



Maria Lucia Aguilar, D.D.S., M.S.D., M.S.-CI

Dr. Aguilar has always had a clinical interest in, and appreciation for removable prosthodontics; a service that she recognizes as an important oral rehabilitation approach for many patients. Dr. Aguilar sees the need for removable prosthodontic diagnosis and fabrication excellence as a key core discipline in educating dentists. In 2011 she became the course director of the "Treatment of the Edentulous Patient" preclinical complete denture course to translate her enthusiasm for removable prosthodontics to a critical clinical skills course. In this sub-specialty area, she has co-authored a manuscript published in the Journal of Dental Education and a MedEdPORTAL video publication. Her research in this topic includes the publication of findings in the Journal of Prosthodontics as well. She also conducts UFCD Continuing Education courses focused on State Board mandated prosthodontic remediation. While a passionate teacher, especially in the one-on-one clinical environment, Dr. Aguilar has continued her research in the quality of life of head and neck cancer patients. She has recently completed four years of NIH-NIDCR funding that included the first U.S. research on the Patient Concern Inventory (PCI), a clinical tool for head and neck cancer patients. The PCI has recently become a standard of care in the United Kingdom. This has led to four international presentations of her study findings and the study collaborators, Drs. Pamela Sandow, John Werning, and Walter Psoter. These were some of Dr. Aguilar's 11 presentations at the American (AADR) and International Association of Dental Research (IADR) annual meetings.

She is also a member of the NIH National Dental Practice-Based Research Network. Dr. Aguilar has been a Prosthodontics practitioner in the UFCD Faculty Practice since 2008. She is a member of the UF Maxillofacial Prosthodontics team and an attending at UF-Shands Medical Center. She enjoys working closely with our anaplastologist; Robert Mann. She serves as member of several departmental and college committees. In addition, she is the Advisor for the UF Colombian Student Association and is a regular volunteer at the UFCD sponsored Community services; We Care Clinic, Santa Fe College, Gainesville Community Ministry, and the Migrant Clinic. She encourages other students and faculty to volunteer. Dr. Aguilar is a member of the American College of Prosthodontists, AADR, IADR, and ADEA. Dr. Aguilar enjoys spending time with her family. She has been married for 25 years and has two daughters that are UF college students in the College of Architecture and the College of Agriculture. While enjoying Florida's beaches, her special hobby is going every year to the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City. She loves to watch NBA games and American football; she is a fan of the New England Patriots football team and the Boston Celtics basketball team. Her husband is a big soccer fan and plays in the over 40 soccer leagues in Gainesville. Luckily for her, he also enjoys doing home construction projects and repairing small electronics, a necessity with college attending children.

Is currently a Clinical Associate Professor in the Division of Prosthodontics, who completed her dental education in 1987 at the Colegio Odontológico Colombiano, in Bogota, Colombia where she practiced between 1988 and 1999 managing a multi-doctor practice and treating special needs patients. Her prosthodontic specialty training began in 2000 with her Post-Doctoral Certificate awarded in 2003 and her MSD in 2005, both from the University of Puerto Rico (UPR), School of Dental Medicine. Her MSD thesis research, was published in the Journal of Prosthodontics, the first of six peer-reviewed manuscripts that she authored. In 2006, Dr. Aguilar began her Master's program in Clinical Investigation (MS-CI), also at UPR where she was appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Restorative Dental Science Department and was the first named NIH-Endowment Research Fellow. Her MS-CI thesis research on quality of life in head and neck cancer patients is the beginning of a line of research that has been on-going over the past nine years. A subsequent manuscript was published in the Journal of Prosthodontics on the findings of that study. The University of Florida College of Dentistry recruited Dr. Aguilar in 2008 as a Clinical Assistant Professor in the former Department of Prosthodontics.

Director's message



The most important thing in life is to love what you do. My passion is teaching and my motivation are the students. I am inspired by my ability to make a difference in the students' life.

This month, besides all my administrative responsibilities, I have enjoyed teaching our sophomore class in the "Treatment of the Edentulous Patient" preclinical course directed by Dr. Maria Aguilar. In this course, the students have been learning all laboratory and clinical procedures required to fabricate a complete denture prosthesis. They have learned the biological consideration of impression making, master cast fabrication, record bases and wax rims fabrication as well as jaw relations records. I enjoyed watching *Tiffany Tang* trying to remove her very first polysulfide final

impression. She learned that by just breaking the seal, the impression was easily removed. She was amazed! I am looking forward to many more teaching experiences."

Sincerely,

Luisa F. Echeto D.D.S., M.S.

Case of the month

You might not think about Maxillofacial Prosthetics as a place where you could get a nose guard – but you can. Recently, in fact, Robert Mann created a special mask so that a patient could safely return to athletic activities without fear of reinjuring a broken nose. Mann, a maxillofacial prosthetics anaplastologist in the department of restorative dental sciences, created a protective sports mask for a patient who was referred to him from UF Health Shands ENT. Mann took an impression using alginate that is poured over the patient's face and then backed by a layer of fast-setting plaster. The plaster is connected to the alginate layer by partially embedding 4 x 4 gauze into 50 percent of the surface of the alginate layer just before the alginate fully sets. Then Mann casted a plaster model and adapted a 4 mm UVEX thermoplastic sheet over the model. The patient then tested the first model to ensure that it was comfortable and didn't cause any issues with field of vision. After that, Mann reinforced the mask with stainless steel mesh and Orthocryl over the nasal area to provide additional laminated strength and support. Once complete, the mask is held in place with Velcro strapping. This is just one of the many ways that Mann's work helps patients return to normal life. He also creates prosthetic replacements to rebuild faces that were damaged by cancer, injuries or birth defects. He joined the college in 2000 and has changed the lives of many people over the years from his clinic at the northern end of Faculty Practice.



Graduate Prosthodontics

Each of our lives becomes busier by the day, and we rarely have time to keep up with each other. *Dr. Lydia Legg*, and the Graduate Prosthodontics residents have established a non-profit organization named, *ProsthGators*, whose mission is to increase communication among current residents, alumni, courtesy faculty, and attending faculty. A Facebook page for *ProsthGators* has been created as a forum for sharing cases, publications and current events / news among our extended families. In addition to sharing online via social media, they also have designed a custom logo for *ProsthGators*. They are selling apparel items, and ALL funds collected will be used to purchase items for our ceramic lab and technology for the clinic. We are hoping to eventually have a desktop scanner that can be used for residents to design RPD frameworks, surgical guides, FPDs, hybrid frameworks and more. Digital dentistry is here to stay!



Our Alumni...



Dr. Joshua E. Perry was born and raised in Port Orange, FL. He received his Bachelor, Dental and Master degrees from the University of Florida. To further his interest in dental implants and prosthodontics, Josh completed a three-year residency program in Prosthodontics, serving as chief resident his final year. Perry became a Diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontics and Fellow of the American College of Prosthodontists this past Fall. He maintains a private practice in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL providing general, restorative, esthetic, implant and reconstructive dentistry. He enjoys his free time being outdoors with his wife, Susie and his son, William. We are very proud of him and all of his accomplishments and wish him all the best in his future career.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Dr. Monica Fernandez and Dr. Arthur Nimmo

whose article received a special mention on the January ACP newsletter bulletin



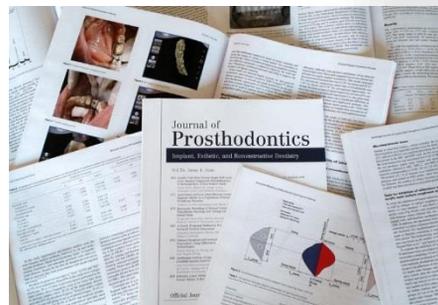
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In the January *Journal of Prosthodontics*

The [January issue](#) of the *Journal of Prosthodontics* includes Dr. David Felton's update on complete edentulism and comorbid diseases, making the case that maintaining natural teeth and/or carefully maintaining restorations, is a vital part of overall health concerns.

The issue also contains an in vitro study of wax lining in an impression tray and accuracy in gypsum cast fabrication by Dr. Paul Hansen et al; and the report of a U.S. dental school survey regarding digital denture fabrication by Drs. Monica Fernandez, Arthur Nimmo, and colleagues.



The print issue will ship with the newly published supplement, *Clinical Practice Guidelines: Recall and Maintenance of Patients with Tooth-Borne and Implant-Borne Dental Restorations.*

Community Service

The Division of Prosthodontics faculty served on numerous committees and community services within the University of Florida, the College of Dentistry and the Gainesville Community.

- Dr. Wong and Dr. Rueda served as the supervisor for 15 dental students and residents during the 2015 *mission trip to the Dominican Republic*.
- Dr. Wong and Dr. Aguilar supervise sophomore, junior, and seniors students in providing dental care to low-income Floridians in the *WE CARE CLINIC* in Santa Fe Community College.
- Drs. Fernandez, Aguilar, Esquivel, Sposetti, El-Kerdani, Castellanos and Clark volunteer at the *Gainesville Community Ministry* dental clinic serving edentulous patients.
- Dr. Aguilar and Dr. Castellanos volunteer their time to the *Migrant Clinic* in Gainesville, Florida

Committees

Faculty Development Committee

- Dr. Maria Aguilar and Dr. Monica Fernandez

Clinical Assurance and Quality Assurance Committee (CAQA)

- Dr. Maria Aguilar and Dr. Monica Fernandez

Curriculum Committee

- Dr. Mauricio Castellanos

Dental Materials and Devices Sub-Committee of the CAQA

- Dr. Monica Fernandez (Chair)

Students Affairs Committee

- Dr. Margaret Ribeiro-Dasilva (Chair)

Information Technology Committee

- Dr. Margaret Ribeiro-Dasilva

DMD Admissions Committee

- Dr. Luis Rueda

Cultural Climate Workgroup

- Dr. Margaret Ribeiro-Dasilva

Advanced Education Committee

- Dr. Edgar O'Neill, Dr. Venita Sposetti and Dr. Chiayi Shen

Clinical Quality Improvement Team (CQuIT) a sub-committee of the CAQA

- Dr. Luisa F. Echeto

Faculty Advisory Board

- Dr. Luisa F. Echeto

Clinical Innovations Workgroup

- Dr. Luisa F. Echeto

