What is a Prosthodontist?

A prosthodontist is a dental specialist, recognized by the American Dental Association. Dental specialties are recognized by the ADA to protect the public, nurture the art and science of dentistry, and improve the quality of care.

- As one of only nine recognized specialties of the American Dental Association, prosthodontists specialize in the restoration of oral function with an emphasis on esthetic and reconstructive dentistry.

- Prosthodontists’ training includes at least 3-5 years of post-dental school graduation training and education. There are 48 postgraduate training programs in the U.S. and Canada with more than 500 prosthodontic residents. There are more than 140 graduates annually from combined program.

- There are approximately 3,450 (ADA 2009) prosthodontists in America; 74 percent of these dental specialists are members of the College.

- Prosthodontists provide dental services to more than 1.1 million patients each year in the United States and expend in excess of $1.8 billion on goods and services annually.

About the American College of Prosthodontists (ACP)

The ACP was established in 1970 and has an IRS 501(c)6 designation.

Mission: To improve the quality of life by:

- promoting the highest standard of patient care
- advancing the art and science of prosthodontics,
- promoting the specialty of prosthodontics to the public, other dentists, and health care professionals,
- ensuring the quality of prosthodontic education, and
- providing professional services to its membership.

The ACP Board of Directors is composed of 21 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. The Board and Board’s Executive Committee set policy for the organization with input from members in the 7 Regions and the Sections, and from over 40 Board Committees and Task Forces.
A Town Hall meeting for ACP members and hosted by the ACP Board of Directors is held in conjunction with the ACP’s Annual Scientific Session. The ACP’s House of Delegates dissolved itself in 2007 in order to adopt a more effective regional governance structure.

The American College of Prosthodontists is the professional association of dentists with advanced specialty training who are the experts in creating optimal oral health, both in function and appearance including dental implants, dentures, bridges, oral cancer screening, veneers, crowns and teeth whitening.

- ACP’s goal is to be the global resource for all aspects of the discipline of prosthodontics and for the specialty.

- The ACP sponsors the **Prosthodontic Forum**, an organization 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 College communicates the Forum’s vision to organized dentistry and the public. The Forum includes 16 organizations representing 23,600 members.

- The College serves 3,455 individual members nationally and internationally including prosthodontists, academics, dental technicians, dental students and other dental professionals who have significantly contributed to the specialty. All postgraduate program directors are members of the College. Our resident members exceed 600 in number.

- An international director position on the ACP BOD was initiated in 2007. A new Global Alliance was launched in 2008, which broadened the membership to include international members training in foreign dental schools.

- The ACP members include approximately 1,660 private practice prosthodontists, 410 predoctoral and postgraduate prosthodontic educators, 190 Federal Service prosthodontists, 400 Retired prosthodontists, 625 postgraduate student members, 100 predoctoral dental students, and 87 dental technician/laboratory owners.

- The ACP is the only prosthodontic specialty association where membership is based solely on education credentials.

- The American Dental Association recognizes the ACP as the only organization representing 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 publishes two professional publications, the quarterly *ACP Messenger* magazine for members and consumers and the *Journal of Prosthodontics*. The Journal is published 8X annually, has an ISI impact factor, and offers continuing education credit.

• The ACP’s website serves professionals and a new and consumer website, [www.gotoapro.org](http://www.gotoapro.org) launched in November 2011. Find a Prosthodontist and Find a Dental Technician are two online directories of the ACP. The ACP also provides an Expert Advisory Panel that answers questions from consumers on P&G’s web site for the public, *DentureLiving.com*.

• We sponsor a variety of continuing education activities each year from our Annual Session to in depth courses on implants and dentures, for specialists and general dentists. The AS attracts more than 1,200 participants each year and includes exhibits and a Technology Forum.

• ACP 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.

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**About the ACPEF**

The ACP Education Foundation (ACPEF) was formed in 1985 with an IRS 501(c)3 designation.

The mission of the ACP Education Foundation 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 an independent, 14 member Board of Directors, it supports catalytic initiatives that promote the value of Prosthodontics and that advance the strategic initiatives of the ACP.

• The ACPEF has committed more than two and a half million dollars in grants to advance the prosthodontic specialty through research and education.