



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

Program Speaker – David H. Wands, DDS, MSD

Title

Our Academy, Our Future

Abstract

This presentation will reflect upon the progress the Academy has made over the last 50 years, its impact on patients and the profession, and the opportunities we have for strategically supporting the ongoing growth for Prosthodontics and prosthodontists.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the growth of prosthodontics.
- Describe the impact of the Academy on the profession.
- Describe opportunities for meaningful engagement for patients and for the profession.

Biography

Dr. David H. Wands is a 1967 honors graduate of the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, Dental School (BCDS), University of Maryland at Baltimore. He received honors, including the Harry B. Latcham Memorial Medal for Excellence in Restorative Dentistry, the Herbert Friedberg Memorial Key, first place in the national Bremner Award essay contest, and membership in Omicron Kappa Upsilon. He completed an internship with the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) and in 1972 received an MSD degree and Certificate in Prosthodontics at the University of Washington School of Dentistry, Department of Prosthodontics. He became an Associate Fellow of the Academy in 1974. After seven years of service with the USPHS, he returned to the University of Washington as a half-time faculty member to teach undergraduate and graduate prosthodontics and after twenty-two years achieved the rank of Clinical Professor. Dave is currently Affiliate Professor with over 50 years of service with UW.

In 1980 Dr. Wands established a private practice limited to fixed and removable prosthodontics in Olympia, Washington, where he resides, and he retired after eleven years of successful practice. Throughout his professional career he has been active in many national prosthodontic organizations. He lectured extensively, authored two textbook chapters and has additional publications to his credit. He is a Life Fellow of the Academy of Prosthodontics and life member of the Pacific Coast Society for Prosthodontics. He served nine years on the Editorial Council of the *Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry*.

In total, Dr. Wands has dedicated nearly \$1.5M to enhance prosthodontic education and support the future of our specialty. His contributions including the:

- David H. Wands Post-Doctoral Prosthodontic Fellowship fund with a gift of \$100,000 in 1984. The purpose of the endowed fellowship was to attract highly qualified applicants and provide financial assistance for graduate students enrolled in the advanced education program in prosthodontics leading to an academic career.
- David Wands Graduate Prosthodontic Fellowship, a \$200,000 endowed fellowship established in 1998 at the School of Dentistry, University of Washington (UW), to support graduate prosthodontic students who demonstrated excellence in clinical prosthodontics with the highest degree of moral character, honesty, integrity, scholarship, and interest in an academic career.
- Gift of \$100,000 in 2023 to UW Graduate Prosthodontics department to remodel and update the resident dental laboratory to modern laboratory procedures including scanners, printers, microscopes, induction casting and other equipment.
- Dr. David H. Wands Leadership Legacy Seminar fund with a bequest of \$1,000,000 in 2025 to the Academy of Prosthodontic Foundation from his estate, to establish the Dr. David H. Wands Leadership Legacy Seminar.

Dr. Wands consistently demonstrated incomparable vision and motivation beginning at a young age with achievement of Eagle Scout at the age of 14 and entering dental school after completing only two years of night school. With ongoing gratitude for his personal opportunities, Dave strives to support and inspire the next generation of prosthodontist clinicians, academicians, and leaders.