



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

Program Speaker – Steven J. Sadowsky, DDS, FACP

Title

Forty Years Later: Are Teeth Superior to Implants?

Abstract

When osseointegration was introduced to North America in 1982, it was a disruptive breakthrough that radically changed the landscape of patient treatment planning. As with any innovative discovery, the process of heuristics has led to false assumptions. In this case, the core belief was implants are like teeth, but without a PDL. Confirmation bias has buttressed this theory as well as “conventional wisdom.” The impact of such a case of mistaken identity has been implant overtreatment. In addition, understanding histologically that teeth offer a far more robust defense system to a biological threat than their root analogues, is important to explain why peri-implant disease is so ubiquitous and refractory to treatment. Here, another novel intervention is needed to improve the success of Branemark’s brainchild.

Learning Objectives

- Debunk the myth that implants are similar to teeth.
- Demonstrate the superiority of implants mechanically and superiority of teeth biologically.
- Understand the impact of this distinction on implant treatment planning and the need for innovative therapies in peri-implantitis.

Biography

Dr. Steven Sadowsky was a full-time professor in the Department of Preventive and Restorative Dentistry at the University of the Pacific Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry, from 2010-2024. He was in full-time private practice limited to prosthodontics for 35 years. Dr. Sadowsky is past-president of the American Prosthodontic Society and past-president of the Pacific Coast Society for Prosthodontics. Dr. Sadowsky is Abstract Editor of the International Journal of Prosthodontics and has been appointed to the Editorial Council of the Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry. He has published 50 articles in peer-reviewed journals, mainly on implant dentistry. Dr. Sadowsky has edited a book, titled *Evidence-based Implant Treatment Planning and Clinical Protocols*. In 2021, the American College of Prosthodontists selected him for the Distinguished Service Award. In 2022, Dr. Sadowsky’s article, “Are Teeth Superior to Implants” was selected for the Judson Hickey Award in the category for best research article of the year.