

ORTHO ENGAGE

July 2024



A Message From the Dean

Greetings, UB ortho alumni and friends!

It is my pleasure to reach out to you in the first issue of our Ortho Engage newsletter. The Department of Orthodontics has created an exciting platform to showcase achievements, share news and

updates, and help you stay connected with everything happening at UB.

Many wonderful things are happening in the department and the larger SDM community. I joined the school as dean in May 2023 and have had the honor of witnessing our excellence in action over the last year. I am also a UB alum. I first came to the UB SDM as an international student from Brazil in 1997. I earned my master's degree in oral sciences, followed by a clinical research and teaching fellowship in periodontology and a PhD in epidemiology. After spending many years in industry, most recently as the chief science officer of the American Dental Association (ADA), I am genuinely excited to be here at UB.

As dean, I am committed to building upon our legacy of excellence as we work to shape the future of oral health care through research, education and clinical care. Our alumni are essential to realizing this vision. By staying connected and involved, you provide invaluable mentorship, resources and opportunities for our students, and we look forward to celebrating them in future issues of Ortho Engage. Together, we will ensure a bright future for UB orthodontics and the SDM. Thank you for being a part of our journey!

Marcelo W.B. Araujo, DDS, MS, PhD

Dean and Professor, School of Dental Medicine



A Message From the Chair

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of our annual orthodontic newsletter, Ortho Engage. This newsletter serves a dual purpose: to share updates from the orthodontics department and highlight the accomplishments of our amazing community. It also serves as a platform for you to share your updates with fellow alumni and stay informed about our upcoming strategic initiatives.

This academic year has been remarkable, highlighted by numerous residents and faculty earning prestigious scholarly awards at local, regional, and national levels. Our orthodontic clinic has been instrumental in this success, providing care to over 600 patients and serving as a cornerstone of resident education.

I am pleased to announce that two new volunteer clinical assistant professors have recently joined our department. Dr. Graham Gardner, who completed his dental training at VCU and orthodontic training at NYU. He is leading a year-long course on advanced clear aligner mechanotherapy. Additionally, we have welcomed Dr. Ney Paredes, a graduate of the UCLA orthodontic residency program, who now leads the principles of biomechanics course for our residents.

Looking ahead, our predoctoral and postdoctoral orthodontic programs are preparing for an upcoming CODA site visit, which will help us remain accredited for another seven years. Another exciting project is the upcoming renovation of the orthodontic clinic. Thanks to the contributions of many of you, the clinic will be named the C. Brian Preston Orthodontic Clinic, with construction slated to start at the end of 2024.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement. We look forward to keeping you connected and informed about our progress and achievements.

Sincerely,

Thikriat Al-Jewair, Department Chair



University at Buffalo

Department of Orthodontics

Meet Our Residents

Class of 2026



Ryan Prevost

My name is Ryan Prevost, and I am the president of the first-year resident class. I am very familiar with the Western New York area, as it has been my home for my entire life. I attended Saint John Fisher University in Rochester, NY, and was fortunate to also play college baseball there. Outside of residency, I transitioned sports and love to compete in Ironman Triathlons. The endurance races are 140.6 miles (swimming 2.4 miles, biking 112 miles, and running 26.2 miles). My next race will be in Lake Placid this coming July! I am also a UB alum, as I graduated from UB's dental program this past year. In the future, I hope to be a leader in the profession and community, and I would truly enjoy continuing to share my understanding of orthodontics and wellness initiatives with a residency program or pre-doctoral dental program.



Yasmin Mohamed

Hi there! I'm Yasmin Mohamed, originally from Egypt, but I have lived in the United Arab Emirates ever since I was two years old and have just moved to the United States to pursue orthodontics! I chose orthodontics because of how challenging it is, besides my personal experience with braces. I would love to impact my patients' lives the way

mine was positively impacted! I went to dental school at the University of Sharjah College of Dental Medicine, from which I graduated in 2019. Outside school, I like to do body combat workout classes, cook (I'm a big foodie), and love chocolates and coffee. I also love to catch sunsets on the beach as a form of relaxation, travel and explore new countries, and attend concerts of my favorite artists. I aim to do my best in learning and practicing orthodontics during residency and continue to excel in this field later. I also have some ambitions toward teaching, which makes me consider enrolling in academia as well as working in a private clinic in the near future!



Jeffrey Emmanuel Ajayi

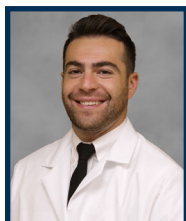
My name is Jeffrey Emmanuel Ajayi, a proud Nigerian, raised in Maryland, where I earned my bachelor's degree in exercise science from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and later, my Doctor of Dental Surgery from Howard University College of Dentistry. Currently, as a first-year orthodontic resident at the University at Buffalo,

I'm on my path to becoming an orthodontist, fueled by a passion for travel and experiencing diverse cultures. An interesting highlight of my life is competing in track and field in the Junior Olympics from 2008 to 2011. My journey toward orthodontics was deeply personal, stemming from my own six-year experience with braces that transformed my self-esteem, changing me from someone who was self-conscious about his "bucktooth beaver" gaps to a confident individual, eager to share this gift of confidence through orthodontic treatment. Driven by a desire to give back, I aim to reach out to underserved communities, especially minorities sharing my story of overcoming challenges through perseverance, to inspire them to realize their dreams, just as I continue to pursue mine.



Lojayen Al Muhareb

My name is Lojayen Al Muhareb and I'm a dental school graduate from Kuwait University in my home country! My hobbies include cooking for loved ones and experimenting with new recipes, as well as staying active with pilates and yoga. One fun fact about me is that I spent my childhood in Buffalo while my parents were earning their doctorates, and now I'm back for residency—a very full circle moment! I chose orthodontics because it allows for building long-term positive relationships with my patients and the chance to impact their lives forever. Career-wise, I aim to return to Kuwait to provide quality care to my community and to contribute as an academic at the Kuwaiti Board of Orthodontics. On a personal note, I hope to travel the world with my husband and continue to experience new cultures and try new foods along the way.



Tim French

My name is Tim French. I am originally from Bensalem, Pennsylvania. I attended West Chester University of Pennsylvania for my undergraduate studies, where I majored in biology and was a four-year collegiate soccer athlete. I graduated from Nova Southeastern College of Dental Medicine in 2023. I love being around family and friends, working out, running, traveling and being outdoors. Some of my interests include being a Philadelphia sports enthusiast, a personal soccer trainer and a godfather to my nephew. One fun fact is that I was a movie extra in the final boxing match scene of *Creed 2*. I was inspired to become an orthodontist because of my fascination with having the ability to be the mastermind behind making beautiful smiles. I love interacting with people and making them laugh. My goal is to have my own orthodontic practice, where I can contribute to the overall well-being of my community.



Brooke Talsania

My name is Brooke Talsania and I am from the Lehigh Valley, about an hour north of Philadelphia. I attended University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine and graduated in spring 2023. Some of my hobbies and interests include F45 workout classes, tennis, traveling, exploring new restaurants in the Buffalo area and my newfound hobby: mastering the science behind sourdough bread! A fun fact about me is I played field hockey in college, and I miss playing every day! I was inspired to become an orthodontist in the middle school by my orthodontist. I felt like I had every orthodontic treatment modality under the sun and was amazed at the before and after difference in my smile. I am excited to learn all the ins and outs of orthodontics and hopefully blossom into a great orthodontist by the end of my three years at UB!

Class of 2024



John Baker
Columbia University



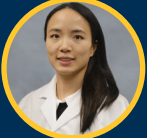
Ozge Colak
Bezmi'alem University



Aliyyah Hamiduddin
King Abdulaziz University



Benjamin Hietanen
University at Buffalo



Ye Lin
Western University of Health Sciences



Elizabeth Lukens
University of Missouri-Kansas City

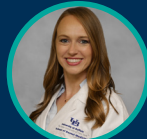
Class of 2025



Alaa Abdullah
Imam Abdulrahman University



David Do
Temple University



Ashley Jarkowski
University at Buffalo



Adrianna Simeone
Boston University



Taylor Sulkowski
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



Gabriel Valencia
University at Buffalo

Resident Awards

Greater Buffalo Association of Orthodontists Resident Award

Ozge Colak (1st)
Aliyyah Hamiduddin (2nd)
John Baker (3rd)

College of Diplomates of the ABO Resident Case Display

Aliyyah Hamiduddin (1st)
Ozge Colak (3rd)

William Proffitt Research Resident Scholarship - Finalist

Ozge Colak

Northeastern Society of Orthodontists Cup Poster Competition

Elizabeth Lukens

Journal of Clinical Orthodontics Student of the Year Award - Finalist

Elizabeth Lukens

William W. Feagans Clinical Postgraduate Scholarship

Aliyyah Hamiduddin

AAO Foundation Research Aid Award

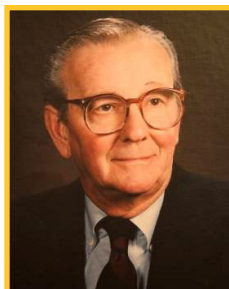
Alaa Abdullah

WNY Dental Group Award

Benjamin Hietanen

Dr. John J. Cunat Scholarship Fund - Resident Research Travel Award

Elizabeth Lukens
Aliyyah Hamiduddin
Ozge Colak



The Dr. John J. Cunat Scholarship fund was established in 2021 in honor of Dr. Cunat, a former chair of the University at Buffalo Department of Orthodontics. The Resident Research Travel Award, funded by this scholarship fund, provides recognition and financial support to our residents who demonstrate academic and research excellence.

Scholarly Activity

Meet our faculty!



Thikriat Al-Jewair

*L.B. Badgero
Endowed Chair, Assoc.
Professor, Director
of the Advanced
Education Program in
Orthodontics*



Ashish Gurav

*Assistant Professor,
Clinic Director*



Stephen Warunek

*Clinical Assistant
Professor; Research
Director*



Robert Aszkler

*Clinical Assistant
Professor*



Stephen Aszkler

*Clinical Assistant
Professor*



Ming-Yu Chen

Visiting Professor



David Covell

Professor

Publications

1. Husain F, Warunek S, Gurav A, Giangreco T, Tanberg W, Al-Jewair T. Influence of Invisalign precision bite ramp utilization on deep bite correction and root length in adults. *Angle Orthod.* 2024; doi: <https://doi.org/10.2319/012724-70.1>
2. Chung G, Makowka S, Warunek S, Al-Jewair T. Optimizing ultraviolet illumination for detecting fluorescent orthodontic adhesive residues during debonding procedures. *Materials.* 2024; 17(12):2961. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ma17122961>
3. Dominguez-Mompell R, Zhang B, Paredes N, Combs A, Elkenawy I, Sfogliano L, Fijany L, Colak O, Romero-Maroto M, Moon W. Breathing changes following mini-implant-supported maxillary skeletal expander treatment in late adolescent or adult patients: Assessment of objective and subjective functional breathing changes. *J Orofac Orthop.* 2024. doi: 10.1007/s00056-024-00521-6.
4. Combs A, Paredes N, Dominguez-Mompell R, Romero-Maroto M, Zhang B, Elkenawy I, Sfogliano L, Fijany L, Colak O, Wu B, Moon W. (January 2024) Long-term effects of maxillary skeletal expander treatment on functional breathing. *Korean J Orthod.* 2024;54(1):59-68.
5. Babikow E, Ghaltakhchyan N, Livingston T, Qu Y, Liu C, Hoxie A, Sulkowski T, Bocklage C, Marsh A, Phillips ST, Mitchell KB, Ribeiro AA, Jackson TH, Roach J, Wu D, Divaris K, Jacox LA. Longitudinal microbiome changes in supragingival biofilm transcriptomes induced by orthodontics. *JDR Clin Trans Res.* 2023;24:23800844231199393.
6. Jarkowski A, Anthony R. Indications and mechanics for first-molar extractions. *J Clin Orthod.* 2023; JCO 57(10):1000.
7. Ravlyk L, Warunek S, Covell DA Jr, Makowka S, Al-Jewair T. Comparison of GUMMETAL and stainless-steel alloy during canine retraction: A pilot split-mouth randomized controlled trial. *Int Orthod.* 2023;21(24):100810.
8. Al-Jewair T, Lloyd A, Paurazas S, House S, Conrad H, Ness G, Hirschberg C, Bergman R. Resident selection, assessment, and management: Proceedings of the 2022 ADEA Advanced Dental Education Summit. *J Dent Educ.* 2023; 87(7):1064-1069. doi: 10.1002/jdd.13247.
9. Al-Jewair T, Michelogiannakis D, Khoo E, Prevost R. Potential impact of long covid on orthodontic treatment. *Eur J Dent.* 2023. DOI: 10.1055/s-0043-1768467.
10. Zhou A, Makowka S, Warunek S, Al-Jewair T. Effects of various coating methods on the mechanical, physical, and aesthetic properties of GUMMETAL archwire: In vitro study. *Int Orthod.* 2023;21(2):100753.
11. Saleh A, Al-Jewair T. Mandibular movement monitoring for sleep-related breathing disorders. *Decisions in Dentistry.* 2023;22-3.
12. Daljeet M, Warunek S, Covell D Jr, Monegro A, Giangreco T, Al-Jewair T. Association between obstructive sleep apnea and bone mineral density in adult orthodontic populations. *CRANIO.* 2022;1:1-11.
13. Albawardi A, Makowka S, Warunek S, Al-Jewair T. Friction forces generated by rhodium-plated TiNbTaZr (esthetic GUMMETAL) orthodontic archwires. *Int Orthod.* 2022.
14. Youssef A, Covell, Jr. D, Makowka S, Gailey A, Dunford R, Al-Jewair T, Haraszthy VI. Comparison of bleaching effects when applied to white spot lesions before or after resin infiltration: An in vitro study. *J Am Dent Assoc.* 2022;153(1):39-4.
15. Urichianu M, Makowka S, Covell D Jr., Warunek S, Al-Jewair T. Shear bond strength and bracket base morphology of new and rebonded orthodontic ceramic brackets. *Materials.* 2022;15(5):1865.
16. Marghalani HYA, Guan G, Hyun P, Tabbaa S, Linjawi AI, Al-Jewair T. Relationship between mandibular symphysis dimensions and skeletal pattern in adults. *Folia Morphol (Warsz).* 2022;81(2):464-471. doi: 10.5603/FM.a2021.0045.

Scholarly Activity

Abstracts

1. Hamiddudin A, Warunek S, Aszkler R, Al-Jewair T. A comparative analysis of treatment effects and duration with LightForce™ 3D-printed custom brackets and clear aligners. J Dent Res 103 (Spec Iss B): 1184, 2024.
2. Gramuglia V, Makowka S, Tanberg W, Sharma A, Al-Jewair T. Effect of quaternary ammonium-based antimicrobial coating on bacterial adhesion to Gummetal® archwire. J Dent Res 103 (Spec Iss B): 2068, 2024.
3. Chubb E, Lukens E, Tanberg W, Makowka S, Gurav A. Effects of orthodontic ligatures on frictional properties using metal brackets. UBSDM Student Research Day 2024. PO-13
4. Colak O, Tanberg W, Hamanaka R, Elnagar M, Al-Jewair T. Artificial Intelligence-assisted clinical decision model for managing retained primary second molars with no permanent successors. UBSDM Student Research Day 2024. PO-40
5. Baker J, Jarvis E, Makowka S, Covell D, Gurav A. Dimensional accuracy of in-house 3D printed orthodontic brackets. UBSDM Student Research Day 2024. PO-37
6. Hamiddudin A, Warunek S, Aszkler R, Al-Jewair T. A comparative analysis of treatment effects and duration with LightForce™ 3D-printed custom brackets and clear aligners. UBSDM Student Research Day 2024. PO-48
7. Lukens E, Chubb E, Tanberg W, Al-Jewair T, Makowka S, Gurav A. Analysis of the frictional properties of customizable 3D-printed ceramic molar tubes (LightForce™). UBSDM Student Research Day 2024. PO-52
8. Servadio N, Al-Jewair T. Buffalo twin study: Photographic analysis of facial soft tissue parameters. UBSDM Student Research Day 2024. PO-29
9. Sharma A, Andreana S, Al-Jewair T. Assessing the effects of lateral orthodontic forces on dental implant stability. UBSDM Student Research Day 2024. PO-30
10. Patel U, Khorsand R, Stellrecht E, Al-Jewair T. Treatment outcomes of customized vs. conventional orthodontic brackets: A systematic review. UBSDM Student Research Day 2024. PO-25
11. Gramuglia V, Makowka S, Tanberg W, Sharma A, Al-Jewair T. Effect of quaternary ammonium-based antimicrobial coating on bacterial adhesion to Gummetal® archwire. UBSDM Student Research Day 2024. PO-15
12. Singh S, Khan M, Gurav A, Al-Jewair T. Exploring the environmental footprint and biodegradability of various clear aligner materials: A scoping review. UBSDM Student Research Day 2024. PO-31
13. Lowe R, Al-Jewair T. Dental Manifestations and orthodontic implications of long-haul COVID: A scoring review. J Dent Educ 2023. PO-010
14. Husain F, Al-Jewair T. Effectiveness of clear aligner therapy in treatment of deepbite: systematic review and meta-analysis. J Dent Educ 2023. PO-017
15. Lowe R, Gurav A, Wilding G, Al-Jewair T. Teleorthodontics: perception and utilization from a worldwide perspective. J Dent Res 102 (Spec Iss A): 0563, 2023.
16. Koch R, Monegro A, Warunek S, Tanberg W, Al-Jewair T. Prevalence and risks of sleep bruxism by mandibular movement monitoring. J Dent Res 102 (Spec Iss A): 1207, 2023.

Meet our faculty!



Rebecca Falsafi
Clinical Assistant
Professor



Graham Gardner
Clinical Assistant
Professor



Rodney Littlejohn
Clinical Assistant
Professor



Ney Paredes
Clinical Assistant
Professor



John Tibbetts
Clinical Assistant
Professor



Brian Willison
Lecturer

Meet our staff!

Lisa Ceglia
Receptionist

Mikayla Katz
Dental Assistant

Nancy Merkle
Dental Assistant

Kaitlyn Dudziak
Dental Assistant

Gabrielle Marek
Administrative
Assistant

Becky Parton
Receptionist

Devon Gude
Dental Assistant



Scholarly Activity

Grants

Residents:

1. Comparing the Stability of 3D Printed Orthodontic Models of Various Shapes Over Time. 2024 American Association of Orthodontists Foundation Research Aid Award. PI: Dr. Alaa Abdullah (Y2 resident)
2. Artificial intelligence-assisted clinical decision model for managing retained primary second molars with no permanent successors. 2023 American Association of Orthodontists Foundation Research Aid Award. PI: Dr. Ozge Colak (Y3 resident)
3. Friction and Dimensional Integrity of in-House Fully Customizable 3D Printed Orthodontic Brackets. 2023 American Association of Orthodontists Foundation Research Aid Award. PI: Dr. John Baker (Y3 resident)
4. Analysis of the frictional properties of customizable 3D-printed ceramic molar tubes (LightForce™). 2022 Northeastern Society of Orthodontists Resident Research Award. PI: Dr. Elizabeth Lukens (Y3 resident)

Faculty:

1. Support, Training, Early-/Mid-career Enhancement and Retention (STEER) Fellowship Program. 2023 ADEAGies Foundation. MPI: Al-Jewair, Stamm, Scates
2. Sleep stage-related mandibular movement in skeletal Class III adults with mandibular asymmetry 2024 American Association of Orthodontists Foundation. PI: Dr. Al-Jewair

Did you know?

UB orthodontics received the second-highest number of grants from the American Association of Orthodontists Foundation among programs in the Northeastern region.

- Boston - 5 Awards/\$100,000
- Children's Hospital - 2 Awards/\$15,000
- Columbia - 4 Awards/\$85,000
- Harvard - 11 Awards/\$153,000
- Jacobi - 1 Award/\$5,000
- Maimonides - 1 Award/\$15,000
- Montefiore - 1 Award/\$15,000
- Montreal - 3 Awards/\$50,000
- NYU - 8 Awards/\$120,000
- NYU/Langone - 4 Awards/\$45,000
- Rochester/Eastman - 7 Awards/\$95,000
- **SUNY Buffalo - 16 Awards/\$242,000**
- Tufts - 5 Awards/\$75,000
- UConn - 43 Awards/\$700,000

AAOF Totals - 115 Awards/\$1,746,000

*Our faculty **make an impact** locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.*



David Covell

- Member, ADA Test Construction Committee
- Editorial board member, American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics and Angle Orthodontist journals



Ashish Gurav

Recently appointed an orthodontic clinic director. In this role, he collaborates with residents, staff, and faculty to support the clinical operation within the graduate orthodontic program and refine our protocols.



John Tibbets

- Board member, UB Dental Alumni Association
- Treasurer, Greater Buffalo Association of Orthodontists



Stephen Warunek

Recently appointed an orthodontic research director. In this role, he provides oversight to the MS (orthodontics) research program and plays an important role in advancing the department's objectives of leading impactful research projects that contribute to the field of orthodontics.



Thikriat Al-Jewair

- Board member, Northeastern Society of Orthodontists
- Examiner, American Board of Orthodontics
- Member, Council of Scientific Affairs, American Association of Orthodontists

A Year in Review

Tweed Study Course

Our second-year residents participated in the Tweed study course in Tucson, AZ, from Sept. 10-16, 2023. This course introduces residents to the Tweed philosophy, enhancing their skills in diagnosis and treatment planning, and teaching advanced wire bending, orthodontic techniques, and biomechanics.



AAO Professional Advocacy Conference

Dr. Ashley Jarkowski (second-year resident and class president) participated in the AAO Professional Advocacy Conference in Washington D.C, from Feb. 27-28, 2024. Ashley advocated on issues relevant to orthodontic residents, such as student debt reform legislation.



AAO Leadership Development Conference

Dr. Ashley Jarkowski (second-year resident), Dr. Ozge Colak (third-year resident) and Dr. Ashish Gurav, assistant professor, participated in the 2024 AAO Leadership Development Conference in San Antonio, TX, on Jan. 25, 2024, representing NESO.

The conference provided multiple learning opportunities in leadership development. Attendees also had the chance to engage with AAO leadership and discover ways to increase their involvement with the AAO by connecting with colleagues from different constituents.



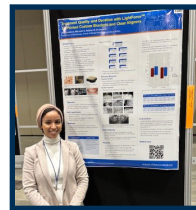
UBSDM Student Research Day



During the 2024 UBSDM Student Research Day, our third-year residents presented their groundbreaking research projects. Their studies hold immense promise in advancing our field and addressing critical challenges. From investigating novel treatment modalities and machine learning models to exploring the latest advancements

in 3D-printed orthodontic appliances, their contributions are poised to shape the future of orthodontics. Each project reflects their dedication to pushing the boundaries of knowledge and making meaningful contributions to the field.

IADR Annual Session

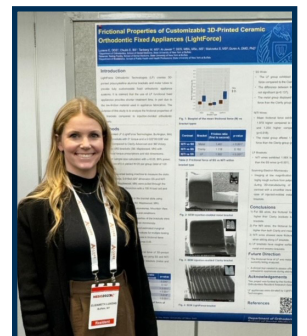
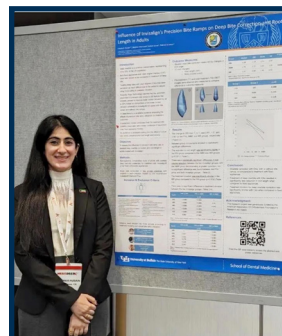


Dr. Aliyyah Hamiddudin (third-year resident) participated in the 2024 IADR Annual Session in New Orleans, showcasing her research that investigates the treatment outcomes of custom orthodontic appliances.

NESO Cup Poster Competition

Dr. Elizabeth Lukens, third-year resident, and alumna Fatemah Hussain (Class of 2023), took part in the NESO Cup Poster Competition held in Montreal, Canada, from Oct. 21-22, 2023. Residents from various programs participated showing original research

in the field of orthodontics. We are delighted to announce that Dr. Lukens secured the NESO Cup for the best poster presentation. Her winning presentation focused on the in-vitro evaluation of friction forces of 3D-printed custom brackets and tubes (LightForce™).



A Year in Review

2024 Annual Moyers Symposium

Dr. Al-Jewair received an invitation to speak at the 2024 Annual Moyers Symposium held at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, from March 2-4, 2024. Her presentation, titled "Unraveling Sleep Breathing Disorders: The Role of Mandibular Movement Monitoring in Diagnosis and Treatment," provided insights into innovative approaches for diagnosing and treating these conditions.



STEER Program

Dr. Gurav was selected to participate in the inaugural year-long STEER (Support, Training, Early Career Enhancement, and Retention) program initiated by the UBSDM in July 2023. This comprehensive program includes structured mentorship with experienced faculty members, engaging presentations by leaders, and a variety of professional development initiatives aimed at nurturing early career growth and fostering retention within academia.



Greater Buffalo Association of Orthodontists

The Greater Buffalo Association of Orthodontists continues its collaboration with our department and sponsors an annual graduating resident competition. This year, the competition took place at the Richardson Hotel on April 17, 2024. Each resident delivered an oral presentation on one comprehensive case that they initiated and completed during their residency. The cases adhered to the guidelines and criteria outlined by the American Board of Orthodontics for initial certification. Local orthodontists who are members of GBAO evaluated the

case presentations and quality of finished cases. All cases demonstrated excellent quality, meeting the ABO passing score. Three winning cases were selected (refer to the Resident Awards section). Congratulations to the third-year class and the winners. We are thankful to the GBAO, led by Dr. Shaheen Youssef, UB Ortho Class of 2020, for their continued support.



Erie County Dental Society's CE Ski Trip

On Feb. 2, 2024, our department took part in the Erie County Dental Society's ski-themed continuing education event featuring a seminar entitled "Mucogingival Considerations and Therapy" by Dr. Waqar Ahmed, an adjunct faculty in the UB Department of Periodontics and Endodontics. The presentation centered on the interdisciplinary management of mucogingival defects. In addition to the insightful sessions, attendees had the opportunity to rejuvenate themselves with skiing breaks on the slopes.



Ortho Screening Day

On Feb. 24, 2024, we proudly hosted our fourth annual outreach event for the Western New York community, ORTHO Screening Day. This event provided free screenings to evaluate the treatment needs of patients in WNY. Since its inception, ORTHO Screening Day has served nearly 500 patients, making a significant impact on community oral health and esthetics.



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@UB_Ortho

A Year in Review

AAO Annual Session

UB orthodontics was well represented at the AAO Annual Session in New Orleans. A variety of activities were held over four days:

Friday, May 3:

- Faculty attended the Society of Educators meeting to discuss updates in orthodontic education.
- Dr. Al-Jewair served on the opening AAO House of Delegates.

Saturday, May 4:

- Ozge Colak participated in the William Proffit Resident Competition.
- Dr. Gurav moderated an oral session on digital orthodontics.
- Ozge Colak and Aliyyah Hamiddudin took part in the College of Diplomates of the ABO Resident Case Display.
- Faculty, residents and alumni attended the UB Ortho Alumni reception. The event was attended by around 60 alumni, residents, faculty, and guests. Thank you to everyone who attended. We had a fantastic time hearing about the achievements of our alumni and sharing wonderful stories and reflections on the past.

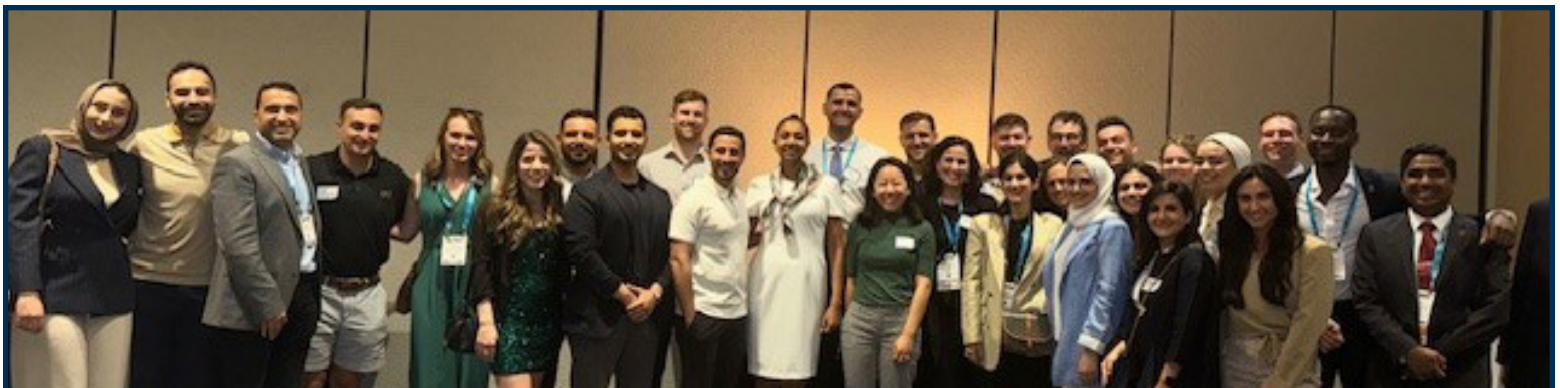
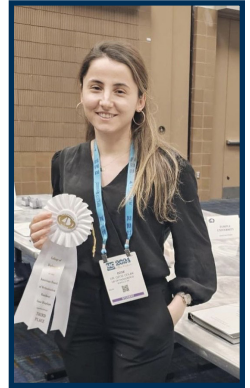
Sunday, May 5:

- Elizabeth Lukens presented a Table Clinic titled, "Analysis of the frictional properties of customized 3D-printed ceramic molar tubes (LightForce™)."
- Aliyyah Hamiddudin presented a Table Clinic titled "Treatment outcomes of Lightforce and clear aligners."
- Emma Chubb (dental student and incoming resident) presented a Table Clinic titled, "Effects of orthodontic ligatures on frictional properties using ceramic brackets."
- Taylor Toothman Sulkowski moderated an oral session on teeth impaction and ankylosis.

Monday, May 6:

- Adrianna Simeone moderated an oral session on interdisciplinary care and aligner therapy.
- Dr. Al-Jewair served on the closing AAO House of Delegates.

We look forward to seeing you all next year in Philly!



2024 Graduation

June 8, 2024



On Saturday, June 8, 2024, we commemorated the graduation of the Class of 2024. The graduation celebration symbolized the dedication, perseverance, and countless hours of hard work that each resident had invested in their journey toward becoming orthodontists. As they crossed the threshold from residents to fully-fledged professionals, the atmosphere was filled with a sense of accomplishment and pride.

The gathering brought together families, current residents, faculty members, staff, and friends of the department, creating a vibrant tapestry of support and camaraderie. Amid the applause and heartfelt speeches, memories were shared, highlighting the challenges overcome and the growth experienced by each resident throughout their residency. The event served not only as a celebration, but also as a reminder of the bonds forged among the Class of 2024.



Alumni News



Erik Gompers, '23

I am currently working as an associate orthodontist with a partnership opportunity in my hometown of Wheeling, WV, and St. Clairsville, Ohio.



Kevin Kurtzner, '19

I currently serve as the vice president of the Rocky Mountain Society of Orthodontists (president 2025-26). I am the Chair of the AAO's Council on New and Younger Members (CONYM), 2023-25. I am also the Chair of the AAO's newly formed Mental Wellness Task Force (2024).



Ghadeer Albabtain, '19

I'm currently working as an associate in a private practice, collaborating with a team of skilled professionals. Since achieving my ABO certification in 2020, I've leveraged my orthodontic expertise to significantly contribute to our practice's success and the overall well-being of our patients.

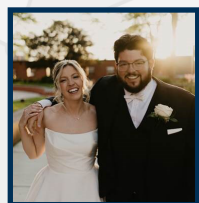
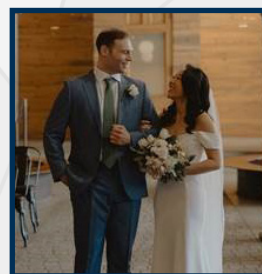
On a personal note, my heart has been full with the joy of welcoming a new addition to our family. Our little boy, who is now three years old, brings endless laughter and love into our lives. Parenthood has been a remarkable journey, filled with moments of wonder and growth, and I'm grateful for every precious moment spent with our two sons. We have been also traveling the world to experience different cultures, which has become a central part of our family adventures.



Laura Shim, '23

I was living in Las Vegas, NV, working as an associate in two pediatric dental offices and one general dental office. We enjoyed the Southwest and all it has to offer, but permanently relocated to Seattle, WA, in late June of this year. Now I am working on a start-up orthodontic practice of my own!

My husband Adam and I had a wedding ceremony in San Diego, CA, this past January. (Dr. Aszkler was in attendance!) I also have a more orthodontic-specific Instagram account that I've been working on posting a mixture of dental and personal content: @drlaurashim.



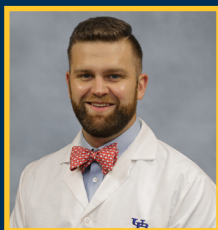
Ryan Koch, '23

I am at Koch Orthodontics in Geneseo, NY. I just got married on May 25, 2024.



Timothy Tremont, '80

Director, American Board of Orthodontics



Ronald Lowe, '23

ABO Certified



Fatemah Husain, '23

ABO Certified

Class Anniversaries

1974

Kenneth Freer
James Harkins
Joel R. Harris
Jim Lovell
Giuseppe Santaniello

1984

Willis Cardot
Dominic Colarusso
Scott Copeland
Bruce Goldstein
Jeffrey Miller

1994

Timothy Damon
Robert Forche
Dan Kastner
Keith Sabinsky
John Tibbetts

2004

Joshua Baum
Lih-Juh Chou
Brandon Comella
Thomas Compton
Alan Kennell
Mohammad Tabbaa
Sawsan Tabbaa

2014

Hadi Daia
Paul Hyun
Munisha Nanda
Tracy Pogal-Sussman
Nathan Thomas
Ying Wang

Looking Ahead

We are pleased to announce the S. Aszkler Distinguished Service Award!



The S. Aszkler Distinguished Service Award will honor a current orthodontic faculty member or alumni who has demonstrated significant contributions to the department, the orthodontic profession, or the community at large. This award reflects the dedication and passion of our faculty and alumni in enhancing education and serving people. It serves as a testament to their commitment to excellence and their profound impact on UB orthodontics and beyond.

Award Criteria: The S. Aszkler Distinguished Service Award will be presented annually to a current faculty member or alumni who meets the following criteria:

- The recipient must have demonstrated significant service to the UB orthodontic department, the specialty of orthodontics or the community.
- The recipient should have made notable contributions to the enhancement of education within the UB orthodontics department or the broader orthodontic community.
- The recipient must have shown a strong commitment to serving people, whether through volunteer work, community outreach initiatives, or other forms of service.

Nomination Process: Nominations for the award will be solicited from faculty and alumni between Jan. 1-March 31. Nominees will be reviewed by an ad-hoc committee comprised of the department chair, two faculty members, two alumni members and one resident. The committee will carefully consider each nominee's qualifications and contributions before selecting the recipient of the award. Recipients will be announced in June.

Nomination documents: A 500-word statement detailing the candidate's accomplishments and the candidate's CV.



Orthodontic Resident Education Fund

We invite you to support our residents by contributing to a new Orthodontic Resident Education Fund. This fund will support resident travel expenses for attending the AAO Annual Session and other continuing education events, as well as contribute to their MS research endeavors.

For contributions to the fund, please contact Neil Dengler at ndengler@buffalo.edu. Our goal is to raise \$100,000 to establish a sustainable resource for this fund. Your generosity will directly enhance the educational opportunities and professional development of our residents.



Looking Ahead

Clinic Renovations

We are thrilled to announce that we are nearing the start of renovations for the C. Brian Preston Orthodontic Clinic. Construction is set to begin in the fall of 2024. During this period, we have secured a temporary location for our clinic until the renovations are complete.

This significant investment is aimed at enhancing the educational experience for our current and future residents, as well as improving the care we provide to our patients in Western New York. The clinic has not undergone any renovations since it was built in 1986, making this an especially important project.

Our fundraising campaign, which began several years ago, remains active. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed. Your generosity has enabled us to name six dental operatories and four additional rooms. We continue to seek your support for this major project, and we appreciate your ongoing contributions.

How to contribute:

Visit: <https://www.buffalo.edu/giving/give-to/your-school/dental-medicine.html> and select "Ortho clinic renovation".

Or Contact:

Neil Dengler
Senior Director of Advancement
School of Dental Medicine
Division of University Advancement
University at Buffalo
ndengler@buffalo.edu
716-881-7486

