



ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

AUGUST 2026, VOLUME 11

ISSUE 2

CHAIR'S CORNER:

Dr. Thomas B. Dodson

On June 20, 2026, we celebrated the graduation of the 13th, 14th, and 15th dually qualified oral and maxillofacial surgeons, Drs. Charlie Smith, Thomas Beckstrom, and Aaron Hui (Fig. 1).



Figure 1. Graduating OMS Residents – Burke Museum, June 20, 2026

(L-R) Drs. Jasjit Dillon, Charlie Smith, Aaron Hui, Thomas Beckstrom, and Thomas Dodson

University of Washington medical degrees (Fig. 2). They are the 9th class to complete the medical school component of the MD/OMS certificate program established in 2015.

The OMS faculty continue to be recognized for their outstanding contributions to the local, regional, and national OMS communities.

Dr. Melanie Lang continues her service to the WSDA Board, as Seattle-King County Dental Society delegate to the WSDA House of Delegates, and as President of the Western Society of OMS.

Dr. Andrea Burke serves on the AAOMS Committee on Research Planning and Technology Advancement and the Women in OMS Special Interest Group, sponsored by AAOMS. She chairs the Committee on Research at the School of Dentistry.



This class is composed of our COVID babies. They entered the program under the most bizarre circumstances and had to scale a steep learning curve without a net. Regardless, these 3 make us proud of their dedication, personal growth, and professionalism.

About a month earlier, May 22, 2026, to be exact, Drs. Christopher Ma, Isabella Galina, and Tim Park received their



Figure 2. OMS Residents MD Graduation – Benaroya Hall, May 22, 2026

(L-R) Drs. Christopher Ma, Isabella Galina, Thomas Dodson, and Tim Park

OMS Grand Rounds Lectures

The Grand Rounds Lecture Series takes place on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Grand Rounds will be held via Zoom.

To participate, use this Zoom link:

<https://washington.zoom.us/j/98063900333>

Meeting ID: 980 6390 0333

Visit our website listed in the appendix of our newsletter or click [here](#) for the OMS Grand Rounds calendar.

August 5th: The Utilization of Artificial Intelligence in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery – Dr. John Nathan

August 19th: Early Career Reflections in Head and Neck Reconstruction: Challenges, Pearls, and Lessons Learned – Dr. Kevin Lee

September 2nd: OMS Grand Rounds Lecture Series

September 16th: Surgical Management of Pediatric vs Adult OSA – Aparna Bhat, DDS, MD

October 7th: OMS Grand Rounds Lecture Series

October 21st: Red and White Pathologies: What's New and What's Next? – Dr. Jasjit Dillon, MBBS, DDS, FDSRCS, FACS

November 4th: OMS Grand Rounds Lecture Series

November 18th: OMS Grand Rounds Lecture Series



Dr. Autin Gaal provides regional cleft care with the Yakima Valley cleft team and participates in international missions delivering care in Mexico, Peru, Guatemala, Bolivia, and Vietnam.

Dr. Kevin Lee is celebrating his second year on our faculty, giving our residents exposure to microvascular reconstruction. In between free flap operations, he has published numerous papers, is mentoring students and residents in research, and most recently, received the Ramon Ruiz travel scholarship sponsored by the American Academy of Craniofacial Surgeons, which he will use to travel to Taiwan to observe a busy microvascular program there.

Dr. Hiba Qari joined the UW OMS team in April of 2025. She directs the oral pathology biopsy service and teaches oral pathology to predoctoral and graduate dental students.

We are honored to have the continued presence of our peripatetic pedigreed pedagogue, Dr. Ross Beirne. We are happy to have Dr. Beirne with us as long as he finds joy in teaching residents to administer outpatient, office-based anesthesia. In our program, we don't need no stinkin' AI – we just prompt Dr. Beirne with questions about anesthesia, medical management, and oral and maxillofacial surgical problems.

A bittersweet recognition and farewell to Dr. John Evans, who will retire at the end of June, 2026 after more than 4 decades as faculty in the OMS program. He had an active clinical practice at the School, directed the predoctoral OMS curriculum, and chaired the School's curriculum committee for decades! But before we panic, Dr. Evans has agreed to come back part time to support the OMS predoctoral program.

Dr. Jasjit Dillon continues in her role as the OMS program director and service chief at Harborview Medical Center. She recently completed her term as the President of the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AACFMS) and hosted the AACFMS annual meeting in Seattle this April past (Fig. 3). The meeting focused on innovation, education, leadership, and collaboration. Held at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue, this year's meeting featured a new preconference workshop, distinguished keynote speakers including Dr. Ronald Meier, Surgeon-in-Chief at HMC, scientific presentations, networking opportunities, and important Academy business updates. With nearly 100 registrants, it may be the best attended AACFMS meeting since its inception in 2014. Dr. Kevin Lee and Doug Yuan received the award for best pathology abstract and Dr. Austin Gaal received the best trauma abstract presented at the meeting.

Dr. Dillon is not done with her leadership roles. She will be the Executive Director of the AACFMS and was appointed vice president of American College of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

The Department mourns the passing of Dr. Roger A. West, a distinguished oral and maxillofacial surgeon, educator, innovator, and generous colleague, who died June 16, 2026, at age 85.

Dr. West joined the University of Washington faculty in 1972 and later founded the Northwest Center for Corrective Jaw Surgery. His pioneering work helped advance outpatient oral and maxillofacial surgery, and his foundational research on the Le Fort I osteotomy continues to influence the specialty. Although widely honored nationally and internationally, he remained deeply connected to Montana, his patients, and the people he loved.

Above all, Roger treasured his family, especially his late wife of 59 years, Judy, their three daughters, grandchildren, and great-grandchild. He will be remembered for his quiet excellence, warmth, generosity, and



Figure 3. OMS Faculty and Residents at AACFMS meeting
Front row (L-R) Drs. Doug Yuen, Robert Ly, Taylor Ellingson, Nicole Chen (D4), Jasjit Dillon, Shawn Griffin, Thomas Dodson, Rose Zhou, Melanie Lang, Shantosh Shrestha NP
Back row (L-R) Drs. Michael Scott, Aaron Hui, Charlie Smith, Ronald Meier (Keynote speaker), Christopher Ma, Kevin Lee

enduring contributions to our profession. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, colleagues, and former patients.

Please make a note that this year, the AAOMS Annual Meeting will be held in our own backyard, and the Department will host a special Alumni Dinner, at Daniel's Broiler at the Hyatt Hotel downtown on Thursday, October 1st. I hope you will all come for an evening of networking and reminiscing. It will be an unprecedented opportunity to see old classmates, colleagues and friends. Deadline to register, 9/1/2026.



https://secure.touchnet.net:443/C20410_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=7733&FROMQRCODE=true&SINGLESTORE=true

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas B. Dodson'.

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

OMS RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Dr. Jasjit Dillon

Quick resident update. Our current chiefs graduated on June 20th at the Burke museum. It was lovely to meet their families. Aaron Hui is joining Hui Pham (one of both mine and Aaron's former faculty from UCSF). Charlie Simth is also joining Dallas Hickles practice in CA, and Thomas Beckstrom is moving to B, Canada to join Akashdeep Villing.

The 2026-27 rising chiefs are Drs. Taylor Ellingson, Trayvon Foy, and Jessica Van. If you have opportunities for them, feel free to contact them (Fig. 4).

Thank you to our non-categorical interns Chao (Teddy) Dong, Min Lin and Ru Jing (Rose) Zhou who have been spectacular and really stepped up when we were short staffed. We look forward to seeing their OMS careers flourish.

The fifth-year residents, Drs. Joshua Alumbaugh, Michael Snow and Robert Ly will be returning to the OMS service after 3 years away in medical school and general surgery. They are eager to get operating, and we are grateful to have them back on service.

Our newbies have arrived. We are wrapping up their orientations. It always amazes me how they quickly adapt to the pace and explosion of information that comes their way. This year is unique as we have the World Cup taking place at the same time as their arrival. UW has multiple disaster plans in place including mass casualty and cyber-attack but also given the additional 1.6 million visitors to Seattle we are prepared for a general uptake is the usual trauma and infection. Thankfully so far no excessive I work has come our way.

A big thank you to our affiliates for taking call with us – the residents love working with you all and gaining your insights. And finally, to our wonderful full-time faculty and staff, without you all, we would not be the program we are today thank you!

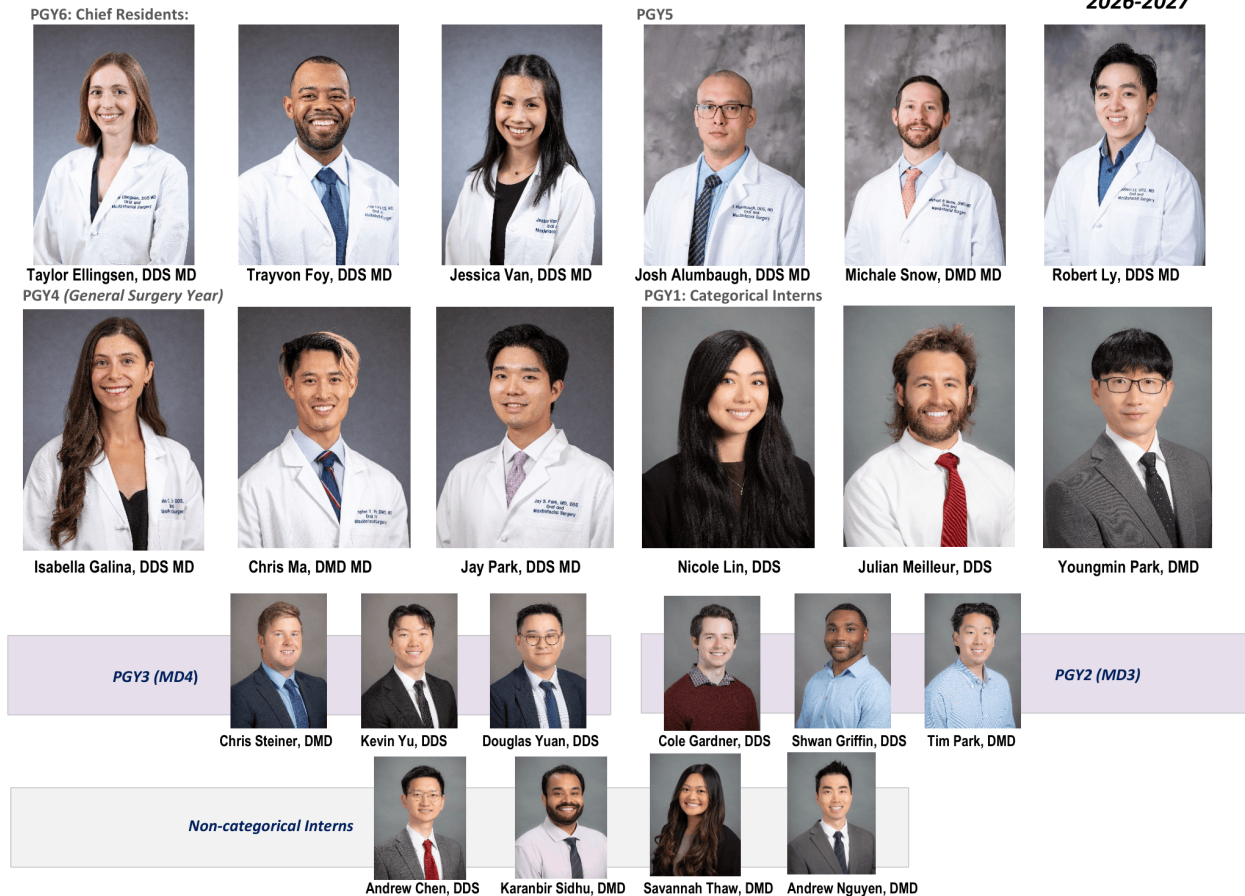


Figure 4. 2026-2027 Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Residents and Interns

GENERAL PRACTICE RESIDENCY (GPR) PROGRAM

Dr. Ryan O'Connor

Congratulations to the GPR Class of 2025–2026! (Fig. 5).

Congratulations to all our graduates! This year's residents were bright and demonstrated exceptional teamwork throughout the year. Each resident brought a unique perspective, strong dedication to patient care, and a clear commitment to learning (also, lots of candy during lectures).

We are very proud of all they have accomplished and are excited to see where their careers take them.

Graduates

Amy Chingfang Chang – University of British Columbia
Guan Yu Chen – Université de Montréal
Emmanuel De La Torre – University of Texas
Eric Ge – McGill University
Lisa Ha – Columbia University
Hayeon Min – McGill University
Alejandro Albarran Montoya – University of the Pacific
Owen Tam – University of Washington



*Figure 5. 2026 Seattle King County Clinic
Front row (L-R) Lisa Ha, Evi Sipola (attending), Amy Chang, Ivy Lin (attending), and Hayeon Min
Back row (L-R) Guan Yu Chen, Alejandro Albarran Montoya, Emmanuel De La Torre, and Eric Ge*

Many thanks to all of our dedicated volunteers: Theresa Madden, Doosu Baik, Simon Prior, Tracy Tran, Dave Kraayenbrink, and Lorenzo Marcil. Our volunteers' time, teaching, and support continue to have a meaningful impact on our residents and patients.

I would also like to thank our faculty and administrative team for their continued dedication to the program. A special thank you to Lani Jodlowski for all of your hard work and support. We completed our CODA Accreditation site visit in the fall of 2025 and received official confirmation of approval without recommendations earlier this year. This achievement is a testament to the tremendous efforts of Lani, Dr. Ivy Lin, and the outstanding instructors at each of our clinical sites.

Best,
Ryan O'Connor
Program Director, General Practice Residency

PRE-DOCTORAL ACTIVITIES

Dr. John Evans

As we implement the revised, comprehensive-care curriculum for pre-doctoral dental students we have, for the first time, an easy-to-use yet remarkably comprehensive database that allows faculty advisors to track, day-by-day, the progress our third- and fourth-year students make toward competency and graduation. The new database also tracks the progress each patient makes toward the completion of a comprehensive treatment plan to include an active recall program designed to continue well into the future. We have never had at our disposal information this current and comprehensive. Our estimate is that we will be tracking the clinical progress of some eight thousand patients. We will also be able to track the associated academic progress of our students through this critical phase of their education.

On the didactic, side we are using educational technology that allows our faculty to maintain, and in most cases, augment the scope of the topics we formally address in our classes. We are taking advantage of asynchronous teaching techniques that allow the same number of faculty to teach more students effectively. Our basic biomedical and clinical science curriculum must keep up with the profession as it grows and changes. No specialty requires this more than Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

We are, of course, taking advantage of AI and digital imaging as best we can, given the costs associated with incorporating those modalities in both the didactic and clinical the curricula.

As we implement the changes noted above, we have come to realize, yet again, that the heart of dental education is the one-on-one contact of our students with teachers in the clinical setting. As I have noted many times over the years, we are always looking for real world practitioners who would like to help us in this critical phase of dental education. Send us a note or give us a call if you would like to help.

FACULTY PRESENTATIONS and LECTURES

1. **Dillon JK.** Trigeminal nerve injuries, how to assess and manage. *Eastside Study Club* (100 attendees), January 8, 2026.
2. **Dillon JK.** The MAGA effect and why we are so special. Keynote – *Austrian Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Annual meeting*. – Bad Hofganstein, Austria, January 28, 2026.
3. **Dillon JK.** What's the role of medical therapies for odontogenic pathologies? *UCSF 32nd Annual Symposium*. February 23, 2026.
4. Yuan, Jiaxin, Snow M, **Dillon JK, Lee KC:** Is timing of adjuvant therapy associated with disease recurrence in oral cavity squamous cell carcinoma? Presented AACMFS Bellevue WA April 2026. Winner of pathology section.
5. Yuan, Jiaxin, Yung-Hsin, Chen, **Dillon JK, Lee K:** Is body mass index (BMI) associated with fibula free flap skin paddle thickness? Presented AACMFS Bellevue WA April 2026.
6. **Dillon JK.** Red and White Pathologies: What's new and what's next? *Canadian Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Annual meeting*. Prince Edward Island June 12, 2026.

7. **Gaal A.** International Cleft Care: Where's My Roadmap? *UW Operation Smile Lecture*, Seattle WA, February 2026.
8. **Gaal A.** Craniofacial Differences. *UW Pediatric Dentistry Residency*, virtual, April 2026.
9. **Gaal A.** Injury Patterns and Contributing Factors in Electric Scooter Incidents: An Analysis from a Level I Trauma Center in Seattle. *American Academy of Craniomaxillofacial Surgeons*, Seattle WA, April 2026. Winner of the trauma abstract session.
10. **Gaal A.** Bilateral Cheilorhinoplasty Techniques May be applied to rare facial clefts: a case report and literature review. *American Academy of Craniomaxillofacial Surgeons*, Seattle WA, April 2026.
11. **Gaal A.** Cleft Surgical Outreach Year #6: What Have We Learned? *OMS Grand Rounds*, Seattle WA, May 2026.
12. **Lee KC.** What is oral and maxillofacial surgery? University of Washington, *Delta Delta Sigma Pre dental Society*, Seattle WA, February 26, 2026.
13. **Lee KC.** Head and neck soft tissue flap reconstruction Columbia University, *Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery*, virtual, May 28, 2026.
14. **Lin IF.** Environmental Sustainability in Dentistry. *UW Delta Epsilon Mu General Meeting*, Seattle WA, January 2026.
15. **Lin IF.** Sustainable Smiles: Integrating Eco-Friendly Practices in Dentistry. *Snohomish County Dental Society Meeting*, virtual, March 2026.
16. **Susarla SM.** Management of Temporomandibular Joint Arthritis in Children. *Rheumatology Teaching Conference*, Seattle Children's Hospital, Seattle, WA. January 8, 2026.
17. **Susarla S**, Chandra SR, Robitschek J (panelists). How Would You Do It? Zygoma. *AO CMF North America Case Discussion Webinar*. February 5, 2026.
18. **Susarla SM.** Contemporary Management of Pediatric Facial Injuries. *Pediatric Dentistry Teaching Rounds*, University of Washington, Seattle, WA. February 6, 2026.
19. **Susarla SM.** Orthognathic Surgery in Atypical Settings. Orthognathic Surgery: Contemporary Concepts. *AO CMF North America*, Austin, TX. March 21, 2026.
20. **Susarla SM.** My Worst Case and What I Learned From It. Orthognathic Surgery: Contemporary Concepts. *AO CMF North America*, Austin, TX. March 22, 2026.
21. **Susarla SM.** Mandibular reconstruction using free tissue transfer and simultaneous dental implant placement: Step-by-Step computer-assisted planning. *AO CMF North America Webinar*. April 13, 2026.
22. **Susarla SM.** Cleft Orthognathic Surgery: Five Common Questions (and Some Answers). *International Society of Craniofacial Surgery*, Webinar, June 16, 2026.

PUBLICATIONS

1. Moen, G and **Dillon JK.** Use of leeches in oral and maxillofacial surgery. *J Oral Maxillofac Surg* 2026 May 84:801-811
2. Yuan D, **Lee KC, Dillon JK:** Complex reconstruction in advanced temporomandibular joint disease. OMSNIC website resident case publication February 2026.
3. Panesar KS, Smith, C, Zhang Z, **Dodson TB, Burke A.** Do cannabis users require more anesthesia during third molar removal under intravenous general anesthesia when compared to nonusers? *J Oral Maxillofac Surg* 84:641-8, 2026.
4. Carbone LD, Le B, Elam RE, Budde E, Huo Z, Finch D, **Dodson TB**, et al. Validity of International Classification of Diseases (ICD)-9 and ICD-10 Codes for Medication-Related Osteonecrosis of the Jaw (MRONJ) Among Individuals Prescribed Antiresorptives for Fracture Prevention Across Two Cohorts. *Clin Epidemiol*. 2026;18:601221
5. Smiley CJ, Frantsve-Hawley J, Parks M, Lynch F, O'Brien K, Thieme E, **Dodson T**, et al. Guidance for Authors, Editors and Publishers on the Use of Generative AI 2026. <https://commons.ada.org/individualscholarship/9>.
6. **Dodson TB.** Contemplating one's novel. *J Oral Maxillofac Surg* 84:1-2, 2026.
7. **Dodson TB.** Are you scared yet? *J Oral Maxillofac Surg* 84: 435-6, 2026.
8. Clark, Alexa BA; **Gaal, Austin DDS, MPH, FACS.** Bilateral Cheilorhinoplasty Techniques May Be Applied to an Incomplete Rare Facial Cleft: Case Report and Literature Review. *Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery-Global Open* 14(2):p e7526, February 2026. | DOI: 10.1097/GOX.0000000000007526.
9. Yuan J, Lazaro T, Sekhar LN, **Lee KC.** Calcified chondroid mesenchymal neoplasm of the temporomandibular joint: a rare and recently described benign tumor. *Case Rep Otolaryngol*. 2026:8249368
10. Yuan J, Snow MG, **Lee KC.** Impact of infrapopliteal artery variants and peripheral artery disease on fibula free flap planning. *Radiol Case Rep*. 2026;21(8):3057-3061
11. Selznick H, **Lee KC**, Hershberger M, Panchal N, Brandfon B, Ford BP. Is body mass index (BMI) an independent risk factor for peri-implantitis? *J Oral Maxillofac Surg*. 2026;84(5):710-719
12. Lee S, Tse RW, **Susarla SM.** Discussion: Principles and Techniques to Reduce the Incidence of Fistula: A

- Review of over 1000 Cleft Palate Repairs by a Single Surgeon. *Plast Reconstr Surg*. 2026 Jun 1;157(6):1058-1061.
13. Tse RW, Breugem C, **Susarla SM**, Sitzman TJ. Reconstruction of Fistulas Following Cleft Palate Repair. *Oral Maxillofac Surg Clin North Am*. 2026 May;38(2):245-258.
 14. Teal L, Tevlin R, Matos ML, **Susarla SM**. Orthognathic Surgery for Cleft-Related Maxillomandibular Discrepancies. *Oral Maxillofac Surg Clin North Am*. 2026 May;38(2):285-300.
 15. Cordero DM, **Burke A**, **Susarla SM**. Discussion: Demystifying Maxillomandibular Fibrous Dysplasia and Its Impact on Dental Development. *Plast Reconstr Surg*. 2026 Mar 1;157(3):513-514.
 16. **Susarla SM**. Timing of Intervention for Acquired Nasolacrimal Duct Obstruction. SNIPS Post-traumatic Lacrimal Obstruction Collection. *American Society of Plastic Surgeons*. January 25, 2026.
 17. Lee S, Kapadia H, **Susarla SM**. My Way: Technical Pearls for Cleft Orthognathic Surgery. *International Society of Craniofacial Surgery, Summer Newsletter*, June 2026.
 18. Massenburg BB, **Susarla SM**. Survival Analysis. In Eltorai EM, Bakal JA, Gong JH, Kallianen L, Liu PY Eds. *Handbook for Designing and Conducting Clinical and Translational Research - Translational Plastic Surgery*. 2026, Pages 381-384. Elsevier.
 19. **Susarla SM**, Ettinger RE. Management of Cleft Lip and Palate. *Oral Maxillofac Surg Clin North Am*. 2026 May;38(2):xiii-xiv.

HONORS AND AWARDS

1. **Ahn I**. American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Dental Student Award.
2. **Dahm N**. American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Dental Implant Award.
3. **Dillon JK**. WA Top Dentist. 2026.
4. **Dillon JK**. AACMF President. 2025-2026.
5. **Dillon JK**. AACMF Immediate Past President and Associate Executive Director. 2026-2027.
6. **Gaal A**. Abstract Winner: Trauma. *American Academy of Craniomaxillofacial Surgeons*, Seattle, WA. Injury Patterns and Contributing Factors in Electric Scooter Incidents: An Analysis from a Level I Trauma Center in Seattle. 2026.
7. **Gaal A**. Bolivia Healing the Children Northeast, Santa Cruz, January 2026.
8. **Gaal A**. Peru- Free To Smile, *Arequipa*, April 2026.
9. **Susarla SM**. Adjunct Professor, *Neurological Surgery*.
10. **Susarla SM**. Research Educator Award, *Division of Plastic Surgery, Department of Surgery, University of Washington*.
11. **Susarla SM**. Top Doctor 2026, *Castle Connolly*.
12. **Susarla SM**. Nominee, Educator of the Year, *AO CMF North America*.
13. **Susarla SM**. Editorial Board, *Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery*.
14. **Susarla SM**. Associate Editor, *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*.
15. **Susarla SM**. Associate Editor, *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Global Open*.
16. **Susarla SM**. Board of Directors, *Children's University Medical Group*.
17. **Lee KC**. Ramon Ruiz Traveling Fellowship Award. 2026.
18. **Lee KC**. AACMF Meeting Best Abstract: *Head and Neck Oncology*. 2026. Is timing of adjuvant therapy associated with disease recurrence in oral cavity squamous cell carcinoma?

FACULTY AND AFFILIATE FACULTY

FULL-TIME OMS FACULTY

Thomas B. Dodson, Chair
 Jasjit Dillon, Program Director, OMS
 Ryan O'Connor, Program Director, GPR
 Hiba Qari, Program Director, Oral Pathology
 Biopsy Service
 O. Ross Beirne
 Andrea Burke
 Mark Egbert

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 Sasidhar Narra
 Yirae Ort
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Kevin Lee
Sasidhar Narra
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If your name is missing, please let us know

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Anthony Feider
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Kristine Grace
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Gregg Hyde
Philip Kaiser
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Adam Kennedy
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Rachel Lim
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Brian Rubens
Matt Ryskalczyk
Vincent Slovan
Christopher Steen
Mark Stivers
Srinivas Susarla
Bryan Swanson
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Tracy Tran
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