2019 National Prosthodontics Awareness Week Recap

NPAW 2019 saw increased member engagement and activity, all in the name of increasing the visibility of the specialty of prosthodontics. ACP members across the country, and the world, completed pro bono work, gave lectures, and spread awareness in their local communities.

This year there was a special emphasis on social media and digital content, encouraging members to continue the grassroots movement online. There was a brand-new series of seven NPAW Facts that highlighted different aspects of prosthodontics, and an NPAW Video Challenge to showcase the unique perspectives of prosthodontists. Other notable achievements from NPAW 2019 include:

- Over 450 members participated – the most ever!
- Official proclamations were made covering 23 million people
- Members from all 7 Regions participated
- Over 900 NPAW social media posts received over 39,000 interactions

Thank you to all members who put their valuable time and energy into making NPAW 2019 a success. Here is a list of NPAW activities organized by Region and State. If your activity is not listed, please send a brief description with photos to media@prosthodontics.org.

Region 1

Connecticut: ACP CT President Dr. Marie Falcone hosted the second annual “Women in Dentistry Night” for female dental professionals in Fairfield County, where Dr. Falcone discussed prosthodontics and held a social event at a local small business. Dr. Falcone, along with Dr. William Zapata received an official citation from the State of Connecticut recognizing their efforts in prosthodontics.

The UConn Postgraduate Program in Prosthodontics celebrated NPAW with several activities throughout the week including residents giving presentations at a booth during lunch, a table at the UConn health fair, and at the ASDA Dental Expo Day. Dr. Avinash Bidra gave a lunch and learn lecture to predoctoral students, residents hosted a Lab Night with lab tours and prosthodontic tricks, and NPAW information was displayed on TV monitors around UConn.
Dr. Amalie Lomartire shared NPAW Facts on social media.

Dr. Pablo Cuevas held an office celebration, including a cake, and posted photos on social media.

Dr. Dave Remiszewski shared photos of UConn’s NPAW celebrations on social media.

**Massachusetts:** Harvard School of Dental Medicine held an Advanced Prosthodontics Forum with guest lecturer Dr. Gary Wetreich. There were 45 participants at the event including predoctoral students from HSDM, Tufts and BU. Following the lecture, residents led an interactive planning workshop where participants had the chance to develop treatment plans for a complex case.

Drs. Alvaro Garcia, Babak Jouhari, Eugenia Chan, Pamela Maragliano and Vincent Mariano posted about NPAW on social media.

**Maine:** Dr. Miles Cone posted a professional video showcasing his practice and prosthodontics on social media.

**New Jersey:** Dr. Stephen I. Hudis did pro bono work on a deserving patient, shared photos and did informational videos on social media.

Rutgers School of Dental Medicine had information about prosthodontics on their hall monitors, and Dr. Hoda Yousef discussed the specialty with undergraduate students.

Drs. Michael Klotz, Paul Zhivago, and Vrajesh Shah posted about NPAW on social media.

**New York:** Dr. Samantha Rawdin posted a video on social media where she interviewed people on the streets of New York City, asking them if they knew what a prosthodontist is.
Dr. Robert C. Rawdin appeared on Doctor Radio on SiriusXM. Hosted by two professors in medicine from NYU, they discussed the relationship between oral health and systemic health, as well as sleep apnea.

At NYU College of Dentistry, Dr. Siamak Najafi presented to students in the Advanced Program for International Dentists in Comprehensive Dentistry on how prosthodontists change lives, how vast the field is, and about his personal experiences in prosthodontic residency at NYU. There was also a fun NPAW cake.


Region 2

Florida: Drs. Eli Friedman and Anthony Gragg filmed educational videos for each day of NPAW, did a “60 second apple challenge” to show the importance of strong teeth, had an office celebration with treats, shared a personal story about being a prosthodontist in the Army, and appeared on a local radio station.

Drs. Wael Garine and Luis Boza attended a hands-on study club meeting and created a short video detailing the experience.

Dr. Paivi Samant held office celebrations, including fun signs and a cake!

Dr. Rachel Squier had an NPAW sign in her office and celebrated by posting on social media.

Many ACP members in Florida posted on social media to celebrate NPAW including: Drs. Alicia Toro, Derek Gatta, Hasan Yap, Javier Martinez, Jorge Mosquera, Julio Rodriguez,
Kimberley Daxon, Larry Marks, Luiz Gonzaga, Martín S. Lalama, Nidal Elias, Philip Hedger, Randold Binns, Rohit Mathur, and Veneuska Ocando.

Georgia: The Dental College of Georgia Advanced Education in Prosthodontics Department at Augusta University, along with the ACP GA Section, held a celebration and a presentation of clinical cases to undergraduate students by chief resident Dr. Eric Bailey and his co-residents. Faculty, residents and staff of Restorative Sciences were in attendance to answer questions about the specialty and prosthodontic residency.

Drs. Carlos Castro, David Zelby, and Maha El-Sayed shared NPAW Facts on social media.

Maryland: The University of Maryland postgraduate prosthodontics residents held an informational session for predoctoral students, covering various topics including the scope of prosthodontic patients, cost of the residency, application process, and the life of a resident. Former program director Dr. Carl Driscoll also gave some words of advice.

Drs. Eric Hu, Keith Boenning, and Michael Wright posted on social media for NPAW.

North Carolina: Dr. Hunter Dawson received official proclamations declaring NPAW in the State of North Carolina and in Winston-Salem. As President of the North Carolina Section, Dr. Dawson sent the proclamation to ACP members in North Carolina and discussed prosthodontics on Fox8 News.

Drs. Paul Scruggs, William Scruggs and Anthony Molina enlarged a copy of the official NPAW proclamation and displayed it in their office. This initiated a lot of discussions with patients.

The prosthodontics residents at UNC Chapel Hill School of Dentistry conducted “Denture Week” where they worked with a local Community Health Center to provide nine complete sets of dentures in
just three-four days (one by each resident). On Friday the whole program participated in UNC Mock Board Examinations. On Thursday they did an Instagram Takeover for the ACP!

Drs. Brandon Kofford, Mark Scurria, Nancy Chaffee, and Lee Culp, CDT posted about NPAW on social media.

**Pennsylvania:** Dr. Robert Bentz celebrated with NPAW pretzels and tomato pie, recorded original videos with prosthodontic tips, shared videos and photos on social media, and took photos with patients – including Buzz Bissinger, journalist and author of “Friday Night Lights.”

Dr. Andrea Smith celebrated NPAW with a week of daily prosthodontics facts and “Smile Selfie” challenges on her practice’s Facebook. Each day they presented a fact about prosthodontics and a challenge to take a selfie doing something such as holding an NPAW sign, brushing their teeth, and even their pets smiling. The weeklong campaign reached a total of 46,000 people.

Dr. Elaine Torres-Melendez celebrated by sponsoring an adult spelling bee team that wore NPAW shirts and taught everyone how to spell “prosthodontics.” Dr. Torres-Melendez also posted NPAW signs around her office and on monitors, shared on social media, and gave away NPAW tote bags that had information about prosthodontics.

Drs. Eva Anadioti, Oswaldo Nieves, Stephen Cross, the Penn Prosthodontics Club, and Stephen Balshi, CDT posted about NPAW on social media.
Dr. Glenn Wolfinger of Pi Dental Center held an open house called “Smiling Hour” with beer and wine tasting, tours of the facility, complimentary evaluations, a photo booth, door prizes, and a raffle. The event was promoted on social media, along with facts about prosthodontics.

**Puerto Rico:** Drs. Víctor A. Rivera Méndez and Diego Ramirez Alvarado posted on social media for NPAW.

**South Carolina:** Drs. Candice Vinson and Nick Ruggiero posted about prosthodontics on social media.

**Virginia:** Dr. Mariano Polack received an official proclamation from Prince William County declaring NPAW. Dr. Polack spoke at the County meeting explaining prosthodontics and NPAW.

Dr. Ursula Klostermyer placed an ad in the local press about prosthodontics and celebrate in the office with free exams and oral cancer screenings. Patients could tour the dental laboratory and learn about obturators and extraoral devices.

Drs. Ben Ross, Hugo Bonilla, JR Wilson, Keenan Davis, Scott Miller, and Sompop Bencharit posted about prosthodontics on social media.

**Washington, DC:** Drs. Benjamin Watkins, Fotini Chrisopoulou, and Keith Progebin posted about prosthodontics on social media.

**Region 3**

**Alabama:** Dr. Cramin P. Wiltz challenged patients to post an original video about prosthodontics, and created fun prosthodontics t-shirts.

Dr. Stephen Liu posted complicated cases on social media.
Arkansas: Dr. Naif Sinada took over the ACP’s Instagram account, and shared photos of complicated cases and treatment methods on his personal Instagram.

Iowa: The Prosthodontic Residents at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry, along with program director Dr. Tarek El Kerdani, constructed new dentures for six veterans completely free of charge during the week of NPAW. This is a way of giving back to the community and also the project acted as the complete denture competency exam for the third-year residents. Local newspaper *The Daily Iowan* wrote an article about the pro bono work.

Dr. Michelle Burson posted photos of recently delivered dentures on social media.

**Illinois:** Governor of Illinois, JB Pritzker, officially declared April 7-13, 2019 Prosthodontics Awareness Week in Illinois.

In the City of Chicago, Mayor Rahm Emanuel officially proclaimed April 7-13, 2019 NPAW in Chicago.

The University of Illinois at Chicago School of Dentistry’s prosthodontics department celebrated NPAW with ‘Peace, Love, Prosthodontics’ buttons to spread awareness of the specialty, they held a lecture for women in dentistry, and gave case presentations. UIC prosthodontic resident Dr. Laura Koo Min Chee took over the ACP’s Instagram account to show what it is like to be a resident at UIC.

Drs. Alec Zurek, Diana Cuesta, Joon Han, Kevin Kopp, Keith Guzaitis, Suzie Ahn, Nihal Bicakci, Hrant Bicakci, Samantha Dahshan, Laura Koo Min Chee, and Stuart Schelkopf posted about NPAW on social media.

**Indiana:** Dr. Michael Drone shared NPAW Facts on social media.

**Kansas:** Dr. Brandon James posted on social media to celebrate NPAW.
Kentucky: The Kentucky Section of the ACP held a special “Prosthodontics Study Club” meeting directed by Ayah Rashwan (UKCD), Varun Nigam (UKCD), and Sara Kube (UofL) on Friday, April 19, in Lexington. 26 members, guests, residents, and students met and board-certified prosthodontist Dr. Loana Tovar Suinaga presented a CE lecture on “Esthetic Considerations for Implant Restorations.”

Dr. Brandon Stapleton shared NPAW Facts and information about prosthodontics on social media.

Michigan: To celebrate NPAW Drs. Andrew Dill, Fransiskus Andrianto Tjiptowidjojo, John Bazzi, and the University of Michigan School of Dentistry posted on social media.

Minnesota: Drs. Alfredo Montes Imeri, Dane McMillan, James Lee, Jou Lua, Luis Delima, and David Clay posted on social media to celebrate NPAW.

Mississippi: Dr. Matt Milner posted about prosthodontics on social media.

Ohio: The 54th Annual Carl O. Boucher Prosthodontic Conference was held in Columbus, OH. More than 140 guests, residents, general practitioners, prosthodontists, and other specialists attended the meeting. Speakers included Drs. Chandur Wadhwani, Robert Stewart, Kumar Shivapuja, Ingeborg DeKok, Kumar Shah, and Steven Eckert. Third year residents of the OSU Advanced Prosthodontic Program, Drs. Nick Jacobs, Aneeqa Malik, and Sweety Shah presented on their research. Residents from Indiana, Michigan, and The Ohio State University presented posters.

Dr. Valerie McMillan crafted 10 sets of pro bono digital dentures for people in need in her community in just one week. Dr. McMillan documented her progress on Instagram throughout the week.
The Ohio State University Advanced Prosthodontics Program hosted a lunch and learn where the entire college was invited. Drs. Severino Mata and Salah Mulla, second-year residents, presented on their collection of interesting patients, ranging from traditional removeable prosthodontics to digital 3D printing. Many people attended and lunch was provided by the Dean. They also hosted their 2nd Annual Advanced Prosthodontics Alumni breakfast, which brought together alumni from 1978-2018, celebrating 40 years of prosthodontic education at OSU.

Drs. Salah Mulla, Sweety Shah, Richard Cunningham, and Mohamed Abdelhamed posted about NPAW on social media.

**Wisconsin:** Drs. Ali Ramadhan and Dianne Marie posted about prosthodontics on social media.

**Region 4**

**Arizona:** Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health hosted a three-day lunch and learn lecture series with Drs. Bryan McLaughlin, Hannah Colburn and Russell Crockett. Organized by third-year dental student Ninella Boguspour, with the help of Dr. Matthew Kahn, the lecture series was open to all dental students, residents, and faculty.

Drs. Tamer El-Gendy and Perry Fraiman shared NPAW Facts on social media.

**Colorado:** Drs. Emily Batson, Renan Buitrago, Taylor Goggins, and Brian Aguirre posted about prosthodontics on social media.
Idaho: Drs. Christopher Jones and Michael Gurney of Boise Prosthodontics provided dentures to seven local veterans in just three days. They also had a unique photo backdrop that promoted NPAW, Boise Prosthodontics and the ACP. They created a video of their work over the course of the week.

Texas: Dr. Bryan McLaughlin gave a lecture at a study club in El Paso that was attended by around 25 general dentists and specialists.

Dr. Harold Kolodney, Jr. sent a special note to colleagues with the Michael E. DeBakey VAMC, highlighting the special work of prosthodontists and thanking them for being part of the dental team.

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center held a large oral cancer screening on April 12. This event was organized as part of the Head and Neck Cancer Alliance Oral Cancer Awareness Week coinciding with National Prosthodontics Awareness Week. This activity was made possible by the collaborative efforts of the Head and Neck Surgery Department and the Section of Oral Oncology and Maxillofacial Prosthodontics. This public service was organized and chaired by Dr. Mark Chambers, whose special interest is in oral premalignant lesions.

Residents at the University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston gave a lecture to dental students about “The Exciting World of Prosthodontics.” They also shared photos from this event on social media.

At Texas A&M University College of Dentistry the Graduate Prosthodontics department co-hosted the Bullard Lectureship in Prosthodontics and Implant Dentistry with Dr. Sonia Leziy and Dr. Brahm
Miller as the distinguished lecturers. 12 residents from UT San Antonio Grad Pros joined the meeting and table clinics were presented.

Dr. Antonella Botto posted photos of the UTHealth San Antonio graduate prosthodontics program as they work in the lab.

Many ACP members in Texas posted on social media to celebrate NPAW including: Drs. Albert C. Park, Antonella Botto, Christina Wang, David J. Dominguez, Ernesto Carmona Jr., Eva Boldridge, Gabriel Sader, Giancarlo Aymerich, Johanna Yepez, Kimberly Nguyen, Paul Chang, Rowan Buskin, Paulino Castellon, Saeed Yazdianpour, Sheena Allen, and Priscila Schaefer.

Utah: Dr. Rod Andrus shared NPAW Facts on social media.

Region 5


Washington: Dr. Ashley Hoders took over the ACP’s Instagram Account and shared what it is like to be a dual board-certified prosthodontist/periodontist.

Drs. Jae Seon Kim, Lisa Thoms, Polly Ma, Hai Zhang, Russel I. Johnson, and predoctoral student Brandon Walker posted about prosthodontics on social media.

Region 6 (Federal Services)

Army: Drs. Kimberly Schlam and Luciano Olan-Rodriguez, along with general dentist Dr. Bill Manganaro gave a lecture on “Dental Sleep Medicine and Oral Appliance Therapy” to an interdisciplinary group of oral and
maxillofacial surgeons, sleep physicians, and ENT physicians at Womack Army Medical Center at Fort Bragg. This lecture was held to bring together all disciplines who participate in the treatment of sleep apnea patients covering topics of PAP therapy, oral appliance therapy, maxillofacial surgery, as well as ENT surgery.

Navy: The Naval Postgraduate Dental School Prosthodontics Residency in Bethesda, Maryland celebrated NPAW by providing a weeklong continuing education course to over 50 dentists from around the world. Second and third-year residents, faculty, and guest lecturers gave presentations on various topics ranging from treatment planning with a virtual patient, implant restorative options, implant proximal contact loss and associated factors, shortened dental arch, lab communication, restorative considerations for missing anterior single tooth, mechanical vs. virtual articulation, and role of the dentist for the irradiated patient.

Region 7 (International)

Canada: First-year prosthodontic residents from the University of Manitoba College of Dentistry, Drs. Scott Kirby and Arash Safvati, provided free oral cancer screenings as part of a Manitoba Dental Association and Never Alone Foundation event. It took place at the Winnipeg Outlet Collection Mall Saturday, April 13.

Dr. Cecilia Aragon took over the ACP’s Instagram account and shared what it is like to be a prosthodontist in Canada, and a woman in dentistry.

Drs. Beatrice Leung, Brian Kucey, and Rakan Baaj posted about NPAW on social media.

Singapore: Dr. Kelvin Khng shared about life as a prosthodontist in Singapore on social media.

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