

What's New at UConn

News from University of Connecticut's Prosthodontic Program

John Agar, D.D.S., M.A.
Program Director
UCHCS School of Dentistry
Department of Prosthodontics and Operative Dentistry
ACP Treasurer

Prosthodontic Residencies are enjoying an unprecedented increase in applicants and program opportunities related to increased demand and need for our specialty expertise. The University of Connecticut Graduate Program in Prosthodontics has benefited from this and we are proud of the many exciting features of our program. In a recent survey all past residents responded that they were glad they became Prosthodontists and many added written comments that it was their Prosthodontic training that made them feel fulfilled as a dentist.

Our clinic recently moved next to the Periodontology Residency Program. We share assistants, space, equipment



Residents with Dr. Charles Goodacre during the ACP's 38th Annual Session in Nashville, Tennessee



UConn residents meet at the ACP's 2007 Annual Session in Scottsdale, Arizona

and hold regular treatment planning seminars together. This has been beneficial to both specialty programs. The Prosthodontic residents run a multidisciplinary seminar at the school that includes treatment planning and discussion between all specialties.

The Residents in the Connecticut Residency have diverse training that contributes significantly to all our academic seminars and especially treatment planning sessions. Currently among our 10 residents we have two periodontists, a dental radiologist, a Ph.D. in Oral Biology, certificate and M.S. in operative dentistry, an international certificate in Prosthodontics and a Masters Degree in Bioethics.

All the residents learn from each other as they study and do laboratory procedures together. Current residents play a major role in selection of new residents. This helps ensure compatibility. Residents that have completed the program continue to contact each other and share treatment planning ideas through digital technology.

The faculty is also diverse in expertise. Residents are required to discuss each patient's care with different faculty members, specialist/residents in different specialties as appropriate and fellow residents prior to presentations at seminars. Once a week, various specialty faculty members (mostly program directors) provide a two hour lecture/seminar to our residents. We are also fortunate to have nationally recognized, outstanding volunteer mentors and lecturers contributing to our program. This is a vital part of our residency.

We have surgically placed dental implants since 1997. Currently our residents place implants and do preprosthetic surgery two mornings a week under the direct guidance of Dr. Martin Freilich who is fully trained in Prosthodontics and Periodontics. The surgery is done only after the surgical procedures are presented and discussed in prosthodontic surgery conferences. Implant lectures as well as current and classic implant literature reviews are done by Dr. Tom Taylor.



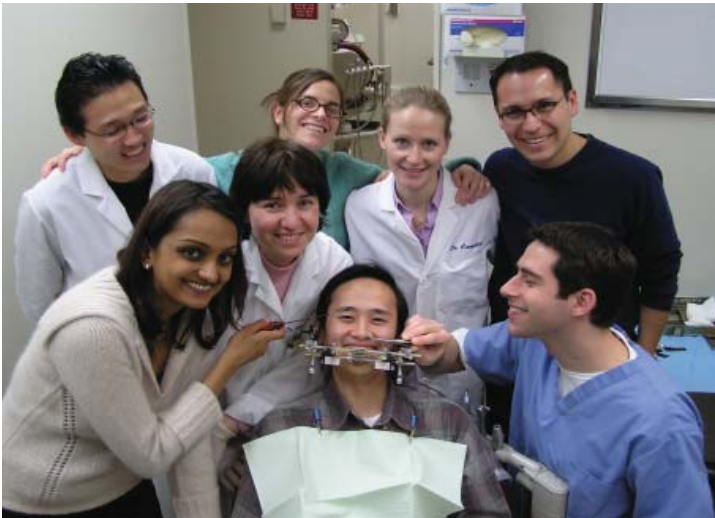
Resident suturing after performing implant surgery with the guidance of Dr. Martin Freilich.



Prior to our annual trip down the Farmington River in 2007.

Maxillofacial patients are all treated in Graduate Prosthodontics mentored by Drs. Tom Taylor, Vernon Kwok and Tom Vergo. Dr. Vergo voluntarily provides a series of seminars about Maxillofacial Prosthodontics. Removable seminars are taught by Dr. Joe Grasso (Author of *Grasso and Miller Partial Denture Text*). Dental Materials are taught by Drs. Robert Kelly and Jon Goldberg. Remaining prosthodontic subjects are taught by the Program Director and other faculty. Almost all residents achieve American Board Certification and a Master of Dental Science Degree.

Each Resident gives six major presentations to fellow residents during training. They provide numerous treatment planning presentations including a four hour presentation of the most interesting or instructive patient treatments they have provided during their residency. Residents formally evaluate each other in writing after presentations. They teach Problem Based Learning to D.M.D. students and contribute to various course based on each resident's desire to teach.



UConn residents determine the third point of reference!

Residents help teach D.M.D. students do preparations on plastic teeth in the Fixed Prosthodontic Preclinical Course taught by Dr. Patchanee Rungruanganunt. Then residents make crowns for the dental students to fit on these prepared teeth. Thus they contribute to dental student education, reduce work for our dental lab and learn without the graduate program having to buy materials to practice these expensive lab procedures. We have five dental technicians and a volunteer local lab owner that are talented and very dedicated to teaching students and residents.

Residents have achieved many grants and awards from various dental organizations. They have been very active by presenting lectures and table clinics during regional and national meetings.

Senior residents participate as laboratory technicians during an Academy of Prosthodontics Outreach Program with Dr. Tom Taylor as the team leader. During these trips complete dentures are made for Native Americans in Sitka, Alaska.



Third-year residents lead by Dr. Tom Taylor on fishing trip before making dentures during annual Academy of Prosthodontics outreach program for Native Americans in Sitka, Alaska in 2006.

Residents participate in several social events but the most recent annual event has been a kayak/canoe trip down the Farmington River. In June 2010 all residents are returning to Connecticut for a reunion, education and fun.

For more information on the UConn's Prosthodontics Program please e-mail Dr. Agar at agar@nso2.uhc.edu.