



June 3, 2013

Ms. Dixie Sommers  
 Assistant Commissioner  
 Office of Occupational Statistics and Employment Projections  
 U.S. Department of Labor-Bureau of Labor Statistics PSB Suite 2135  
 2 Massachusetts Ave., N.E.  
 Washington, D.C. 20212-0001

Dear Ms. Sommers:

Thank you for making time today for a telephone conversation with the American College of Prosthodontists (ACP) Vice President, Dr. Frank Tuminelli and the ACP Director of Media Relations, Carolyn Barth. As discussed, the ACP is very concerned about the impact of the 2012 U.S. occupations statistics released by the United States Department of Labor (DOL), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). U.S.

Prosthodontists were estimated to be 310, making it “the least common” job in America. A significant degree of inaccuracy exists in the [United States Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics OES Report regarding](#) the number of U.S. prosthodontists. In fact, there are 3,372 Prosthodontists who practice in the U.S., per the [American Dental Association](#), Health Policy Resources Center, *Distribution of Dentists in the U.S. by Region and State, 2010*. Top-tier media including NPR, Forbes, the Atlantic Monthly, and the April 15, 2013, [Time Magazine Briefing](#) (page 5 of the printed issue, “Most rare profession in America with 310 prosthodontists working today”), are publishing inaccurate stories and citing this report. As a result, the public and prospective prosthodontists are being misled the public about the prevalence of our profession.

Prosthodontics is one of the nine recognized specialties by the American Dental Association and was founded as a dental specialty in 1946. By 1948, Prosthodontics was included as one of the first four dental specialties to be accredited by the American Dental Association. The American College of Prosthodontists is the organization recognized to represent the specialty. The ramifications of underreporting the number of U.S. Prosthodontists at 310 becomes acute and does a disservice to the 33 million Americans who have no teeth and the 178 million Americans missing one or more teeth. The U.S. is in the midst of an access to dental care crisis; each year over 180 million Americans don’t see a dentist.

Prosthodontists are specialized dentists with 3-4 years of advanced training in oral health issues such as replacing missing or broken teeth with implants,

2013 ANNUAL SESSION  
 OCT. 9-12, 2013  
 LAS VEGAS

- DR. LEE M. JAMESON  
President
- DR. JOHN R. AGAR  
President-Elect
- DR. FRANK J. TUMINELLI  
Vice President
- DR. SUSAN E. BRACKETT  
Secretary
- DR. CARL F. DRISCOLL  
Treasurer
- DR. LILY T. GARCIA  
Immediate Past President


211 E. CHICAGO AVE.  
 SUITE 1000  
 CHICAGO, IL 60611  
 PHONE 312.573.1260  
 FAX 312.573.1257

crowns, veneers, dentures. Prosthodontists treat patients with complex dental needs and coordinate this advanced care with the other dental specialties and general dentists. Prosthodontic treatment goals are designed to provide long-term patient outcomes that improve speech, chewing and smiles. Patients who have benefited from seeking the services of a prosthodontist are featured on the American College of Prosthodontists' consumer website [GoToAPro.org](http://GoToAPro.org) (e.g. [see Ronnie's before and after pictures.](#)) Our website posts up-to-date information and statistics on prosthodontists and prosthodontics, and permits patients to find a local prosthodontist via zip code.

U.S. patients seeking a highly trained, specialized dentist with advanced training in digital dentistry and cosmetic dentistry procedures should be seeking the care of a prosthodontist. For the above described reasons, we urge the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics to correctly report that 3,372 (not 310) prosthodontists practice in the U.S. for the 2013 study. We also strongly encourage BLS to find ways to present accurate information to the public. Toward this end, we request that you provide us with the details on how the 310 (not 3,372) U.S. Prosthodontist number is derived.

Thank you for your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,



Lee M. Jameson, D.D.S., M.S., F.A.C.P.  
President, American College of Prosthodontists  
Diplomate, American Board of Prosthodontics  
[GoToAPro.org](http://GoToAPro.org)

211 E. CHICAGO AVE.

SUITE 1000

CHICAGO, IL 60611

PHONE 312.573.1260

FAX 312.573.1257

[GoToAPro.org](http://GoToAPro.org)