

Orthodontic Alumni Association of Illinois

The Department of Orthodontics
at the University of Illinois Chicago
College of Dentistry

WINTER 2025

Celebrating and Building an Influential Program

Dear Alumni, Colleagues, and Friends,

This time of year is a perfect time to reflect on and celebrate all that our Orthodontic program has achieved this past year.

Fifteen years ago, my wife, Tonya, and I graduated from this remarkable program. It is incredible to see how much has changed in our profession since then. From advancements in digital workflows and practice models to innovations like dental monitoring and the influence of artificial intelligence, UIC's program and its graduates continue to play a significant role in shaping the future of Orthodontics.

One of the aspects I've enjoyed most about serving on the alumni board is receiving frequent updates from Department Head Dr. Sath Allareddy. Under his leadership and forward-thinking approach, our program continues to thrive.

Here are some of the program's key highlights from this past year:

- The UIC residency program has been approved for a 30-month length by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), with this change implemented for the class matriculating this past July.
- 100% of our graduates achieved American Board of Orthodontics (ABO) Certification within 12 months of graduating.

Editor/Executive Director

Vincent J. Arpino, DDS, MS (UIC '96)

109 W. Maple Ave.
Libertyville, IL 60048
(847) 362-8262
varpinobraces@msn.com

President

Ryan Hurley, DDS, MS (UIC '09), MBA

12 S. Roselle Rd.
Schaumburg, IL 60193
(847) 910-3868
ryan@hurleyvolk.com

Professor, Brodie Craniofacial Endowed Chair, and Department Head

Sath Allareddy, BDS, PhD

Department of Orthodontics
UIC College of Dentistry
801 S. Paulina St., 138AD, MC 841
Chicago, IL 60612-7211
(312) 996-1809
sath@uic.edu

- Residents consistently ranked in the top quintiles nationally on the ABO written exam. In 2024, one of our residents obtained a perfect score (1,000 points) in the ABO Clinical Examination. This is truly exceptional and speaks about the quality of education our residents get at UIC.
- Dr. Min Kyeong Lee was awarded the **American Association of Orthodontists (AAO) Full-Time Faculty Fellowship Award** for 2024/2025. Only three full-time faculty members across the country were awarded this Fellowship.
- Dr. Budi Kusnoto received the **Outstanding Community Leadership Award** representing the Indonesian community.
- Our faculty continue to shine on national and international stages. Drs. Lee and Maysaa Oubaidin were appointed to the Editorial Board of *Seminars in Orthodontics*. Drs. Allareddy and Lee were appointed as guest editors of a special edition of *Seminars in Orthodontics* on "Handling Extremely Complex and Unconventional Orthodontic Problems."
- Seven UIC articles were featured in the *Seminars in Orthodontics* special edition on postgraduate education for Generation Z, addressing current landscapes, opportunities, and challenges.
- 516 applicants vied for our coveted nine residency spots this year, marking an all-time high in program interest.
- Dr. Allareddy was recognized as one amongst the **top 2% of the most cited scientists across the world** by Stanford/Elsevier's Top 2% Scientist Rankings.
- Dr. Emelia Karkazis (Class of 2024) won the 2nd place, Basic Science Research: **William Proffitt Resident Award** given by the American Association of Orthodontists, 2024.
- UIC Orthodontics won five American Association of Orthodontists Foundation (AAOF) awards in 2024. This marks the fourth consecutive year that we won the most number of AAOF awards in the country.
- Dr. Phimon Atsawasuan won the **B.F. Dewel Memorial Biomedical Research Award** from the American Association of Orthodontists Foundation. This award is given to the most Meritorious Biomedical Research Award for Year 2024.



Dr. Ryan Hurley (UIC '09) with fellow Orthodontic alum and spouse Dr. Tonya Volk (UIC '08).

- Dr. Min Kyeong Lee won the **Willie & Earl Shepard Fellowship Award** from the American Association of Orthodontists Foundation in the Orthodontics Faculty Development Fellowship Awards category.

As alumni, we should take great pride in being part of one of the most sought-after and prestigious Orthodontic programs in the country. The program's direction is undoubtedly one of continued excellence and growth. This is also a great reminder that there are many ways to give back to the program—whether through your time, talent, or treasure.

If you're interested in giving a lecture or hosting a resident for a day of observation at your office, please contact Dr. Kusnoto at bkusno1@uic.edu.

Additionally, please consider making a yearly donation to the UIC Orthodontic Alumni Association in the enclosed envelope. Your contributions directly support our program and its residents.

For those attending the 2025 AAO Annual Session in Philadelphia, we hope you'll join us at our alumni gathering. This will be a particularly special event as we celebrate Dr. Carla Evans, who will receive the **AAO Lifetime Achievement Award** in recognition of her extraordinary contributions to Orthodontic science through research.

Wishing you and your families a happy, healthy, and prosperous year ahead.

Sincerely,

Ryan Hurley
President, UIC Orthodontic Alumni Board
(UIC '09)

Letter from Dr. Sath Allareddy

(Head of Department of Orthodontics, UIC)

Dear Friends,

It is a great honor, pleasure, and privilege to serve as Head of the Department of one of the most storied and prestigious orthodontics residency programs in the world. This year, we celebrated many successes of our immensely talented faculty members and residents.

When I joined UIC in July 2018, one of my topmost priorities was to make UIC orthodontics excel at the international level. I am delighted to share that our faculty and residents have excelled at an international level in scholarly and clinical work, have won several coveted awards, and are widely recognized across the world.

In 2024, we supported all our third-year residents (Drs. Suzanne Abreu, Neil Chandok, Evan Chwa, Katharine Howard, Nourah Abdul Kader, John Lorenz, and Priya Shah) with a total of \$42,000 in scholarships through our Endowed Resident Scholarships Program. In addition, we supported five residents (Drs. Eric Coy, Monika Soliman, Bushra Kanwal, Natnicha Praneetpong, and Garima Sinha) with a total of \$30,000 in scholarships through the Dr. Alan G. Brodie Craniofacial Endowed Chair Scholars program.

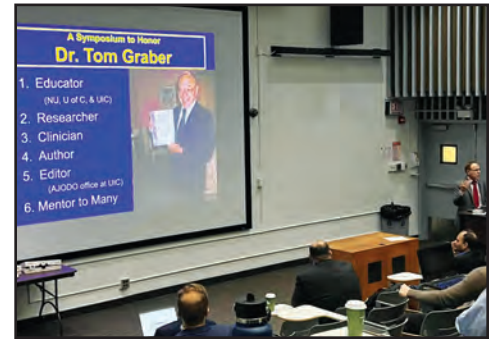
Two of our faculty (Dr. Flavio Sanchez and Prof. Grace Viana) are going up for promotion. We have engaged academicians, clinicians, residents and students from over 20 countries in various activities such as externships, preceptorships, and international continuing education programs this year.

I am very thankful to our alumni, faculty, residents and staff for making UIC orthodontics shine.

UIC-COD Proud!

Sincerely,
Sath Allareddy
Department Head

Fourth Annual Dr. Thomas Graber International Symposium



The Fourth Annual Dr. Thomas Graber Symposium, held in October, was a tremendous success, bringing together leading voices in Orthodontics. Highlights included presentations from esteemed Orthodontics Department Chairs (Drs. Sumit Yadav, University of Nebraska, and Shankar Rengasamy Venugopalan, Tufts University) and Dr. Nikhilesh Vaid, President of the World Federation of Orthodontists. A heartfelt thank-you goes to the Graber family for their unwavering dedication to honoring the legacy of Dr. Tom Graber and advancing Orthodontic education. This event continues to inspire and enrich our Orthodontic community.



UIC Faculty Take over MSO Meeting in October!

We are immensely proud of our UIC Orthodontic faculty for delivering exceptional presentations at the recent MSO meeting. Special thanks to Department Head Dr. Sath Allareddy for leading the way along with Drs. Maria Therese Galang-Boquieren, Mohammed H. Elnagar, Flavio Sanchez, Phimon Atsawasuan, Min Kyeong Lee, and Maysaa Oubaidin for their valuable contributions. Your expertise and dedication shine through in every presentation. Keep up the fantastic work!



WFO Awards

Congratulations to Dr. Samim Taraji (UIC Orthodontics alumnus) whose research project won the first place Dr. Athanasios E. Athanasiou Best Orthodontics Master's Thesis Award given by the World Federation of Orthodontics (WFO). This award was announced at the WFO meeting during the Annual Session. Congratulations Samim, and also to Dr. Mohammed H. Elnagar and Dr. Michael Miloro for their mentorship on the project.



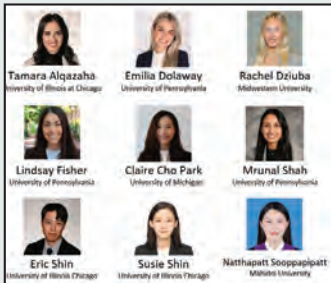
Dr. Samim Taraji.

Welcome Class of 2027!

UIC's recent interview season has drawn to a close, and we take great pride in announcing that we received 516 applications and conducted interviews with 63 individuals over the course of three days. We extend our gratitude to our esteemed faculty members and residents for their support in warmly welcoming our visitors and showcasing the exceptional strengths of our Department. Our sincere appreciation goes out to class presidents Drs. Ian Creaser, John Lorenz and Eric Coy, as well as all the residents, for your unwavering dedication and commitment to excellence. Congratulations to Dr. Sath Al-lareddy on creating a program that is highly sought after!



Class presidents with Dr. Vince Arpino.



Alums Help Alums

Alumni contributed an impressive total of \$4,700 toward the Orthodontics Resident Scholarship Fund in the last year. A heartfelt thank you to the following individuals: Drs. Vincent Arpino, Dale Benjamin, Gary Benson, Barry Booth, Clara Chow, Michael Conlon, Gary Couser, Michael Durbin, Ryan Hurley and Tonya Volk, Ken Kaplin, Jeff Kemp, Robert Manasse, Martha Mejia-Maidl, Steven Moravec, Mike Naborowski, Terry Sellke, Carrie Thangamani, and Larry Voss. Your support is truly invaluable!



Dr. Ben Youel mentoring 3rd year residents Zach Skabelund and Shirley Zhang.

Are you interested in supporting the future of Orthodontics and giving back to your alma mater? Consider making a donation to the Orthodontic Resident Scholarship Fund. Not only will your donation support future alums, but it will also contribute to the advancement of the Orthodontic profession as a whole. Join the community of alums who are making a difference by helping the next generation of Orthodontic professionals.

Please take the time to support the UIC Orthodontic Program and the Orthodontic Alumni Association of Illinois!

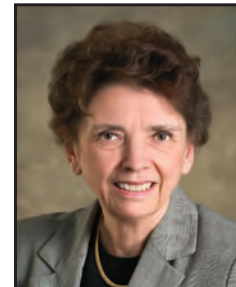


Congratulations to the Class of 2024!

Congratulations to UIC Class of 2024! Welcome to the alumni family: Drs. Evan Booth, Emelia Karkazis, Matthew Rhee, Zachary Skabelund, Analia Tahir, Stephen Treacy, Hauan Tsuei, and Shirley Zhang. Best of luck to the Class of 2024 as you start the next chapter of your life—loan repayment!

Dr. Carla Evans Honored with the 2025 AAO Lifetime Achievement Award in Orthodontic Research

We are thrilled to announce that Dr. Carla Evans, UIC's Orthodontics Department Head from 1994 to 2016, has been named the recipient of the 2025 American Association of Orthodontists (AAO) Lifetime Achievement Award in Orthodontic Research. During her tenure, Dr. Evans mentored over 250 residents, conducted groundbreaking research, and made lasting contributions to Orthodontics and dental informatics. Her recognition places her among legends like Drs. William Proffit and James McNamara. Please join us in celebrating this well-deserved honor for Dr. Evans at the AAO Annual Session in Philadelphia April 25-27, 2025.



Dr. Carla Evans.

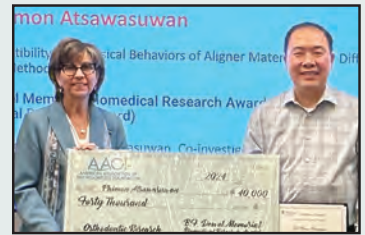
2024 AAO Alumni Bash in New Orleans

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the AAO Alumni Reception in New Orleans—it was a tremendous success with an incredible turnout! The event offered a fantastic opportunity to connect, network, and catch up with current residents in a lively and collaborative atmosphere. Let's keep the momentum going! We look forward to seeing you at the AAO in Philadelphia in 2025. Don't miss out—stay connected and be part of the celebration!



AAOF Awards Total over \$100,000 for 2024

UIC Orthodontics faculty and residents obtained five awards/grants for a total funding of \$122,000 this year from the American Association of Orthodontists Foundation. Once again, we were awarded the most number of awards/grants from AAOF and for the fourth consecutive year, UIC Orthodontics has won the most number of AAOF awards. Special thanks to Dean Susan Rowan, Dr. Ana Bedran-Russo, and Virginia Buglio for their support with the grant applications. Our very own Dr. Mike Durbin, who will be President of the AAO in 2026, presented the awards in August. Congratulations to the awardees!



Dr. Phimon Atsawasuwan (Biomedical Research Award - \$40,000) for "Biocompatibility and Physical Behaviors of Aligner Materials after Different Cleaning Methods."



Dr. Min Kyeong Lee (Orthodontics Faculty Development Fellowship Award - \$30,000) for "Neonatal Cleft Lip Repair in the United States: Trends and Safety Using National Surgical Quality Improvement Program."



Dr. Nourah Abdul Kader (Research Aid Award - \$6,000) for "Facilitators and Barriers to Providing Orthodontic Care for Children with Special Health Care Needs." (Project mentor: **Dr. Christina Nicholas**; co-investigator: **Dr. James Sciote**.)



Dr. Mohammed H. Elnagar (Biomedical Research Award - \$40,000) for "Developing a Generative AI System for Predicting Dento-Facial Changes Following Orthodontic Treatment and Orthognathic Surgery: A Novel Approach by Generation Predictive Images."



Dr. Zainah Shaker (Research Aid Award - \$6,000) for "Characterization of Craniofacial Morphology of Dentin Matrix Protein - 1 Promotor-driven Dicer Deficient Mouse." (PI: **Dr. Zainah Shaker**; project mentor and co-investigator: **Dr. Phimon Atsawasuwan**.)

SAVE THE DATE

Alumni Reception at the AAO Annual Session

AAO ALUMNI RECEPTION

2025 AAO Philadelphia

Friday, April 25, 2025

5:45-7:15pm

Marriott

Planning to attend the AAO Meeting in Philadelphia in 2025? Don't miss the Orthodontic Alumni Association's exclusive gathering at the Marriott, where you can meet residents, reconnect with fellow alums, and enjoy a night of networking and nostalgia. Join us following the keynote address and then cap off the evening with complimentary food and drinks at the Reading Market courtesy of the AAO. Free drinks and light appetizers will be provided at our alumni event, making it yet another fantastic perk of your membership! We look forward to seeing you there and creating new memories together.



See old friends at the AAO!

Department Names 2024-25 Dr. Allan G. Brodie Craniofacial Endowed Scholars


The Department of Orthodontics has named its 2024-25 Dr. Alan G. Brodie Craniofacial Endowed scholars. They are listed below, along with the titles of their projects.

Dr. Eric Coy: "Global Insights into Oral Hygiene During Orthodontic Treatment Using Dental Monitoring Artificial Intelligence and Big Data."

Dr. Bushra Kanwal: "Use of Big Data Analytics and Machine Learning to Estimate Hospitalization Costs Associated with Treatment of Patients with Cleft Lip and Palate."

Dr. Natnicha Praneetpong: "Evaluation of Femoral Bone Phenotypes of MicroRNA-145 Deficient Transgenic Mouse Model."

Dr. Garima Sinha: "Cost Implications of Four Major Treatment Options for Managing Obstructive Sleep Apneal."



Congratulations to
2024-2025
Dr. Alan G. Brodie
Craniofacial
Endowed Scholars

Each of the Dr. Alan G. Brodie Craniofacial Endowed Scholars will receive a \$6,000 award.

"I am very thankful to Drs. Phimon Atsawasuwan, Min Kyeong Lee and Praveen Gajendrareddy for reviewing the research proposals and selecting the awardees," said Dr. Sath Allareddy, Department Head. "Congratulations Eric, Monika, Bushra, Natnicha, and Garima. I am confident your scholarly work will make UIC Orthodontics shine!"