and research components—how do we achieve the advocacy part?**

**KG:** In a way, the advocacy component is the most interesting. Advocacy isn’t just about lobbying and, as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, there are restrictions on how much we can do to advocate for government policies. I see our role as providing tools for periodontists to raise awareness in their own communities: of periodontal and peri-implant diseases, of the importance of treating them, and of the dedicated specialists who can help. This is something the Foundation has done for years with programs like PerioDash, although they haven’t always been positioned in that way. This year we’re working with our board and volunteers to better articulate that work and to identify new ways to pursue that critical component of our mission. ■



Kyle Gorden (center) with the AAP Foundation board and staff at the 2024 Annual Meeting in San Diego.



## PerioDash: an Advocacy and Teambuilding Toolkit for Private Practices

For the last decade, PerioDash has been bringing periodontists and supporters together—in person and remotely—through a virtual run focused on raising awareness of the AAP Foundation and its mission. As we enter the program’s 11th year, we’re excited to reposition the popular program as an advocacy initiative and expand its reach among private periodontal practices looking to grow their profiles and expand their local connections.

While the virtual run remains the core of PerioDash, we’re encouraging practices to use it as a platform to bolster referral networks and to educate patients and the public about periodontal and peri-implant diseases, the importance of treating them, and the dedicated specialists who can help.

Some practices have already been making PerioDash their own and seeing meaningful results. One group practice has grown their event each year, bringing in referring dentists and their teams, local pre dental students, and even former staff. Hosting the run right outside their office opened the door for tours and face-to-face introductions, helping to strengthen referral relationships and foster new connections within their dental community.

Beyond outreach, private practices have also found that PerioDash helps bring their teams together. Staff, partners, and families (babies and pets included) came out to set up, run, and celebrate together. That sense of shared purpose and camaraderie can carry back into the practice, lifting morale and reinforcing a culture of enthusiasm, collaboration, and care.

This new direction builds on the Foundation’s commitment to supporting periodontists by empowering practices to lead local advocacy efforts. Whether you’ve been part of PerioDash



“

One group practice has grown their event each year, bringing in referring dentists and their teams, local pre dental students, and even former staff. Hosting the run right outside their office opened the door for tours and face-to-face introductions, helping to strengthen referral relationships and foster new connections within their dental community.



before or are just discovering it, this is your opportunity to help shape its future and make a meaningful impact in your community.

To get started, we invite each periodontal practice to nominate a Practice Ambassador—a team member who can organize your event, inspire participation, and serve as a liaison with the AAP Foundation. This professional development and networking opportunity is appropriate for any team member in a periodontal or dental practice, from an owner or senior clinician to an associate, hygienist, or office manager. Spouses of periodontists are especially encouraged to join the program, whether their role in the practice is formal or informal. Email [sarah@perio.org](mailto:sarah@perio.org) to learn more about the Foundation’s advocacy efforts, sign up for PerioDash, or nominate your Practice Ambassador. ■





# AAP Online Career Center

## Searching for a job? Looking for the ideal employee?

Let the AAP Career Center connect you with the perfect next opportunity in your periodontal career. Visit [careers.perio.org](https://careers.perio.org) to browse job postings for free! The online Career Center will also allow members to upload a resume or CV, post a classified ad to sell a practice, or create a job search.

The Career Center will offer discounted rates for members to post a job listing.

To use the AAP Career Center, members will be required to create an account (including username and password).

Please note: Your AAP member login will not log you into the Career Center.

### Questions?

Contact Customer Service at **1-888-491-8833**



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