

# A new way to celebrate

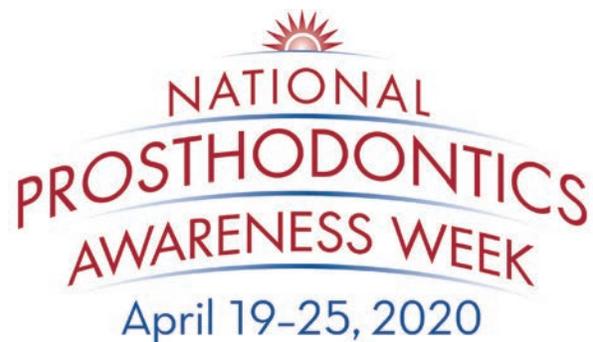
Elaine Torres-Melendez,  
DMD, FACP  
NPAW Chair

This year's National Prosthodontics Awareness Week took place April 19-25, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Though it may have looked different than in the past, the celebration and awareness was bigger than ever.

Planning for National Prosthodontics Awareness Week (NPAW) 2020 began in 2019, with our first formal committee meeting in January 2020. As a committee we had plans for new initiatives, and a lot of the "typical" NPAW activities like lunch and learns, study club meetings, open houses, and talks at dental schools and senior homes. Like all of you reading this, when the COVID-19 pandemic became our new reality, our plans had to change!

Building on the momentum of a very successful NPAW 2019, the NPAW committee decided to embrace the digital world for NPAW 2020. Members shared 'NPAW Facts' highlighting different aspects of the specialty and original posts on social media, an interactive FAQ was created for patients and referring dentists, articles were shared from the Journal of Prosthodontics, and official proclamations recognizing NPAW were made in cities and states across the U.S.

For me, the highlight of the week was the numerous virtual lectures organized by enthusiastic prosthodontists across the country, and the world. The lectures were well received, with many dental students who are undecided about specialty training asking follow-up questions and inquiring about the specialty of prosthodontics.



The enthusiasm generated was impressive and the week of April 19-25 was abuzz with social media posts and positive, informative exchanges centered around raising awareness and understanding of prosthodontics.

Thanks to all the ACP members and Central Office staff who made NPAW 2020 a victory. I am especially thankful for the energy and perseverance of those members of the NPAW committee that were so invested in making our celebration a success. When the going got tough, we got going.

Here is a visual look at some of this year's NPAW activities. We look forward to celebrating with everyone again in 2021! ■

## 2020 NPAW Subcommittee

Dr. Elaine Torres-Melendez, Chair, Dr. Samantha Rawdin, Vice Chair,  
Dr. Francine Misch-Dietsh, Dr. David Remiszewski, Dr. Charlene Solomon, Dr. Constantine Stavrinos,  
Dr. Cortino Sukotjo, Dr. Juliet Tchorbajian



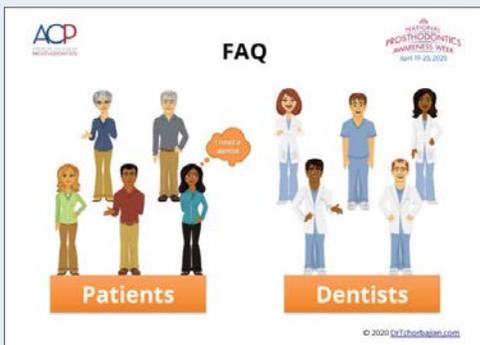
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Pictured above from left to right: (1) University of Missouri-Kansas City created an informative YouTube video highlighting what a prosthodontist does, (2) ACP member Dr. Jasmine Mohandesi created these sweet treats to promote prosthodontics, (3) The Ultimate Prosthodontist's BINGO card, created by Dr. Loana Tovar Suinaga and shared across social media, (4) This interactive FAQ was created by Dr. Juliet Tchorbajian for patients and referring dentists. You can access it at [Prosthodontics.org/interactive-faq/](https://www.prosthodontics.org/interactive-faq/), (5) Dr. Robert Bentz (right) celebrates NPAW while demonstrating his PPE protocols, (6) Many educational institutions created flyers to promote their virtual events, like this one from the University of Iowa College of Dentistry.

A special thank you to the institutions and groups who held virtual lectures and other virtual events in celebration of NPAW 2020, including:

Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health

Columbia University College of Dental Medicine

Howard University College of Dentistry

New York University College of Dentistry

Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine

Rutgers School of Dental Medicine

The Ohio State University College of Dentistry

The University of British Columbia

The University of Iowa College of Dentistry

Touro College of Dental Medicine

Tufts University

University of Illinois at Chicago Advanced Prosthodontics Program

University of Buffalo School of Dental Medicine

University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine

University of Florida College of Dentistry

University of Louisville School of Dentistry

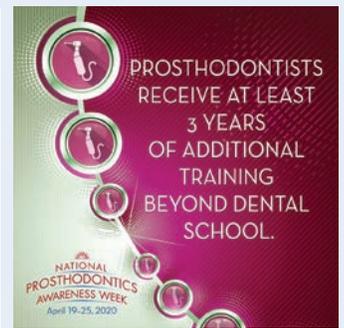
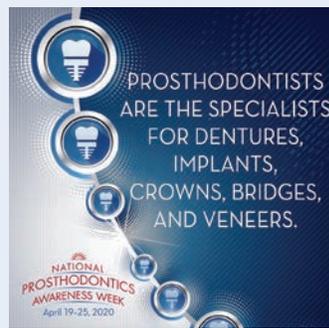
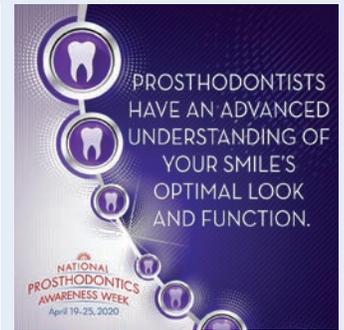
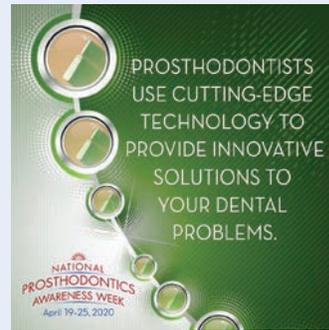
University of Maryland School of Dentistry

University of Minnesota School of Dentistry

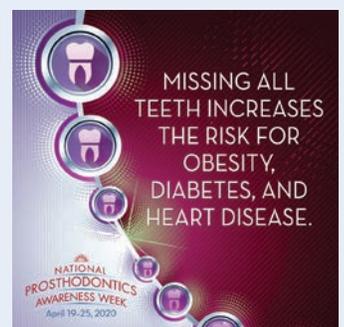
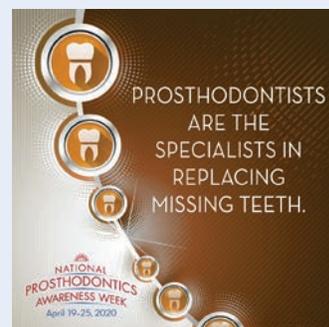
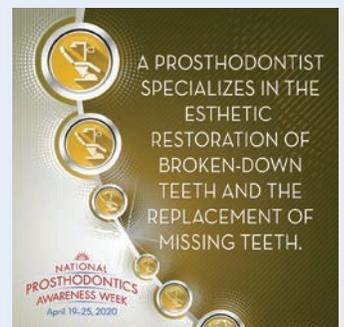
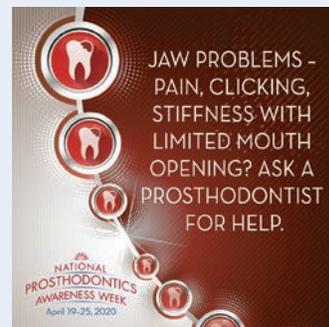
University Of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine

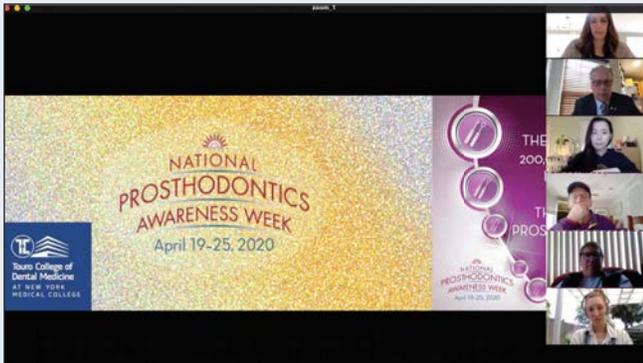
UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry

West Virginia University School of Dentistry

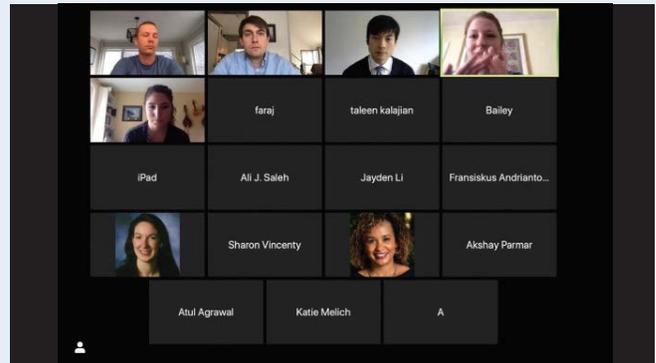


This year the ACP created a series of 10 'NPAW Facts' that members could share on social media. Compiled by Dr. Charlene Solomon, these highlight the specialized care a prosthodontist provides. These photos were posted and shared hundreds of times during NPAW 2020.

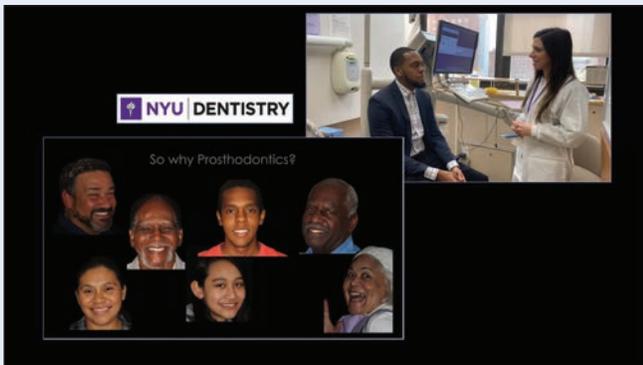




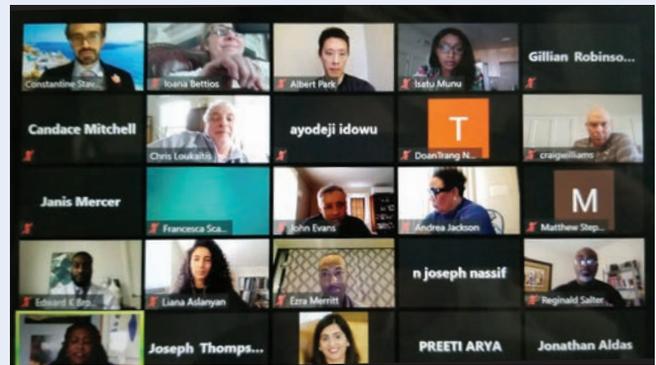
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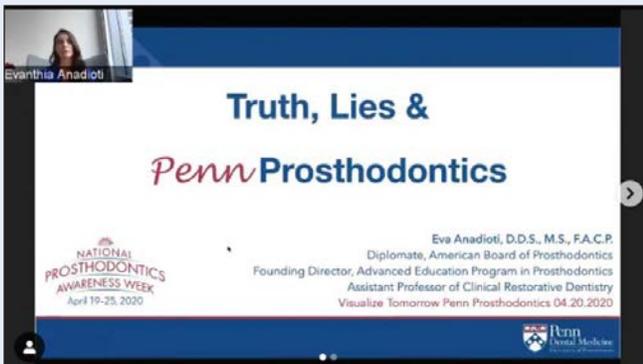
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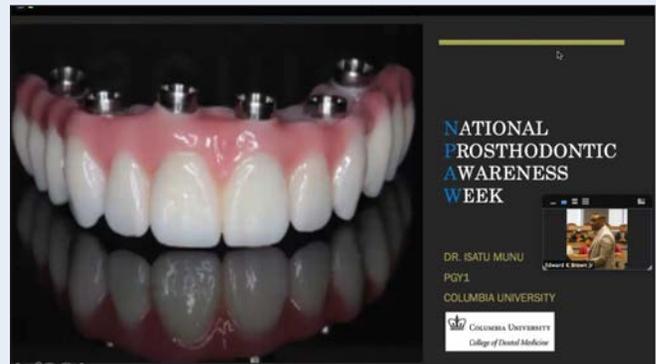
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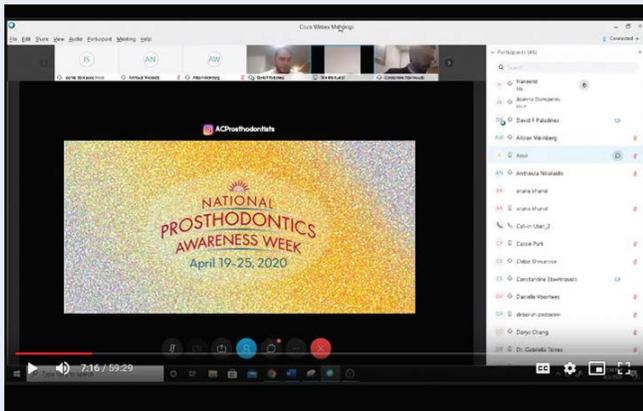
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Educational institutions adapted quickly to a virtual NPAW by holding webinars, lectures, and digital meetings with attendance ranging from a few people to over 300 attendees for several lectures. Many of these events were included on the ACP's website, organized by Dr. Constantine Stavrinos. Pictured above from left to right: (1) Tuoro College of Dental Medicine, (2) University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine, (3) NYU College of Dentistry, (4) Howard University College of Dental Medicine, (5) Penn Dental Medicine, (6) Columbia University College of Dental Medicine, and (7) Rutgers School of Dental Medicine.