



Academy of Prosthodontics 2025 Annual Scientific Session
The Westin Kierland Resort and Spa, Scottsdale, AZ | May 28-31, 2025

Program Speaker – Stephen M. Parel, DDS

Title

“It’s Us”

Abstract

Public perception of our Specialty has not always been as focused as it is today. At one point in history, we were flatlined, with almost no single outstanding virtue of our patient population, or even the profession, that could be referred to as what we did best. All of that changed with the advent of Osseointegration. We, Prosthodontists, became the key drivers for almost all the procedures considered today to be routine, with a number of specialty-influenced “firsts” along the way. This presentation will visually document these historic milestones, along with a possible look at what may be the next major event in Implant Dentistry and our role in its evolution. Through this historical lens, the magnitude of the present-day influence of the Prosthodontics Specialty and the expectation for an expanded future role will be considered.

Learning Objectives

- Describe and appreciate the nature of our early prosthodontics specialty.
- Recognize the factors that have elevated our status publicly and professionally.
- Describe the role Prosthodontics may play in future surgical and prosthetic advancements.

Biography

Dr. Parel is a Diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontics, the American and International College of Dentists, and a member of many professional organizations, including the American Dental Association, the Academy of Prosthodontics, and the American College of Prosthodontics. His literature contributions include over 45 scientific articles as principal author and multiple textbook contributions. He was the editor and co-author of *Esthetics and Osseointegration*, a landmark reference source for implant dentistry. He authored his second book, *The SmiLine System*, in 1991 and completed a third book, *Esthetic Implant Restorations*, several years later. He was co-founder of Osseointegration Seminars, Incorporated, and has been President of The American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics, The Academy of Osseointegration, and The Osseointegration Foundation. He has received the Andrew J. Ackerman Award for meritorious lifetime service in the field of Maxillofacial Prosthetics and the Distinguished Lecturer and Dan Gordon Awards from the American College of Prosthodontics. He served as a Director and President of The American Board of Prosthodontists. He recently received the Branemark Award for lifetime achievement in the field of Implant Dentistry, the highest honor bestowed by the Academy of Osseointegration's Foundation and The Titanium Society. Dr. Parel has served as a professor at Baylor College of Dentistry—Texas A&M University System Health Science Center in Dallas, Texas. He served as founder and director of Prosthodontics at a private Implant Specialty Clinic in Dallas. He retired from private practice but teaches part-time, Graduate Prosthodontics, Texas A&M Dental College. He is consultant to companies in the implant industry.

*Speaker has disclosed financial interest in Osteocentric Technologies.