Five Years and Counting: Dr. Sath Allareddy Makes His Mark on Ortho

It’s hard to believe that it has been five years since Dr. Veerasathpurush “Sath” Allareddy was welcomed as the Department of Orthodontics’ seventh Department Head. In this short amount of time, Dr. Allareddy has been extremely productive in helping to bring the UIC Orthodontic Department back to the pinnacle of the orthodontic profession.

Numerous awards, including special recognition from the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO), as well as numerous publications in peer reviewed journals, are strong evidence for the Department’s revitalization. He has been instrumental in helping the residents and faculty receive 17 awards from the American Association of Orthodontists Foundation in the last four years, and has also brought in some significant National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding. UIC Orthodontics is one of only seven programs nationwide selected by NIH/National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) for funding for the third cycle of the National Dental Practice-Based Research Network. These awards highlight Dr. Allareddy’s hard work, which has made our Department one of the most sought-after programs in the country, with over 400 applicants to the orthodontic program this past year.

From day one, Dr. Allareddy focused on creating a resident-centered culture in the orthodontic program, which not only provides the highest standards of education, but fosters an overall positive life experience. If you have not been back to the Department in a while, you will see the commitment to teaching and learning all the latest innovative techniques, which keep our orthodontic residents at the forefront of our profession. Dr. Allareddy has also forged collaborative relationships with the dental industry, Align Technology and Dental Monitoring being the most notable.

Another aspect of Dr. Allareddy’s mission has been to help control the cost of our residents’ secondary education. He has established an annual Resident Scholarship Program with over 30 recipients to date. All of this has been made possible through the generosity of our alums!

Our goal in 2023 is to renew our efforts and expand our outreach to include our alumni whose schedules may not have permitted active involvement in the past. We intend to be proactive, reaching out through our existing network of alumni to explain the benefits of Orthodontic Alumni Association Activity to our family of alumni.

We look forward to seeing you at this year’s AAO Alumni Reception in Chicago!

Thank you, Dr. Allareddy for your leadership and a job well done as we look forward to continued success and achievements within the Department!

Vincent Arpino, DDS, MS
Executive Director
Message from the Department Head

Dear Alumni:

The mission of UIC Orthodontics is “To Become a Global Leader in Delivering Precision/Personalized Orthodontics Care for Patients and providing our Residents with Exemplary State of the Science Education.”

The last few decades have witnessed tremendous changes in the field of Orthodontics, from digitalization of patient records, to the use of Artificial Intelligence in diagnosis, to monitoring treatment progress. More recently, as health care is advancing towards precision medicine, there is a call for dentistry to deliver individualized care to each and every patient. Here at the College, more and more patients with complex multidisciplinary problems are seeking orthodontic care. In order to meet these immediate needs, we have expanded the collection and use of data as well as invested in faculty and collaborative research activities to make sense of the data and apply that knowledge to patient care.

Since I assumed the role of Department Head, the Department has made significant achievements, building the foundation for strengthened education of residents and pioneering ground-breaking research utilizing big data analytics, artificial intelligence, and microRNAs. The Department of Orthodontics is positioned to become a global leader in precision medicine (a.k.a. personalized medicine or genomic medicine) and big data analytics. By doing so, the Department will change the oral healthcare landscape worldwide by developing evidence-based, individualized orthodontic care that transforms quality of care and clinical outcomes for each and every patient.

In this past year, three of our faculty members (Drs. Mohammed H. Elnagar, Flavio Sanchez and Christina Nicholas) successfully completed their mid-probationary reviews. Three of our faculty members (Drs. Maria Therese Galang, Phimon Atsawasuwan, and Christina Nicholas) are going up for promotion and we are confident of a successful outcome. We are preparing to give a Q-contract to Dr. Maysaa Oubaidin that will enable her to transition to a tenure track appointment. These are phenomenal achievements by our faculty.

In 2022, we gave close to $70,000 in awards/scholarship monies to our residents. Dr. Vivian Snider (Class of 2022) won the AAO’s William Proffit Award for Clinical Research this year. This year, we stood first in the nation in terms of American Association of Orthodontist Foundation (AAOF) awards (we were first in the nation in 2021, too). UIC Orthodontics had the most number of presentations at the 9th Biennial COAST conference on “Harnessing Technology and Biomedicine for Personalized Orthodontics.” All these achievements point to the international impact our Department is having.

One aspirational goal of our Department is to create a “tuition free” (supported by scholarships) program for all our residents. We hope to achieve this goal by 2029 (the 100th anniversary of the residency program). We are making concerted efforts with our alumni and friends to help create scholarships. Every year, we have created a new endowed scholarship and we are confident that we can create 27 scholarships in the Department by 2029 to support each of the residents during their residency education.

Our Department has been very adept at reinventing and reskilling ourselves to adapt to the current landscape. We have been successful at attracting the best talent into our residency program. The work done by our faculty members is of the highest scientific standards and has had a sustained national/international impact. I am confident we will successfully navigate the challenges while capitalizing on the opportunities that will come our way in the next five years. It has been an absolute honor, pleasure, and privilege to serve as the Head of Department of Orthodontics since July 2018.

Sincerely,

Sath Allareddy, BDS, MBA, MHA, PhD, MMSc
Department Head
Message from the Dean

Dean expresses appreciation for Dr. Allareddy

On behalf of the College of Dentistry, I share our deep appreciation and support for our Department Head of Orthodontics, Dr. Sath Allareddy.

He has contributed mightily to the program in ways that have accelerated its progress in educational excellence, quality patient treatment, research, and prestige through advancements and novel discoveries in orthodontic health care. He and the faculty of the orthodontic program have established a world-wide reputation by sharing their knowledge and innovations via continuing education, conferences, and networking of faculty, scholars, alumni, private practitioners, industry, residents, and students from within and outside the profession.

As Dr. Allareddy completes his five year Department Head review in 2023, we can only hope that there are many more five year reviews in this fine leader’s promising future!

Susan A. Rowan
DDS, MS, FACD, FICD
Interim Dean
UIC College of Dentistry

Dr. Allan G. Brodie Resident 2022 Research Scholarships

Join us in congratulating this year’s Dr. Allan G. Brodie 2022 Research Scholarship recipients: Dr. Shirley Zhang (Class of 2024, mentored by Dr. Min Kyeong Lee); Dr. Nourah Abdul Kader (Class of 2025, mentored by Drs. Maysaa Oubaidin and Min Kyeong Lee); Dr. Suzanne Abreu (Class of 2025, mentored by Dr. Christina Nicholas); Dr. Priya Shah (Class of 2025, mentored by Drs. Min Kyeong Lee and Maysaa Oubaidin); and Dr. Neil Chandok (Class of 2025, mentored by Dr. Sath Allareddy).

Congratulations to our Class of 2022!

The Alumni Association enthusiastically welcomed Drs. Raj Desai, Peter Durbin, Matan Farhi, Jessica Hedger, Karen Homsi, Ruidan Ma, Vivian Snider, Samim Taraji, and Michael Yang into the alumni family Harry Potter style! Interim Dean Susan Rowan was also in attendance and offered her congratulations. Class President Ruidan Ma acted as MC and she spoke about some of the Class of 2022’s experiences throughout the three years, and expressed the class’s appreciation to the faculty and fellow residents. Stephen Treacy and Kayla Yip also saluted the upper classmen. Best of luck to the Class of 2022 as you start the next chapter of your life—loan repayment!

UIC Orthodontics Class of 2026

Jenna Elise Burton
Columbia University

Eric Coy
University of California SF

Ingrid Harb
McGill University

Adrienne Hoffman
Meharry Medical College

Mallory E. Kocher
Univ. of North Carolina Chapel Hill

Lauren Mills
Midwestern University

Amanda Nicole Nikho
University of Illinois Chicago

Zainah Shaker
University of Minnesota

Monika Soliman
Harvard School of Dental Medicine
Our very own Department Chair Dr. Sath Allareddy gave an AAO presentation on Artificial Intelligence and Big Data. This is the future of our profession!

Dr. Mike Durbin and recent graduate Dr. Samin Taraji were both recognized with a Foundation Service Award for their work on AAOF Board. The extra piece of hardware for Dr. Durbin came from being recognized as the Raymond George Sr. Outstanding Donated Service Award.

Congratulations to Drs. Lee Graber and Katie Graber on receiving the Eugene and Pauline Blair Distinguished Service Award from the AAOF!

Congratulations to recent graduate Dr. Vivian Snider on winning the Dr. William Proffit clinical scholarship award at the AAO meeting! Proud faculty advisors Drs. Allareddy and Elnagar are all smiles!

Calling all alums! 2023 is a special year with Chicago being home to the 2023 AAO meeting. The Alumni Association will be hosting the offsite alumni reception at Quartino Ristorante on Saturday, April 22, 6:30-9:30 p.m. A private room on the second floor of the restaurant has been secured for this event. We are particularly seeking alums to celebrate your 10-, 20-, 30-, and 40-year reunion! A special prize from the Alumni Association will be awarded to the oldest alum in attendance! This event is restricted to doctors and one significant other only due to space constraints. Evites will be sent, so it is important that you include your email in the enclosed envelope. Also, help us recognize and celebrate Dr. Budi Kusnoto’s 25th anniversary as a faculty member at UIC!

Our alumni association is proud to be able to give back to the orthodontic residents at UIC. Excess dues collected from members were given directly to the residents as scholarship money—$8,000 in 2022 and $10,000 in 2021. Your dues also help sponsor the graduation banquets of the residents as well as the AAO reception. We are appreciative of your continued membership and support!

We also welcome you to join our Facebook group “Orthodontic Alumni Association of Illinois.” This is where you will find frequent notifications and updates from the department.

Congratulations to Dr. Christina Nicholas on obtaining a National Institute of Justice Grant (titled - DENTAGE: A multi-component subadult dental age estimation method). The value of the research award is $567,920. This is a proud moment for the UIC Orthodontics.