



American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics
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Omni Austin Downtown, Austin, Texas

Program Speaker – Rosemary Seelaus, MAMS, CCA

Title

Maxillofacial Prosthetics, A Lifelong Contract. Delivery May be the End of One Journey but is the Beginning of Another

Abstract

Prosthetic devices serve an essential element in the rehabilitation of our patients when surgery falls short of fully restoring both anatomy and function. And, as such, often seem the ideal or ‘perfect’ solution toward rebuilding the ‘wholeness’ of oneself and one’s daily life functioning. But prosthetic devices, as we know well, are far from perfect. Maintaining prostheses for the lifetime of our patients presents its own challenges that become for patient and clinician alike a lifelong journey and a lifelong contract.

A prosthesis may seem ‘perfect’ the day it is delivered and fitted on the patient – a day of celebration, of joy, of tears, of newness, of learning, of adapting. Each day that follows reveals the realness of the prosthetic device for what it is – an artificial, custom-made device that is prone to degradation, fracture, failure, discoloration, and a host of other complications.

Challenges with retention, material breakdown, microbial colonization, tissue response and implant loss are among the many patient presentations we stand to manage for years to come. Paired with increasingly limited specialists who are well-trained to provide and manage prosthetic care, our patients are faced with a new life journey often unanticipated.

This presentation will review the challenges associated with lifelong care of facial prosthetic devices, explore the potential of contemporary research and developing techniques with advanced digital technologies, and look to the possibilities of tissue engineering that we might discover an even better solution for our patients.

Biography

Rosemary Seelaus is a Board-Certified Clinical Anaplastologist with more than 25 years of clinical experience. She is Senior Anaplastologist and Clinical Assistant Professor in the departments of Surgery and Restorative Dentistry at UIC. An early adopter and pioneer, Ms. Seelaus has been committed to the development of advanced digital technology processes in Anaplastology. She maintains a particular interest in the contribution of digital technologies toward improving surgical and prosthetic outcomes globally and in demonstrating improved clinical efficiencies and reliable access to care. She received her graduate degree in 1997 from UIC in Biomedical Visualization and completed her bachelor’s degree in 1989 at Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.

She is an internationally recognized expert in anaplastology, is well-published in peer-reviewed journals, including authoring seven book chapters. She is committed to board and committee service and maintains her interest in collaborative initiatives toward improving treatment processes and delivery of care worldwide.