



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

### **Program Speaker – Roberta A. Wright, DMD, MDSc, FACP**

#### **Title**

Nasoalveolar Moulding Therapy in Infants with Cleft Lip and Palate: Is it worth it?

#### **Abstract**

Cleft lip, alveolus, and palate deformities are a common birth defect known to have considerable variation in form and severity. Infants with cleft lip and palate often have substantial challenges such as increased feeding problems, higher incidences of gastric reflux and breathing issues, difficulty gaining weight, and significant nasolabial deformity. Clefts are deficient in hard and soft tissues which present unique surgical challenges in achieving functional and esthetic outcomes. Nasoalveolar molding (NAM) therapy is one of the most common presurgical orthopedic treatments for infants born with cleft lip and palate. Using a modifiable splint and adhesive taping, the technique takes advantage of the cartilaginous nature of bone and malleability of cartilage in newborns in order to reduce the severity of the cleft deformity prior to surgical intervention. This minimally-invasive treatment modality allows for improved infant feeding and breathing due to the presence of a false “prosthetic palate” and reduces the need for additional cosmetic and reconstructive surgeries later in childhood, adolescence, and into adulthood.

#### **Learning Objectives**

- Understand the benefits and challenges of NAM treatment in infants born with cleft lip and palate
- Learn introductory concepts of NAM device fabrication, taping, and biomechanics of adjustments
- Understand current research on long-term outcomes of NAM therapy

#### **Biography**

Dr. Wright is a board-certified prosthodontist who maintains a private practice in Oklahoma City, OK. She is the Co-Owner of Implant & Prosthodontic Associates, Restora Dental Studio, and the McGarry Implant Institute. She has practiced prosthodontics for over a decade with a focus on surgical as well as traditional prosthodontics. She earned her dental degree at the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine graduating with Omicron Kappa Upsilon national honors. She further completed her prosthodontic specialty training at the University of Connecticut, where she concurrently earned her Master's in Dental Science. She is a Diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontics and a Fellow of the American College of Prosthodontists.

Over the past ten years, Dr. Wright has served as part-time faculty in the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry Advanced Education in General Dentistry program and Harvard University School of Dental Medicine Advanced Graduate Implant Dentistry program. Dr. Wright currently serves on the American College of Prosthodontists Board of Directors as Director of the Prosthodontic Practice & Patient Care Services Division and is the President of the Oklahoma State Section of the American College of Prosthodontists. She is also currently the President of the Oklahoma County Dental Society, and the Associate Editor for the Journal of the Oklahoma Dental Association. She maintains

membership and holds executive positions in several other professional organizations, including the American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics, the American College of Dentists, the Oklahoma Dental Association, and the American Dental Association.