

THE HOTSEAT

SUMMER EDITION 2025

ORTHODONTIC DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER



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MEDICINE

EASTMAN
INSTITUTE FOR ORAL HEALTH

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LETTER FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

To all our alumni, faculty, students and staff,

As the world continues to evolve, so too does the field of orthodontics, blending tradition with innovation. The discipline remains steadfast in its commitment to enhancing oral health while embracing cutting-edge technologies that continually reshape its landscape. From addressing complex cases to refining patient experiences, orthodontists are at the forefront of integrating artificial intelligence and digital advancements into their practices. This transformative era not only challenges professionals to adapt but also inspires institutions like Eastman Orthodontics to provide unparalleled education and mentorship for future leaders in the specialty.

We are approaching the end of the academic year and irrespective of all the changes noted, another orthodontic residency class will have completed the requirements to become Eastman orthodontists by the end of June. Graduation Ceremonies occur on Friday, June 20, 2025, and hopefully some of you will be able to join the celebration. Just as we work hard to attain an American Board of Orthodontics outcome for our treatments, our senior class of residents worked diligently to meet the requirements of the Eastman Ortho program. Graduation will be a well-earned reward for their successes over the past two years; moreover, they have just received their ABO Written exam results, and all the senior residents successfully passed the exam. The Eastman Orthodontic qualification will catapult them into a new adventure of full-time orthodontic practice. Judging from our assessments throughout the program I am confident that the senior group has received the necessary education to provide them with a positive introduction to practice as orthodontists. Retention, as we well know, is a major process following all orthodontic treatment and meticulous posttreatment care is imperative. Similarly, we hope that the mentorship our residents received will be ingrained and retained for wonderful years of clinical practice.



The academic year practically never stops at Eastman Orthodontics. We welcome our new resident class and two preceptors on June 12th; seniors graduate on June 20th and our existing first year class will take the lead as seniors on July 1. My mission is to expose all our students to the historical and contemporary aspects of orthodontics. One fact is clear, and I realize this every time I peruse a journal and especially attending the AAO this year, that AI, digital orthodontics, clear aligners and printed brackets to name a few, are here to stay, and it is important that we all be familiar with its impact on orthodontic education and clinical patient care. In recent years, tele-orthodontics has been misused, and my expectation is that its use will stabilize to enable effective utilization of this tool. Our priority remains patient care, which must continue to be the foremost consideration in our practice protocol.

I have been privileged to see numerous residents start their specialty or advanced education in orthodontics. The competition to enter an orthodontic program has significantly increased over the years and what is impressive is the enormous efforts students go to prepare for their interviews. I was fortunate to attend a webinar on this process recently highlighting the preparation of the application process to a specialty program. One can say that the orthodontic program starts during this initial preparation to ensure success in obtaining a spot in a program. We have been fortunate to offer residency spots to wonderful students, and we will work hard to ensure that this continues. I have seen many graduating classes over the last 40 years as an orthodontic faculty member and the excitement accompanying each graduation occasion is still as special as the first one, I attended. Graduation remains a wonderful experience as one reflects on the beginning where neophytes come into the program and then complete the course to become fully fledged orthodontists.

Our residents receive a superb education, and they are supported by special individuals. We have excellent faculty and superb administrative support from experienced staff who all enthusiastically support our academic and clinical activities and goals. We know that each resident will take the Eastman mentorship with them for guidance as they negotiate the future. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated orthodontic team. Our faculty and staff continue to adapt and innovate, ensuring that Eastman Orthodontics remains a leader in orthodontic education and clinical excellence. This dedication is reflected not only in the comprehensive training our residents receive but also in the collaborative environment fostered within our orthodontic community. It is this spirit of teamwork and commitment to excellence that defines our program and equips our graduates to thrive in an ever-evolving profession. Unfortunately, one of our stalwarts, Dr. Ed Sommers, passed away in May. He was loved by all and will certainly be missed.

We were graced by the presence of Drs Ben Hardyk (California) and Atheer Ganem (King Khalid University, in Abha, Saudi Arabia) who visited us in April and May respectively. In addition, we had a wonderful Zoom talk by Dr. Fares Alshuraim from College of Dentistry, Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University, Dammam in Saudi Arabia. It is wonderful to see that our alums thrive in their respective professions, albeit private practice or university faculty members.

Philadelphia was an exciting destination for the 2025 AAO Annual Session which included our Alumni function. Meeting with our alumni is always a much-enjoyed opportunity. I cannot thank our alumni enough for the contributions to the Subtelny and Orthodontic Gifting Fund which should serve and elevate the Eastman Orthodontic program.

Until next time...

Best Regards,

Dr. P. Emile Rossouw.

Professor and Chairman

A message from our Program Director, Dr. Dimitris Michelogiannakis

Dear Eastman Orthodontics family,

Another amazing year has passed with many warm memories and wonderful accomplishments by our faculty, students, alumni, and staff. We have had the pleasure of working with an excellent team of Senior and Junior residents who constantly make us proud with their hard work and commitment. Our team of students and faculty has achieved numerous publications in leading journals and received student awards. I am extremely happy to report that our Seniors received 1st place in the 2025 Case Display of the American Board of Orthodontics (CDABO) in Philly, which is the second consecutive year Eastman Ortho has received this honor and national recognition. This is a testimony to the high caliber of our students, the astonishing mentorship and education by our faculty, and the exemplary patient care we provide to our community. We are proud that our Chairperson, Dr. Rossouw, has been installed as the President-Elect of the American Board of Orthodontics, and I am happy to be serving as the President-Elect of the Society of Educators of the American Association of Orthodontists. On a personal note, I am extremely honored to have been selected as a Fellow of the American College of Dentists and appointed as the General Organizing Chair of the upcoming Edward H. Angle Society 46th Biennial Meeting in Nashville, TN, in September. With our upcoming CODA accreditation site visit scheduled in October 2026, our team is working hard to ensure our program is recognized with flying colors. The addition of Dr. Kheir to our faculty ranks has also truly enhanced the education of our residents and the organization of our clinical operations. All of this would not be possible without the support from our part-time faculty, alumni, and exceptional staff members. However, as is natural in life, the past year has also brought heartbreaks. The passing of Dr. Edward Sommers has been very difficult for all of us at Eastman and beyond, who have been inspired by his mentorship, friendship, and warm personality. Such difficult moments bring us all closer together and inspire us to work even harder to preserve the legacy of Dr. Sommers and many other Eastman Orthodontic legends before him as we move into the future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dimitrios Michelogiannakis



A message from our Clinical Director, Dr. Nadia Abou Kheir

Dear Eastman Orthodontics family,

One year has passed since I became the Clinic Director in Eastman. With the guidance of Dr. Rossouw, case distribution amongst the residents has been better. When joining as a first year, new residents are receiving several cases ready for bonding. Also, residents were able to use the soft tissue laser machine on several cases this year. The laser machine we have can be used for simple gingivectomy and soft tissue exposure of a tooth if indicated. Currently, we are looking to add new software that allows indirect bonding using any bracket system of the provider choice.

I am thrilled that I was invited by Dr. Dimitrios to collaborate on an article that was recently published. We are currently working on another project that utilizes digital dentistry which I enjoy using.

Looking forward to the upcoming year with more improvement and adding innovation to the clinic.

Regards,

Nadia Abou Kheir



AN UPDATE FROM OUR CURRENT SENIOR CLASS:



Dr. Luay Jabr: Today marks a monumental achievement as our time in residency comes to an end. I have enjoyed every second of my time at Eastman and I'm forever grateful to call myself a graduate of this prestigious program. The mentorship and guidance I have received profoundly shaped my personal and professional life. The faculty have imparted invaluable knowledge, expertise, and have inspired us with their passion for orthodontics. As we celebrate this milestone, let us extend heartfelt thanks to our mentors for their time, efforts and belief in our potential. Their mentorship has been instrumental in preparing us for the challenges ahead. Congratulations to my fellow graduates on reaching this significant milestone, and may we continue to carry forward the lessons learned here at Eastman and make a positive impact in the field of orthodontics.

Dr. Maria-Panagiota (Maripeny) Kouskouki: The past two years of Orthodontic residency have been an incredible journey of growth and learning. With the guidance of exceptional mentors, I fully embraced the integration of academic and clinical training in Orthodontics. I've greatly appreciated the supportive professional environment, and the meaningful experiences shared with my co-residents. I'm truly thankful to be surrounded by dedicated faculty, staff, and the patients who have been an integral part of this journey. I'm grateful and excited to continue at Eastman Orthodontics for another year, working toward fulfilling the three-year European training standard.



Dr. Abdallah Michail: As I graduate from the esteemed Orthodontics Residency at Eastman, I reflect with gratitude on the mentorship, friendships, and meaningful experiences that have shaped who I am both personally and professionally. From a fellowship in community dentistry to a two-year AEGD and now completing the prestigious Orthodontics Residency and a master's in dental sciences, all at this distinguished institution, I am thankful for the support of dedicated faculty, the camaraderie shared with my co-residents, and the unwavering encouragement of my family. Congratulations to my fellow graduates. It has been an honor to learn and grow alongside you. I look forward to beginning the next chapter in private practice in New York, hoping to remain involved in academia part-time. The journey does not end here. Learning will always continue as I grow in the field of orthodontics.

Dr. Eftixia (Elyssa) Rizov: I was born in Toronto, ON, Canada, and completed both my Bachelor of Science and Master of Public Health degrees at the University of Toronto. After shadowing in a dental office, I quickly realized that dentistry perfectly combined my passions for science and art, which inspired me to pursue a career in the field. I earned my dental degree from New York University, where I took on various leadership roles, joined academic clubs, and served as a teaching assistant. While at NYU, I had the opportunity to shadow in the orthodontics clinic and was deeply inspired by my own orthodontist to pursue a residency in Orthodontics. I'm forever grateful for the mentorship I received through the Orthodontics program at the Eastman Institute for Oral Health and for the chance to be part of such a supportive and inspiring community.



Dr. Atoosa Pahlavani: I want to express my deepest gratitude for the opportunity to have been an orthodontic resident at the University of Rochester. The past three years have been an incredible journey of learning and growth, and I am profoundly thankful for the education I have received. My time at EIOH has been marked by challenging coursework, memorable professors, incredible residents and valuable insights. The academic environment helped me to learn and grow, and I am grateful for this wonderful opportunity. I also want to express my heartfelt appreciation to all awesome URM faculty, administrators and especially all orthodontic department faculty, staff and residents whose guidance and excellent support have been instrumental in my academic journey. As I embark on the next chapter of my life, I am eager to apply the knowledge and skills I have gained at EIOH. I am particularly excited about moving back to California and starting a new chapter as an associate orthodontist in Los Angeles. I am confident that my time at EIOH has prepared me well for the challenges and opportunities ahead. I wish everyone and the university continued success in the years to come.



Dr. Corey Stein: As I reflect on the past two years in Eastman's orthodontic residency program, I am incredibly grateful for the journey and growth I've experienced. The guidance and support from the faculty have been instrumental—not only in advancing my clinical skills and professional knowledge but also in shaping my personal development and confidence as an orthodontist. After spending over a decade in upstate New York—first at SUNY Geneseo, then at Buffalo for dental school, and finally in Rochester for orthodontics—it feels surreal to be closing this chapter. I'm deeply thankful to my mentors, family, and co-residents for their unwavering support throughout this long but fulfilling path. I now look forward to beginning the next phase of my career in private practice in Boston, Massachusetts, excited to bring the knowledge and values I've gained to a new community and make a positive impact in my patients' lives. I am eternally grateful to my Eastman family.



OUR FIRST YEAR RESIDENTS, CLASS OF 2026



Dr. Madhuli Bhide was born and raised in India, where she completed her postgraduate training in Orthodontics in 2016. She later moved to the United States to be with her family and pursued further specialization, completing a residency in Orofacial Pain and TMJ Disorders in 2022. She then gained valuable experience working as a general dentist and pain specialist for a year and a half. Despite her diverse experiences, Orthodontics has always been her true passion, and she is grateful to be continuing that journey in a prestigious program. Surrounded by inspiring mentors and supportive co-residents, she feels incredibly fortunate to be part of such a nurturing academic environment. Upon graduation, she plans to work in private practice while staying connected to the academic world as a part-time faculty member. Outside of dentistry, she is a trained Indian classical singer and enjoys spending quality time with her family and friends.

Dr. Sabrina Blaskovic was born in Whitestone, NY. She completed her undergraduate studies at Adelphi University on Long Island, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology and competed as a member of the NE-10 Division II Women's Soccer Team. She went on to receive her dental degree from the University at Buffalo and was elected as a member of the Omicron Kappa Upsilon National Dental Honor Society. Sabrina is extremely honored to now be part of the Eastman Orthodontics family, where she is also pursuing her Master's degree in Dental Sciences. She values the exceptional mentorship at Eastman and the inspiring people she is surrounded by each day, both of which have made residency incredibly meaningful and fulfilling. Outside of orthodontics, Sabrina enjoys hiking, traveling, snowboarding, and spending quality time with family and friends.



Dr. Luis Mendez, originally from Mexico, earned his DDS from the University of Montemorelos in 2010. He was actively involved in both academics and private practice at his alma mater before moving to Rochester in 2020. There, he completed a three-year AEGD program with a research focus, followed by a one-year GPR at Strong Memorial Hospital. He feels grateful to be part of the Orthodontics Class of 2026 at Eastman, where he thoroughly enjoys every aspect of the program. Outside of orthodontics, Dr. Mendez treasures time with his wife and two children, savoring his wife's cooking and playing music.

Dr. Emilie Ponton was born and raised in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. She earned her Doctorate in Dental Medicine from the University of Montreal. Her passion for orthodontics was sparked the moment she walked into an orthodontic office for her own treatment, a pivotal experience that ignited her unwavering commitment to the field. During her dental studies, Dr. Ponton took on several leadership and volunteer roles, including serving as Vice President of Academic Affairs, leading a volunteer-based outreach project, and working as a teaching assistant. Beyond dentistry, she developed personal discipline and growth through figure skating. Since the age of seven, she has been actively involved in the sport as a competitive skater, a member of a synchronized skating team, and later as a coach. These experiences helped shape qualities such as precision, dedication, and teamwork. In her free time, Dr. Ponton enjoys hiking, cycling, traveling, and spending quality time with her family and friends. She is grateful for the opportunity to pursue her dream career in the esteemed Eastman program and considers her co-residents and faculty a close-knit and supportive community.



Dr. Meredith Rogers was born and raised in a suburb just outside of Rochester, NY. She went on to attend Binghamton University, where she majored in Integrative Neuroscience and minored in Health and Wellness. Fueled by a passion for both science and service, she earned her DDS degree from Columbia College of Dental Medicine. She then returned to her hometown to pursue an orthodontic residency at Eastman, where she is also completing her master's degree. During her time at Columbia, she embraced a variety of leadership and teaching roles, and even founded a running club to blend her love of fitness with community. Her commitment to both academics and professional excellence was honored through induction into Omicron Kappa Upsilon. Outside the clinic, she's often chasing the sunshine outdoors -whether that be running, hiking, skiing, or relaxing by the water. As a passionate cook and adventurous foodie, she also enjoys exploring new recipes and local restaurants. She feels incredibly grateful to be surrounded by such inspiring faculty and co-residents at Eastman and is excited for all that lies ahead in her orthodontic journey.



Dr. Jack Slaymaker is a British-born dentist, earning his Bachelor of Dental Surgery from Peninsula Dental School in 2019. He has since developed a refined skill set through Postgraduate Diplomas in aesthetic, restorative, and orthodontic dentistry, sharpening a meticulous eye for detail. Jack spent several years in private practice in Cambridge, England, focusing on smile transformations using minimally invasive techniques. He also served as a Key Opinion Leader in applying AI-based diagnostic tools and has authored several publications on innovation in Orthodontics and Dental technology. A strong advocate for digital dentistry, Jack brings cutting-edge tools into his workflow—including CAD design and 3D printing—and he's only just getting started. Now an orthodontic resident at Eastman, he feels privileged to learn and grow among inspiring mentors and peers, committed to continual improvement. Outside the clinic, Jack's greatest joy comes from spending time with his wife and energetic 2-year-old daughter. When time allows, he explores his deep passion for mechanical watches, especially those he designs and builds himself.





Welcome the **Class of 2027: Residents and Preceptors** (from left to right): Preceptors: Ashima Sharma & Herman Reinach, Residents: Ibrahim Kassem, Noyan Sevindik, Erika Correa, Yixin Bao, Aleksandra Valickovic, & Sanjana Kumar.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Special thank you to Dr. Lawrence Harte (EDC '62) for his meaningful contribution to our program!

Dr. Lawrence Harte's significant gift to the Orthodontics Department is a testament to the power of gratitude and giving back. His contribution reminds us that our education and experiences shape not only our careers but also our commitment to supporting others and is an appreciation for the education and inspiration that *was instilled in him as a student in the Eastman Orthodontic Program.*

Senior resident **Dr. Abdallah Michail** won first place at the CDABO Case Display Competition at the 2025 AAO Meeting in New Orleans.



DEPARTMENT EVENTS

Eastman Resident BBQ at **Dr. Leah Peres'** home



Charles H. Tweed Foundation course in Tucson, AZ in 2025 with our junior residents



GORP 2024 – Ann Arbor, Michigan



Great Lakes 2024 – Buffalo, NY



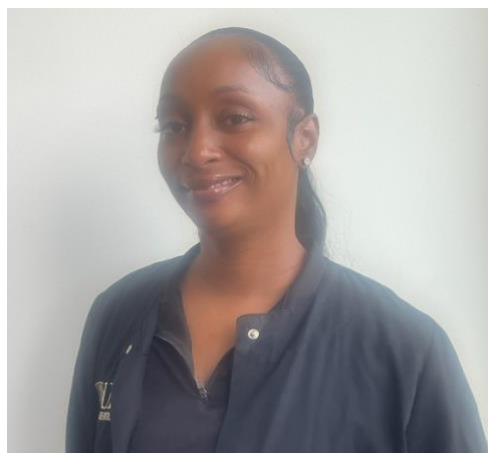
The Eastman family together at the 2025 AAO meeting in Philadelphia





This image depicts ten generations of **Lineage #3**, from left to right is Dr. Quingshan Li ('14), Dr. Tim Calnon ('15), Dr. Dimitris Michelogiannakis ('17), Dr. Leah Peres ('18), Dr. Gabriela Flores Garcia ('20), Dr. Adrianna Parra Barillas ('21), Dr. Diaa Ossama Allahham ('22), Dr. Fraser Hart '24), Dr. Elyssa Rizov ('25) and Dr. Luis Mendes ('26)

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW STAFF!



Ashley Singleteary was born and raised in Rochester, NY. She has been working in the healthcare field since 2006 and is now embracing a new path as a Dental Assistant. She is a mother of two—a son and a daughter—and recently experienced the heartbreaking loss of her son in January. Ashley is excited to join the dental industry and looks forward to learning new skills and building on the foundation she developed in her dental assistant class.



Shannon Walker was born and raised in Rochester. She began her career in dental assisting at Eastman, working in the pediatric department. She later transitioned to private practice, where she gained experience assisting in both orthodontics and pediatrics. After more than 20 years in the field, she had the opportunity to return to Eastman's Orthodontic Department—and couldn't be happier to be back.



Kashif Green originally from NYC now living in Rochester, Kashif is a former child actor that enjoys basketball, writing, content creation and making music. Kashif joined Orthodontics and OPF in Jan, prior to that he worked for the GI dept.



Sonja Dicker lives in Chile and has 20 great-nieces and nephews. In her spare time, she enjoys dancing, listening to music, and shopping. She joined the Orthodontics department a few months ago but has been part of the University of Rochester community for 10 years and describes it as a wonderful place to work.

NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNI AND EASTMAN FAMILY



Dr. Atheer Ganem ('24-top left), **Dr. Benjamin Levenson**: ('24-top right), **Dr. Stacy Rosenberg**: ('24-bottom left) and **Dr. Cody Wiktorski**: ('24-bottom right) successfully passed the ABO Scenario-based to become ABO certified orthodontists. Congratulations doctors!

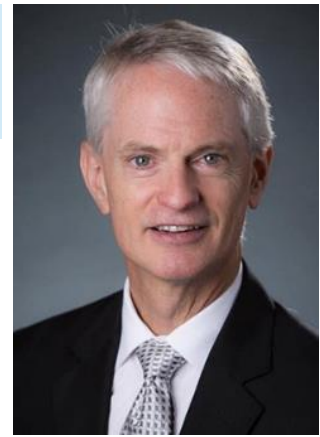


Dr. Cristina Incorvati (Ortho 1993) was elected President of the Italian Society for Cleft Lip and Palate and Craniofacial Anomalies (SILPS)



Dr. Samuel Obamiyi (Ortho 2019) was appointed to the Board of the Pacific Coast Society of Orthodontics as the representative of the Saskatchewan Society of Orthodontics for a two-year term. Dr. Obamiyi currently practices in Calgary, Alberta, and Estevan, Saskatchewan.

Dr. Chris Roberts ('87) was appointed associate editor of the American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics.



Dr. Bruce Haskell ('75) was appointed to the Board of Dentistry, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Also, Dr. Haskell had one of his papers accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of the Journal of Dental Sleep Medicine. The manuscript is titled, "A Novel Method for Pre-selectivity of Oral Appliance Palliative Pharyngeal Airway Outcomes in Obstructive Sleep Apnea: A Pilot Study."

We want to congratulate and acknowledge **Dr. Dimitris Michelogiannakis('17)** on the following positions and accomplishments!

- Appointed as President-Elect, Society of Educators (SOE), American Association of Orthodontists
- Appointed as the General Organizing co-Chair for the Angle Biennial meeting in Nashville, TN, Sep 6-11, 2025
- Nominated and selected as an American College of Dentists fellow
- Appointed as CODA Site Visitor for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Orthodontics.



Dr. Joel Schacher ('80) received a fellowship in the American College of Dentists and began his second term as president of the Ontario Association of Orthodontists.

Dr. Atheer Ganem started working at King Khalid University in Abha, Saudia Arabia, where she works as an assistant professor in the department of Periodontics & Orthodontics.



Dr. Lauren Olson (formerly Hood) Ortho Class of 2008 was inducted into the International College of Dentistry.

Dr. Taylor Squires ('21), was elected as the President of the Monroe County Dental Society and will be serving a two-year term in that position!



Dr. Joel Brodsky, Dr. Ron Bellohusen, Dr. Rossouw, Dr. Shiva Khatami, Dr. Dimitrios and Dr. Hilton Wasilewsky (left to right), at the recent Angle North-Atlantic conference in Quebec City, Quebec.

Dr. Francesca Pietri ('21) was elected as the South Florida District Dental Association Secretary, she was invited to teach at the Charles Tweed Foundation course in Tucson, AZ in April of 2023, she became board-certified and she was inducted as a fellow of the Pierre Fauchard Academy!

Dr. Francesca Pietri ('21) was also named one of *Incisal Edge's* 40 under 40 talented young dentists in the U.S.



Dr. Miraldi's ('95) son, Emanuele, was awarded "Best Under 16 Italian" while playing for his water polo team. Below is when their team won the Under 16 Italian Championships on August 22nd, 2023!

Dr. Tim Calnon ('15) was honored at the 7th District Annual Awards Dinner and received the Frederick J. Halik Award which recognizes a new dentist for outstanding leadership and significant contributions to dentistry and the community! He was joined by his wife, **Dr. Lauren Vitkus ('16)**.



Dr. Vesco ('13) was elected President of the Guatemalan Association of Orthodontists for '23-'24! He has also served as Chair of the Orthodontic Department at the San Carlos de Guatemala National University since '21.

Welcome, Babies of Our Alumni



Congratulations to **Dr. Gabriela Flores** on her beautiful baby girl, Gloria Bueno Flores

Congratulations to **Dr. Aliaa Al-Khateeb ('21)** on her beautiful baby girl, Sofia Zidi



Congratulations to **Dr. Andrea Frantz** and **Dr. Mike Skrobola's** on their baby girl, Reverie Marie Skrobola

Congratulations to Current Ortho Resident,
Dr. Madhuli Bhide (and OFP Alum from
2022) who had a baby girl, Anandi Bhide



Congratulations to **Dr. Jessica St. Martin**, on her baby boy, Otto Russell St. Martin, named after alumni James Russell and Russell Otto Glauser

WEDDINGS :



Dr. Tom Rafelli (Ortho '23) got married to Jenna Malek on August 9th, 2024

Engagements:



Dr. Benjamin Levenson (Ortho '24) got engaged to Alexa Hill in May 2025 in the Bahamas!



Dr. Christopher Burns (Ortho '24) got engaged to Jackie Mamedova in May 2025 in Varenna, Italy!

Eastman Publications this year!

Publications 2024-2025

1. Alshuraim F, Burns C, Morgan D, Jabr L, Rossouw PE, Michelogiannakis D. The second molar dilemma in orthodontics: to bond or not to bond? *Angle Orthod.* 2024 Jan 10. doi: 10.2319/071223-487.1. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38195055.
2. Burns C, Kotsailidi EA, Alshuraim F, Dadjoo S, Tzouma K, Pedrinaci I, Rossouw PE, Michelogiannakis D. Interdisciplinary orthodontic treatment with digitally-guided autotransplantation... *AJO-DO Clinical Companion*, 2024;4:483-498.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.xaor.2024.08.005>
3. Correa, E., Michelogiannakis, D., Barmak, A., Rossouw, P. and Javed, F. Efficacy of Clear Aligner Therapy... *Orthod Craniofac Res.*
<https://doi.org/10.1111/ocr.12868>
4. Hart F, Michelogiannakis D, Rossouw PE, Javed F. Antinociceptive Efficacy of 15-Deoxy- $\Delta^{12,14}$ -Prostaglandin J2 Therapy... *Prosthesis.* 2024; 6(1):63–73. <https://doi.org/10.3390/prosthesis6010005>
5. Jabr L, Altuhafy M, Barmak AB, Rossouw PE, Michelogiannakis D. Chewing Bite Wafers vs Conventional Analgesic Drugs... *Applied Sciences.* 2024; 14(13):5963. <https://doi.org/10.3390/app14135963>
6. Jabr L, Rossouw PE, Michelogiannakis D, Malik S, Wheeler TT, Barmak AB. A Comparative Assessment of the Bonding Characteristics... *Applied Sciences.* 2024; 14(2):924. <https://doi.org/10.3390/app14020924>
7. Javed F, Michelogiannakis D, Rossouw PE. Editorial bullying: An exploration... *Front. Res. Metr. Anal.* 2024.
<https://doi.org/10.3389/frma.2024.1345553>
8. Kotsailidi EA, Johnson L, Burns C, Rossouw PE, Michelogiannakis D. Surgically facilitated orthodontics with clear aligners... *Clin Adv Periodontics.* 2025 Jan 9. doi: 10.1002/cap.10324.
9. Kumar SS, Correa E, Rossouw PE, Barmak AB, El-Bialy T, Kotsailidi EA, Michelogiannakis D. Do alveolar bone dehiscences and fenestrations remodel...? *Orthod Craniofac Res.*, 2025; 0:1–13. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ocr.12917>
10. Levenson BM, Rossouw PE, Michelogiannakis D, Javed F. Probing the antinociceptive and therapeutic potential of probiotics... *Journal of Taibah University Medical Sciences.* 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtumed.2024.01.004>
11. Michelogiannakis, D., Abou Kheir, N., Rossouw, P.E., Kotsailidi, E.A. (2025) Obesity and orthodontic treatment... *Seminars in Orthodontics.* DOI: 10.1053/j.sodo.2025.01.004
12. Morgan D, Leong C, Barmak AB, Rossouw PE, Michelogiannakis D. Weight changes during the initial phase of orthodontic treatment... *Clin Oral Invest.* 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00784-024-06004-7>
13. Nshimiyimana E, Ubuzima P, Mukeshimana C, Michelogiannakis D, Mbyayingabo D, et al. Skeletal and Dental Open Bite Treatment Using Clear Aligners... *J World Fed Orthod.* 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejwf.2024.09.003>
14. Shaikh MS, Christidis N, Zafar MS, Michelogiannakis D, Rossouw PE, Afrashtehfar KI, Javed F. Association between temporomandibular joint disorders and metastatic breast cancer... *J Adv Oral Res.* 2024. Accepted.
15. Wiktorski CA, Michelogiannakis D, Rossouw PE, Javed F. The Effect of Charcoal-Based Dentifrice... *Dentistry Journal.* 2024; 12(3):58.
<https://doi.org/10.3390/dj12030058>

Grants:

- 2024 American Dental Education Association (ADEA), Council of Sections (COS) Project Pool fund (\$8,150) Sponsor: American Dental Education Association

In Memoriam: Dr. Edward Sommers



“His patient care was of the highest standards, a role model for students and orthodontists alike. He loved Eastman Orthodontics and throughout his career mentored numerous residents to become excellent orthodontists. He will be missed.”

-Dr. Emile Rossouw

“Dr. Sommers was the faculty that every resident would seek to try complex and innovative techniques or to find solutions to challenging clinical problems and scenarios. I had the privilege to learn from his deep orthodontic mastery and passion for education.”

-Dr. Dimitrios Michelogiannakis,

“Since my arrival at Eastman in 1996, I don’t think I was as close, comfortable, nor learned as much relative to clinical orthodontics as

I did with ED. He was simply the best orthodontist, still to this day, that I have ever seen. Along the way, he became a close and trusted friend. You know, the one who you look to go to with your mistakes more than your successes. I trusted his advice as much as anyone’s in orthodontics. He was always the “Iron Man” of our clinic. He was always so generous and sincere with his time. His sense of humor was always so witty and infectious. His love for cooking and wine provided me with a worldly education. My trip to Italy with him to Federico’s wedding continues to be one of the best trips of my life! His talent, integrity and moral compass will always be unparalleled. He was always someone I always tried to emulate but never could. He was like the electric rabbit in a dog race....it made us go faster and harder but we would never catch him. What a great teacher and role model for all of us. Lesson learned, always work harder...because you could always be better than you are today. We have lost an irreplaceable friend, mentor and a true Pillar of Eastman.”

-Dr. Joseph Sweet

“I still remember the first days I have started as a new faculty. I immediately noticed the passion Dr. Sommers had for orthodontics.

After few conversations, I realized he teaches one of my favorite books and uses the same system I use. I felt we speak the same language...the MBT language! He welcomed me, accepted and taught me. He had all residents gathering around him while he explain his comprehensive diagnosis. Everyone then becomes quiet waiting for the treatment plan and you can feel the suspense between the residents. Finally he says the treatment plan and you feel like a great orthodontist if it matched your treatment plan. Great orthodontist and a role model! Not only orthodontics excited him, but food. He enjoyed cooking Italian food and had the best recipes for Italian food. He always shared his knowledge with everyone to his best. I consider myself lucky that I had the pleasure learning from him as a junior faculty. Clinic will not be the same without you.”

-Dr. Nadia Abou Kheir

“Upon my arrival as an Eastman Ortho resident, like everyone, I was immediately drawn to Dr. Sommer’s manner of teaching. His clinical insight and hands-on instruction were impressive, and he was sought after by first and second year residents alike. We were both University of Pittsburgh Dental School graduates and laughed at length over many stories of Pitt that we had in common. Our true bond, however, developed through our love for Italian cuisine, especially Italian wine. Ed had a passion for both that equaled his passion for orthodontics. Whenever we ate out, it was always Italian. Ed interviewed chefs and took notes on restaurant menus, of which he had an extensive collection, usually including the chef’s autograph. On a forever memorable evening, Ed arrived at the apartment of one of my classmates, ingredients and special utensils in-hand, to teach Natalie Parisi, Scott Stein and me how to craft delicate gnocchi adorned with his from-scratch red sauce. In spite of our repeated best efforts, Gail and I have never been able to recreate those recipes. To this day, even Michelin starred Italian restaurants are rated in comparison.

The loss of Ed Sommers was most unexpected and truly a tremendous loss to the Eastman Orthodontic Family. His role as a faculty member went far beyond his knowledgeable clinical oversight and meticulous attention to detail. The exacting MEAW course that Dr. Sommers presented was a prime example of the lengths to which he went to produce exceptional treatment outcomes when confronted with the most challenging of cases. As an educator, Ed had a special ability to convey the subtle intricacies of diagnosis and the selection and application of appropriate treatment in a most kind and patient manner. He labored over each treatment plan presented by every resident, as if he were treating them personally in his own private practice. Dr. Sommers was an exemplary role model who embodied the highest personal and professional standards to which we hope all of our residents will aspire. We have lost yet another Eastman icon, who can never be replaced. I will miss our Tuesdays together, but I will hear his laughter and celebrate his life and legacy with every sip of Italian wine I enjoy into eternity.”

-Ron Bellohusen, DMD, MS



Current residents alongside faculty members **Dr. Joseph Sweet, Dr. Ron Bellohusen** and the family of Dr. Edward Sommers following his funeral.

In Memoriam: Dr. Ross H. Tallents



“In my mind’s eye I still smile when I think of all the stories Ross shared of his adventures during fishing trips, attending football games, playing golf, practicing dentistry, mentoring students in orofacial pain and sharing educational pearls. Truly, a man of all seasons! I salute him as a superb faculty member, colleague and friend. He leaves a legacy of teaching students in the management of orofacial pain and temporomandibular disorders. His mentorship of students, graciousness and kindness to his fellowman will remain with us all forever.” - **Dr. Emile Rossouw**

“Dr. Tallents was more than a teacher; he was a source of inspiration, a steady hand during uncertain times, and a believer in an individual's potential. He leaves a legacy of wisdom, guidance, compassion, and care. May his memory continue to inspire us to strive for excellence and kindness.” – **Dr. Junad Khan**

“I was truly blessed to have him as one of my prosthodontic teachers, my mentor and Program Director in the TMJD program, and as a friend. Professionally, Ross was a giant! His contributions to Prosthodontics, but especially TMJD, were simply outstanding and are considered milestones. I am truly fortunate to have received eye-opening education as well as several pearls of wisdom that were foundational for me to become an effective teacher. Ross was all about *giving* to his residents. His professional testament to the world is the education he gave to those who were fortunate to know him as a friend, teacher and mentor.” – **Dr. Carlo Ercoli**

“Ross was a wonderful man..... so kind and funny and he shared so much knowledge. He was a wealth of information about TMJD that we all understand better because of him.” – **Dr. Bob Bray**

“He was such a special person and a huge influence to all he took under his wing.” – **Dr. Joe Sweet**

We would like to thank all of our alumni and the following orthodontics companies for their support and donations to the Eastman Department of Orthodontics:

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Thank you!

We look forward to reconnecting with all our alumni and Eastman family in the near future!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you have announcements to be published in the next HOTSEAT publication or if you are interested in contributing by writing, please contact Linda Stauber at linda_stauber@urmc.rochester.edu

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