DOING IT BETTER

Orthodontists live in a world of constant anxiety - we worry constantly about our patients, our staff and of course the future of our small businesses. Competition from the orthodontist down the street is one thing, but we’re now facing larger forces causing major shifts in how orthodontic care is marketed and rendered.

DSOs and Corporate Dentistry are threatening to take dentists and orthodontists down the unfortunate path of our medical counterparts - becoming tradesmen who simply execute the instructions of investors who focus on greed and profit. Ortho-dentists are rendering sub-par orthodontic care to their patients. And now the doctor is being removed completely from the equation with online aligners that allow you to “avoid costly office visits by shipping aligners straight to your door”.

Our support of the AAO and the advocacy that it provides our profession is vital to these ongoing battles, but the real solution lies in being able to distinguish ourselves from the inferior options that are out there.

SIMPLY PUT, WE’VE GOT TO DO IT BETTER. EVERY. SINGLE. DAY.

The University of Illinois at Chicago’s Department of Orthodontics has a rich history of training capable and dedicated orthodontists. Our diverse and dedicated faculty have always provided residents with the ability to diagnose, treatment plan and treat orthodontic patients to a standard far above the competition.

We’re selling a different product than a dental corporation, a dentist or an online aligner program. We can’t be afraid to talk about these other options with our patients, and to educate them about how our education and experience makes us different - and better!

Education and experience, though, mean nothing if we don’t back it up by providing a superior experience from start to finish. Don’t cut corners, and don’t be greedy. Make every interaction with your patients and their families memorable and positive.

YOU CAN’T JUST THINK YOU ARE BETTER OR KNOW YOU ARE BETTER. YOU HAVE TO BE BETTER.

Anthony P. Eltink, President (UIC ’05)
We take great pride in training the next generation of leaders and scholars in Orthodontics. Compared to 4 years ago, we have almost tripled our clinical production. A vast majority of patients we treat are those with complex interdisciplinary needs. During the past year, we have witnessed an increase in the number of patients with cleft lip/palate and craniofacial anomalies.

Our Department won three American Association of Orthodontists Foundation awards last year and we were second in the nation amongst all Orthodontics residency programs. We are proud that we are part of one of the largest funded projects by NIH/NIDCR to further oral health in the nation. We will be serving as the Specialty Node (component of the Administrative and Resource Center) of the National Dental Practice Based Research Network until May 2026. This is a $22.4 million grant funded by NIH/NIDCR. Between July 2018 and December 2019, our Department has published 47 peer reviewed articles in scientific journals. None of the above accomplishments should have been achieved without the hard work of our faculty, residents and staff. We are working hard to sustain excellence in clinical care, discovery, and education and we are very thankful to our alumni for their generous support to the Department in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Sath

**Vision 2029 (Moonshot Program for Improving Craniofacial Health)**

is being developed by the Department. The overarching goal is “Sustain Excellence in Clinical Care, Discovery, and Education”. The strategic initiatives are being developed by Drs. Allareddy, Kusnoto, Galang, and Atsawasuwan. Some of the objectives include: establishing a “Center of Excellence”, making Orthodontics residency education debt free, and positioning UIC Orthodontics as the premier residency program in the World. Any questions regarding this program can be directed to Dr. Allareddy.

Class President and evening MC, Dr. Ben Youel did a great job of making the graduation banquet a success as he recognized the faculty as well as the extended orthodontic family which includes spouses, significant others and parents. Special thanks to Dr. Howard Spector who gave a very poignant speech in a tribute to Dr. Haas. He was most appreciative of having Dr. Haas as an instructor and crediting him with much of his personal orthodontic development and his attention to detail based in sound biologic principles.
Dr. Andrew Haas (UIC ’57) Receives Distinguished Service Award from the UIC College of Dentistry and Recognition at the Graduate Banquet

Dr. Andy Haas has been a pioneering force in the field of orthodontics. He trained and mentored more than 800 clinicians during his 57 years of service, essentially preparing two generations of orthodontists. A sizable number given that only 10,600 orthodontists currently practice in the U.S., according to the American Dental Association. Dr. Haas spent more than five decades diligently guiding trainees at UIC, though he also taught courses at Ohio State University, Loyola University–Chicago and Philadelphia’s Temple University. Beyond the University’s classrooms, Dr. Haas brought undeniable prestige to UIC and its College of Dentistry through international speaking engagements, workshops, professional affiliations and pioneering practice techniques, including his innovative work on palatal expansion. His groundbreaking 1961 paper on that technique has garnered more than 1,000 citations and is considered a classic.

Dr. Haas will always be know for his keen sense of business acumen in addition to his steadfast clinical expertise. While everyone has a favorite Haas saying, one of his best for practice management came at the end of his speech to the graduating class in May when he offer some words of wisdom as they embark on their careers, “Make sure to build your barn before you build your house!”

Alumni Establish Resident Tuition Scholarship Award

The College awarded two very special endowed scholarships that support scholarly success for two Department of Orthodontics residents. The two scholarships are firsts of their kind at the College because they are designated for support of residents. With these gifts, donors Dr. Jerome Fein, Orthodontics ’51 and Mrs. Joy Fein, and Dr. Eugene S. Blair, Orthodontics ’50 and MS Oral Science ’52 and Mrs. Pauline Gucker Blair are strengthening the post-graduate experiences of our Orthodontic residents.

Congratulations to awardees third year Dr. Michael J. Seelig who was awarded the “Dr. Jerome and Mrs. Joy Fein Endowed Scholarship” and third year Dr. Amy L. Seagraves, ’20, who received the “Blair Endowed Scholarship.” The Department of Orthodontics obtained approval for starting a third scholarship: “UIC Orthodontic Resident Scholarship.” This scholarship will be funded by honorariums that Dr. Sath Attarddy will receive annually for his speaking engagements and by alumni/friends who want to donate to this fund. The Department is in the process of creating two more Endowed Scholarships: Arshad Mohammed Memorial Scholarship and Chandok & Rehman Scholarship.

Dr. Amy L. Seagraves,’20 (second from bottom left) and Dr. Michael J. Seelig, ’20 (third from top right) celebrating with Orthodontic residents

Support the Dr. Arshad Mohammed Scholarship

On March 28, Dr. Arshad Mohammed was killed in a car crash at the age of 32 years old. Dr. Mohammed was a 2018 graduate of our DMD Advanced Standing program, a first-year resident in the Orthodontic program, and a previous scholarship recipient.

Dr. Mohammed was known to many. Many knew him to be a compassionate, dedicated, and excellent clinician. He showed great respect for his patients, fellow students and residents, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends. For that, the Department would like to honor his memory with a scholarship that will benefit a fellow Orthodontic resident in the years to come.

Please join us in honoring his memory and creating this legacy in his name. If you have any questions regarding our efforts to honor the memory of Dr. Arshad Mohammed, please contact Mark Valentino, Associate Dean for Advancement at mjv@uic.edu or (312) 413-7702 or Ana Lisa Ogbac, Director of Donor Relations, at (312) 996-0485 or aogbac1@uic.edu.

BECOME A MENTOR!

Moving forward, we would like to provide more practice management and classes on the economics of “life in the real world.” Whether it is looking for employment opportunities, purchasing a practice or even how to run a practice, everyone can benefit from someone who has been on that journey. The alumni association would like to offer a mentoring program to the residents which is as easy as offering shadowing opportunities and office visits to your practice. Many of us are thankful for having the help of people along our way and establish life long friendships. The process is as easy as having a resident visit your office for a half a day. Thanks for your help!

If you are interested in presenting an hour practice management topic to the residents, you are encourage to contact Dr. Jen Caplin (jcapli3@uic.edu).

Please email Dr. Vince Arpino (varpinobrace@msn.com) to be included on a list of offices for the residents to visit. Don’t be surprised if you receive a personal request from us to be included on a resident stop.

Dr. Vincent Arpino giving a presentation to the UIC residents on “Life after residency”
After over 40 years of service, Dr. Chester Handelman will be retiring from clinical supervision activities. His contributions to adult orthodontics and interdisciplinary care focusing on periodontal health and TMJ disorders are immense. He was one of the pioneers in adult treatment with expansion. Even though he was trained at Harvard, we consider Illinois his home. We thank you very much of your service and devotion to the Department.

THANKS CHET!

CALL TO SUPPORT AND JOIN THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Meet your Alumni Board!

President Pamela Johnson (UIC ‘91), Immediate Past President Anthony Eltink (UIC ‘05), Vice President Ryan Hurley (UIC ‘09), Executive Director Vincent Arpino (UIC ’96), Jeffrey Kemp (UIC ’90), Steve Moravec (UIC ’85), Dale Benjamin (UIC ’12), Spencer Pope (NU ’95), Ara Goshgarian (LU ’89), Kristin Moore (UIC ’12) and Ken Kaplin (UIC ’90).

Thanks to the following who for 12 years of service on the Board: Mike Durbin (UIC ’90), Anthony Eltink (UIC ’05) and Barry Booth (UIC ’86).

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Association shall be the establishment and maintenance of a mutually beneficial relationship between the University of Illinois (UIC) Graduate Department of Orthodontics and its alumni of University of Illinois, Loyola and Northwestern; and the advancement of the science of orthodontics. The goals of the Association are to, 1) support the UIC Orthodontic Department economically and educationally, 2) share knowledge with the group through the meetings with the profession, 3) support the profession of orthodontics, and 4) sharing the time together, renewing of friendships, and the fellowship.

Help us keep our alumni reception at the AAO meetings fun and FREE! In order for us to continue hosting these events, your support is needed and paying your dues makes this possible! Please complete the enclosed remittance envelope along with your $200 payment to the “Orthodontic Alumni Association of Illinois.” Paypal payments can be made through our Facebook page at Orthodontic Alumni Association of Illinois. If you include your email, you will also receive monthly Department of Orthodontics updates. Another benefit of membership!

Join us on Facebook

With the help of new Board member Kristin Moore (UIC ’12), we recently created a Facebook group in order to keep our alumni community updated on news. Dr. Allareddy will be providing us with very elaborate quarterly departmental reports that we will be posting. We also plan on updating with alumni news as it occurs. The name of the group is ORTHODONTIC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS and we are now able to collect dues via Paypal. Please see our Facebook group for instructions on how to keep your membership current. We are also looking for ways to help support our alumni and it’s time to get connected!