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## **2026 Joint Educators Conference – Postdoctoral Friday, April 24, 2026**

**Joint Link 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CT | Postdoctoral Link 1:30 – 3:45 p.m. CT**

**Joint Link: <https://prosthodontics-org.zoom.us/j/87635916888>**

**Postdoctoral Link: <https://prosthodontics-org.zoom.us/j/89565975724>**

### **Postdoctoral Education Committee**

Dr. Igor Pesun, Chair  
Dr. Tanya Somohano  
Dr. Konstantinos Vazouras  
Dr. Dima Ghunaim  
Dr. Berna Saglik  
Dr. Darshanjit “DJ” Pannu  
Dr. Kamolphob Phasuk



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**9:00 a.m. CT**

**Welcome Remarks**

*Kenneth S. Kurtz, DDS, FACP | ACP President*

**9:15 a.m. CT**

**Updates from the American Board of Prosthodontics**

*Geoffrey A. Thompson, DDS, MS, FACP | ABP President*

**10:15 a.m. CT**

Break

**10:45 a.m. CT**

**From Idea to Impact: An AI-Accelerated Blueprint for High-Quality Research in Prosthodontics**

*Dieter Schönwetter, PhD | University of Manitoba*

**12:00 p.m.**

**Advanced Standing Prosthodontics Training: Our CODA Accreditation Experience**

*Berna Saglik, DDS, MS, FACP | University of Michigan*

**12:30 p.m. CT**

Lunch (on own)

Switch to [postdoctoral link](#)

**1:30 p.m. CT**

**Resident Assessment: It's Not Just Numbers**

*Radi Masri, DDS, MS, PhD, FACP | University of Maryland*

**2:30 p.m. CT**

**Program Highlight. University of Minnesota**

*Fengyuan Zheng, BDS, PhD, FACP | University of Minnesota Program Director*

**3:45 p.m. CT**

**Closing Remarks and Adjournment**

*Van Ramos, Jr., DDS, FACP | University of Washington Program Director*



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**9:15am CT**

**Updates from the American Board of Prosthodontics**

Geoffrey A. Thompson, DDS, MS, FACP

ABP President, Dental College of Georgia at Augusta University

This presentation will provide an overview of recent developments within the American Board of Prosthodontics (ABP), with a focus on changes to the examination structure and content, trends in candidate performance, and the status of board certification. Attendees will gain insights into the evolving standards and expectations of the ABP, helping educators better prepare their residents for the certification process, and promote excellence in prosthodontic training.

At the conclusion of this session, the attendee should be able to:

- Describe recent updates and modifications to the ABP examination process and how these changes impact prosthodontic education and resident preparation.
- Identify common patterns and errors observed among recent ABP examination candidates.
- Explain the current categories of ABP diplomates and related statistics.



**Biography:** Dr. Geoffrey A. Thompson is a professor of prosthodontics, and liaison to the graduate programs at the Dental College of Georgia. He received a BA in chemistry from the University of South Florida and attended Emory University School of Dentistry in Atlanta. In addition, he has earned a certificate in prosthodontics from Walter Reed Army Medical Center and a MS in dental materials from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He is the Vice President of the American Board of Prosthodontics, Diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontics, Fellow of the American College of Prosthodontists and the Academy of Prosthodontics, and a member of the American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics. Dr. Thompson is active with research and has over 40 peer-reviewed publications in print. He has a special interest in prosthodontist-driven implant placement, mechanical testing of materials, and educating and training residents.

**AGD Codes:** 1180 Occlusion; 610 Fixed Prosthodontics; 670 Removable Prosthodontics; 690 Implants; 770 Self-Improvement

**Disclosures:** None



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**10:45 a.m. CT**

**From Idea to Impact: An AI-Accelerated Blueprint for High-Quality Research in Prosthodontics**

Dieter J. Schonwetter, MA, PhD

University of Manitoba

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into academic research is rapidly transforming how clinicians and scholars generate, execute, and disseminate knowledge. This session provides a practical, end-to-end framework for conducting high-quality research in prosthodontics using AI-supported tools across the full research lifecycle. Participants will be guided through best practices in formulating precise research questions, conducting efficient literature reviews, identifying meaningful knowledge gaps, developing study protocols and ethics applications, and implementing robust data collection and analysis strategies. The session will also demonstrate how AI can enhance scientific writing and streamline reference management while maintaining academic rigor and integrity. Emphasis will be placed on critical evaluation of AI outputs, ethical considerations, and the responsible integration of these tools into scholarly practice. Attendees will leave with a structured, AI-augmented approach to accelerating research productivity without compromising methodological quality.

At the conclusion of this session, the attendee should be able to:

- Formulate precise, answerable research questions using structured frameworks and AI support.
- Conduct efficient, reproducible literature reviews with AI-assisted synthesis.
- Evaluate risks, limitations, and ethical considerations of AI in research.



**Biography:** Dieter J. Schonwetter, MA, PhD began working at the Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry at the University of Manitoba in 2004, starting as an Education Specialist and ascending to the role of Director of Student Affairs and Academic Services and professor. Dr. Schonwetter is heavily involved in research, earning many awards and grants. He has also mentored many students, contributed to many publications, and lectures internationally.

**Disclosures:** None





**12:00 p.m. CT**

**Advanced Standing Prosthodontics Training: Our CODA Accreditation Experience**

Berna Saglik, DDS, MS, FACP

University of Michigan

This presentation will provide an overview of the development, implementation, and accreditation of an Advanced Standing track within a prosthodontics graduate program, with emphasis on compliance with Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) standards. The session will highlight practical strategies for designing part-time and advanced standing pathways while maintaining educational equivalency, clinical competency, and program integrity.

Participants will gain insight into key components required for CODA review, including patient pool definition, enrollment considerations, curriculum equivalency, assessment strategies, and documentation requirements. This course reflects our institutional experience in the accreditation application and approval process and does not represent official guidance from CODA. Although approval has been granted, no participants have been enrolled in the program to date.

At the conclusion of this session, the attendee should be able to:

- Describe CODA requirements related to Advanced Standing programs in prosthodontics.
- Define criteria for determining educational equivalency for advanced standing trainees.
- Identify documentation required for program change reports and enrollment increases.



**Biography:** Dr. Berna Saglik earned her DDS from Marmara University in Istanbul, Turkey, and her MS in prosthodontics from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry. She is a Clinical Professor and Program Director of both the Graduate Prosthodontics Program and the Dental Postgraduate Program in prosthodontics at the University of Michigan. Dr. Saglik is A Fellow of the ACP and an active member of many other respected dental organizations. Dr. Saglik has received multiple teaching awards, is a published author, and maintains a faculty practice limited to prosthodontics.

**ADG Code(s):** 130 Electives

**Disclosures:** None





**Postdoctoral**

**1:30 p.m. CT**

**Resident Assessment: It's Not Just Numbers**

*Radi Masri, DDS, MS, PHD, FACP*

*University of Maryland*

This lecture explores contemporary approaches to assessing resident competence in graduate prosthodontic education, discussing methods for comprehensive and meaningful evaluation of performance. Drawing on the lecturer's experience as Program Director at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, the session examines the strengths and limitations of traditional numerical assessments and holistic strategies that incorporate clinical judgment, milestone-based evaluation, direct observation, and formative feedback. Emphasis is placed on ensuring assessment methods are valid, defensible, educationally sound, and aligned with the ultimate goal of preparing competent, independent prosthodontists.

At the conclusion of this session, the attendee should be able to:

- Describe the limitations of purely numerical and procedural metrics in assessing resident competence in graduate prosthodontic programs.
- Discuss additional and complementary assessment methods, including qualitative evaluations, milestone frameworks, and narrative feedback, as applied in a university-based residency program.
- Apply principles of comprehensive competency assessment to improve fairness, accuracy, and educational impact.



**Biography:** Dr. Radi Masri is a tenured Professor at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry and School of Medicine. He is the Program Director of the Advanced Education Program in Prosthodontics and the Director of the Division of Prosthodontics at the Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Prosthodontics*, and has held leadership roles in several esteemed dental organizations. Dr. Masri is heavily involved in developing and implementing cutting edge technologies used in oral health care. He lectures nationally and internationally and serves as an external examiner for international dental schools in the field of prosthodontics. Dr. Masri is the author of the first book

on the applications of digital technologies in the dental field. He has also authored numerous scientific papers, holds several patents, and currently supervises a federally funded research laboratory. Dr. Masri has been honored with many prestigious awards from numerous esteemed dental organizations.

**ADG Code(s):** 610 Fixed Prosthodontics, 670 Removable Prosthodontics, 690 Implants, 770 Self-Improvement

**Disclosures:** None





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**2:30 p.m. CT**

**Program Spotlight: University of Minnesota**

*Fengyuan Zheng, DDS, PhD, FACP*

*University of Minnesota*

Presentation of the Advanced Education Program in Prosthodontics at the University of Minnesota, including an overview of its curriculum, clinical training model, and educational objectives. This session will also discuss the current challenges facing residency programs such as evolving clinical demands, technological integration, and resident recruitment and training. The future direction of the Minnesota Advanced Education Program in Prosthodontics will be discussed.

At the conclusion of this session, the attendee should be able to:

- Formulate precise, answerable research questions using structured frameworks and AI support.
- Conduct efficient, reproducible literature reviews with AI-assisted synthesis.
- Evaluate risks, limitations, and ethical considerations of AI in research.



**Biography:** Dr. Fengyuan Zheng obtained his dental degree from Beijing Medical University School of Stomatology. Prior to his training in advanced prosthodontics at Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry in the University of Southern California, he obtained PhD in Oral Biology from The Ohio State University College of Dentistry. Dr. Zheng is a Board Certified prosthodontist and serve as the Program Director at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry. He serves different roles in professional associations including his role as Chair of the ACP Resident & Dental Student Digital Poster Competition. His research interests are dental materials and dental implant biomechanics. Dr. Zheng does not get free time for hobbies.

**ADG Code(s):** 770 Self-Improvement

**Disclosures:** None



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**Participants are required to complete the online evaluation to receive their verification of participation (CE Certificate).**

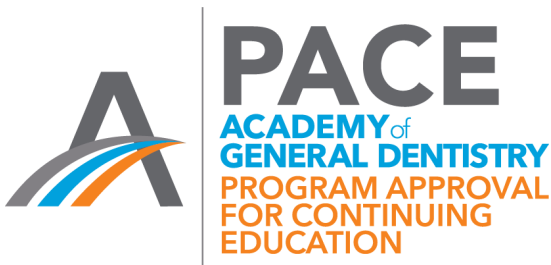
Attendees can access the evaluation using the link or QR code provided at the end of the course and in the post-event email. Upon submission, the CE Certificate will open in a new browser window, where it may be downloaded or printed.

**Continuing Education (CE) Credits:** This program qualifies for up to 5.0 CE credits. Credits will be provided at the completion of the program after submission of the program evaluation

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The American College of Prosthodontists is an ADA CERP Recognized Provider. ADA CERP is a service of the American Dental Association to assist dental professionals in identifying quality providers of continuing dental education. ADA CERP does not approve or endorse individual courses or instructors, nor does it imply acceptance of credit hours by board of dentistry.

Concerns or complaints about a CE provider may be directed to the provider or to ADA CERP at <http://www.ada.org/cerp>.



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current term of approval extends from 11/01/2024 to 10/31/2028. Provider ID: 214690.

**General Information:** The 2026 ACP Joint Educators Conference: Postdoctoral is directly sponsored by the American College of Prosthodontists and the ACP Education Foundation.

The American College of Prosthodontists (ACP) is dedicated to stimulating and supporting prosthodontics-related: research, education, clinical practice, patient care, outcomes, restoration of teeth and orofacial structures. Enhancing quality of care to improve patient outcomes through education is a strategic priority of the ACP & ACPEF.



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