CHAIR’S CORNER:
Dr. Thomas B. Dodson

Happy holiday!

The last few months have been productive and busy.

As we have come to expect, University of Washington students, residents, and faculty had a strong presence at the 105th AAOMS annual meeting held in San Diego, September 20-23, 2023. A particular highlight was seeing our own Dr. Mark Egbert inducted as the AAOMS president. This is a well-deserved honor for Mark, and another opportunity to show UW pride at a national level.

Drs. Jas Dillon and Andrea Burke oversaw and delivered presentations at the meeting.

I am delighted to report that one of our 3rd year dental students, Mr. Teddy Dong, received the AAOMS Oral Abstract Scientific Presentation Award for his abstract titled “Influence of gender on OMS applicants’ recommendation letters”. His project was supervised by Dr. Andrea Burke (see Figure 1). Mr. Dong was interviewed about his research experience and pursuit of OMS as a career. The interview is posted on the School of Dentistry home page https://dental.washington.edu/third-year-student-teddy-dong-wins-aaoms-presentation-award/.

Figure 1 -
From L to R - Jennifer Tang, Mini Lin, Teddy Dong, Dr. Andrea Burke, and Dr. Thomas Dodson pose at the end of at the AAOMS award ceremony.
During the AAOMS Annual Meeting, we hosted OMS alumni, residents, students, faculty, and staff at our annual alumni reception (Figure 2). It was fun reminiscing with alumni. Please join us in Orlando at next year's AAOMS Annual Meeting for the alumni reception, September 12th, 2024!

Another highlight of the fall season was the 9th annual Worthington Lecture. This year we were delighted to host Dr. Peter Waite, Professor of OMS, University of Alabama-Birmingham as the Invited Worthington Lecturer. He gave a comprehensive and lucid presentation on the evaluation and operative management of patients with obstructive sleep apnea (Figure 3-5).
Following the presentation, the Department hosted a dinner for major donors, residents, faculty, and alumni at which we reviewed the history of the Worthington Endowment. In 2003, Dr. Tom Hohl and other alumni established an endowment in honor of Philip Worthington upon his retirement as Chair of OMS. In the summer of 2023, we reached the target funding requirement for an endowed chair. At the end of the dinner, I was proud and humbled to be announced as the inaugural recipient of the Philip Worthington Endowed Professorship and Chair (Figure 6). My deepest thanks to all the many donors to the fund who rallied to demonstrate the importance of establishing a sustainable leadership position for OMS at the School of Dentistry. It was a wonderful evening surrounded by friends, family, and special guests, including Dean Ritter and Deborah Worthington (Dr. Worthington’s daughter).

Figure 5 -
OMS faculty and residents in a group photo with Dr. Waite.
Left to right – Front row: Drs. Zahid Lalani, Austin Gaal, and Melanie Lang (faculty), Drs. Aparna Bhat and Leena Zurayk (residents), Dr. Peter Waite (invited lecturer), Drs. Taylor Ellingsen, Travon Foy and Jessica Van (residents), Drs. Andrea Burke, Mark Egbert, and Jasjit Dillon (faculty).
Second row: Dr. Brian Bhaskar (resident), Drs. Seenu Susarla and Dale Bloomquist (faculty), Drs. Gabriel Colon-Gonzalez, Isabella Christianson, Fred Rong, and Christopher Ma (residents), Dr. Gaby Moen and Stuart Allyn (residents), and Dr. Andre Ritter (Dean, School of Dentistry).
Dr. Worthington passed away on August 13, 2023. Over the summer, the Worthington family dedicated a bench in his memory (as seen below). Look for it the next time you stroll through the campus. It is located near Ranier Vista, overlooking the UW Medical Center.

For several months now, we have been busy preparing to perform orthognathic surgery at the Northwest Center for Oral and Facial Surgery (NWCOFS) using the dental surgery center. We did our first operation (BSSO) there in December. The team functioned in the highest form and the operation went flawlessly. We look forward to this capability at NWCOFS becoming a major feature of our outpatient faculty practice and a safe and comfortable non-hospital alternative for our patients.

An update on philanthropy: the Department’s next fundraising priority is to help offset medical school tuition for our trainees. The burden of debt upon finishing residency is overwhelming, especially for OMS residents who pay tuition for both dental school and medical school. This fund will help lighten the financial load of UW residents who pursue the lengthy and rigorous resident training required of today’s oral and maxillofacial surgeons. I hope that those who support our program will give generously to the Jack Neal Endowed Fund for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. [http://giving.uw.edu/deltadental_jackneal](http://giving.uw.edu/deltadental_jackneal)
The Delta Dental Jack E. Neal Endowed Fund for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery was established in honor of Dr. Jack Neal, a prominent oral and maxillofacial surgeon who passed away on April 15, 2014. The fund was launched with a $50,000 gift from Delta Dental of Washington, on whose board of directors Dr. Neal served for eight years. The endowment provides financial support for pre-doctoral and post-doctoral students studying in the University of Washington School of Dentistry’s Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery program.

Thomas B. Dodson, DMD, MPH, FACS
Philip Worthington Professor and Chair
Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

OMS RESIDENCY PROGRAM
Dr. Jasjit Dillon

OMS RESIDENCY PROGRAM
Dr. Jasjit Dillon

Match day was January 23rd. We are pleased to match 3 excellent candidates who will begin our program on July 1st. Our interviews this year were virtual again, but we had a number of these candidates visit us as externs. Early in January, we hosted a visit for those candidates we ranked but who had not visited the program in the past. Several had not been to Seattle before and loved the rain and dark day. They especially loved the gum wall in Pike Place market.

Our current chief residents are finalizing their post-residency jobs. Bobby Johnson and Leena Zurayk are both staying in Seattle, and Stuart Allyn is planning to move to Montana. Bobby welcomed and new family member, Casey Ames Johnson in December. Both mummy and baby are doing well.

Trayvon Foy and Taylor Ellingson are on their anesthesia rotations. Jessica Van will be joining them shortly after having spent a few months on mummy time with baby Harlow.

Our current R5’s Aparna Bhat is actively interviewing for a craniofacial fellowship. She is hoping to follow Dr Austin Gaal’s steps and is joined him on his recent mission trip to Bolivia.

Brian Bhaskar welcomed another baby and will ultimately be returning to California - in his words for a “Phil Bhaskar implant fellowship!” Gabrielle Moen is open to all options, so if you are looking for someone, please reach out to her.

Our current first year residents, Chris Ma, Isabella Christensen Galina, and Jay Park, are all studying for their step I USMLE exam having survived 6 months at Harborview.

One of our non-categorical trainees had to leave early into the year. We were thankfully able to recruit Ben Leung, who has been stellar and really stepped up to the plate.

Finally, a special thank you to Susan Lael, the residency program manager. The program would flounder without her countless hours of effort and attention to detail. I am very grateful to have her at my side.

As always, thank you all for the tireless support, especially our affiliate faculty who take call for us and supervise our residents.

GENERAL PRACTICE RESIDENCY (GPR) PROGRAM
Dr. Ryan O’Connor

We are closing the book on 2023 and I believe the current residents have been growing by leaps and bounds. It has been a great year so far and they are working hard and learning a lot. I hope we continue that in 2024.
I want to recognize a recent graduate of the program, Dr. Tracy Tran. She completed the GPR program in 2023 and was a standout resident. She has now returned in a volunteer capacity and will soon begin helping us with our IV sedation training. Dr. Tran represents the ideal graduate of our program. She is organized, motivated and is a tremendous help to us. When not at UW, she is working at a great private practice in downtown Seattle. Unfortunately, Dr. Tran is a University of Texas fan, and it is my sincere hope that she will be forced to convert to being a true Husky fan on New Year’s Day in the Sugar bowl:) Thanks again Tracy for all your help!

I would also like to welcome Dr. Evi Sipola. She is another graduate of 2023, and she is now part-time faculty with us. Her primary role is helping to manage our inpatient service at UWMC and working in the Operating Room. She was a fantastic resident and is quickly becoming a great resource and attending for our trainees.

Dr. Ivy Lin recently agreed to add to her current role, and she is now the Assistant Program Director. Dr. Lin has always been a valued member of the GPR team, and I welcome the additional help, especially as the CODA site visit is on the horizon. Dr. Lin is also leading the charge within the School of Dentistry on sustainability and climate change as they relate to the field of dentistry.

The GPR folks are planning another informal reunion for the winter. I will be reaching out to all of those who are on my contact list with more information. If you are a GPR graduate and would like to be contacted, then please reach out to me at snocon@uw.edu and Ivy Lin at ivylin2@uw.edu.

I will finish by thanking Lani Jodlowski for all her work in creating another great interview season for the 2024-2025 class. We had excellent candidates from all over the US and Canada and I’m looking forward to Match Day!

Happy New Year!

Best,

Ryan O’Connor
Program Director, General Practice Residency

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**PRE-DOCTORAL ACTIVITIES**

**Dr. John Evans**

As we begin the Winter quarter at the School of Dentistry, we find ourselves working pretty much daily on preparing the school for accreditation. The Committee on Dental Accreditation (CODA) will visit us next November and assess the pre-doctoral program. This will be a comprehensive examination. Think endoscopy here.

We went through this in 2016. Now it is our turn again. The accreditation document we are preparing is hovering somewhere around 750 pages. It needs to be concise and comprehensive at the same time. Since the accreditation standards have changed to a significant degree in the last eight years, our document had to be re-written. To say the very least, the COVID pandemic has changed dental schools and the attendant curriculum we teach nationwide.

As far as pre-doctoral surgery is concerned, we still teach the basics: exodontia-- simple and surgical to some degree, simple pre-prosthetic surgery, basics of implant surgery, review of clinical pathology and biopsy technique, and an overview of the specialty of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. CODA mandates that students be competent in-patient assessment, basic risk management and the simple extraction of teeth. We meet those criteria easily.

The most challenging part of the surgical curriculum is patient assessment and management. With the widespread availability of sophisticated medical care to most of the population, keeping up with the standards of care in medicine is a daunting task when we are instructing dental students. The medical knowledge necessary to safely care for middle-aged and elderly patients is impressive when compared to even the late 1990s as we all know.

A concern we must address in the future is the development of a two (more) tiered profession. On the one hand, we have specialists in our communities who have completed six or seven years of post-doctoral education. While on the other hand, we have practitioners whose clinical experience in dental school centered on emergency dental pain management and operative dentistry. At UW, we are determined to graduate dentists who are capable of being
competent, safe, general dentists. That is the standard CODA is looking for. However, our students seem to understand what will be demanded of them in the future. Roughly, half our students go on to the specialties or residency training of some type.

As always, we are most grateful to our affiliate faculty who take the time from their practices to supervise our students in the pre-doctoral surgery clinic. Students value the real-world perspective you—and you know who you are—bring to our surgical curriculum. As always, we are most grateful for your efforts on behalf of our students. Our faculty and students wish you all the best in the new year.

FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

5. **Dillon JK.**, 'Keep the lawyers away!! Everything you need to know about trigeminal nerve injuries’ CSOMS 7-29-2023
6. **Dillon JK.**, "Do we really need antibiotics for what we do?" CSOMS 7-29-2023
7. **Dillon JK.**, "65 F on Zoledronate referred for implant # 19…” A comprehensive review and update of MRONJ. CSOMS 7-30-2023
8. **Dillon JK.**, "Think You Know Everything About Red and White Lesions? Think Again!" CSOMS 7-30-2023
9. **Dillon JK.**, "Think You Know Everything About Red and White Lesions? Think Again!" CSOMS 7-30-2023
19. **Susarla SM** “Craniofacial Trauma: Operative Approaches” Plastic Surgery Teaching Conference, University of Washington, Seattle, WA. July 5, 2023
20. **Susarla SM** "Craniomaxillofacial Surgery for Obstructive Sleep Apnea: Current Perspectives" Otolaryngology Conference, Seattle Children's Hospital, Seattle, WA. October 9, 2023.
PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA


6. **Dodson TB.** "Reply: There is no rest at the flat of the curve." J Oral Maxillofac Surg 81:659-60


9. Tolley PD, **Susarla S.** "Discussion: Are We Overoperating on Isolated Orbital Floor Fractures?" Plast Reconstr Surg. 2023 Sep 1;152(3):638-639.


BOOK CHAPTERS/EDITORIALS/MANUSCRIPTS


4. Marchant AD, Allyn S, **Gaal AG, Burke AB, Dillon JK.** Are there prolonged effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on oral and maxillofacial fractures? Accepted JOMS Nov 2023


HONORS AND AWARDS

1. **Dodson TB.** Awarded the Philip Worthington Endowed Professorship and appointed Chair, AO Craniomaxillofacial Research and Development Commission, Davos, Switzerland

2. **Dong C, Burke AB, Dillon JK, Dodson TB.** Influence of gender on OMS applicants’ recommendation letters. AAOMS Oral Abstract Scientific Presentation Award.3.AAOMS Annual Meeting, San Diego. September 2023

3. **Gaal AG.** University of Washington Online MPH Public Health Leadership Promise Award.

4. **Lin IF.** Awarded the Dental Alumni Endowed Faculty Fund
FACULTY AND AFFILIATE FACULTY

FULL-TIME FACULTY

Thomas B. Dodson, Chair  
Jasjit Dillon, Program Director, OMS  
Ryan O’Connor, Program Director, GPR  
Dale Bloomquist  
O. Ross Beirne  
Andrea Burke  
Mark Egbert  
John Evans  
Zahid Lalani  
Melanie Lang

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Ramtin Amini  
Leon Assael  
Franco Audia  
Abhishake Banda  
Dale Bloomquist  
Guillermo Chacon  
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Sophie Yi Seung

*If your name is missing, please let us know*
### 2023 Honor Roll of Donors

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**Young Alumni Major Donor to the Philip Worthington Lectureship in OMS

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Let us know your thoughts:

Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery  
University of Washington  
1959 NE Pacific Street Room B-241  
Box 357134  
Seattle, WA 98195-7134  
(206) 543-7722

Email us at: uwoms@uw.edu

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