

Dr. Perng-Ru Liu

February 1960- November 2022



Dr. Perng-Ru Liu passed away in November 2022. Liu received his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from Chung-Shan Medical University in Taiwan in 1985. He joined UAB as a clinical instructor in Restorative Dentistry in 1990, then received his Master of Science in Dental Materials from UAB in 1992 and his Doctor of Dental Medicine degree in 1999.

Liu is credited for being one of the school's leaders during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic. Through calm determination, he helped acquire and organize the necessary PPE equipment, then worked to determine the safest way to reopen and operate clinics. His tireless efforts were acknowledged by a grateful university in 2021 when he was awarded the inaugural UAB President's Award for Excellence in Shared Values.

Liu was the founding chair for the Department of Comprehensive Dentistry (2000-09), and chaired the Department of Prosthodontics (2009-12) and the Department of Restorative Sciences (2012-19). In 2014, Liu was named the inaugural holder of the Thomas P. Hinman Dental Meeting Endowed Professorship in Comprehensive Dentistry. He was appointed Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs in 2020.

Dr. Liu's leadership minimized the impact of COVID on our patient care and education," says SOD professor and chair Nicolas Geurs, D.D.S., M.S. "He was present every day after the resumption of care and provided all of us a sense of security in that difficult time.

"He was a leader by example and strived for excellence in everything. He never sought the limelight or glory for his accomplishments. He would rather deflect those to others and facilitate their success. His impact on the school is unmeasurable. His legacy reaches beyond dentistry to human kindness."

Liu provided leadership in prosthodontics and comprehensive dentistry at UAB SOD for more than 30 years, during which time he earned a reputation for being a hard worker with a soft heart.

While Liu obviously meant so much to the UAB School of Dentistry, Wen-Chou Wu says the school and the university were extremely important to him in return. He says this was especially evident in the final email he received from Liu shortly before his passing.

"In the past 30 years of service at SOD, I gave all I have," Liu wrote. "I have accomplished a lot, and I have no regrets. He is survived by his wife and other family members.