Greetings from University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)! We have exciting developments to share with our colleagues. First of all, I would like to start off thanking our residents, staff, and faculty for showing incredible resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic. Each and every one rose above and beyond of what was expected of them. With support from our College Administration, we made substantial changes in our clinic operations to successfully navigate the pandemic. I am thankful to our program and clinic director Dr. Budi Kusnoto for taking the lead in transforming and adapting our clinic operations to the challenges posed by the pandemic landscape. Several operational changes that we made were developed following multiple rounds of discussions with our residents and staff who played a pivotal role in successfully running our clinical enterprise and making sure that were able to care for our patients in a safe environment. We successfully deployed remote health monitoring using artificial intelligence tools. Every stakeholder was involved in decision making and a TEAM Science approach was successfully used. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the AAO, MSO and AAOF who have been extremely pro-active during the pandemic stage and were always willing to provide guidance and were supportive of our program. I have had several conference calls with fellow Chairs and Heads of Departments during the pandemic and they were very willing to share information on their operations and measures they have taken to mitigate COVID-19. I am grateful to every one of them.

In May 2021, an outstanding cohort of residents will graduate from our program continuing the long tradition of excellence in orthodontics. The future of our profession rests in the hands of our residents and I am very confident that our residents will excel and serve as role models in our communities. I am very proud of each and every resident that is graduating soon from orthodontic programs across the country. Below is our Class of 2021.

Dr. Galina Bulatova  
Dr. Katerine Cardona Salazar  
Dr. Leslie Cohen  
Dr. Stephen Degenhardt  
Dr. Juliana Lee  
Dr. Tyler Ramir  
Dr. Laurie Suarchick  
Dr. Insia Virji
Our new class (Class of 2024) of residents (Evan Booth – University of Michigan; Emelia Marie Karkazis – Marquette University; Mathew Aaron Rhee – UIC; Analia Tahir – Western University; Zachary Tho Skabelund – Ohio State University; Stephen T. Treacy – University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Hsuan Rebecca Tsuei – University of California at Los Angeles; and Shirley Zhang – University of Pennsylvania) will be joining us on July 1st! We look forward to warmly welcoming them to Chicago.

Welcoming New Faculty Members

This year, two outstanding faculty members joined our department.

**Dr. Maysaa Oubaidin** joined UIC Orthodontics in July 2020 as Clinical Assistant Professor. Dr. Oubaidin grew up in Aleppo, Syria. She earned her DDS degree from University of Aleppo College of Dental Medicine. Upon her graduation from her dental school she received Al-Bassel Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence and First Graduate. Dr. Oubaidin moved to United States right after her graduation to pursue her passion in orthodontics. She received her MS Oral Sciences and Orthodontic specialty certificate from the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry in 2019. She works on multiple research areas including CBCT, accelerating orthodontic tooth movement, bone biology, and microCT. She directs the ABO Written Exam Preparation course. Dr. Oubaidin has been supported by the Research Aid Award from the AAOF in 2020.

**Dr. Min Kyeong “Irene” Lee** has joined UIC Orthodontics as the “Robert and Donna Litowitz Term Chair” earlier this year. Dr. Lee graduated Summa cum laude from Wellesley College in 2006, Cum laude in a special field from the DMD program at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine in 2010, and thereafter obtained a DMSc in Oral Biology and CAGE – residency training in Orthodontics at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine in 2014. Dr. Lee completed the Cleft Palate and Craniofacial Orthodontics Fellowship program at Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles in 2015. While a resident at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Dr. Lee was the recipient of the Harvard University Presidential Scholarship from 2010 until 2014. This prestigious scholarship provided full tuition support for her DMSc and Orthodontics residency programs. Dr. Lee is also a prolific big data analytics researcher with an interest in examining hospital-related outcomes using nationwide datasets such as the Nationwide Inpatient Sample and Nationwide Emergency Department datasets. She has published 41 scientific articles in peer reviewed journals, presented 79 oral/poster presentations at regional/national meetings, and was the recipient of the American Association of Orthodontists Craniofacial Anomalies and Special Care Training Award in 2016.
Department of Orthodontics Scholarships and Awards

We are very thankful to our alumni and friends for their continued support to the UIC Department of Orthodontics. This year, we moved to a fixed compensation model to financially support our residents. Starting July 2020, our first year residents are given a compensation of $12,000 annually. Second and third year residents receive compensations of $15,000 and $18,000 respectively annually. Our alumni and friends supported Endowments that are enabling us to conduct high quality research and support resident scholarships. The Dr. Allan G. Brodie Craniofacial endowment (for which I serve as the Chair) funds clinical and translational research to bring the most advanced 21st century technology, leadership and innovative science to the Brodie Institute and accelerate discovery that brings novel treatments and interventions to patients in Chicago and around the world. Our model of translational research is based on bioinformatics and to use massive repositories of clinical genetic data in order to identify patterns relevant to the delivery of clinical care. This year, we provided three scholarships (Dr. Allan G. Brodie Chair Endowed Scholarships which provides $6,600 in additional stipend) to residents who write successful proposals to conduct research in the area of Big Data Analytics. With support of our alumni and friends, we have created endowed scholarships (Dr. Jerome and Mrs. Joy Fein Endowed Orthodontic Resident Scholarship which provides $20,000 in tuition support to a third year resident; Dr. Eugene Blair and Mrs. Pauline Glucker Blair Scholarship which provides $4,000 in tuition support to a third year resident; and three Department of Orthodontics Scholarships which provide $2,200 in tuition support to third year orthodontic residents). The recipients of the scholarships are:

- **Dr. Stephen Degenhardt** received the Dr. Jerome and Mrs. Joy Fein Endowed Orthodontic Resident Scholarship.
- **Dr. Leslie Cohen** received the Dr. Eugene Blair and Mrs. Pauline Glucker Blair Scholarship.
• Drs. Galina Bulatova, Insia Virji and Katerine Cardona Salazar received the Department of Orthodontics Scholarships.

• Drs. Ruidan Ma, Sophie Moon and Dmitry Shungin received the Dr. Allan G. Brodie Endowed Chair Research Scholarship award.

• Dr. Jessica Begley won the 2020 UIC College of Dentistry/ADA Health Literacy in Dentistry Essay Contest Award in the Post-doctoral student category. Dr. Begley's essay titled "Why Your Dentist Recommends the HPV Vaccine" was written for people with all levels of health literacy. It explains what is HPV, how HPV affect our mouth, whether HPV vaccine is safe, and summarize some common symptoms of HPV cancers in your mouth.

• Dr. Raj Desai received the “Dr. Kalpesh Shah and Dr. Ami K. Shah Scholarship” for his outstanding inter-disciplinary clinical care.

Grants and External Funding

I am very thankful to the AAOF for supporting faculty and residents to further science and move our profession forward. We were faced with unprecedented circumstances due to COVID-19. My kudos to AAOF for their efforts to adapting to the current healthcare landscape and opening up a pathway for researchers to conduct studies to examine how our profession is dealing with COVID-19 pandemic. UIC Orthodontics obtained three AAOF awards to examine COVID-19 related outcomes this year. We are also in the forefront of research pertaining to use of Artificial Intelligence in Orthodontics clinical care. We obtained two awards from AAOF this year to examine how artificial intelligence can be effectively deployed in clinical care settings. Below is the list of AAOF awardees from UIC this year -


2. Dr. Flavio Sanchez (Assistant Professor) - Orthodontic Faculty Development Award of the American Association of Orthodontists Foundation (PI: Sanchez F; Project Mentor: Allareddy V; Co-investigators: Kusnoto B, Elnagar M, Miloro M). Title “Evaluation of Anterior Open Bite Treatment Strategies and Outcomes Using Artificial Intelligence”. Project Period: 2021 to 2022.


5. Dr. Pheba Abraham (First Year Orthodontics Resident) - Research Aid Award of the American Association of Orthodontists Foundation (PI: Abraham P; Project Mentor: Nicholas C; Co-

UIC is taking the lead in developing the Specialty and Unique Population (Cleft Lip/Palate) nodes of the National Dental Practice Based Research Network (funded by NIH/NIDCR). I serve as the Director of the Specialty Node of the Network. 15 studies are currently under progress. 6 of these studies are related to COVID-19. I am serving as the Node Director on two COVID-19 studies (National Dental PBRN COVID-19 Research Registry and Pragmatic Return to Effective Dental Infection Control Through Triage and Testing). More information about the Network and the studies that are currently in progress can be found at https://www.nationaldentalpbrn.org/recruiting-ongoing-upcoming-completed/
Involvement with AAOF

Dr. Samim Taraji (Second Year Orthodontics Resident) has been selected to serve on the board of AAOF as the resident director. We are very thankful to AAOF for providing such opportunities for residents.

Publications/Presentations from UIC Orthodontics

We have had a productive year doing high quality research. Since July 2020, our faculty members and residents published 21 articles in peer-reviewed journals. Several of our faculty members and residents will be presenting at the 2021 AAO Annual Session (Boston). Below are the details -

Department Peer Reviewed Publications (July 2020 to March 2021)


Presentations from Department of Orthodontics at AAO Meeting in Boston (June 2021)

1. Allareddy V. Use of Artificial Intelligence and Big Data Analytics to Examine Patient Centered Outcomes. Doctor’s Scientific Program: Lecture Presentation.


I am very thankful to our residents, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends for fostering a culture of excellence at UIC!

Sincerely,

Sath Allareddy

Professor and Head of Department of Orthodontics and Brodie Craniofacial Endowed Chair
University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry

On Behalf of all faculty, residents and Staff at UIC Orthodontics

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