



**Academy of Prosthodontics 2026 Annual Scientific Session  
The Boca Raton Hotel, Boca Raton, FL | May 27-30, 2026**

**Program Speaker – Michael Andersen, DDS, MS, FACP, FAAMP**

**Title**

Redefining Expectations: Immediate Dental Rehabilitation with Fibula Free Flaps

**Abstract**

Immediate dental rehabilitation with fibula free flaps continues to redefine how maxillofacial reconstruction is approached for patients requiring surgical resection of head and neck pathology. For many, the difference between a prolonged, uncertain recovery and a predictable return to normalcy is determined by whether dental restoration was planned at the time of the initial surgery. This session presents clinical cases and practical protocols demonstrating how an occlusion-driven, prosthetically led workflow integrating prosthesis-driven positioning of the fibula free flap, immediate implant placement, and coordinated multidisciplinary planning can restore oral function, enhance psychosocial well-being, and shorten rehabilitation timelines. Prosthodontists are critical members of this reconstructive pathway, establishing restorative goals, guiding digital planning, and providing the continuity of care that ultimately shapes how each patient regains function, confidence, and quality of life.

**Learning Objectives**

- Understand the principles of an occlusion-driven, prosthetically led workflow for mandibular reconstruction using fibula free flaps, including prosthesis-driven fibula positioning and immediate dental implant placement.
- Identify key surgical and prosthetic strategies that reduce rehabilitation timelines and improve function, esthetic, and psychosocial outcomes through coordinated multidisciplinary planning.
- Recognize the essential role of prosthodontists in guiding digital planning, establishing restorative goals, providing continuity of care to optimize long-term patient recovery and quality of life.

**Biography**

Dr. Michael R. Andersen serves as the Department Chair and Program Director for the Maxillofacial Prosthetics Fellowship at the Naval Postgraduate Dental School. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontists, and Fellow of both the American College of Prosthodontists and the American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics. Dr. Andersen received his DDS from UT Health San Antonio and completed his Prosthodontics residency at the Naval Postgraduate Dental School where he was recognized with the Chief of the Dental Corps Award for Excellence as the top graduate across all residency programs. He later completed fellowship training in Maxillofacial Prosthetics and Oral Oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center. His work focuses on innovative digital and surgical-prosthetic workflows, including immediate dental rehabilitation with fibula free flaps, advanced full-arch reconstruction, and comprehensive care for patients with head and neck cancer, trauma, and congenital craniofacial conditions.

*\*Speaker has disclosed affiliation with US Navy, Stryker, KLS Martin, Johnson & Johnson*