

2025

Commencement

University of California, San Francisco

School of Dentistry Commencement

June 6, 2025

Palace of Fine Arts Theatre

“Our intensive program
has challenged you to
push beyond your limits,
and you have risen to
the occasion with grace,
determination, and
a commitment
to excellence.”

@UCSFDentistry

Dear Graduating Class of 2025,

Congratulations on reaching this incredible milestone in your lives! Graduating from the UCSF School of Dentistry is no small feat, and today we celebrate your hard work and dedication.

Throughout your DDS program, you have met the academic requirement, but more than that, you have lived the core values that define UCSF: Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Diversity, and Excellence. These values were part of your daily actions and decisions.

This program pushed you to your limits and sometimes may have asked more of you than you thought possible. In response, you showed resilience and a commitment to excellence. Each challenge became an opportunity for growth, and you met each one with determination and grace.

Your education has prepared you to be skilled clinicians and also advocates for oral health and champions for your communities. You now carry with you the knowledge, empathy, and ethical foundation to lead the dental profession into the future.

As you step into the next chapter of your journey, we are confident that you will continue to represent UCSF with distinction. Always remember that you are a part of our community, and we hope you will stay connected, seek opportunities for continued growth, and inspire the next generation of dental professionals.

On behalf of the faculty and staff at the UCSF School of Dentistry, congratulations. We are proud of all you have accomplished, and we look forward to seeing all that you will achieve in the years ahead.

Sincerely,



Michael S. Reddy, DMD, DMSc

Dean, UCSF School of Dentistry
Associate Vice Chancellor, Oral Health Affairs

Processional

Grand Marshal: Ram Vaderhobli, DDS, MS, Professor,
Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences

Ceremony Officiator: Michael S. Reddy, DMD, DMSc, Dean,
UCSF School of Dentistry

Dean's Welcome: Michael S. Reddy, DMD, DMSc, Dean, UCSF
School of Dentistry

Commencement Address: Linda Edgar, DDS, President,
American Dental Association, 2023–2024

Student Address: Shervin Afghani, DDS, UCSF School of
Dentistry, Class of 2025

Presentation of the Dental Class of 2025

Conferral of Degrees

Doctor of Dental Surgery

Sam Hawgood, MBBS,
Chancellor, University of California, San Francisco

Hooding Ceremony Dental Class of 2025

Reader of Graduates' Names: Jennifer Perkins, DDS, MD,
Assistant Dean of Education

Faculty Hooders:

Robert Ho, DDS, Professor, Preventive and Restorative
Dental Sciences

Ambika Parti, DDS, MS, Assistant Professor, Preventive and
Restorative Dental Sciences

Recessional

Doctor of Dental Surgery



Doctor of Dental Surgery

Samah Abbaker

Endodontics Residency
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California

Shervin Afghani

Periodontics Residency
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California

Amna Ahmed

Associate in Private Practice
Sacramento, California

Jessie Allcock

General Practice Residency
United States Navy
Portsmouth, Virginia

Henna Ambesh

Dental Support Organization (DSO)
Absolute Dental
Reno, Nevada

Maryam Zahra Bastani

Private Practice & Teaching
San Jose, California

Paola Benefo

Community Clinic
Accra, Ghana

Valentina Betancur

Federally Qualified Health Center
National Health Service Corps
South Florida

Lantz Adrian Ordan Bigay

General Practice Residency
San Francisco VA Medical Center
San Francisco, California

Yasmin Byott

Community Clinic
Seattle, Washington

Patricia Maxine Capiral

Community Dentistry
OLE Health

Anabel Carballosa Amor

Private Practice
Reno, Nevada

Angel Estuardo Ceballos

Community Clinic
California

Ingrid Chai

Periodontics Residency
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California

James Chavre

Credentialing Tour
United States Navy
Camp Lejeune, North Carolina

Andrew Chen

OMFS Residency
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, California

Verónica Claro Colina

Private Practice
Miami, Florida

Javier Clavijo, Jr.

Prosthodontics Residency
University of Illinois, Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Doctor of Dental Surgery (cont.)

Ivan Cortes Heredia

Private Practice
Washington State

Jay Dandekar

Private Practice
San Francisco, California

Osagie Ekue

Pediatric Residency
University of North Carolina, Adams
School of Dentistry
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Samaan Faridjoo

Private Practice
California

Tess Michelle Ingrid Foote

Orthodontics Residency
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

Reeva Darren San Pedro Gestre

Pediatric Dentistry Residency
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California

Michelle Huirong Guo

Pediatric Dentistry Residency
Montefiore Medical Center
New York, New York

Khadija Haroon

Private Practice
Los Angeles, California

Ellen Hung

Private Practice

Kane Jajieh

General Dentistry Private Practice
Aspen Dental
Lafayette, Louisiana

Qian Jiang

Private Practice
Daly City, California

Michelle Mariko Kagei

Pediatric Dental Residency
University of Illinois, Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Alex Kalaigian

Orthodontics Residency
Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, Virginia

Ameen Khan

Private Practice
Pleasanton, California

Susu Le

Orthodontics Residency
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California

Angela Lee

Orthodontics Residency
Arizona School of Dentistry
and Oral Health
Mesa, Arizona

Rachel Li

General Practice Residency,
Highland Hospital
Oakland, California

Doctor of Dental Surgery (cont.)

Chelsey Lin

Orthodontics Residency
University of the Pacific
San Francisco, California

Kate Lindsey

Orthodontics Residency
Saint Louis University
Saint Louis, Missouri

Neha Love Kumar

Private Practice
San Diego, California

Cristhian Jose Martinez Hernandez

General Dentist
Los Angeles, California

Adora McQuinn

Private Practice
Oakland, California

Pragati Nahar

Private Practice
San Jose, California

Uzair Nasir

Private Practice
Sacramento, California

Andrew Nguyen

Private Practice
Los Angeles, California

Anna Elizabeth Nguyen

Pediatric Dentistry Residency
Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, Virginia

Jacqueline Ong Taka

Private Practice
Loma Linda, California

Wisdom Osisioma, MPH

Private Practice
Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas

Rachel Yeagi Paik

Advanced Education in General
Dentistry Residency
VA Long Beach
Long Beach, California

Honglip Park

Orthodontics Residency
New York University
New York, New York

Erika Alexandra Parra Sanabria

Private Practice
Reno, Nevada

Natalie Pylypenko

Private Practice
Naples, Florida

Sahm Rafati

Oral Surgery Residency
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California

Sandeep Raghuram

Texas Dental
Lubbock, Texas

Angelica Louise Tanael Raymundo

Raymundo Dental Practice, Inc.
Arcadia, California

Doctor of Dental Surgery (cont.)

Nino Rekhviashvili

Private Practice and Teaching
San Francisco Bay Area, California

Anna Ren

Orthodontics Residency
Tufts University
Boston, Massachusetts

Jennifer Zhiwen Ren

Periodontics Residency
Columbia University
New York, New York

Mahsa Safi

Private Practice
Trumbull, Connecticut

Jay Shah

General Practice Residency
Denver Health Medical Center
Denver, Colorado

Kinnari Shah

Periodontics Residency
University of Connecticut School of
Dental Medicine
Farmington, Connecticut

Elaha Ella Shaur

Private Practice
Sacramento, California

Shervin Sorooshian

Advanced Education in
General Dentistry
NYU Langone-UCSF
Pittsburgh, California

Bhakti Suresh Jain

Private Practice and Teaching
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California

Assma Syed Ahamed

Dental Support Organization (DSO)
Southern Pines, North Carolina

Loveleen Tokhi

Advanced Education in General
Dentistry Residency
VA San Antonio, Texas

Isabelle Tseng

Pediatric Dentistry Residency
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

Pamela Fierro Vargas

Pediatric Dental Residency
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California

Anita Virmani

General Practice Residency
United States Navy
Camp Pendleton, California

Ryen Wilson

General Practice Residency
Highland Hospital
Oakland, California

Joany Xue

General Practice Residency
Highland Hospital
Oakland, California

Doctor of Dental Surgery (cont.)

Amber Yang

Private Practice
San Francisco, California

Mina Wageh Yassa

Private Practice
Southern California

Caitlin Ye

General Practice Residency
Community Medical Center, Fresno
Fresno, California

Jenna Young

Private Practice
Irvine, California

Na Zhao

Private Practice, Teaching, and
Research
San Jose, California

Sally L. Zhou

Public Health FQHC and Private
Practice
San Francisco, California

Student Government



Dental Class of 2025

Student Officers

2024-2025

President: Reeva Gestre
Vice President: Uzair Nasir
Treasurer: Paola Benefo
Secretary: Loveleen Tokhi
Social Chairpersons: Isabelle Tseng & Susu Le
Technology Officer: Andrew Nguyen
Class Historian: Chelsey Lin

2023-2024

President: Reeva Gestre
Vice President: Uzair Nasir
Treasurer: Paola Benefo
Secretary: Loveleen Tokhi & Kinnari Shah
Social Chairpersons: Jennifer Ren & Kane Jajieh
Technology Officer: Susu Le
Class Historians: Alex Kalaigian & Chelsey Lin

2022-2023

President: Reeva Gestre
Vice President: Uzair Nasir
Treasurer: Paola Benefo
Secretaries: Loveleen Tokhi & Kinnari Shah
Social Chairpersons: Jennifer Ren & Jacqueline Ong
Technology Officer: Pamela Vargas
Class Historian: Alex Kalaigian

2021-2022

President: Reeva Gestre
Vice President: Uzair Nasir
Treasurer: Paola Benefo
Secretaries: Loveleen Tokhi & Kinnari Shah
Social Chairpersons: Jennifer Ren & Jacqueline Ong
Technology Officer: Pamela Vargas
Class Historian: Rachel Li

International Dentist Pathway Class of 2025 Student Officers

2024-2025

President: Amna Ahmed

Secretaries: Ameen Khan

Technology Officer: Sandeep Raghuram

Class Historian: Pragati Nahar

2023-2024

President: Erika Parra Sanabria

Vice President: Henna Ambesh



About Our Commencement Speaker

Linda Edgar, DDS
President,
American Dental Association, 2023-2024

Linda Edgar, DDS, brings a remarkable blend of dedication, achievement, and service to both the sciences and dentistry. With a Bachelor of Science in Zoology and a Master's of Science Education, she began her career in the classroom, teaching junior high science for seven years and high school honors chemistry for eight.

Her passion for endurance sports paralleled her academic pursuits and between the ages of 28 and 38, she ran 45 marathons and set a world record for the 50-kilometer race. She later completed two Ironman triathlons at ages 45 and 46, both in just over 12 and a half hours.

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About Our Commencement Speaker (cont.)

At age 37, she pursued a new calling and entered the University of Washington School of Dentistry, graduating in 1992. Her leadership in the dental profession spans decades: she served as a trustee, National Secretary, and eventually President of the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) from 2005 to 2014, earning both AGD Fellowship and Mastership honors. She also led a \$22 million campaign for the UW dental school from 2000 to 2008.

Her commitment extended nationally through the American Dental Association, where she was a delegate for nearly two decades before being elected ADA Trustee, then President-Elect in 2022, and ADA President for 2023–24. During her presidency, she traveled nearly half a million miles, advocating for the profession and patients alike.

At home, she shares her life with her husband Bryan, also a dentist and long-time leader in organized dentistry. They are proud parents to their adopted son, David, an Alaska Airlines captain, and grandparents to Analise, an aspiring veterinarian, and Tatum, a future hockey pro. Recently relocated to Fox Island, Washington, Dr. Edgar lives just minutes from her grandchildren, and has a life filled with purpose, family, and service.

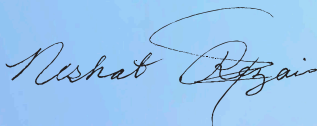
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Congratulations, Graduates!

As members of the UCSF School of Dentistry class of 2025 you now belong to one of the most honorable professions in the world, the Profession of Dentistry. You should be very proud of your accomplishment and your future is very bright. You are also now part of both the Dental Alumni Association (DAA) and the Alumni Association of UCSF. We invite you to stay involved with the campus by attending alumni events, interacting through the online alumni community, or volunteering as an alumni leader or student mentor. The DAA is your organization and we are here to support the School of Dentistry, dental students, and fellow alumni.

Explore the wealth of opportunities at alumni.ucsf.edu and dive deeper into the world of your alma mater. While you're there, don't miss the chance to discover an array of exclusive perks tailored specifically for alumni, such as privileged library access, exclusive alumni discounts, and much more.

We eagerly anticipate the opportunity to connect with you and embark on a journey of shared experiences and continued engagement.



Neshat Rezai DDS '94

President, UCSF Dental Alumni Association

Historic Background and Academic Regalia



Academic dress was worn daily by university faculties of the late Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Today, the use of the complete academic regalia is reserved for ceremonial occasions. In Europe, universities exhibit considerable variations in academic dress, while in the United States, a standard pattern has been established.

Gowns are generally black. The most important element of academic regalia is the hood. The field of learning in which the degree was awarded is shown by the color of the edging of the hood and, in some cases, by the color of the facing and cross bars on doctors' gowns. Some of the colors are golden yellow (Science), light blue (Education), white (Arts and Letters), green (Medicine) and lilac (Dentistry).

Colors lining the hood are those of the institution that awarded the degree. For example, the University of California colors are blue and gold. The actual hooding ceremony is usually reserved for the doctorates;

however, in the United States, each university has the option to hood the recipients of bachelors' degrees.

The type of gown and the width of the edging of the hood reveal an individual's degree. Designs are of three kinds:

BACHELORS' GOWNS have full, pointed sleeves with no trimming, and the hoods have a two-inch edging.

MASTERS' GOWNS have full sleeves with no trimming, and the hoods have a three-inch edging.

DOCTORS' GOWNS are of silk, with rounded sleeves, velvet facing down the front, and three velvet crossbars on each sleeve. Hoods have side panels and a five-inch edging.

Tassels are properly worn on the left side of the front of the mortarboard. Tassels on bachelors' and masters' caps are ordinarily black, but they may be of the color of the field in which the degree was awarded. Doctors' tassels generally are gold.

2025 Commencement