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Facts

The American College of Prosthodontists' media fact sheet.

What is prosthodontics?

Prosthodontics is one of only nine recognized specialties of the American Dental Association (ADA).

Prosthodontics is the dental specialty pertaining to the diagnosis, treatment planning, rehabilitation and maintenance of the oral function, comfort, appearance, and health of patients with clinical conditions associated with missing or deficient teeth and/or oral and maxillofacial tissues using biocompatible substitutes.

What is a prosthodontist?

A prosthodontist is a dental professional who focuses on the restoration and replacement of broken or missing teeth, and also works to correct other oral or facial issues. With their advanced training, prosthodontists are able to help patients with implants, dentures, crowns and veneers, all the way to full-mouth and jaw reconstructions, using the latest in dental technology.

- Prosthodontists' training includes at least 3 years of post-dental school graduation training and education. There are 51 postdoctoral training programs in the U.S. and Canada with more than 500 prosthodontic residents enrolled. Annually, more than 140 residents graduate from a prosthodontic residency program.
- There are approximately 3,500 prosthodontists and prosthodontic residents in America, according to the ADA in 2016. Over 80 percent are members of the ACP.
- Prosthodontists provide dental services at over 6 million patient visits each year in the United States and expend in excess of \$2.6 billion on goods and services annually (Extracted from ACP Survey of Prosthodontists 2017). According to the CDC (2015), 48% of adults have no tooth loss; however, for individuals over 65 years, 18.6% are completely edentulous.

About the American College of Prosthodontists (ACP)

The American College of Prosthodontists (ACP) is the only ADA-recognized organization for the specialty of prosthodontics, and is the only prosthodontic organization whose membership is based solely on educational credentials.

- The ACP was established in 1970 and has an IRS 501(c)6 designation.
- The ACP is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to enhancing patient care, advancing the art and science of prosthodontics, promoting the specialty of prosthodontics to the public and

other dentists and healthcare professionals, ensuring the quality of prosthodontic education, and providing professional services to its membership.

- The ACP's goal is to be the global resource for all aspects of the discipline of prosthodontics and for the specialty.
- Representing a unified voice for the prosthodontic specialty, the ACP regularly communicates and interacts with the ADA, especially with the Council on Dental Education and Licensure and the Commission on Dental Accreditation.
- The ACP also supports three affiliate organizations that work together to advance the prosthodontic specialty: the ACP Education Foundation, the American Board of Prosthodontics, and the Prosthodontic Forum.

Governance

- The ACP Board of Directors is composed of 22 members, including 7 Regional Directors. The Regional Directors are elected by the ACP members in their Regions. The states in each Region are eligible to establish ACP Sections. There are also regions for Federal Services and International members. The Board and Board's Executive Committee set policy for the organization with input from over 40 Board Committees and Task Forces.
- The ACP also has affiliate membership categories known as alliances for members of the prosthodontic community: Dental Technician Alliance (for dental technicians), Global Alliance (for dentists who have completed a program in prosthodontics that is not ADA-accredited), the Predoctoral Alliance (for predoctoral students interested in the specialty), and the Advanced Program and Graduate Student Alliance (for dentists who are enrolled in an ADA approved training program and interested in prosthodontics).
- A Town Hall Meeting for ACP members is hosted by the ACP Board of Directors and held during the ACP Annual Session.
- The ACP sponsors the Prosthodontic Forum, a collaborative group comprised of organizations promoting the discipline of prosthodontics. The mission of the Forum is to be a vehicle to exchange ideas and concerns among like-minded organizations on topics such as dental education, research, dental laboratory technology, and clinical practice. As the sponsor of the Forum, the ACP communicates the Forum's vision to organized dentistry and the public. The Forum includes 17 organizations, including the ACP.

Membership

- The ACP serves more than 3,900 individual members and affiliates nationally and internationally, including private practice prosthodontists, academicians, dental technicians, dental students, and other dental professionals who have significantly contributed to the specialty. All postdoctoral program directors are members of the ACP. The ACP has over 500 resident members. These numbers are accurate as of January 2018.
- The ACP membership includes approximately 1,710 private practice prosthodontists, 470 predoctoral and postdoctoral prosthodontic educators, 200 Federal Service prosthodontists, 415 retired prosthodontists, 525 postgraduate student (resident) members, 215 predoctoral dental students, and 55 dental technicians/laboratory owners. These numbers are accurate as of January 2018.

Communications

- The ACP publishes two professional print publications.
 - Established in 1973, the *ACP Messenger* is the quarterly magazine of the ACP. The mission of the *ACP Messenger* is to inform the world of current prosthodontic trends, challenges, and successes. The *ACP Messenger* also informs members about ACP and other relevant news with an enhanced member focus and advocacy voice that will showcase how prosthodontists transform lives and are leaders in dentistry.
 - The *Journal of Prosthodontics* is published nine times per year, has an ISI impact factor, and offers continuing education credit. The *Journal of Prosthodontics* is sent to over 3,000 subscribers, including ACP members and other subscribers.
- The ACP has two websites.
 - Prosthodontics.org serves professionals and offers resources for members including information on continuing education, publications, a Find a Colleague search, online Communities, and more.
 - GoToAPro.org serves as a public-facing consumer website. The site includes a Find a Prosthodontist search which helps patients find prosthodontists in their area. The site also includes treatment options, before and after patient photos, and more.

Continuing Education

- The ACP sponsors a variety of continuing education activities each year.
 - The Digital Dentistry Symposium began in 2015 and is held in Chicago over a day and a half during the week of the Chicago Dental Society Midwinter Meeting in February.

- The Prosthodontic Review Course began in 2003. This course is held over a two day period, and is held in the fall in a different location each year. The course describes prosthodontic treatment approaches that meet esthetic and functional goals expected by patients and clinicians.
- The Annual Session is held in the late fall in a different city each year. The meeting attracts more than 1,200 participants each year and includes exhibits.

About the ACP Education Foundation (ACPEF)



Advancing prosthodontics through education and research

The ACP Education Foundation (ACPEF) was formed in 1985 with an IRS 501(c)3 designation. The mission of the ACPEF is to improve overall dental health in the United States through dissemination of educational information to the public and through support for prosthodontic education, research, and patient care.

- Governed by a Board of Directors, the ACPEF supports initiatives that promote the value of prosthodontics and advance the strategic initiatives of the ACP.
- The ACPEF supports critical initiatives to support education, research, and growth.
 - The ACPEF provides an annual equivalent benefit of \$2,000 via educational resource grants to resident members. Support of prosthodontic residents ensures the future of the specialty. Educators can share opportunities for professional growth with their residents. Private practitioners can find quality candidates to bring into their practices as they expand and/or plan for succession. The ACPEF also provides funding for residents to attend the Annual Session, which provides the residents with access to valuable career and networking opportunities available nowhere else.
 - The ACPEF is proud to support the ongoing development of Prosthopedia®, the authoritative online resource library for the field of prosthodontics. The site includes over 900 published resources on topics such as best practices, educational curricula, and clinical procedures.
 - The ACPEF is leading the application of advanced digital dental technology. Digital dentistry creates an opportunity for prosthodontists to be positioned as the leaders in new technology. Through publications, industry relationships, and other programs, the

broader dental community is now aware that prosthodontists are taking the lead in this movement – creating referral opportunities for your practice.

- The ACPEF supports the *Clinical Practice Guidelines for Patients with Dental Restorations*, which was released in December 2015.
- The ACPEF supports the Digital Dentistry Curriculum, which will be released to all dental schools in 2018.
- The ACPEF supports the annual administration of the National Prosthodontic Resident Exam, which is taken by over 400 residents each year.
- The ACPEF supports research grants and awards through the John J. Sharry Research Competition, the Research Fellowships, and the Prosthodontist Innovator Award. Over 200 research projects have been funded since 1978.

Any questions on this Fact Sheet should be directed to the Communications & Marketing Manager.