

**University of Washington**  
**School of Dentistry**  
**Graduate Prosthodontics Program**  
**Newsletter**



**2024**

## Message from Restorative Department Chair



Dear Alumni,

It is with great pride and excitement that I step into the role of Chair of the Department of Restorative Dentistry at the **University of Washington** as of July this year. Having had the privilege of working at several other esteemed institutions, I feel incredibly fortunate to now lead this department, which has a rich history of excellence in education, research, and clinical practice. The University of Washington is renowned for fostering innovation and collaboration, and I am thrilled to participate in its continued success.

The graduate prosthodontic program holds a stellar reputation that spans decades. This program has been instrumental in shaping the careers of countless internationally renowned prosthodontists. Under the **leadership of Dr. Van Ramos**, the program continues to flourish. Dr. Ramos has done a remarkable job nurturing the enthusiasm of our residents, guiding them to become not only proficient clinicians but also budding researchers. The alumni of this program play a critical role in its ongoing success, providing invaluable support and mentorship that further elevate the quality of education and training we offer.

In November this year, the program underwent its most recent **CODA site visit**, which affirmed its outstanding reputation. The site visitors were so impressed that they made no recommendations for improvement—a testament to the program's excellence. Three specific areas of strength were highlighted during the visit: the robust research initiatives and impressive outcomes achieved by our faculty and residents; the exceptional laboratory support that enables high-quality prosthodontic education and care; and the remarkable faculty, who bring international recognition and expertise to the program.

As we look to the **future**, our vision is to elevate the graduate prosthodontic program to even greater heights. Together, with the support of our dedicated graduate faculty, residents, alumni, and staff, we aim to build on this legacy of excellence. By embracing innovation, fostering collaboration, and continuing to prioritize the success of our residents, we are poised to lead the field of prosthodontics into the next chapter.

Sincerely,

Alvin G. Wee, DDS, PhD, MPH  
Professor and Chair, Department of  
Restorative Dentistry  
Maxillofacial Prosthodontists

## Message from Program Director



Hello again to everyone, and thanks for reading this update. It has been another great year of learning and patient treatment for the residents. We had four residents graduate earlier this year in June. I want to thank those of you who were able to attend. It is always great for the residents to interact with alumni so they can see that there actually is life after residency training. This year, the graduates were Amr Abouzeid, Marco Bergamini, Marwan Fattouhi, and Seoyoun Hahn. Amr is practicing in Minnesota; Marco is teaching at Texas A&M University College of Dentistry in Dallas; Marwan is doing a one-year fellowship in Maxillofacial Prosthodontics at MD Anderson in Houston; and Seoyoun is teaching at the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine.

They have all passed at least one part of the American Board of Prosthodontics exam, so they are on their way to board certification. Congratulations to them! Each one was also awarded their Masters of Science in Dentistry (MSD).

Amr Abouzeid: Comparison of surface roughness and bacterial colonization of zirconia and the effect of repeated firing on color stability of zirconia colored by liquid ceramics.

Marco Bergamini: Evaluation of Surface Roughness Change of Three Dental Implants Topography After Exposure to Different Decontamination Treatments.

Marwan Fattouhi: Color Stability of Prosthodontic Tooth Polymers Stored in Chromogenic Solutions.

Seoyoun Hahn: Assessment of internal connection on angle screw channel systems.

### Recap of the Year

A large part of the year was dedicated to getting ready for the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) site visit. January included a mock site visit to make sure all the graduate programs were making progress in their respective preparations. Thankfully, we passed the inspection, and the program is fully accredited for the next 7 years. Accreditation is very important because residents must graduate from an accredited program to be eligible to do challenge the American Board of prosthodontics.

The David H. Wands Luncheon was held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of January to recognize the new Wands Fellowship awardee, Dr. Ludovic (Vico) de Carle. As usual, it was a great occasion.

In February, the residents and I attended the American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics annual session and the alumni dinner. This year marked the handing of the baton from Bob Simon to Mike Waliszewski at Joe's Seafood, Prime Steak, and Stone Crab. Thank you, Bob, for all your years of service. Thank you, Mike, for agreeing to take the reins and keep the event going.

March, April, and most of May were pretty quiet, except for CODA preparations. At the end of May, we had the Wands Fellowship Ceremony to recognize Dr. Shayan Niaki as the latest Wands Fellowship recipient.

The graduation ceremony was held on June 5, 2024. We had almost 80 people in attendance, which is our biggest crowd so far. On the Friday following graduation, we had the Ralph Yuodelis Lectureship for which Tal Mor was our honored speaker. He drew a large crowd and helped us raise almost \$6000 for the program.

At the end of June, we welcomed new first year residents Nivedita Chinam (India), Jayden Park (Canada), and Cindy Robillard (Canada).

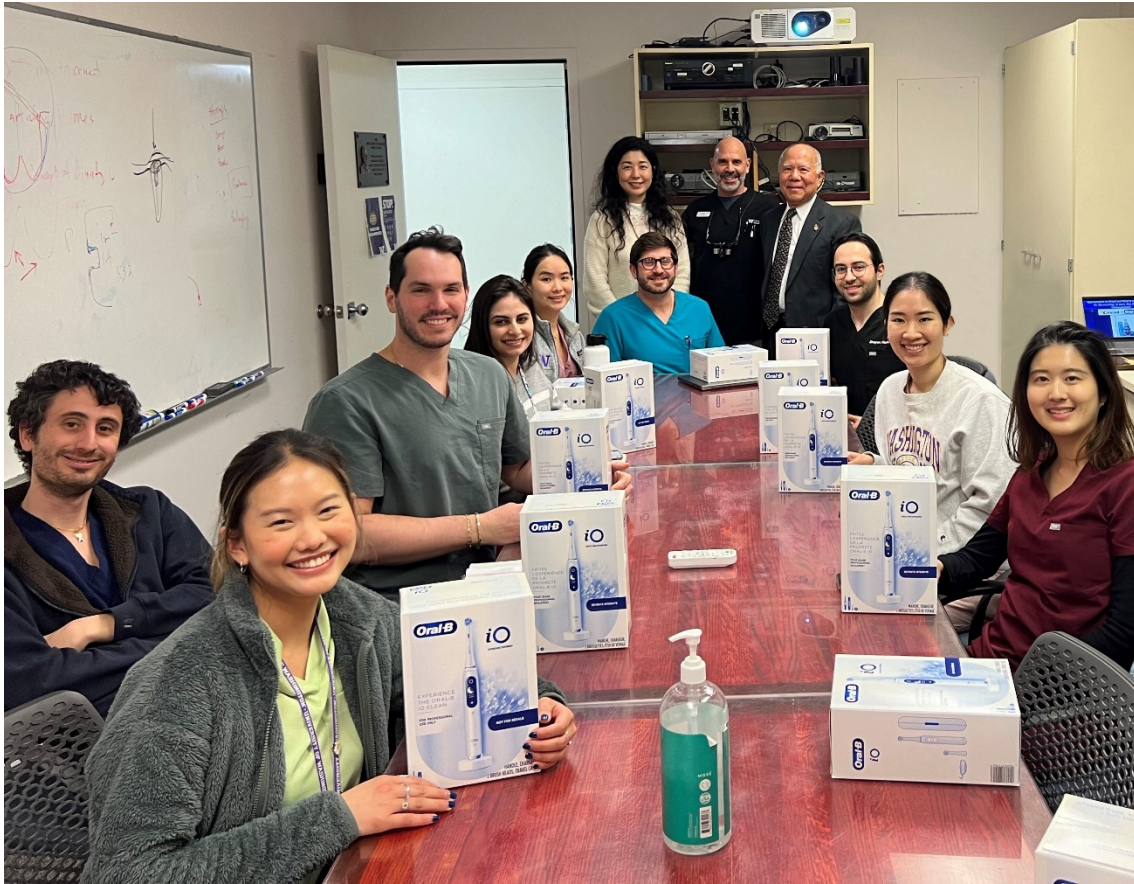
In the first part of July, we moved part of our clinic operation to Grad Perio to accommodate the replacement of water pipes throughout the School of Dentistry. At the end of July, former resident Phillipe Khayat was in town to give a 4-hour lecture to the residents. We were back in our clinic by the end of July.

At the beginning of the fall quarter, we were able to finish the lab renovations. The graduate prosthodontics lab is now known as The David H. Wands Graduate Prosthodontics Laboratory. Thanks to Dave, we were able to upgrade old equipment and purchase new digital tools for the residents.

I want to thank all our alumni for supporting us, and I want to particularly thank those who were able to come see us in person or make a specific contribution: Will Eunku Chung, Marwan Fattouhi, Josh Manchester, Tal Mor, Chandur Wadhvani, Philippe Khayat, Warren Libman, Jae Son Kim, Keith Phillips, Dave Wands, Bree Hsu, Thomas Marxen, Sharareh Tajbakhsh, Jon Suzuki, and Alex Shor.

As we celebrate our achievements and look to the future, I invite you to consider supporting our program—your generosity can help us overcome current challenges, advance our mission, and sustain both our tradition of excellence and our position as a leader in dental education. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our program.

Van Ramos, Jr. DDS, FACP  
Program Director, Graduate Prosthodontics  
[vanramos@uw.edu](mailto:vanramos@uw.edu)



*On May 3, Dr. Jon Suzuki delivered a lecture on Osteoporosis and ONJ to the residents.*

## With Gratitude to Dr. Chan, and a Warm Welcome to Dr. Wee!

Dr. Chan stepped down as department chair in 2024. We extend our deepest gratitude to Dr. Chan for his years of dedicated service and leadership as department chair. Through his vision, commitment, and compassion, Dr. Chan has made a lasting impact on our department, enriching both our team and the community.



The department faculty got together to honor Dr. Chan's contributions and celebrate Dr. Wee's new leadership at Ivar's Salmon House.



*Thank you, Dr. Chan!*



*Welcome, Dr. Wee!*

## **With Gratitude to Dr. Chan, and a Warm Welcome to Dr. Wee! (continued)**

We are excited to welcome Dr. Alvin Wee as the new Chair of the Department of Restorative Dentistry. Dr. Wee brings valuable experience, strong leadership, and a passion for Dentistry. We look forward to working together and are confident that the department will continue to grow and succeed under Dr. Wee's guidance. Please join us in giving a warm welcome to Dr. Wee!

### **Dr. Alvin Wee's Professional Bio**

*(The wording in this section is borrowed from Dr. André Ritter, Dean, UW School of Dentistry)*

Dr. Wee earned his Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree from the National University of Singapore in 1992. He received his Certificate in Prosthodontics and a MS degree from the University of Iowa in 1997. He then earned a Certificate in Maxillofacial Prosthetics from the University of Pittsburgh and followed with a Certificate in Clinical Research and a master's degree in public health from The Ohio State University. He completed his DDS from Creighton University in 2013. He earned a PhD from the University of Nebraska in 2014.

Before joining UW, Dr. Wee was the Director of the Division of Prosthodontics, Department of Restorative Sciences at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry. He had his faculty practice one day a week at the Minneapolis VA Health Care System.

Dr. Wee is the President of the American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics and an Honorary Treasurer for the International Academy of Oral and Facial Rehabilitation. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the American College of Prosthodontists, as the Director of the Prosthodontic Forum. Dr. Wee is one of three Assistant Editors of *The Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry*. He is an external examiner for the National University of Singapore and Hong Kong University.

## Student Achievements

### Student Research Grants

- 2023 ACPEF Research Fellowship Grant  
Dr. Mevadee Pibulniyom: Stability of Angled Multi-Unit Abutments in Complete-Arch Fixed Implant-Supported Prosthesis (Dr. Kwok-Hung Chung)

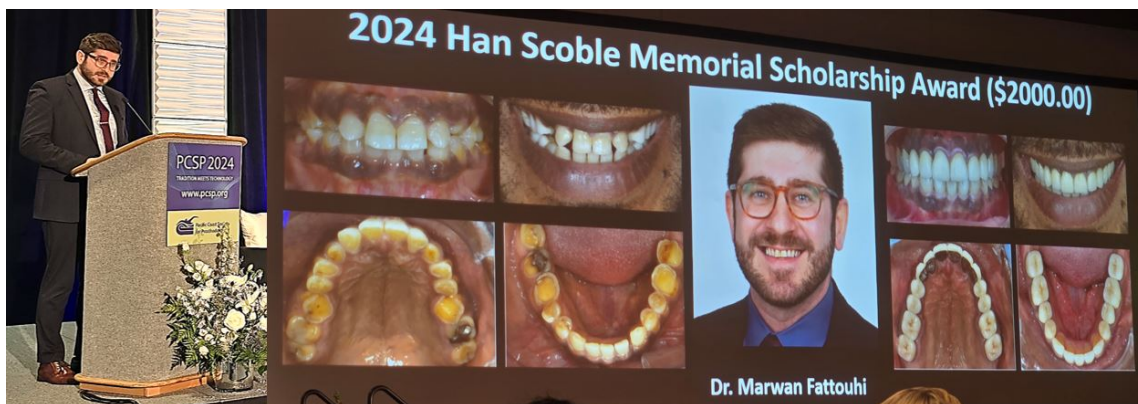
### Student National Awards

A recent graduate, Dr. Amr Abouzeid, was recognized with several prestigious awards in 2024, including the first place in the Clinical Innovation Case Studies Category at the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) meeting.



*Dr. Amr Abouzeid*

At the 89<sup>th</sup> Pacific Coast Society for Prosthodontics meeting, Dr. Marwan Fattouhi, a recent graduate, got 1st place for best clinical case, and Dr. Amr Abouzeid got 3rd place in the research competition.



*Dr. Marwan Fattouhi*



## **Student MSD Research Projects**

- **Dr. Esther Yi Ting Chen:** To Be Determined
- **Dr. Ludovic de Carle:** Effect of Various Mandibular Incisor Tooth Preparation Designs and Remaining Tooth Dimensions on Resistance Fatigue Loading (Dr. John Sorensen)
- **Dr. Mevadee Pibulniyom:** Stability of Angled Multi-Unit Abutments in Implant-Supported Fixed Complete Dental Prostheses (Dr. Kwok-Hung Chung)

## Graduation for Class of 2024

On June 5, we had the pleasure of celebrating the graduation of four residents, Drs. Amr Abouzeid, Marco Bergamini, Marwan Fattouhi and Seoyoun Hahn.

Amr is practicing in Minnesota; Marco is teaching at Texas A&M University College of Dentistry in Dallas; Marwan is doing a one-year fellowship in Maxillofacial Prosthodontics at MD Anderson in Houston; and Seoyoun is teaching at the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine.

We would like to thank people who donated to support the event. This year's graduation ceremony was sponsored in part by Drs. Will Eunku Chung, John Kois, Warren Libman, Jeffrey Rubenstein, Alex Shor, Kavita Shor, and John Sorensen.



*From left to right: Drs. Marwan Fattouhi, Amr Abouzeid, Marco Bergamini and Seoyoun Hahn*

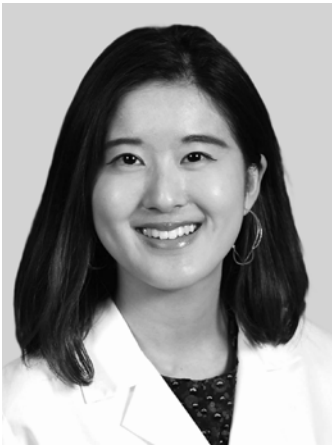
## Current Students

### 3rd Year Students

Dr. Esther Yi-Ting Chen earned her DDS from Chung Shan Medical University (Taiwan)

Dr. Ludovic de Carle earned his DDS from New York University

Dr. Mevadee Pibulniyom earned her DDS from Chulalongkorn University (Thailand)



**Esther**



**Ludovic**



**Mevadee**

### 2nd Year Students

Dr. Sarah Haddad earned her DDS from University of Jordan (Jordan)

Dr. Trisawan Limmaneevichitr earned her DDS from Mahidol University (Thailand)

Dr. Shayan Niaki earned his DDS from New York University



**Sarah**



**Trisawan**



**Shayan**

## Current Students (continued)

### 1st Year Students

Dr. Nivedita Chinam earned her BDS from Goa Dental College and Hospital (India)

Dr. Jaehee Park earned his DMD from University of Manitoba (Canada)

Dr. Cindy Robillard earned her DMD from McGill University (Canada)



**Nivedita**



**Jaehee**



**Cindy**

## Wands Fellows in Prosthodontics Named for 2024-25



Dr. Shayan Niaki, a second-year prosthodontics resident, has been selected as the 16th recipient of the David H. Wands Fellowship in Graduate Prosthodontics.

The Wands Fellowship is the most prestigious endowed graduate fellowship in dentistry at the University of Washington and one of the largest private endowments awarded through any graduate prosthodontics program in the country.

Established by Dr. David Wands, who graduated from the program in 1972, the intent of the fellowship is to support and inspire its recipients to pursue an academic career, either full or part-time, in prosthodontic education.

“Dr. Niaki was chosen because he displays the superlative characteristics of a Wands Fellow, namely honesty, integrity, selfless service, and a desire to teach and disseminate prosthodontic knowledge,” said Dr. Van Ramos, Director of the Graduate Prosthodontics program.

Hailing from Southern California, Dr. Niaki made a big life change when he decided to move across the country to attend the New York University College of Dentistry for his Doctor of Dental Surgery. During his time at NYU, he discovered that he was interested in pursuing a specialty.

“My friends and mentors encouraged me to believe that if you love doing something, try to pursue a specialty in that,” said Dr. Niaki. After graduation, he went on to participate in the one-year Advanced Education in General Dentistry at his undergraduate alma mater, UCLA. While there, he participated in general residency training, followed by two years of general dentistry in private practice in Los Angeles.

“I realized at that time I wanted to improve my knowledge and pursue prosthodontics,” Dr. Niaki said. “I felt that I was at a point in my career where I was not going to improve dramatically by just treating patients and learning from those experiences. I thought that would put me on too long of a trajectory to be able to reach the end goal I had in mind.”

The desire to learn led Dr. Niaki to the UW School of Dentistry’s Graduate Prosthodontics program, where he is now focused on not only learning as much as he can but learning how to teach others as well.

“Dr. Ramos always tells us, ‘practicing prosthodontics and teaching prosthodontics are two different things,’” said Dr. Niaki. “With everything turning more digital going into the future, my goal will be to help the next generation of prosthodontists understand the foundations, because without having those understandings, you may not be able to use the digital aids.”

Dr. Niaki says he plans to use the fellowship support to help him acquire his own set of specialized instruments to be able to carry with him for the span of his career, as well as to help pay for the travel costs of attending prosthodontics meetings.



*Celebrating Dr. Niaki's Fellowship Award at the School of Dentistry's 7th Annual Scholarship Luncheon on October 11*

## **New Dental Assistant**

We are pleased to introduce Sarah Howard as the newest member of the Graduate Prosthodontics team. Sarah joined us on September 16, 2024, and brings with her a dedication to patient care and a commitment to supporting the program. Please join us in welcoming Sarah as she settles into her new position!



### **Message from Sarah**

I am so excited to be joining the Graduate Prosthodontics clinic! This past summer, I graduated as President of my Dental Assisting class. For my externship, I worked at the Neighborcare Clinic in Beacon Hill. I love to spend time with my friends, shop, hike, and read. I live in downtown Ballard with my dad and my Maltese-toy poodle, Joey.

Sarah takes over for Susan Killebrew, who transitioned to other department within the SOD. We extend our sincere thanks to Susan for her valuable contributions and dedication to the program, and we wish her all the best in her new role!

## Grad Pros New Student Interviews

On October 21 and 22, there was a new student interview for Grad Pros program. This year, the interview was held later than usual due to the water pipe project in the B and D wings. The interview consisted of a written exam, a lab exercise, and a formal interview with the selection committee.

Three admitted students will join the program in June 2025.



*During the reception, our 3<sup>rd</sup> year residents presented the program.*



## Faculty News/Updates in 2024

*(Some content in this section was adapted from the department newsletter, and other updates were provided by faculty members.)*

- **Dr. Van Ramos, Jr.** was informed of being the recipient of the 2025 George H. Moulton Achievement Award. The Moulton Award is named for Dr. George H. Moulton, one of the visionary founders of the American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontist, its first secretary and sixth president, and recognized members who have made a significant impact and contribution to the art and science of fixed prosthodontics and who have demonstrated lifetime service to the field. This prestigious award is the highest honor bestowed by the Academy.
- **Dr. Jeffrey Rubenstein** and his mentee were honored with the Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry's prestigious Judson Hickey Award in recognition of their impactful publication. "A Successful Implant-Supported Fixed Prosthesis in a Patient with Osteopetrosis: A Clinical Report" Mills CB, Steinberg J, Rubenstein JE, Lee PP. This award is bestowed annually to the most significant clinical publication in the journal. Also, he presented at the 2024 UW/Dentway Collaboration Annual Course on Comprehensive Esthetic and Implant Dentistry, held July 11–13. This International CDE event was sponsored by the Restorative Department.
- **Dr. John Sorensen** returned to full duties in January from his sabbatical. He presented an abstract titled "Marginal Fidelity and Damage Induction of Chairside Milling Machines" at the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Annual Session & Exhibition in March. Dr. Pakwan Varapongsittikul was the co-author. He also presented via Zoom for an ACP Educators meeting lecture on "Creating a Successful Research Curriculum for the Graduate Prosthodontics Program."
- **Dr. Alan Sutton** was appointed as Graduate Faculty within the Department of Restorative Dentistry in October. He was invited to lecture at the American College of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons Annual Scientific Conference & Exhibition from October 26–28, 2024, in Scottsdale, AZ. The title of his presentation was "Prosthodontic Considerations in Implant Placement: The Oral Surgeon and the Prosthodontist."

## Faculty News/Updates in 2024 (continued)

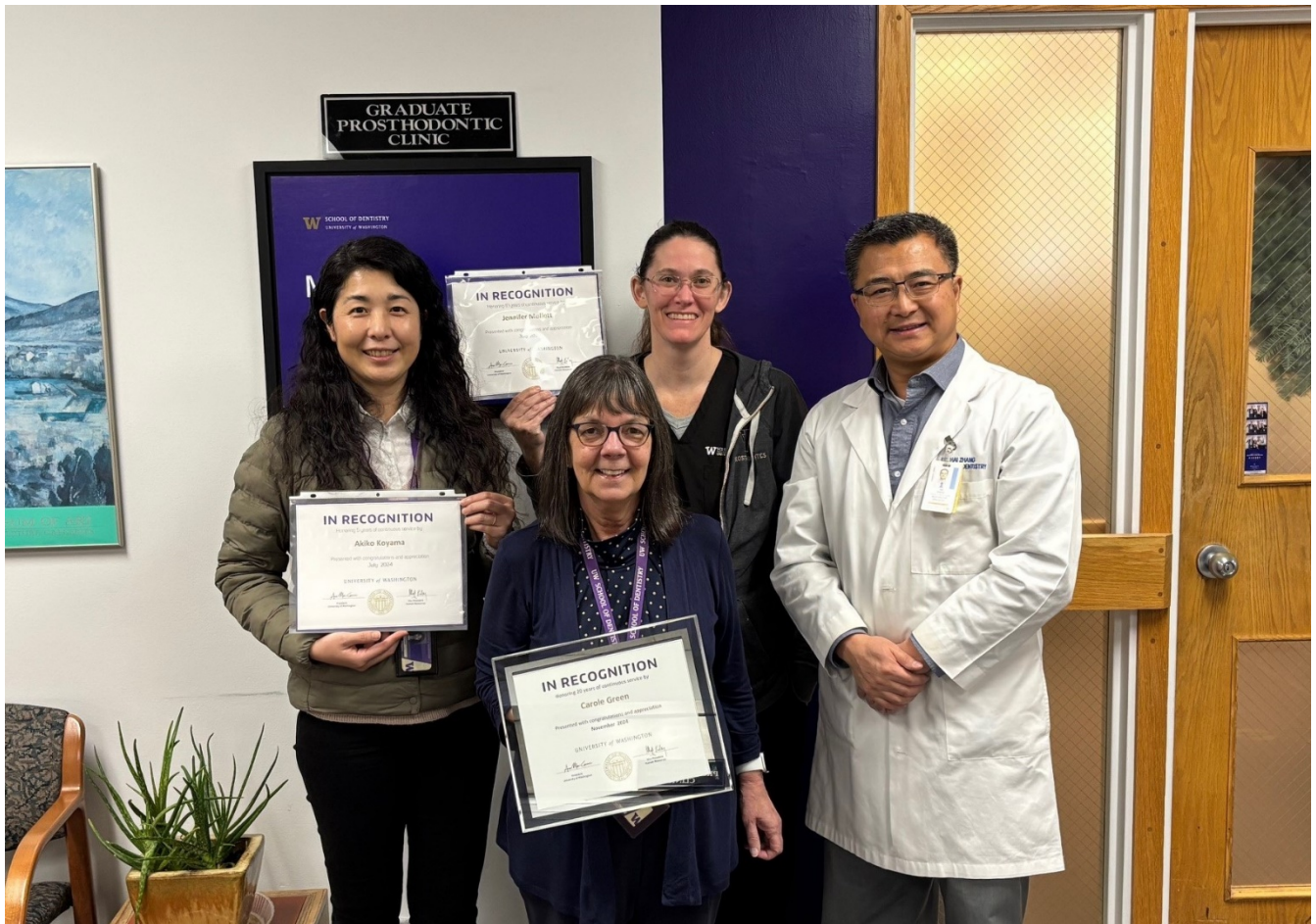
- **Dr. Hai Zhang** completed his ADEA Leadership Institute certification in March, 2024. In September, he was invited to present at the Bay Area Dental EXPO in San Jose. The title of his presentation was “Dental Tissue Regeneration – Current Status and Future Possibilities in Restorative Dentistry.” In July, he attended the summer AAFP Board of Directors meeting in Mystic, CT (together with UW Grad Pros Alumnus Dr. Bob Walter). As the Chair of the ACP Research Committee, he moderated the John Sharry Prosthodontic Research Competition and presented awards to the winners in the ACP annual session in October (Marco Island, FL). He also volunteered at the Seattle/King County Clinics in February and supervised dental students in the Medical Teams International (MTI) event at ROOTs Young Adult Shelter in the summer.



*Drs. Bob Walter and Hai Zhang at the AAFP summer BOD meeting*

## Celebrating Milestones: Faculty and Staff's Years of Service at UW

This year, Dr. Zhang and Carole Green celebrated 20 years of working at UW, Jennifer Mollett marked 10 years, and Akiko Koyama reached 5 years. Please join us in thanking them for their hard work and congratulating them on their milestones.



*From left to right: Akiko Koyama, Carole Green, Jennifer Mollett and Dr. Hai Zhang*

## **Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) Site Visit**

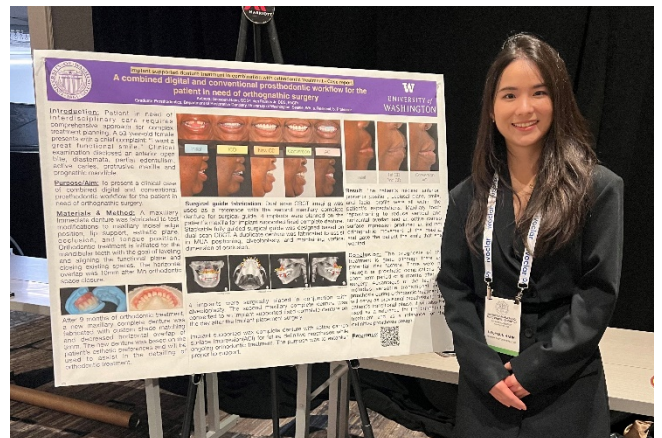
The accreditation site visit took place from November 19–21, focusing on six programs within the School of Dentistry, including the Graduate Prosthodontics Program. We are pleased to report that our program received no recommendations, a testament to the hard work and dedication of our faculty, staff, and students.

The site visit team highlighted several strengths in our program, such as the strong lab support staff, the commitment of its program director, and the research output of the prosthodontic graduate students.

We extend our gratitude to everyone who contributed to this successful outcome.

# Conferences and Meetings

Residents and faculty members attended the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Scientific Session of the American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics in February.





*Alumni Dinner at AAFP in February*

## Alumni Survey

*(If you have done this last year, thank you and no need to do it again.)*

Dear Alumni,

In order to improve communication with you, please spend a few minutes filling out this short alumnus information form and return to us by email, fax or mail at:

Akiko Koyama  
 Program Coordinator  
 Graduate Prosthodontics  
 UW Restorative Dentistry  
 1959 NE Pacific St., HSB D-780, Box 357456  
 Seattle, WA 98195

Tel: 206-543-5923  
 Fax: 206-543-7783  
 Email: [akikok2@uw.edu](mailto:akikok2@uw.edu)

**Of course, all information is optional.**

<b>Name</b>			
<b>Year you started the program</b>		<b>Year you completed the program</b>	
<b>Work address</b>		<b>Telephone</b>	
<b>Home address</b>		<b>Telephone</b>	
<b>Email</b>		<b>Website</b>	
<b>Private practice</b> (please circle)	<b>Yes or No</b>	<b>Full-time or part-time</b>	
<b>Academic teaching</b> (please circle)	<b>Yes or No</b>	<b>Full-time, part-time or affiliate</b>	
<b>Any suggestions you may have for program director, faculty or students</b>			

## Request for Donations

Although we have had great successes, we are facing a few challenges. The clinic furniture and lab equipment are aging. The cost of newer digital equipment is prohibitive. Student research also needs more financial support to maintain our students at the top of the nation.

The resources available from our School of Dentistry are insufficient to fully address these needs, and our faculty and students will greatly appreciate support from our program alumni. Without your strong support, we can't keep up with the country's other top programs! Your contribution can make a significant difference in sustaining our excellence.

### Online

Go to [SOD's online donation site](#). Search for “**Chair’s Fund for Excellence in Graduate Prosthodontics**” fund in the search area.

### By Mail

Make your check payable to *UW Foundation* and send to:

UW School of Dentistry Office of Advancement and External Affairs  
1959 NE Pacific St.  
Box 357137  
Seattle WA 98195-7137

**Please identify the preferred fund in the memo line of your check.**

### By Phone

Please contact SOD Advancement at 206-685-9350.



## 2024 UW Graduate Prosthodontics Program Newsletter

**Editor:** Akiko Koyama

**Email:** [akikok2@uw.edu](mailto:akikok2@uw.edu)

**Phone:** 206-543-5923

**Website:** <https://dental.washington.edu/restorative-dentistry/graduate-prosthodontics-program>

**Facebook page:** please contact Akiko for the access

*Special thanks to all contributing authors for contents and to those who provided pictures.*

*If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Dr. Ramos, Dr. Sutton or Akiko.*