American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics
73rd Annual Meeting: November 7-10, 2026
Swissôtel - Chicago, IL

Program Speaker – Ronald Jacobson

Title
Advances in Orthodontic Management of Cleft and Craniofacial Patients: From Infancy to Prosthetic Rehabilitation

Abstract
The orthodontic management of patients with cleft lip and palate and other craniofacial anomalies presents unique challenges that require close collaboration between orthodontists, prosthodontists, and other specialists. Recent advances in treatment techniques and digital technology offer new opportunities to improve outcomes while simplifying care.

This presentation will highlight a practical, cost-effective approach to infant nasoalveolar molding (NAM), along with advances in digital orthodontic treatment planning and customized appliances that facilitate pre-prosthetic tooth alignment. Topics will include virtual treatment simulations, 3D-printed customized brackets, robotically bent archwires, and the advantages and limitations of clear aligner therapy in patients with cleft and craniofacial conditions.

Emphasis will be placed on how these innovations can improve interdisciplinary coordination, treatment efficiency, and the predictability of complex prosthetic rehabilitation.

Biography
Dr. Ronald Jacobson is a board-certified orthodontist, educator, and recognized leader in craniofacial and digital orthodontics with more than three decades of clinical, academic, and organizational service. Dr. Jacobson maintains a private practice in Chicago, Vernon Hills and Barrington, Illinois, and is an active consulting orthodontist on multiple Craniofacial Teams, including those at Lurie Children's Hospital, UI Health Craniofacial Center and Advocate Lutheran General Children's Hospital. In addition to his clinical practice, Dr. Jacobson has held longstanding academic appointments, including Associate Professor roles at Northwestern University and the University of Illinois Chicago, as well as Visiting Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Detroit Mercy. Dr. Jacobson is a frequent national and international lecturer on topics including surgical and craniofacial orthodontics, digital workflows, virtual treatment planning and emerging technologies in orthodontic education.

**Has disclosed Affiliation/Financial Interest with the following companies: Dentsply, SureSmile*