

Tightly Wired

For Alumni & Friends of the UNMC College of Dentistry Orthodontics Program

From the Program Director



As we look forward to new beginnings and all the wonderful things Spring of 2023 brings, including our AAO meeting in Chicago and the new leadership and faculty in the Orthodontics Program, I would like to fill you in about the wild ride it has been since I took over as Program Director on October 1, 2021.

For those of you who don't know me, I joined the Department of Growth & Development in September 2017 after completing my Master of Dental Science degree and Certificate in Orthodontics (for a second time) from the University of Connecticut. I assumed my responsibility as Program Director at a time of immense transition and change. Two of our senior faculty and the Department Chair accepted

leadership positions in other schools.

I like to think that in the last two years we have had a period of metamorphosis in our department. What made the time particularly interesting and challenging was how close we were to the CODA accreditation process while also still navigating the COVID-19 pandemic. We not only successfully traversed and maintained accreditation for our program, but we moved forward with our plans to digitize the department and recruit new full- and part-time faculty.

We were able to thrive even under difficult circumstances because of the incredible support I got from our exemplary part-time faculty, who went above and beyond their call of duty over the past two years, and the alumni who gladly jumped in the fray to teach and support us financially. I am so glad I can use this newsletter to thank our faculty for their help – Thank you so much!

In the coming pages, we will introduce our full- and part-time faculty members who are vital to our program's success. I would also like to thank Dr. Janet Guthmiller, former Dean of the College, for her help and support during this period of transition. I cannot believe I have spent five and half years at UNMC already. Not only did I find my life partner after moving to Lincoln, but the College has been instrumental in my professional growth. I am so glad to call Nebraska home!

- Dr. Minnie Vishwanath

Join us at the AAO Alumni Reception!

Drs. Minnie Vishwanath and Sumit Yadav are hosting an Alumni Reception at the American Association of Orthodontics Annual Meeting.

Saturday, April 22 | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Maggiano's Little Italy | 516 N. Clark St., Chicago

Our community



New faculty member Dr. Po-Jung Chen with residents and staff.



Celebrating Dr. Paula Harre's birthday.



The Orthodontics Program team.



We greatly appreciate your donations to the Orthodontics Development Fund.



Tightly Wired

Issue 21, Spring 2023

This newsletter is produced by the Orthodontic Section of the Department of Growth & Development of the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry.

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Program Achievements

The UNMC Orthodontics Program faculty and residents make important contributions to orthodontics research. Following are recent abstracts, publications and grants:

Abstracts

- **Vishwanath M**, Schoettger S, Achutan C, Petro T, Oakley G. (2022) Characterization of Aerosols Produced by Common Orthodontic Procedures Using an Optical Particle Counter. Consortium for Orthodontic Advances in Science and Technology (COAST) meeting, CA, November 2022.
- Schoettger S, Achutan C, Petro T, Oakley G, **Vishwanath M**. (2022) Characterization of Aerosols Produced by Common Orthodontic Procedures. AADOCR/CADR Annual Meeting-Virtual Presentation, March 2022.
- **Po-Jung Chen**, Adam Tanguay, Ke Wang, Paige Woods, Mara O'brien, Tannin Schmidt, **Sumit Yadav**: Investigating PRG4 Re-expression as a Treatment for TMJ Degenerative Diseases, ASBMR Annual Meeting, 2022.

Publications

- Ross G, Abu Arqub S, Mehta S, **Vishwanath M**, Tadinada A, **Yadav S**, Upadhyay M. Estimating the 3-D location of impacted maxillary canines: A CBCT-based analysis of severity of impaction. *Orthod Craniofac Res*. 2022 Apr 28. doi: 10.1111/ocr.12581. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35478265.
- **Chen PJ**, Wang K, Mehta S, O'Brien MH, Dealy CN, Dutra EH, **Yadav S**. Anabolic Response of Intermittent Parathyroid Hormone and Alendronate on the Osteochondral Tissue of TMJ. *Cartilage*. 2022 Dec;13(4):171-183. doi: 10.1177/19476035221109229. Epub 2022 Oct 14. PMID: 36239576; PMCID: PMC9924974.
- Mehta S, Wang K, **Chen PJ**, Zhichao F, Ahmida A, Kalajzic Z, **Yadav S**. How does alendronate affect orthodontic tooth movement in osteogenesis imperfecta: an in vivo study on a mice model. *Eur J Orthod*. 2023 Mar 31;45(2):217-223. doi: 10.1093/ejo/cjad001. PMID: 36772933.
- Liu J, **Chen PJ**, Mehta S, Dutra EH, **Yadav S**. Dynamic Changes in Transcriptome During Orthodontic Tooth Movement. *Orthod Craniofac Res*. 2023 Mar 8. doi: 10.1111/ocr.12650. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36891648.

Grants

- Title: Characterization of Aerosols Produced by Common Orthodontic Procedures Using an Optical Particle Counter. PI: **M. Vishwanath** 07/01/2021 - 06/30/2022. Agency: American Association of Orthodontists Foundation – Orthodontics Faculty Development Award (T.M. Graber Teaching Award). Total Funding: \$20,000.
- Title: Role of Geroscience-Guided Therapeutics in Oral Health Problems of Aging PI: **P. Chen** 08/01/2022 – 07/31/2024. Agency: DHHS/NIH/NIA. Objective: This proposal aims to determine if intermittent mechanical loading augments the beneficial effects of intermittent senolytics on TMJ cartilage and understand the role senolytics and intermittent mechanical loading plays in preventing or inhibiting the TMJ degeneration with advancing age. Total funding: \$200,000.
- Title: Mechanisms of PTH action in Cartilage of Temporomandibular Joint PI: **P. Chen** 07/01/2022 – 06/30/2023. Agency: American Association of Orthodontists Foundation. Objective: This proposal aims to examine the effects of PTH on chondrocyte de-differentiation. Greater knowledge on the molecular mechanism by which FGF2 regulates de-differentiation. Total funding: \$20,000.



About Dr. Yadav:

Prior to coming to UNMC, Dr. Yadav was a professor and research director at the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine, Division of Orthodontics.

He received his BDS in dental surgery from Manipal University, India, in 2002, his MDS in orthodontics from Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, India, in 2006, his PhD in dental sciences from Indiana University-Purdue University in 2010, and his certificate in orthodontics from the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine in 2013. He received his MBA from the Northwestern Kellogg School of Management in 2022.

Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Yadav received seven awards from the American Association of Orthodontists, including the B. F. Dewel Memorial Research Award for biomedical research (awarded three times), the Anthony A. Gianelly Teaching Fellowship Award, and the Robert M. Ricketts Sunflower Orthodontics Fellowship Award. He also received the Beni Solow Award from the European Journal of Orthodontics in 2021 for the best paper published in the journal. Dr. Yadav is a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics.

His research focuses are examining the molecular pathways that regulate temporomandibular joint osteoarthritis, obesity and tooth loss, and personalized devices for orthodontic tooth movement. He is currently funded through National Institute of Health and American Association of Orthodontic Foundation.

Dr. Yadav has published 130 peer-reviewed articles and co-edited a book – “Temporary Anchorage Devices in Orthodontics: Elsevier.” He has received 21 research grants, is the associate editor for “Progress in Orthodontics,” and is a reviewer for 10 other journals. Dr. Yadav has been an invited lecturer both nationally and internationally on many topics.

Meet the Department Chair

Message from Sumit Yadav, BDS, MDS, MBA, PhD:

I joined the UNMC College of Dentistry in March 2023 as Chair of the Department of Growth & Development and the Henry and Anne Cech Professor of Orthodontics.

I have been really impressed and moved by the many testimonies I have heard from faculty, residents and staff on the impact UNMC has had on their lives.

The faculty in the department shared ideas about how we can improve our educational and research offerings to prepare the orthodontic residents for the changing orthodontic environment. We are collectively working towards a shared vision on further improving the dental students' and residents' educational and wellness experiences in the department.

In my very short time at UNMC, there have been successes, but also bumps in the roads. Since March 2023, the UNMC Orthodontics Program has secured external funding of \$110,000 through two different foundations and six peer-reviewed publications have been accepted/published.

Through alumni and NU foundation support, we purchased or are in a process of acquiring cutting-edge technology - including CBCT, Intra-oral scanners, metal and plastic 3D printers - to support patient care, evidenced-based education and research.

I am really honored that alumni have supported the UNMC Orthodontics Program in many ways. It has been wonderful to meet so many of you at UNMC and I look forward to meeting many more at AAO in Chicago. Your commitment and support inspires us to make the department and the UNMC Orthodontics Program the very best it can be.

It is my hope that you will want to learn about and support more initiatives we will take in near and distant future, to excel and shape the UNMC Orthodontics Program and the department. I will communicate with you about the changes we make and get your input. As always, we want to hear from you!

Dr. Harre set to retire

For almost three decades, Dr. Paula Harre, a mainstay in the UNMC Orthodontics Clinic, has counted graduation ceremonies and relationships with students as her favorite moments. Now, after watching many residents graduate and start their professional lives, she is moving into the next stage of her journey – retirement.

Dr. Harre, whose last day is at the end of April, said it is hard to describe what the College of Dentistry, especially the Orthodontics Program, has meant to her.

“I was the first in my family to go to college,” she said. “My dad was a mechanic and my mom was a clerk in a discount store. I owe my lifestyle to the education I received here.”

After 10 years of general dental practice in rural Nebraska, Dr. Harre started in August 1992 as the Interim Director of Patient Admissions at the College of Dentistry. She started her orthodontic residency in 1993 and taught in the pre-doctoral clinic with Drs. Erickson, Holland, Moriarty and Cascini. After graduating in 1995, she continued teaching in the pre-doctoral clinic and has been doing so since.

“Most of my teaching career has been in the clinic,” Dr. Harre said. “Early on, I also led a case review course with the pre-doctoral students. The biggest reward as an educator is to see the hundreds of students I have met over the years become successful, dedicated dental providers.”

The practice of orthodontics has changed dramatically with the introduction, and now wide use of digital orthodontics. What started as a small part of the practice of orthodontics is now how most orthodontic cases are treated.

“Everything has changed since I started here; faculty, staff, administration – save for a few long-time ‘hold-outs’ on staff and faculty,” she said.

The most challenging time in Dr. Harre’s UNMC career was three years ago, when COVID-19 hit the country. Limiting the pre-doctoral students from collaborating with the residents has decreased the number of students that apply for orthodontic residency programs.

“I believe it is because they haven’t been exposed to the joy of working with our patients and how we can change their lives with orthodontic treatment,” she said.

In retirement, Dr. Harre plans to travel more and work with Domes-ti-PUPS, which is her ‘pet’ non-profit organization that trains service dogs for people with disabilities.



Messages for Dr. Harre:

“Dr. Harre is a legend! She has represented our profession well and touched so many lives - not just through her private practice, but through teaching, consulting, and volunteering her time. She has been a gift to our community and our profession. Anyone who has had the opportunity to cross paths with her is blessed. Thank you, Dr. Harre, for all you have done!”

- Dr. Rebecca Hohl

“Wishing Dr. Harre the best with retirement! Thanks for all you have done to help all the residents and dental students over the years. Our school and residency program were so lucky to have you as a faculty member and ambassador. You’ll be missed!”

- Dr. David Duevel

“Congratulations, Dr. Harre! Thank you for everything you have done for me personally and for the UNMC Orthodontic Program. You have been one of my favorite faculty members and I cherish our time together. Your infectious personality will be missed. Best of luck in the next chapter of your life!”

- Dr. Jaykishan Patel

“I want to thank Dr. Harre for her many years of knowledge. It was always a pleasure to visit with her. You will be missed a ton! Thank you, thank you!”

- Shannon Maly

Meet our faculty



Dr. Meenakshi (Minnie) Vishwanath

Orthodontic Graduate Program Director

Dr. Vishwanath has been a full-time Assistant Professor in the UNMC Orthodontics Program since 2017. She was appointed Program Director in October 2021.

Dr. Vishwanath received her dental degree from Pondicherry University and a Master of Dental Science in Orthodontics degree from SDM College of Dental Sciences under Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences in India. She was a full-time orthodontics faculty member at a school in India and maintained a part-time practice for five years. After moving to the United States, Dr. Vishwanath completed two fellowships in orthodontics and subsequently went on to obtain a Certificate in Orthodontics

and Master of Dental Science degree from the University of Connecticut Health Center.

Dr. Vishwanath is a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics and a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh (Orthodontics). She directs and teaches the orthodontic graduate courses and has a special interest in transitional research, specifically orthodontic biomechanics-based research. She also teaches pre-doctoral orthodontic courses, classes for the pediatric dental residents, and in the orthodontic graduate clinic. Dr. Vishwanath maintains her private practice as part of the University Dental Associates.



Dr. Po-Jung Chen

Assistant Professor

Dr. Chen joined the UNMC Orthodontics Program in May 2022 as an Assistant Professor. Before coming to UNMC, he was a faculty member at the UConn School of Dental Medicine, Division of Orthodontics, Department of Craniofacial Sciences.

He received his DDS from Kaohsiung Medical University in Taiwan in 2006 and completed a three-year orthodontic residency at Taipei Veterans General Hospital in Taiwan in 2010 where he was trained in straight-wire and segmental mechanics. Simultaneously, he completed his Master of Dental Science at the National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University in Taiwan in 2010. After five years of practice in orthodontics, Dr. Chen moved to the United States to further his

knowledge in orthodontics and to embark on his journey as a researcher. Dr. Chen's research focuses on biomechanics, orthodontic tooth movement and TMJ biology.

Dr. Chen became a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics in 2021. At UNMC, he teaches predoctoral and postdoctoral orthodontic courses and supervises a resident clinic. He also has a private practice within University Dental Associates and is establishing his laboratory at the College focusing on TMJ biology.

Congratulations, Dr. Chen! Dr. Chen recently received two prestigious national research awards - see story on page 10.



Dr. Paula Harre

Part Time Clinic Instructor

Dr. Harre received her DDS from the UNMC College of Dentistry in 1982. Following a GPR at the VAMC in Omaha, she started her family practice in Broken Bow, Neb., where she practiced for nine years. She returned to UNMC in 1992 as the Interim Director of Patient Admissions, a position she held for a year until starting her orthodontic residency. After graduating in 1995, Dr. Harre started her orthodontic practice in Lincoln and worked part time for a large group practice in Iowa for two years. During her years of practice, she also worked

as a dental consultant for Ameritas and currently works as a dental consultant for MCNA, reviewing orthodontic cases for Medicaid.

Dr. Harre is a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics, a lifetime member of the ADA and AAO, and she has been inducted into the American and International College of Dentists. She has taught part time at UNMC continually since 1995 and loves working with the residents, who continually teach her much more than she teaches them.



Dr. Rebecca Hohl

Part Time Clinic Instructor

Dr. Hohl received her DDS from the UNMC College of Dentistry in 2001. Upon graduation, she practiced general dentistry and served as a part-time clinical instructor in the UNMC Adult Restorative Clinic for one year. She later returned to UNMC, receiving her Certificate of Orthodontics and Dental Facial Orthopedics along with her master's degree in Oral Biology in 2004. Dr. Hohl opened her first private orthodontic practice in Lincoln in 2004 and currently has two Lincoln locations and another in Aurora, Neb. She is a Diplomate of the American

Board of Orthodontics. Dr. Hohl has continued to serve as a volunteer lecturer for the new residents, teaching digital imaging since 2006. In 2008, she took over as a part-time instructor for the undergraduate Orthodontic Concepts II course.

Dr. Hohl is grateful to have had the opportunity to teach at UNMC for the past 20 years. It has allowed her to share her passion for teaching and, more importantly, continue learning from her students and colleagues.



Dr. Joseph Hurd

Part Time Clinic Instructor

Originally a native of Iowa, Dr. Hurd attended Creighton University for undergraduate and dental school. After receiving his DDS in 1971, he joined the U.S. Air Force. During his first year, he completed a rotating GPR internship in Mississippi. During his second year, he transferred to California and was a base periodontist. He attended St. Louis University for his orthodontic residency and received his MSD in 1975. His subsequent military assignments were in Japan, Ohio, Germany, and Offutt AFB

in Nebraska. His primary treatment focuses were surgical and difficult cases.

While at Offutt, Dr. Hurd became board certified in 1987. He retired from the military in 1991 and started his private practice that year in Papillion. He practiced for 26 years and retired in 2018.

He has enjoyed teaching as a part-time clinical faculty member at UNMC since 2015.



Dr. Landon Peterson

Part Time Clinic Instructor

Dr. Landon Peterson grew up in Osceola, Neb. He joined the College of Dentistry as a part-time faculty member in 2021.

He received his DDS from the UNMC College of Dentistry in 2018, graduating with High Distinction. He also received his Certificate of Orthodontics and Dental Facial Orthopedics and his master's degree in Oral Biology from UNMC, graduating in 2020.

Dr. Peterson is a board-certified orthodontist and has been practicing at a private office in Lincoln for the past two years.

"I look forward to my Friday morning clinics at the college and enjoy interacting with the residents," Dr. Peterson said. "My title is part-time faculty, but honestly I learn something from the residents every time I oversee them in clinic, and for this I am grateful."



Dr. Robert Schoettger

Part Time Clinic Instructor

Dr. Schoettger received his DDS at the UNMC College of Dentistry and completed his postgraduate orthodontic training at UNMC, graduating in 1983. He has been providing weekly treatment lectures and clinic supervision (Monday afternoons) for more than 25 years. Dr. Schoettger's goal is

to enable healthy and stable outcomes from core orthodontic biomechanical principles utilizing both traditional and digital resources. He is continually energized by interactions with the residents, fellow faculty members and the team at UNMC.



Dr. Kimberley Stafford

Part Time Clinic Instructor

Dr. Stafford received her DDS from the UNMC College of Dentistry and her Certificate of Orthodontics in 1993. She is a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics.

Dr. Stafford has worked for the Orthodontics Program for more than 30 years. She has been

in private practice in Omaha for nearly as long.

For Dr. Stafford, the best part of being a part-time faculty member is the opportunity to interact with the residents and learn as much from them as she teaches them.



Dr. Emily Willett

Part Time Clinic Instructor

Dr. Willett joined the Orthodontics Program as a part-time faculty member in 2021. She is a native of Brookings, South Dakota. Dr. Willett earned her degree in Biology from South Dakota State University in 2010, where she was the captain of the D1 swim team.

She attended the UNMC College of Dentistry and earned her DDS degree with High Distinction and research awards in 2014. She earned a Certificate of Orthodontics and a master's degree in Oral Biology from UNMC in 2016.

Dr. Willett is a private-practice orthodontist and a mother of three. She is active in organized dentistry/orthodontics.

She is passionate about providing residents with the experience they'll need to be successful in their careers. Her areas of treatment expertise are interdisciplinary and complex treatments. She is committed to utilizing technology to improve her patients' experiences and outcomes.

Photos from the 2022 AAO Reception



Drs. Chen and Vishwanath.



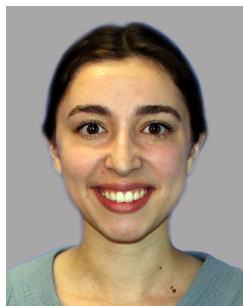
Meet our residents



Dr. Hibah Chughtai



Dr. Katherine Lambert



Dr. Emily Leach



Dr. Teresa Bae



Dr. Lyndzie Brace



Dr. Stella Nuo Dong

Dr. Hibah Chughtai, First-Year Resident

Dr. Chughtai is a Lincoln, Nebraska native. She completed her undergraduate studies at Creighton University in Biology and Health Administration and Policy and earned her DDS degree at the UNMC College of Dentistry, graduating in 2022.

Dr. Katherine Lambert, First-Year Resident

Dr. Lambert is a native of Nashua, New Hampshire. She graduated with a degree in Biology from University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia in 2018, where she was a captain of the women's lacrosse team. She graduated from University of New England College of Dental Medicine with her DMD in 2022. Dr. Lambert has thoroughly enjoyed her first year at UNMC.

Dr. Emily Leach, First-Year Resident

Dr. Leach received her DMD at the University of New England in Portland, Maine, in May 2022. While in dental school, she completed extracurricular work to become a Care for the Underserved Pathway (CUP) Scholar, which is an engaging way to learn more about the most vulnerable populations in dentistry and health care.

Prior to dental school, Dr. Leach was a certified pharmacy technician in a hospital setting where she mixed drugs for IV infusions and filled prescriptions for hospital-based clients.

Dr. Teresa Bae, Second-Year Resident

Dr. Bae is a native of Chicago, Illinois. She graduated from Loyola University with a degree in Biology. She received her DMD degree at Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine in Illinois.

Dr. Lyndzie Brace, Second-Year Resident

Dr. Brace received a degree in Biology and Psychology from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2017. She received her DDS from the University of Missouri - Kansas City. She is currently working towards completing her Master's in Oral Biology on "Biomechanics of a Tip-Back Bend: An Analysis of the Force System via Translational Research."

Dr. Stella Nuo Dong, Second-Year Resident

Dr. Dong received her degree in Biochemistry and Cell Biology from the University of California - San Diego. She received her DDS degree from the UCLA School of Dentistry. Dr. Dong is very grateful to have the opportunity to explore the state of Nebraska and be part of the UNMC family.

Meet our staff



Shuntell Karpisek



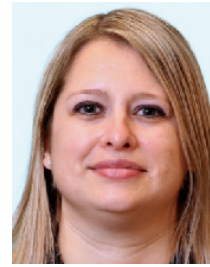
Gina Roelfs



Joshua Russo



Shannon Maly



Jenny Meinberg

Shuntell Karpisek, Dental Assistant Specialist

The lead specialist in the Orthodontics Program, Shuntell started at the UNMC College of Dentistry in May 2017. Before working as a dental assistant, she was a certified nursing assistant and med-aid. Shuntell helps with assisting the residents. As the lead assistant, she has administrative duties as well.

Gina Roelfs, Dental Assistant

Gina graduated from the dental assistant program at Southeast Community College in March 2010. She worked as a dental assistant at both general dentist and orthodontic offices. Gina has been a dental assistant with the UNMC College of Dentistry since November 2015. She has worked with both the undergrad dental students and postgrad residents and has been with the Orthodontics Program since August 2021.

Joshua Russo, Growth & Development Administrative Assistant

Joshua started at UNMC in July 2016. He provides support for both the orthodontics and pediatric dentistry faculty and staff by creating letters, tests, handouts, documents, forms and schedules. While he works closely with the Department Chair and Program Director, he also assists faculty and

staff in the three sections of the Department of Growth & Development that need his services for office assistance, travel, course set-up, overall post-grad orthodontic course and clinic schedules, department events, finances, meetings, grants, exams, lectures and a host of other duties.

Joshua, a father of two, has a master's degree in Management-Leadership Development from Doane University and a bachelor's degree in Pre-Law and Journalism from Chadron State College.

Shannon Maly, Orthodontic Lab Technician

Shannon has been working in the Department of Growth & Development since 2005. She makes appliances for the residents and faculty, and helps train the first-year residents to make appliances for their patients. She also creates study models for the postgraduate program.

Jenny Meinberg, Growth & Development Appointment Clerk

Jenny started at UNMC in October 2020. She schedules appointments for the Orthodontics Program, Pediatric Dentistry Program, and Department of Dental Hygiene. Her other tasks include answering phones, confirming appointments, changing appointments, answering patient questions, and assisting the front desk with various tasks.

Just for fun - Halloween photos!



2021



2022



2022



The Orthodontics Program team celebrates the graduates.

Graduation 2022

Congratulations to the 2022 UNMC Orthodontics Program graduates:

- Dr. Behnoush Bakhtiari
- Dr. Amanda Busch
- Dr. Donte Nesbitt

A graduation banquet was held on Saturday, December 10 at the Lincoln Country Club. The graduates celebrated with family, friends, and College of Dentistry faculty and staff.

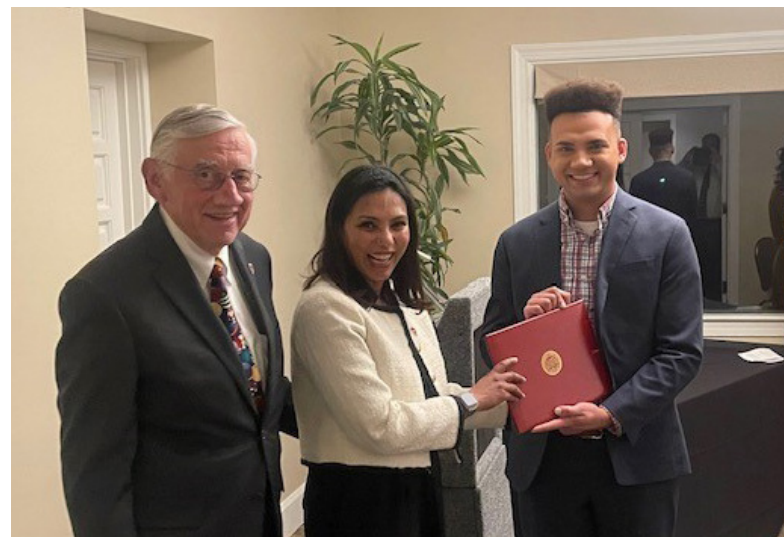
We are so proud of our graduates and wish them the best as they start their professional journeys in orthodontics, and we welcome them as new members of our program's distinguished alumni.



Dr. Donte Nesbitt shares memories of his residency while Drs. Amanda Busch and Behnoush Bakhtiari look on.



Dr. Paula Harre gives a gift to Dr. Behnoush Bakhtiari.



Dr. Donte Nesbitt receives his diploma from Dr. Vishwanath and Interim Dean Rowen Zetterman.

Dr. Chen receives national research awards

Po-Jung Chen, DDS, MDS, MDentSc, has earned accolades for his work to improve the oral health of the people of Nebraska and beyond.

Dr. Chen recently received notification of two prestigious national honors, both of which he will receive in April:

- The American Association of Orthodontists (AAO) Milo Hellman Research Award, which is given for the most outstanding and meritorious research project completed in orthodontics in 2022; and
- The American Society of Bone and Mineral Research (ASBMR) John Haddad Young Investigator Award, given to facilitate the professional development of young basic and clinical scientists in the field of bone and mineral metabolism.

Dr. Chen will be recognized at the AAO annual meeting and the ASBMR/AIMM (Advances in Mineral Metabolism) annual conference, both in April.

The Milo Hellman Award recognizes Dr. Chen's research on novel therapeutics of temporomandibular joint (TMJ) degeneration. TMJ degeneration significantly increases the risk of joint discomfort, restricted joint mobility, and reduced quality of life.

Dr. Chen is studying the translational potential of FDA-approved products (PTH and Bisphosphonates) in alleviating TMJ degeneration. The goal of Dr. Chen's current NIH-funded research is to regenerate diseased TMJ in old age. The incidence of TMJ degenerative disorders is expected to rise substantially over the next several decades as aging populations increase.

The Milo Hellman Award, given annually since 1957, is one Dr. Chen said he "aspired" to bring to UNMC – it is the first time a UNMC faculty member has received the award.

"It is very encouraging for me to receive this award at a very early stage in my academic career," he said.

"This recognition not only brings a multitude of career benefits to Dr. Chen, but also increases the visibility of the UNMC Department of Growth & Development in the research arena," said Sumit Yadav, BDS, MDS, MBA, PhD, chair of the department.

Dr. Chen said he was honored to receive the John



Po-Jung Chen, DDS, MDS, MDentSc

Haddad Young Investigator Award, "as it acknowledges outstanding research by an organization that is outside of the orthodontic specialty."

Dr. Chen will present his research and establish collaborative relationships with senior and young investigators at the ASBMR/AIMM annual conference, which brings scientists and clinicians together to translate basic science advances into clinical concepts.

"The John Haddad Young Investigator Award will allow Dr. Chen to establish collaborative relationships not only at an individual level, but also for the department of growth and development and the UNMC College of Dentistry," said Dr. Yadav.

"On behalf of the entire college, I commend Dr. Chen on his tremendous research achievements," said Rowen Zetterman, MD, MACP, MACG, FCPS, interim dean of the College of Dentistry. "He is making a significant impact in oral health research and has made great strides to change patients' lives."

"Dr. Chen could not be more deserving of these awards. He is a vital member of the college's team of clinical and basic scientists; his cutting-edge work is advancing the college's research program," he said.

Dr. Chen thanked his mentors for their roles in his research achievements.

Dr. Chen recently was featured on television station 1011 to discuss his research.

[Click here to view the segment.](#)

Orthodontics program passes accreditation

This past October, the UNMC Orthodontics Program passed its Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) site visit.

Accreditation is the ultimate source of consumer protection for prospective students. It is often a prerequisite for governmental funding. Graduation from an accredited program is almost always stipulated by state law and is an eligibility requirement for licensure and/or certification examinations. In short, accreditation of a school or program is a student's most important source of independent validation that the program has at least enough educational value to be "approved" by a credible (expertise-based), independent (free of outside influence), reliable (consistently applied standards) organization that has the U.S. Department of Education's approval.

CODA serves the public and dental professions by developing and implementing accreditation standards that promote and monitor the continuous quality and improvement of dental education programs. Accreditation also ensures that the program is meeting some of the new standards that were introduced on July 1, 2022 on orthodontic programs across the country.

"The process was a steep learning curve for the Orthodontics Program as most current faculty and staff have not been a part of this process before," said Program Director Dr. Minnie Vishwanath.

"As you can imagine, with multiple faculty and leadership transitions, it was more challenging than usual," Dr. Vishwanath said. "However, by dedicating several months and long hours to the endeavor, we are happy to share that the program passed the accreditation process and we are fully accredited for the next seven years."

The program is grateful for the support they received throughout the accreditation process.

"This process would not have been possible without support from the residents – current and graduated – and support from the newly recruited part-time and full-time faculty," Dr. Vishwanath said.

"Additionally, we are grateful for the alumni who participated in the process and filled out surveys relating to



Minnie Vishwanath, BDS, MDS, MDentSc, Program Director, led preparations for the accreditation site visit.

accreditation and program topics," she said.

The site visitor to the program was impressed with the work that had been done despite the transition that the department has been through. But at the same time, the program was encouraged to embrace digital technology.

The previous accreditation cycle for the program was in 2014. The current accreditation cycle was slated for 2021 but moved to 2022 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Vishwanath said the experience as helped the program be well-prepared for future accreditation visits.

"Moving forward, as we understand the process better and are meticulously documenting all of our activities, we should be more than prepared for future accreditation cycles," she said.

CODA accredits dental and dental-related education programs, including advanced dental education programs and allied dental education programs in the United States. The Commission functions independently and autonomously in matters of developing and approving accreditation standards, making accreditation decisions on educational programs, and developing and approving procedures that are used in the accreditation process. It is structured to include an appropriate representation of the communities of interest.



Intraoral scanners and cone beam 3-D imaging machine.

Program continues transition to digital dentistry

The UNMC Orthodontics Program has been busy in its further transition to the digital world.

The program recently received a grant from Align Technologies, which helped with the purchase of two intraoral iTero scanners. These scanners have aided the residents in the move to digital models.

“As some of our alumni have noticed, the practice of digital orthodontics is our future,” said Dr. Minnie Vishwanath. “Most of the technological updates in the Orthodontics Program are to match and educate for the wide use of digital orthodontics. What started as a small part of the practice of orthodontics is now how the vast

majority of orthodontic cases are being treated.”

The program also obtained a new lateral ceph and panoramic machine and, with the help of an anonymous donor, an i-Cat FLX V-Series Cone Beam 3-D imaging machine, which will be exclusive for orthodontic use. The program also is in the process of acquiring 3-D printers which will potentially allow the program to make in-house aligners.

“We thank the alumni who have donated to update our technology,” Dr. Vishwanath said. “We are grateful for all past donations and future contributions.”

Collaboration with Boys Town Craniofacial Team

The UNMC Orthodontics Program continues to maintain a relationship with the Craniofacial Team at Boys Town National Research Hospital. Dr. Minnie Vishwanath is the orthodontic consultant for the team.

Both orthodontic and pediatric dental residents rotate under Dr. Vishwanath’s supervision and interact with all members of the team.

The residents gain insight on the diagnosis and management of patients with craniofacial anomalies.

“Though our residents have had opportunity and exposure to the management of craniofacial anomalies for some time now, due to it being an accreditation



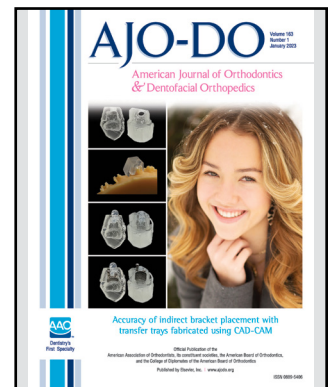
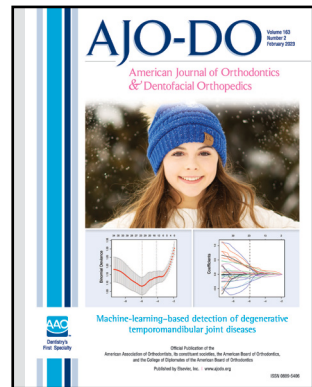
requirement as of July 1, 2022, it has become a critical experience and we are grateful that we can maintain this relationship,” Dr. Vishwanath said.

Dr. Sundaralingam Premaraj was the previous orthodontic consultant.

News and happenings

Dr. Joe Hudgins (1989) had two patient photos featured on the covers of the American Journal of Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopedics for two consecutive months.

After finishing his residency at UNMC, Dr. Hudgins went into the Navy as an orthodontist for three years. He has been in private practice in southern Illinois for the past 30 years.



Dr. Neal Davis (1968) has retired from his practice in Virginia. He graduated from the UNMC College of Dentistry DDS and Orthodontics Programs.

Dr. Michael Hoxie (1995) travelled to Nebraska and gave four lectures to the UNMC orthodontics residents during Spring 2022. One of the sessions included placing TADs on pig mandibles. Dr. Hoxie is a part-time adjunct faculty at the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Emily Willett (2016) was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the American Association of Orthodontics Insurance Company by shareholders and insureds in May 2022. She will have a three-year term. Dr. Willett is part-time faculty at UNMC and she facilitates a clinic.

Dr. Landon Peterson (2020) attended the AAO Leadership Development Conference (LDC) January 26, 2023 at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

Dr. Sumit Yadav has been serving as the Northeastern Society of Orthodontists' representative on the AAO Council on Scientific Affairs (COSA). Dr. Yadav will continue serving on COSA as the Midwestern Society of Orthodontists representative.

Dr. Nuo Stella Dong and Dr. Teresa Bae, current orthodontics residents, attended the 2023 American Association of Orthodontics Winter Conference in Las Vegas on January 27-29, 2023.

Dr. Dong also attended the 2023 AAO Professional Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C. on February 28 -March 1, 2023. She is currently working on the thesis research titled, 'Machine Learning for Automated Cervical Vertebral Maturation Assessment on Lateral Cephalograms.'

Future Orthodontists!

Dr. Jaykishan Patel (2019) and his wife, Krishna, are the proud parents of a baby boy, Riyaan, born November 22, 2022 at 5.3 pounds and 19 inches.

Dr. Kristopher (Jacob) Keller (2020) and his wife, Chantel, welcomed a baby girl, Bonnie May Keller, on February 10, 2022.



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We want to hear from you!

Email news to: joshua.russo@unmc.edu



Orthodontics Development Fund

Please consider supporting the Orthodontics Program.

We are grateful for our alumni and your support. Your generous donations have a broad and lasting impact. Partnering with us in the work we do supports our continued efforts to:

- be a leading dental education institution;
- prepare future orthodontists to serve Nebraska and beyond;
- improve the oral health of our communities;
- advance scientific discovery; and
- recruit exceptional students and faculty.

Your gift will go towards purchasing cutting-edge digital dentistry equipment that has a significant impact on patient care and residents' educational experiences, alumni receptions, and the program's emerging priorities.

Thank you for your support! Donations can be made online by [clicking here](#).

University of Nebraska Foundation Contact:

Theresa Brown, theresa.brown@nufoundation.org, 402-502-0300



We greatly appreciate your donations to the Orthodontics Development Fund.