



## Graduate Orthodontic Program

Submitted by Richard Kulbersh, DMD, MS  
Professor, Chairman and Program Director

### **Highlights**

Location: Detroit, Michigan

Program Length: 24 months

Class Size: Five (5) per year

Tuition: Yes

University Facts: The University of Detroit Mercy is Michigan's largest and most comprehensive Catholic university, originally founded as the University of Detroit in 1877.

The Orthodontic Residency was established in 1963.

Website: <http://www.udmercy.edu/>

### **University of Detroit Mercy (UDM)**

The University of Detroit Mercy's main campus is located approximately nine miles from downtown Detroit's iconic Renaissance Center and eight miles from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry (UDMSOD). UDM offers more than 100 academic degrees and programs of study through seven colleges and schools. Its cooperative education program is the third oldest continuous program in the nation, and for the 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, UDM was listed in the top tier of Midwest Best Regional Universities in the 2017 edition of the *US News & World Report's* "Best Colleges".

## **The Graduate Program in Orthodontics**

The history of graduate orthodontics at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry spans more than five decades. The first formal two-year graduate class of three students entered in 1963 and graduated two years later in 1965. In 1969 the first full-time director was hired. Although initially offering a certificate in orthodontics, the program developed into a full-time 24-month curriculum offering a combined certificate and Master's of Science degree.

Throughout the graduate program's 54-year history (1963-2017), the development and progress of the department was made possible by the hard work of many dedicated and devoted individuals—not only the chairperson, clinical coordinator and full-time faculty, but also uniquely qualified part-time faculty, who helped provide a core of clinically relevant, up-to-date teaching segments.

In 1970, Dr. Bailey Jacobson started a clinic segment dedicated to the Northwestern Technique which provided a unique biomechanical approach to orthodontic therapy. In 1977, the Early Treatment, Orthognathic Surgery and TMJ sub-specialty clinics were started. A gnathologically-oriented approach to orthodontic diagnosis and treatment was added in 1990 with the introduction of the "Roth" segment taught by Dr. Ronald Roth. This segment introduced residents to a philosophy and technique which utilized measurable static and functional outcomes goals.

The new Corktown orthodontic facility, finished in 2008, is approximately 3,500 square feet, has a 15 chair clinic with a computer in each bay, clinic manager's office, seminar/library room, pre-clinical technique lab, wet lab and an I-CAT CBCT x-ray unit housed in radiology. The arrangement and layout of these facilities greatly enhanced teaching efficiency and learning. This newly equipped clinical treatment area brought the educational program into the cutting-edge 21<sup>st</sup> century. Today digital format is used for record keeping, photography, case presentations and cranio-facial x-rays using CBCT imaging.

Annually, the Department showcases its research and clinical outcomes by holding a "Departmental Research and Clinical Defense Day" to which all full-time dental school faculty, orthodontic department alumni and parents of graduating residents are invited.

The orthodontic residents also participate in UDMSOD's Alumni Day, CE courses as well as clinical case presentations and table clinics at the annual AAO meeting. In addition, the residents are required to attend various national, constituent and component AAO functions as well as participate in events held by our alumni group, the Detroit Orthodontic Alumni Association.

The current postgraduate orthodontic program at UDMSOD provides residents with a broad-based clinical experience supported by well-structured and honed programs in basic science, didactics as well as research. The clinical case educational opportunities offered by the Department span the areas of traditional edgewise mechanotherapy in core clinics besides various unique experiences in sub-specialty clinics.

Since 2007, the Department highlighted the importance of excellence in clinical orthodontics by providing all incoming residents with an appropriate mix of ABO clinical cases to facilitate American Board certification within one year of graduation. This clinical experience produces a graduate with an extraordinary exposure to current day clinical orthodontics. The didactic and research input instills in the residents the background and knowledge to not only meet current day needs, but also the educational base necessary to proceed in the future as a life-long learner. It is our goal to develop technically and diagnostically-skilled, scientifically-based, socially and ethically sensitive orthodontic professionals who are committed to continued professional growth and development.

### **Clinical Program**

Today the program offers residents the opportunity to experience the remarkable breadth of clinical edgewise practice in core clinics which meet one-half day each week and are managed by separate and distinct “clinical teaching teams”. Each of the edgewise morning and afternoon core clinics is preceded by a seminar which instructs each student in diagnosis and treatment planning of the assigned cases in addition to lectures on selected topics. In the Fall Term, 2<sup>nd</sup> year residents submit progress reports to gain further insight into the management of their patients. Additional experience is gained by attending sub-specialty clinics which include: TMJ, cranio-facial abnormalities, retention, cleft lip and palate, orthognathic surgery, early treatment and orthodontics/periodontics. The clinical program is designed to provide each resident with the opportunity to work with his/her “little” and “big” brother/sister and thus be involved in the joint work-up of approximately 400 orthodontic cases over the two year program. Each 2<sup>nd</sup> year resident’s progress is assessed, in part, utilizing write-ups of at least of their own sixteen cases, including their six ABO cases, which must be analyzed using ABO outcomes measures and full ABO chart write-ups.

### **Research Program**

One of the requirements for the successful completion of the graduate degree in the Department is that each resident initiates, conducts and completes an original research project, including a written article for submission to a professional journal. Each resident must select his/her own research topic for the Master’s Thesis. The thesis must be submitted in partial fulfillment of the Master’s degree and must be completed by April 30 of the second year. The Department awards both the Certificate and the Master’s degrees simultaneously. The Department will not award a Certificate degree without the Master’s.

Currently the areas of ongoing departmental research include:

1. 3D clinical outcomes assessment
2. 3D airway assessment

3. 3D TMJ analysis
4. 3D cranio-facial studies
5. Heritability studies
6. Gnathology and orthodontics

### **Departmental Community & Professional Participation**

The Department is a participant in many civic and school events, such as “Give Kids a Smile Day”, White Coat Ceremony, and Colleague Day.

The Department is honored to have many full and part-time faculty who are actively participating in organized dentistry and orthodontics in many different and important positions, including leadership roles on the state, regional and national levels. Part-time faculty member Dr. William Patchak is currently a Member of the Board of Trustees for the Michigan Dental Association, Dr. Deborah Priestap is an examiner for the American Board of Orthodontics and a member of the Michigan Board of Dentistry, and Dr. Valmy Pangrazio Kulbersh is President of the Edward H. Angle Society as well as Director of the American Board of Orthodontics. Full-Time faculty member Dr. HeKyong Kang is a Fellow of the International Tweed Foundation and participates as a clinical instructor at the Foundation facility, and Dr. Richard Kulbersh is a Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists Delegate to the American Association of Orthodontists House of Delegates and an examiner for the American Board of Orthodontics.

### **Faculty**

The University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry orthodontic program employs four full-time and 23 part-time faculty, with a FTE of 6.9.

Faculty contributing to our program are as follows:

#### **FULL-TIME FACULTY**

##### **Richard Kulbersh**

*Professor, Chairman & Program Director, Orthodontics*  
DMD, Tufts University  
MS, University of Detroit  
ABO Diplomate, American Board of Orthodontics

##### **Riyad Al-Qawasmi**

*Associate Professor*  
BDS, Jordan University of Science & Technology, Jordan  
MSD, Indiana University School of Dentistry  
PhD, Indiana University School of Dentistry  
ABO Diplomate, American Board of Orthodontics

**HeKyong Kang**

*Adjunct Associate Professor*

DDS, Seoul Nat'l University School of Dentistry, S. Korea

MS, Seoul National University School of Dentistry

PhD, Seoul National University School of Dentistry

MSD, Indiana University School of Dentistry

ABO Diplomate, American Board of Orthodontics

**Daman Thanik**

*Clinical Professor*

BDS, University of Lucknow, India

DDS, University of Toronto, Canada

MS, University of Rochester

MS, University of Alberta, Canada

ABO Diplomate, American Board of Orthodontics

**PART-TIME FACULTY**

**Maha Ahmad**

*Assistant Professor*

PhD, University of Illinois Chicago

**Steven Ceresnie**

*Adjunct Assistant Professor*

MS, Wayne State University

PhD, Wayne State University

**Jessica Backinger**

*Adjunct Assistant Professor*

DDS, University of Detroit Mercy

Certificate, College of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey

**Jeffrey L. Berger**

*Adjunct Professor*

DDS, University of London, England

MS, University of Toronto, Canada

**Dr. Ahmed Deebajah**

*Clinical Assistant Professor*

BDS, Jordan University of Science & Technology

Certification, University of Michigan, Restorative

MS, University of Michigan

**Dori Freeland Watters**

*Adjunct Assistant Professor*  
DDS, University of Detroit Mercy  
MS, University of Detroit Mercy  
ABO Diplomate, American Board of Orthodontics

**Theodore D. Freeland**

*Adjunct Professor*  
DDS, University of Detroit, 1971  
MS, University of Detroit, 1978

**Milton Gordon**

*Adjunct Assistant Professor*  
DDS, University of Detroit  
Certificate, University of Detroit

**Andre Haerian**

*Adjunct Assistant Professor*  
DDS, McGill University, Canada  
MS, University of Detroit Mercy  
PhD, University of Michigan  
ABO Diplomate, American Board of Orthodontics

**Ronald Jacobson**

*Adjunct Associate Professor*  
DDS, Northwestern University  
MS, Northwestern University  
ABO Diplomate, American Board of Orthodontics

**Richard Kaczynski**

*Adjunct Assistant Professor*  
BS, Wayne State University  
MS, Wayne State University  
PhD, Wayne State University

**Farhad Khosrow Shahian**

*Adjunct Assistant Professor*  
PhD, University of Windsor  
DDS, University of Detroit Mercy

**Vladimir Leon Salazar**

*Adjunct Assistant Professor*  
DDS, Inca Garcilaso de La Vega University, Lima, Peru  
MSD, Bauru School of Dentistry, Sao Paulo, Brazil  
Certificate, University of Minnesota School of Dentistry  
ABO Diplomate, American Board of Orthodontics

**Robert R. Lokar**

*Adjunct Assistant Professor*  
DDS, University of Detroit  
MS, Loyola University-Chicago

**R. Bruce MacIntosh**

*Professor*  
DDS, Marquette University

**Keisha Nolan**

*Adjunct Assistant Professor*  
BS, Western Michigan University  
MA, Western Michigan University

**Valmy Pangrazio-Kulbersh**

*Adjunct Professor*  
DDS, University of Asuncion, Paraguay  
MS, University of Detroit  
ABO Diplomate, American Board of Orthodontics

**Mark Parete**

*Adjunct Assistant Professor*  
DDS, University of Detroit Mercy  
MS, University of Detroit Mercy  
ABO Diplomate, American Board of Orthodontics

**William Patchak**

*Adjunct Assistant Professor*  
DDS, University of Detroit  
Certificate, College of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey

**Shon Peterson**

*Adjunct Assistant Professor*  
DMD, Case Western University  
MS, University of Detroit Mercy

**Deborah Priestap**

*Adjunct Assistant Professor*  
DDS, Ohio State University  
MS, University of Detroit  
ABO Diplomate, American Board of Orthodontics

**Michael L. Riolo**

*Adjunct Professor*  
DDS, University of Michigan  
MS, Georgetown University

ABO Diplomate, American Board of Orthodontics

**Nicole Siara-Olds**

*Adjunct Assistant Professor*

DDS, University of Detroit Mercy

MS, University of Detroit Mercy

ABO Diplomate, American Board of Orthodontics

**Mamnoon Siddiqui**

*Adjunct Assistant Professor*

DDS, University of Michigan

MS, University of Detroit Mercy

ABO Diplomate, American Board of Orthodontics

**John L. Spolyar**

*Adjunct Associate Professor*

DDS, University of Michigan

MS University of Detroit

Staff Orthodontist, Cleft Lip & Palate, Craniofacial Anomalies Team, Wm. Beaumont Hospital

ABO Diplomate, American Board of Orthodontics

**Raymond Tsou**

*Adjunct Assistant Professor*

DMD, Tufts University

MS, University of Detroit Mercy

ABO Diplomate, American Board of Orthodontics

**Baron Whateley**

*Adjunct Assistant Professor*

DDS, University of Michigan

MS, University of Detroit

ABO Diplomate, American Board of Orthodontics

**Pamela Zarkowski**

*Vice President/Provost*

JD, Wayne State University School of Law

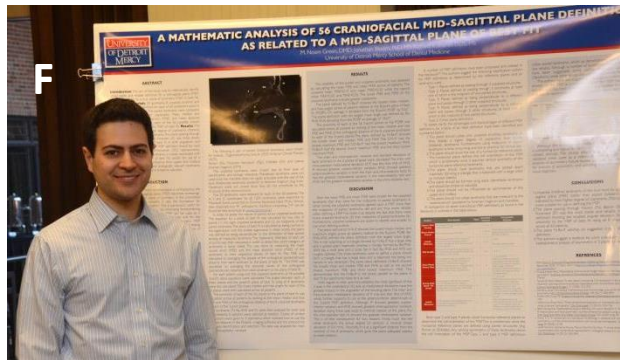
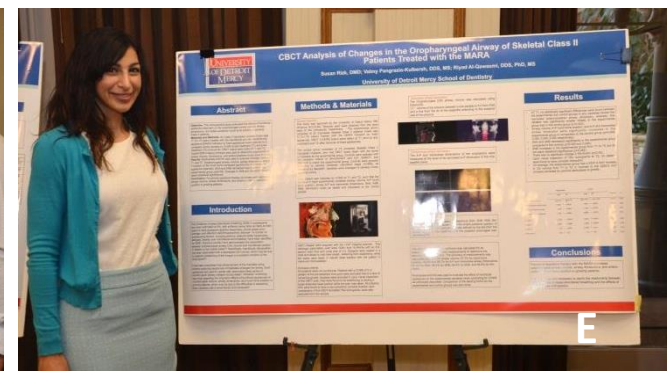
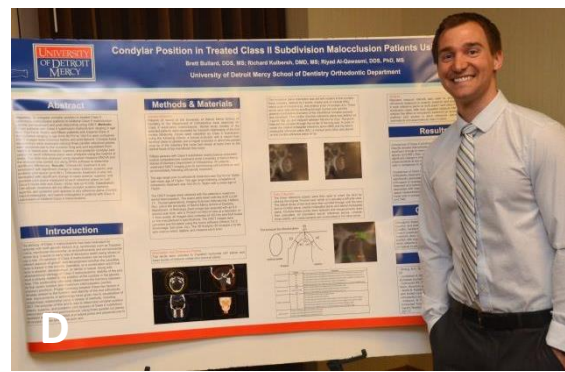
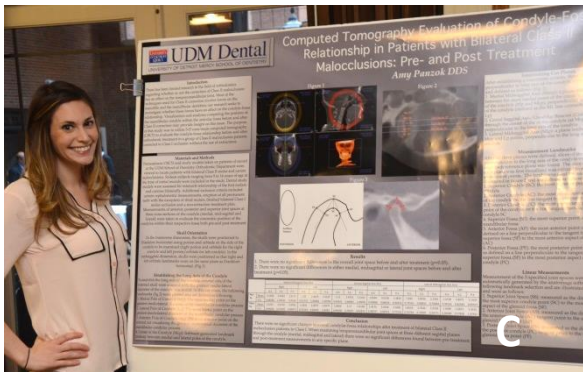
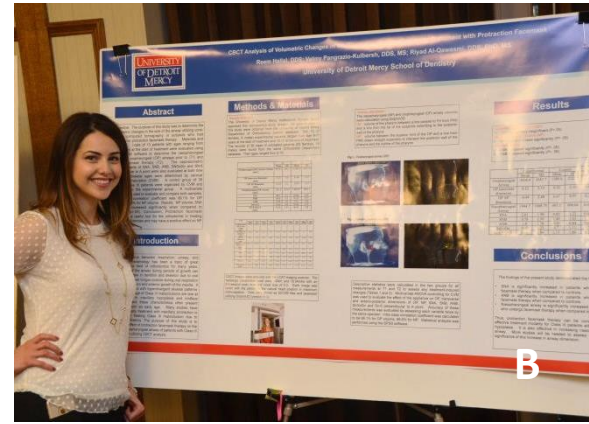
MPH, University of Michigan



## Photos

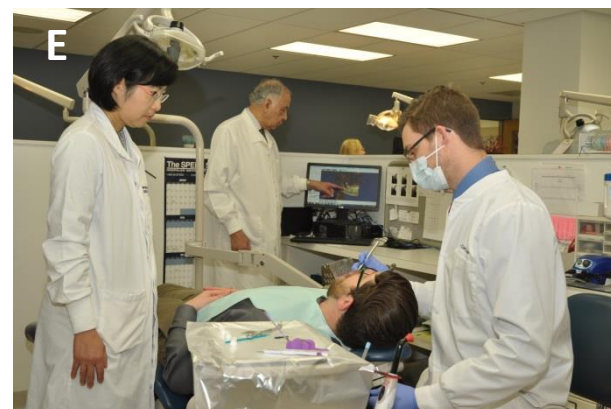
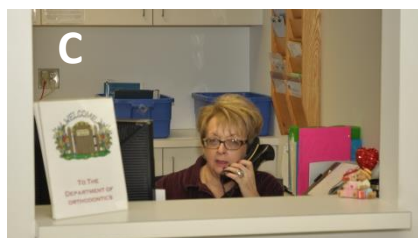


**A)** Orthodontic graduating Class of 2015 with Full-Time Orthodontic Faculty at Pine Lake Country Club; **B)** University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry Clinic Building; **C)** Orthodontic graduating Class of 2016 with Full-Time Orthodontic Faculty at Oakland Hills Country Club; **D)** 2015 Graduation Dinner Speaker, Dr. Eladio DeLeon; **E)** Research & Clinical Defense Day for the 2016 Orthodontic Residents; **F)** Dr. Riyadh Al-Qawamsi, a full-time orthodontic faculty, with a patient in the Orthodontic Clinic; **G)** Drs. Stan Majewski, Chris Roberts (2016 graduation speaker), Mert Aksu (Dean), Richard Kulbersh and Daman Thanik; **H)** University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry Clinic Building and the Classroom Building.



**A)** Class of 2015: Drs. Amy Panzok, Reem Hallal, Susan Rizk, Brett Bullard, and Noam Green; **B-F)** Residents with their research poster boards at Alumni Day 2015; **G)** Resident Amy Panzok explaining her research.

**A)** Overall view of the Orthodontic Clinic at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry; **B)** Resident Dr. Matthew Bloomberg, Class of 2017, in our Wet Lab; **C)** Orthodontic Clinic Manager Linda Ridge at the reception desk; **D)** A close-up of a patient cube; **E)** Drs. HeKyong Kang and Daman Thank helping Resident Cory Coe, Class of 2018, with a patient; **F)** Orthodontic Assistant Regina Gibson helping Dr. Valmy Pangrazio Kulbersh with a patient in her faculty practice.





**A)** Drs. Richard Kulbersh, Daman Thanik and Riyad Al-Qawasmi in our consultation room; **B)** Classes of 2017 and 2018 with Faculty in our Orthodontic Seminar Classroom; **C)** Full-Time Faculty in our Pre-Clinical Technique Lab; **D)** The front lobby of the School of Dentistry.