

2021 Diplomates Making a Difference

Each year, all of our Diplomates perform extraordinary work on a daily basis. The following is a list of just a few of our Diplomates who have gone above and beyond to make a difference in others' lives. Thank you, Diplomates!



Roger Alexander serves as a volunteer Ambassador and Veteran Coordinator for Patriot Paws Service Dogs, a charitable organization that raises, trains, and certifies service dogs who are donated at no cost to disabled U.S. military veterans. He also serves as the Clerk for his church's ruling body of Elders, assisting the pastor administratively and maintaining the church's 167 years of historical records. He also volunteers for Helping Hands Thrift Store of Rockwall County, TX, where profits support their full-service Medical Clinic for indigent patients.

Christopher R. DeSesa founded his community-wide COVID-19 Task Force, streamlining important information to the dental community regarding the impact of the pandemic on dental offices and ways they can support each other. He also provided care to the underserved communities at his local health center, the Holyoke Health Center, while also providing free virtual medical and surgical training to the NYU pediatric dental residents. Additionally, he was the secretary, social chair, and chair of the ethics committee of his dental society, providing support to his members.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Daniel Klemmedson is recognized as a leader in the oral surgery community. As the president of the American Dental Association, he has led the dental profession through the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout his career he has selflessly helped his patients and referring doctors and has served in leadership at the local, state and national levels. He volunteered as an instructor in oral pathology, educating dental hygienists. He serves on the craniofacial team and donates his time to serving those in need. He also contributes his time to Give Kids a Smile, Mission of Mercy, and several local charities.

Justine Moe organized the Collaborative OMFS Virtual Inter-Institutional Didactic (COVID) Program, which provided multiple weekly lectures to over 80 OMFS programs across the country and world, via Zoom, so that residents could take the opportunity to learn from some of the thought leaders in our specialty during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021 she led a team of surgeons and residents to organize the 3rd Annual Women in OMFS Symposium, held as a webinar. The symposium had almost 300 attendees, including those who were women dental residents contemplating a career in OMFS.





Marc Rothman has been volunteering to take care of Holocaust survivors by providing free dental surgical care. They have experienced unspeakable horrors in their lives and many of them are indigent and cannot afford dental implants or prosthetics, so the service has been a beautiful way for him to share compassion and love during their last few years. The program was established in partnership with the Alpha Omega Dental Society, Henry Schein Cares, the Claire Friedlander Foundation and a special governmental unit led by Joe Biden when he was Vice President.

Grant Stucki teaches others through his podcast, "Everyday Oral Surgery: Surgeons Talking Shop." He has published over 50 episodes, in which he interviews other surgeons and discusses the things they have learned during their careers. The stories they tell are inspiring and the techniques they discuss provide a springboard for other oral surgeons to learn and grow. Dr. Stucki spends several hours each week setting up the interviews, interviewing the surgeons, and editing and publishing the podcast episodes.



Natalie Tung started the Athena Mentoring Group to inspire and empower female students to achieve greatness. She covers a broad range of topics, from financial literacy to leadership to emotional intelligence. Since starting the group this past year, they now have 80 women. As a full-time director of predoctoral OMFS, she also quickly adapted to giving OMFS Zoom lectures to students during the COVID-19 pandemic and continued to give full-scope didactic lectures to the Oral Surgery Study Club over Zoom.