



Prosthodontic Icon Interviews

*In Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the
American College of Prosthodontists*

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Table of Contents

Jim Brudvik	1
Wayne Campagni.....	3
Cosmo De Steno	5
David Eggleston	8
Charles Goodacre	10
Niles Guichet	13
John Holmes.....	15
Robert Kelly	17
Arthur Nimmo	19
Ward Noble	21
Ned Van Roekel	23

An Interview with Dr. Jim Brudvik

By Dr. Steven J. Sadowsky

How has the ACP been instrumental in your professional life?

The ACP has put me in contact with motivated and talented individuals in the field of prosthodontics.

What are your proudest accomplishments/innovations in prosthodontics/ACP?

My books on RPDs and my role in starting the International College of Prosthodontics.

What lessons did you learn about yourself through clinical/academic pursuits?

I learned that I was a pretty good teacher, I didn't think so but I have been effective in facilitating graduate students to develop their skills and thinking.

Who were your mentors and what was it about them that inspired you?

Sev Olson, Perry Bascomb, and Frank Jerby. They were leaders in their field and also had diverse interests.

What have been the most dramatic and helpful changes in prosthodontics?

Combination cases, PFMs, implants, laser welding RPDs in pieces for a more accurate fit.

What advice would you have for a new prosthodontist?

Make the technician an integral part of your practice and partner with him.

What were the most creative aspects of your professional endeavors?

Teaching study clubs to the general practitioner.

What changes do you predict in the next decade?

Improvements in materials e.g. pressed ceramics for cingulum rests and guide planes.

What difficult challenges did you face in your professional life?

Understanding that maintenance is 50% of long-term success.

What more could the ACP do to advance our profession?

Set aside time at the AS for focus groups to tackle various subjects in prosthodontics which could be a think tank to share solutions to problems.

An Interview with Dr. Wayne Campagni

By Dr. Steven J. Sadowsky

How has the ACP been instrumental in your professional life?

Meeting individuals who were leaders in the ACP had a pivotal impact on the direction I took in my professional career. Robert Sproull, former president, James B. Neil, founding member, Alex Koper, former president, Dan Gordon, former president, were all instrumental in guiding me to prosthodontic excellence and an academic pursuit.

What are your proudest accomplishments/innovations in prosthodontics/ACP?

My proudest accomplishment was passing the Boards. I was honored to be nominated to be an examiner. I also was gratified to be appointed to follow Alex Koper as graduate prosthodontic program director at USC.

What lessons did you learn about yourself through clinical/academic pursuits?

I learned that I was a pretty good teacher and that was my calling.

Who were your mentors and what was it about them that inspired you?

Jim Kratochvil, Lodi Morrison, Jack Preston, Rex Ingram, Bernie Levin, Bob Sproull, Alex Koper and Max Sosin. They had dedication, talent, and zest for prosthodontics.

What have been the most dramatic and helpful changes in prosthodontics?

The ACP promoting the specialty-the people in charge now are doing a magnificent job.

What advice would you have for a new prosthodontist?

The goal in life is to continue to learn.

What were the most creative aspects of your professional endeavors?

Teaching.

What changes do you predict in the next decade?

Making implants more affordable through prosthodontists placing them. Making the curriculum for complete dentures in undergraduate dentistry more streamlined, but effective, to address the lower socioeconomic patient.

What difficult challenges did you face in your professional life?

Supporting family while dedicated to teaching and practice.

What more could the ACP do to advance our profession?

The ACP could be more involved in supporting the placement of implants by prosthodontists.

An Interview with Dr. Cosmo De Steno

ACP President 1986-87

By Dr. Steven J. Sadowsky

How has the ACP been instrumental in you professional life?

I became a member of the ACP in 1973 soon after I completed my residency at Alabama. Early on my relationships with the founders of the ACP – Bob Elliott, Jack Sharry, and others – were instrumental in my development as a professional and as a prosthodontist. They encouraged me to be a member of an organization that was growing and it has been a part of my life and my entire career. The ACP has given me opportunities I don't think I could have had if I had joined the organization later in my life.

What are your proudest accomplishments/innovations in the prosthodontics/ACP?

First, the fact the ACP became the representative organization for the specialty. Secondly, I was the one who brought the Journal of Prosthodontics to publication....it wasn't my idea, but I worked through the Saunder Company, with the help of many members of our organization who devoted their careers to creating our own journal.

What lessons did you learn about yourself through clinical and academic pursuits?

I learned to become focused and disciplined in my outcomes....knowing that if I couldn't help a patient, there were many other people who could....knowing that the prosthodontist is really the end of the rail for many patients. We have to be able not only to diagnosis but to be able to formulate a treatment plan based on our findings and what was previously attempted that was not as successful as anticipated. We have to work with many specialties....we coordinate the care of the other specialties...we bring them together to facilitate the success of what is done.....it is a challenge that most specialties do not have.

Who were your mentors and what was it about them that inspired you?

The two individuals who inspired me are Jack Sharry, the 1974 president of the ACP. Dr. Sharry appointed me chairman of the Research Committee of the ACP directly out of my residency. I created the ACP Research Competition. The committee chairmanship put me on the path to my presidency. The other mentor is Bob Elliot; the individual who took over from Jack as president and he gave me the opportunity to contribute at a young age to success of the ACP.

What have been the most dramatic and helpful changes in prosthodontics?

Recognition of the college as the specialty organization has allowed prosthodontics to be recognized as a true specialty rather than a discipline. The second change is the transition into implant placement. This was very controversial at the time but the interested parties stuck with it and this has proven to be a tremendous asset to our specialty. Another change was the development of the college's marketing campaigns that have brought exhibitors to our national meeting and the chance to mingle with corporate partners.

What advice would you have for a new prosthodontist?

Commitment has to be learned early in our careers. The need to stay focused. Keep the patient's best outcomes in mind. Do what you should be doing, when you should be doing it, in the appropriate way, then the financial success will come. Young graduates need to stay very close to a mentor to help bring them through the rough times.

What changes do you predict in the next decade?

We have a long way to go with the implant aspects of prosthodontics. Prosthodontics will continue to be the specialty that manages the difficult cases. Our ability to diagnosis and treatment plan the difficult cases is one of our greatest assets. The future is wide open for CAD/CAM dentistry and new technologies.

What difficult challenges did you face in your professional life?

My early career challenge was balancing my practice with being an active participant in the ACP and with my family. Sacrifices need to be made and they need to be made in the context of your family, your children and friends. One needs to try to be successful in all areas.

What more could the ACP do to advance our profession?

We could do more in the area of marketing and promoting our specialty to the public.

An Interview with Dr. David Eggleston

ACP President 1991-92

By Dr. Steven J. Sadowsky

How has the ACP been instrumental in your professional life?

Meeting lifelong friends over the years at the meetings and on the ACP Executive Council/Board of Directors, has been most fulfilling.

What are your proudest accomplishments/innovations in prosthodontics/ACP?

My time as an officer of the ACP, working on peer review, the growth of the College, and ascension of the College to sponsorship of the American Board of Prosthodontics.

What lessons did you learn about yourself through clinical/academic pursuits?

Perseverance. Setting and attaining long-term goals. Taking calculated risks.

Who were your mentors and what was it about them that inspired you?

Dan Gordon and Alex Koper. Their commitment to excellence in teaching, clinical practice and organized dentistry.

What have been the most dramatic and helpful changes in prosthodontics?

Obviously dental implants have revolutionized prosthodontics. Most recently lithium disilicate as a restorative material has been a breakthrough. It has excellent aesthetics, three times the strength of feldspathic porcelain, no metal or opaque porcelain to hide, less tooth reduction, and no need to go subgingival. I enjoy working with it so much, I'm sure it has extended my career.

What advice would you have for a new prosthodontist?

Realize how incredibly fortunate you are. Always be happy and never complain about anything. Expand your horizons. One suggestion is to pick a topic you are interested in. Research it, study it, innovate it and write about it. Could be a professional paper, a story, a letter to the editor, a topic of interest to the local dental society, a script, a political opinion, etc.

What were the most creative aspects of your professional endeavors?

Esthetic dentistry-everything else is quite routine.

What changes do you predict in the next decade?

The world will become more digital. Continued improvements in dental materials and techniques.

What difficult challenges did you face in your professional life?

Learning curves on practice management. Not enough time is spent on practice management in dental school, making it an on the job learning experience.

What more could the ACP do to advance our profession?

I do not have any advice regarding what the ACP could do to further advance the specialty. Mainly because the ACP is currently doing such incredible service in so many fronts. All of my ideas, and much more, are already implemented.

An Interview with Dr. Charles Goodacre

ACP President 2008-09

By Dr. Steven J. Sadowsky

How has the ACP been instrumental in you professional life?

Early on, in approximately 1971, I first began to attend the meetings of the college; I found I enjoyed meetings and the involvement. I began to regularly attend the Annual Session, I continued to learn, meet people; it has lasted a life time.

What are your proudest accomplishments/innovations in the prosthodontics/ACP?

My involvement with electronic education resources over the last eleven years. Early in my career I was involved in distant education; in 1971 I did the first distant education in dentistry. I was given the responsibility to teach tooth morphology in 1975. I started with overhead transparencies, and then I transitioned to large teeth that were carved to scale. The course developed a personality of its own; it was 3-D presentation in its earliest iteration. I made a humorous educational video with the large teeth; in 1994, as the Dean of LLU, I began a trend toward newer technologies and a move further down the 3-D pathway. The ACP has supported educational products we produced in collaboration with Stanford University. I am also proud of the literature reviews we have completed that synthesized knowledge and developed a variety of clinical guidelines.

What lessons did you learn about yourself through clinical and academic pursuits?

I don't have the patience I should have. I want things done quicker than they can be done. I learned the importance of paying attendance to every detail of whatever one does so that whatever is done turns out in the best possible way, while keeping the interaction that you have with people as the most important thing.

Who were your mentors and what was it about them that inspired you?

My early mentors were the original faculty at LLU who showed so much ingenuity, Drs. Lloyd Baum and Melvin Lund. The museum at LLU displays

early gold foil instruments, the paralleling device, porcelain inlay investment, the first attempt at electric handpieces and the first attempt at threaded pins for teeth. Dr. Bob James, who was instrumental in the introduction of sub-periosteal and blade implants. Other mentors include: Drs. Roland Dykema, Don Cunningham; and Ned Van Roekel. Other mentors were Dr. Ralph Phillips who was so willing to share and showed no ego. Dr. Phillips sharing with a young faculty member from another institution who was assigned to teach dental materials. Dr. Phillip shared his slide, quizzes, lecture material with the young faculty member, Dr. Art Dugoni. I learned from my mentors we need to share what we have with the younger generation.

What have been the most dramatic and helpful changes in prosthodontics?

Dental implants have completely changed the paradigm of diagnosis and treatment planning. Secondly, esthetic dentistry has changed prosthodontics but to a much lesser degree. It has allowed us to do things with more conservative, longer lasting, dental materials.

What advice would you have for a new prosthodontist?

Do your very best. Pay attention to your patients. Focus on the service aspect of taking good care of people; service coupled with excellent care.

What changes do you predict in the next decade?

Dentistry is approaching a challenging time; we are increasing the number of graduates and graduating too many dentists for the population to absorb. Second, the large indebtedness of recent graduates and the increasing difficulty for graduates to absorb the debt they are carrying upon graduation. There is a need to make education both cost effective and quality effective.

What difficult challenges did you face in your professional life?

I enjoyed a good career with good people, no difficult challenges. Challenging the specialty boards was a very positive experience.

What more could the ACP do to advance our profession?

ACP is doing an incredible job considering the limited resources the college deals with. Prosthodontists need to make a greater individual commitment among a broader number of individuals to accomplish the programs that other larger organizations have been able to accomplish, like professional marketing.

An Interview with Dr. Niles Guichet

By Dr. Steven J. Sadowsky

How has the ACP been instrumental in your professional life?

The ACP was instrumental in motivating me to become a diplomate (credentials) which enabled me to gain credibility for my speaking on the topic of occlusion and articulation.

What are your proudest accomplishments/innovations in prosthodontics/ACP?

Passing the Boards.

What lessons did you learn about yourself through clinical/academic pursuits?

I learned that I had an engineering aptitude and I pursued both dentistry and engineering in correlating signs and symptoms in treatment with importance of side shift and development of the clutch former (reprogramming the musculature) which made the pantograph a practical instrument.

Who were your mentors and what was it about them that inspired you?

Dan Gordon, Earl Pound, Everett Payne, patient management consultants.

What have been the most dramatic and helpful changes in prosthodontics?

Understanding the biologic basis of occlusal treatment. The importance of the neuromuscular release.

What advice would you have for a new prosthodontist?

Learning how to equilibrate the natural dentition and achieve a neuromuscular release is the portal to all the rewards in dentistry.

What were the most creative aspects of your professional endeavors?

Identifying the biologic laws of occlusion, engineering clutch former and practical means for articulating casts that are faithful to the patients jaw movements. Teaching the techniques to dentists.

What changes do you predict in the next decade?

Digital applications such as computerized surgical procedures, improvements in composites, implants and ceramics.

What difficult challenges did you face in your professional life?

Integrating the biologic laws of occlusion and techniques for occlusal equilibration in the curriculum of dental schools.

What more could the ACP do to advance our profession?

Promote including equilibration techniques/neuromuscular release in the curriculum of dental schools and support CODA requirements for an “understanding” level for occlusal equilibration.

An Interview with Dr. John Holmes

ACP President 1989-90

By Dr. David L. Pfeifer

What do you consider your top 5-10 accomplishments during your tenure as ACP President?

- 1. The appointment of an ACP Executive Director*
- 2. An increased number of ACP Sections*
- 3. The review of and recommended changes to the ACP Annual Session*
- 4. Proposed amendments to the ACP Bylaws and Policies.*
- 5. Establishment of the Peer Review Committee. The California Dental Association formally commended the ACP for the excellence of its contributions and Dr. Robert G. Tupac was honored with the "Outstanding Chairman" Peer Review Award for 1989-1990.*
- 6. Establishment of the Undergraduate Achievement Award. For the first time graduates from 51 dental schools in the United States and Canada were honored by the ACP with an undergraduate achievement award. The award consisted of a plaque and gift of Volumes I, II and III of the Classic Prosthodontic Articles book series.*

A favorite memory...

Many, but will mention two.

- One of the truly outstanding members of the ACP was the late Dr. Daniel F. Gordon. Dan was a quiet, unassuming, highly competent individual who made a great impact on us. I recall him, at one at our Executive Council Meetings, sitting at the long table, not saying a word all morning and most of the afternoon. However, when he did speak his words were extremely thought out, most relevant and always appreciated by all attendees. He was ACP President 1977-1978.

- My close friend, mentor and ACP President 1976-1977 the late Robert W. Elliott, Jr. said that "you need to become involved with the ACP and appointed me to be a member of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee. After several years I became Chair of that committee and from 1982-1988 was ACP Treasurer. Dr. Elliott was a Navy Rear Admiral and Chief of the Navy Dental Division, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Washington, D.C. I served as Head, Personnel Branch. and accompanied him on numerous occasions as he visited a number of Navy Dental activities. A leader with boundless energy, nicknamed "Rapid Robert." Ee was involved in leadership positions in a number dental organizations.

Need Questions...

My immediate goal was the appointment of an Executive Director. Other goals were ongoing and completed by ACP presidents who followed me.

My dreams for the College and the future of our specialty. We should continue to inform the general public, undergraduate students, dental students and general dentists about the specialty of prosthodontics and how it differs from the discipline. We must never forget our role in the healing arts and the influence on the health and well being of our patients. The importance of guiding predoctoral students into our advanced prosthodontic training programs must be emphasized.

The growth of the College is impressive with present membership of more than 3,400 in some 35 countries. As Ronald Reagan said in September, 1983 at the University of South Carolina, "there are no such limits to growth, because there are no limits to the human capacity for intelligence, imagination and wonder." Those remarks could well apply to the American College of Prosthodontists.

An Interview with Dr. Robert Kelly

By Dr. David L. Pfeifer

How has the ACP been instrumental in your professional life?

The ACP is an extremely valuable forum to establish and maintain relationships with professional colleagues and it has allowed me to keep up with Navy colleagues.

What are your proudest accomplishments/innovations in the prosthodontics/ACP?

I have learned and understand engineering principles and I have applied these engineering principles to problems in restorative dentistry. I have applied engineering principles to increase our understanding as to why the early all-ceramic crowns were breaking. I have recreate in the lab and shown why bonding is important in the luting of all-ceramic restorations. We have clinically applied our laboratory findings. I was honored as the 2003 ACP's Clinician Researcher Award. In addition, I served as a prosthodontist on a Navy aircraft carrier.

What lessons did you learn about yourself through clinical and academic pursuits?

I learned not to be afraid to standing up in front of big audiences. Our profession allows an individual to applied all their gifts and talents. Specific gifts and talents I have had the good fortune to employ are: working with my hands, an eye for art and sculpture, solid interest in the sciences, and the enjoyment of working with patients. These gifts have further developed as part of the career.

Who were your mentors and what was it about them that inspired you?

My first mentors where student colleagues and who were well ahead of me in prosthodontics and material science. Back in college, Tom Rose helped me realize my potential as a student and he got me interested in dentistry during my senior year at college; another student who gave me direction was Ishiro Nishimura who was a doctoral student and prosthodontic resident at Harvard; in the Navy, Bob Flinton; and finally my mentor in my material science education was Bill Brantley.

What have been the most dramatic and helpful changes in prosthodontics?

{There have been three} The development of implant therapy based on evidence and the contributions of Dr. Branemark. Clinical practice based on clinical evidence and well designed laboratory evidence. The evolution of automated systems for use in both the laboratory and the clinic.

What advice would you have for a new prosthodontist?

Distrust dogma; learn to recognize it. Embrace teamwork.

What were the creative aspects of your professional endeavors?

My contribution to a novel implant design for patients with reduced alveolar bone. I have used my training and insights in material science problem-solving in support of our specialty by salvaging a couple of products for our corporate partners.

What changes do you predict in the next decade?

An increased use of automated systems and the use of more engineering principles in the dental operatory. The use of software to design prostheses and to selection of the appropriate dental materials for prostheses based on engineering principles. Finally, an increase in the growth of our depth of evidence-based clinical practice.

What difficult challenges did you face in your professional life?

Keeping a balance between my research life and my clinical life.

What more could the ACP do to advance our profession?

The ACP should find ways to enhance the academic career path. The ACP should provide leadership in the integration of automated technologies. It should strongly partner with the organizations like the National Association of Dental Laboratories to determine what will be the future dental laboratory technician and define the future curriculum for the automated technologies.

An Interview with Dr. Arthur Nimmo

ACP President 1999-2000

Dr. Steven J. Sadowsky

How has the ACP been instrumental in you professional life?

I am proud to be the only ACP President to serve as president in two different centuries. The ACP has given me the opportunity to work with a great group of dedicated professional whom I would not have met otherwise. Being in the ACP has been a great opportunity to network with others that is so important in a career in dental education. I have had the opportunity to work with many wonderful ACP professionals to including Nancy Arbree, Lily Garcia, Ken Malament, Pat Lloyd, Tom McGarry, David Felton, John Agar and Dick Jones who have worked to further the specialty of prosthodontics.

What are your proudest accomplishments/innovations in the prosthodontics/ACP?

I am most proud of my opportunity to be the ACP President for the years 1999-2000 and more recently to be a board examiner for the American Board of Prosthodontics, an assignment I just started. I am also proud of my service with the American Dental Association and my assignment to help write National Board questions and to serve on the Board for Dental Accreditation.

What lessons did you learn about yourself through clinical and academic pursuits?

I learned that there is a need for mentors at all levels whether you are in academics or private practice.

Who were your mentors and what was it about them that inspired you?

I learned management styles and how to interact with people from every past president of the ACP. Dr. Jim Kratochvill was my program director, I learned from him patience. He was my role model for teaching. Dr. Peter Johnson has a great sense of fairness and integrity. He is my role model for leadership. Dr. Tom Taylor is so calm. He is my role model for survival. Dr. Ken Malament has such an incredible sense of enthusiasm. Dr. Bruce Graham taught me the importance of change and staying current.

What have been the most dramatic and helpful changes in prosthodontics?

First, the inclusion of implant surgery in prosthodontics. Prosthodontists are ideally suited for the placement of dental implants. Implant placement is a great recruitment tool for the specialty of prosthodontics. Second, the recent success of the ACP Education Foundation is remarkable. The foundation supports both doctoral and pre-doctoral education that has given prosthodontics a more even footing relative to other dental specialties. Credit for the foundation goes almost exclusive to the efforts of Dr. Tom McGarry. His motivation of individual members of the ACP and corporate sponsorship has been a tremendous success.

What advice would you have for a new prosthodontist?

Encourage all new prosthodontists to join the ACP and become involved through committee assignment.

What were the creative aspects of your professional endeavors?

In the mid 1980's I helped to develop the board preparation course. Ken Malament came up with the idea and he asked other to contribute to the project.

What difficult challenges did you face in your professional life?

Finding a new Executive Director during my tenure as president.

What more could the ACP do to advance our profession?

Increase membership in the ACP.

An Interview with Dr. Ward Noble

By Dr. Steven J. Sadowsky

What are your proudest accomplishments/innovations in prosthodontics/ACP?

Teaching and mentoring students and colleagues and problem solving clinical problems.

What lessons did you learn about yourself through clinical/academic pursuits?

I learned that I absolutely loved my job, both as a clinician and a teacher.

Who were your mentors and what was it about them that inspired you?

Ken Rudd, Harold Eismann, Ben Pavone. He (BP) encouraged me to give CE courses.

What have been the most dramatic and helpful changes in prosthodontics?

Implants, evidence-based practice changed the way we think about patient treatment and teaching.

What advice would you have for a new prosthodontist?

Enjoy your work AND play. Find a balance. Family important.

What were the most creative aspects of your professional endeavors?

Clinical problem solving.

What changes do you predict in the next decade?

Digital imaging applications (e.g. impressions, CAD/CAM).

What difficult challenges did you face in your professional life?

Finding a balance between dentistry and family.

What more could the ACP do to advance our profession?

Encourage dental students to pursue prosthodontics as a specialty. A grass roots and global approach is needed to offset gains by ortho and oral surgery.

An Interview with Dr. Ned Van Roekel
ACP President 1997-98
By Dr. David L. Pfeifer

How has the ACP been instrumental in your professional/personal life?

The ACP gave me a place to belong; participate, engage and develop.

What are your proudest accomplishments/innovations in prosthodontics/ACP?

Being President of the ACP was my proudest accomplishment.

What lessons did you learn about yourself through clinical/academic pursuits?

The greatest lesson was learning to interact with my peers.

Who were your mentors and what was it about them that inspired you?

Dr. John F. Johnston, Department Chair and; also, Dr. Cunningham. Both individuals were highly skilled and professional. They pursued excellence and lead by example.

What have been the most dramatic and helpful changes in prosthodontics you have seen?

1st- the metal ceramic crown-prior to that evolution the use of acrylics did not lend to long term esthetic results; and, 2nd- implants-they have been interruptive to the diagnosis and treatment planning by creating options to achieve quality care that were previously unavailable.

What advice would you have for a new prosthodontist?

Never compromise the quality of care that you are providing.

What changes do you predict in the next decade?

There will be continued changes in technology with further application of CAD/CAM applications and the decreased need for dental technicians.

What difficult challenges did you face in your professional life?

Maintaining a challenging practice and retaining the highest quality of care for patients.

What more could the ACP do to advance our profession?

Try to help fund highly qualified educators for the specialty and discipline of prosthodontics.