

# Orthodontic Alumni Association of Illinois



Winter 2021

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## We welcome your support!

Please help support the Alumni Association by completing the enclosed remittance envelope with your \$200 payment to the "Orthodontic Alumni Association of Illinois." Thanks to you, four \$2,500 scholarships were presented to the third-year residents in 2021. Please include your email address for frequent updates. We hope you visit our Facebook page.

## See You in Miami

After a two-year hiatus, we are looking forward to getting together. Our Alumni Reception is being planned for Saturday, May 21, 2022, 7-to-9 p.m. at the Loews Miami Beach Hotel, 1601 Collins Ave., Miami Beach, FL 33139, (877) 876-7871.

## RIDING THE WAVES OF CHANGE

*Dear Alumni, Colleagues,  
and Friends,*

On behalf of the Orthodontic Alumni Association of Illinois, I send my warmest wishes to all of you this holiday season.

Having practiced orthodontics for thirty years, I can say that the journey thus far has felt like riding the waves of the ocean. When I was a resident from 1989 through 1991, niti wires and clear brackets were in vogue. Then came the self-ligating brackets, TADs, and Orthodontic Centers of America. Next we saw AcceleDent, Propel, SFOT, and plastic aligners.

Cookie-runs to referring dentists now are being replaced with social media marketing targeting the consumer directly with Facebook, Instagram, and Google ads. Neighborhood apps and mom social media sites have taken a front seat, compared to school presentations or hosting local community events in person.

The biggest wave, however, arrived with technology. Intra-oral scanning eliminated the alginate impressions and the plaster study models, just like iPhones replaced flip phones, and Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook replaced My Space. Technology promoted new ideas, philosophies, and techniques, such as: laser sintered expanders, Invisalign, Clarity, Spark, ULab, SDC, and so many more. 3D printers allow us to fabricate our own retainers

and aligners in-house. 3D imaging has helped with the visualization and treatment modalities of impacted canines, loss of bone, airway issues, and other challenges.

Pandemic-related staff and supply shortages have been the latest tsunami of challenges facing us all. DSOs, OSOs, SDC and other direct-to-consumer competitors have impacted our profession. Clear aligners have changed the way general dentists practice and the way consumers buy. Many orthodontic companies and orthodontists have left the traditional band- and-bracket market to ride the wave of clear aligners. Student loan debt is at an all-time high. And young orthodontists are unable to find associateship positions in private practice.

We understand that change is inevitable. Technology never stops evolving. With a constant eye on the future, our orthodontic program at UIC has a strong leader in Dr. Sath Allareddy, and the department and the UIC College of Dentistry itself are doing very well.

Great waves of change are happening at the College and in our orthodontics department, and I am confident that our young graduates are well prepared and ready to embrace all that lies ahead.



*Your Alumni Board: Top, Drs. Steve Moravec, Ed John, Vince Arpino, Barry Booth, Sath Allareddy, Tony Eltink, Dale Benjamin; bottom, Drs. Jeff Kemp, Mike Durbin, Pam Johnson.*

*Dr. Pamela Johnson*

President (UIC '91)

## ALUMS HELPING ALUMS!

The UIC Department of Orthodontics hosted its Annual Scholarship Award Event to celebrate the outstanding achievements of the faculty and residents on June 21, 2021, virtually.

Congratulations to the following residents:

Dr. Ruidan Ma for receiving the *Dr. Jerome Fein (UIC '53) and Mrs. Joy Fein Endowed Orthodontic Resident Scholarship*.



Dr. Samim Taraji for receiving the *Dr. Eugene Blair (UIC '52) and Mrs. Pauline Glucker Blair Scholarship*.

Dr. Vivian Snider, Dr. Matan Farhi, Dr. Jessica Hedger, Dr. Raj Desai, and Dr. Peter Dubin, award winners of the *Department of Orthodontics Third Year Scholarship*.

Dr. Kayla Yip, award winner of the *Department of Orthodontics Second Year Scholarship*.

Dr. Emelia Karakazis, Dr. Husan Tsuei, Dr. Jessica Begley, Dr. Young Jae Sung, and Dr. Karen Homsí, who were awarded the *Dr. Allan Brodie Craniofacial Endowed Chair Scholarship*.

Thank you to all our talented residents, incredible faculty, and dedicated staff for the camaraderie, the leadership, and the support. It was great to celebrate this success together. We believe more exciting achievements are yet to come!

## Welcome to our Class of 2024

Top row, from left: Drs. Mathew Aaron Rhee (UIC), Evan Booth (University of Michigan), Stephen T. Treacy (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), and Zachary Thor Skabelund (Ohio State University); bottom row: Drs. Shirley Zhang (University of Pennsylvania), Emelia Marie Karkazis (Marquette University), Analia Tahir (Western University of Health Sciences), and Hsuan Rebecca Tsuei (UCLA).



## The Inaugural Graber Seminar Series

The UIC Department of Orthodontics on Sept. 25, 2021, hosted the inaugural Dr. T.M. Graber Seminar Series. Dr. Graber was on faculty at UIC from 1996 to his passing in 2007. As editor of the *American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics*, Dr. Graber was very influential in persuading the top educators and speakers of the day to lecture on current topics to the orthodontic residents with a seminar series that was called the "Orthodontic Forum."



This year, the Graber Series brought together outstanding orthodontic educators and clinician scientists to share exciting developments and advances in the orthodontics field. Dr. Greg Huang presented about the National Anterior Open Bite Study Results and Clear Aligner

Outcomes. Dr. Sylvia Frazier-Bowers spoke about Diagnosis and Management of Tooth Eruption Disorders. UIC Assistant Professor Dr. Mohammed H. Elnagar shared the latest developments in Applications of Artificial Intelligence in Orthodontics Clinical Practice and Research. Dr. Jeffrey Fellows presented findings from the National Dental Practice-Based Research Network's COVID-19 Research Registry Study.



*Drs. Tom and Lee Graber with Dr. Bob Ricketts.*

## DEPARTMENT NEWS

### New Appointments, Scholarships/Awards, Strengthen Department of Orthodontics

*Dear Alumni and Friends,*

On behalf of the UIC Department of Orthodontics, I would like to thank all of you for your continued support of the Department.

In early November, we had our Commission on Dental Accreditation site visit and it went very well. Several verbal commendations were made. A few of them included: strong support of UIC orthodontics alumni; outstanding research enterprise; state-of-the-art clinic and research facilities; and overall an excellent educational experience for the residents.

Our clinic production has recovered very well and we are operating at 100% capacity. We made several new appointments this year: Dr. Maysaa Oubaidin was appointed as Associate Director of Postgraduates; Dr. Phimon Atsawasuwan was appointed as Associate Director of Orthodontics Clinical and Translational Sciences Research; Dr. Jacqueline Rosen and Ms. Grace Viana were appointed as Clinical Assistant Professors; Dr. Min Kyeong Lee was appointed as the Dr. Robert and Donna Litowitz Term Chair; and Dr. Insia Virji (Class of 2021) will be joining us shortly as a part-time faculty member. Dr. Peter Tsay retired on Sept. 30, 2021.

Our faculty and residents are continuing to have a national presence in educational and scholarly activities. Dr. Insia Virji won the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO) 2021 William R. Proffitt Resident Scholar Award (3<sup>rd</sup> place nationwide). This year we won five AAO Foundation research awards—the highest total in the nation. Over the past three years, we published more than 80 peer-reviewed articles in scientific journals and obtained 15 research grants. In October and November of this year, we submitted four National Institutes of Health grant proposals and seven AAOF proposals. Nineteen presentations were submitted for the AAO annual session scheduled for Miami Beach in May 2022.

Dr. Therese Galang received the Chairs and Academic Administrators Management Program Training Scholarship Award from the AAO and she also was named an Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine Fellow. Dr. Min Kyeong Lee joined the American Dental Education Association Emerging Leaders Program and Dr. Maysaa Oubaidin was accepted into the American Dental Association's Institute for Diversity in Leadership Program.

We are able to support our residents through scholarships and awards, and this is something unique to UIC. We started this as pilot program in 2019, and so far we have supported 24 residents with awards/scholarships.

We had a record number of applications for the class joining us in July 2022. Applications to the residency program have increased three-fold since 2016-17.

A few of the upcoming activities planned in our Department include the following:

- Visiting scholars program (Three visiting scholars are expected to join us in 2022)
- Invited lecture series program (We piloted it this year and will be further expanding it in 2022)
- PhD track in orthodontics (With the first student anticipated to start in July 2022)
- Creation of endowed chair positions for faculty and scholarships/awards for residents
- Symposiums and Seminar series (Examples: Graber Seminar Series and the Pain/Sleep Symposiums)

I am very thankful to all our alumni for your support of the Department. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Sath Allareddy*

Head, Department of Orthodontics

sath@uic.edu