

Interview Transcript: Dr. Nadim Baba, President of the ACP

Dr. O'Keefe: It's always lovely to see a Canadian succeed at the top of his or her profession in another country. And I know having spoken to a number of people who've done the same thing for a Canadian to become president of an American professional organization is one heck of an achievement to be achieved. One such Canadian who has just done that is Dr. Nadim Baba, who is my guest today on Oasis. He's a prosthodontist. He graduated from the Faculty of Dentistry at the Universite de Montreal in 1996 and since then his career has taken him south of the border. Very recently, he was installed as the president of the American College of prosthodontists and I have him here today to ask him a few questions about that organization. So Nadim what is the American College of prosthodontists?

Dr. Baba: The American College of prosthodontists or the ACP is the only American Dental Association recognized Organization for the specialty prosthodontists and is the only prosthodontists organization whose members is based solely on educational credentials. The ACP was established in 1970 and we now have more than 3,800 members and affiliates around the world including around 125 living in Canada.

Dr. O'Keefe: What do you do for your members and others?

Dr. Baba: The ACP is, um, is dedicated to the advancing, advancing the art and science, of prosthodontists and advancing the specialty to the public and the dental professionals. We strongly believe that everyone can enjoy the confidence, the fullness of life, and the overall wellbeing that comes with a healthy mouth and an attractive smile.

Dr. O'Keefe: So I have to imagine that you're dedicated to the advancement of science. You must have some publications and other knowledge products.

Dr. Baba: The ACP has two printed publications. One of them is called the ACP Messenger, it goes out quarterly and it goes out to the members to inform them about the activities in the regions and what has the ACP done for them. And it also includes some articles, mostly clinical articles and questions to do the lab technicians, and sometimes some interviews. And the other journal, is called the Journal of Prosthodontists. It's a peer reviewed scientific journal where members and non-members can submit the publications and the research, and the articles peer reviewed and accepted, and they're published in the official journal of the ACP.

Dr. O'Keefe: Right, and do you provide knowledge to the members of the public or do you have a website that's accessible to non-members or certain aspects of it that are?

- Dr. Baba: We have a website and it has two folders. One folder is for the patients and the other one is for the professionals. The website is www.prosthodontics.org and everybody can go on that. If you're a professional, there is a link that takes you to the professional side of the, of the website and there's another one for the patient. And then there's a lot of interesting things in there: Questions and answers for the patients, some things that are related to prosthodontics and they're seeking an answer for it.
- Dr. O'Keefe: So, as a general dentist, could I direct my, uh, my patients just some of the commonly-asked questions on your website and that would help to, um, to raise their awareness about matters relating to prosthodontics?
- Dr. Baba: Yes, of course, of course you can. Anybody has access to that
- Dr. O'Keefe: Right. Now, what are the big issues? Political issues uh, the issues of the day that are on the plate of the ACP at present.
- Dr. Baba: The ACP is basically the voice of prosthodontics at the ADA level, so we do have some big issues that we're dealing with. One of them is specialty recognition. There's various clinical entities levelled lawsuits in several states, challenging the standard specialty recognition process in the United States, and this has caused the ADA and the nine dental specialties to adapt these specialty recognition process. It can be confusing to the public when entities claim they are specialists even though they're not part of a recognized dental specialty. The ACP continuous to advocate for the specialty of prosthodontics on all specialty recognition commissions and to the public.
- Dr. O'Keefe: As president, you still have 11 months left. What do you hope to accomplish in your year as president?
- Dr. Baba: Well, as you know, it's very difficult to accomplish a lot of things in, in, as you said, 11 months, but my aim is basically to be able to grow the communication we have with the other specialists and, and kind of get to get together. We are planning some common meetings that say the perio class meetings and, and also with some other specialties we're planning some publications, joint publications, and also what we want to do is to make sure that the public understand what prosthodontists and prosthodontics is. So, we are working on so many publications, one of them got published a couple month ago. Is, um, is um, little book that you can put in your waiting room and it gives the patients an idea of what prosthodontists can offer. It has been edited in a very lay(out) way- -there's no scientific wordings and no, you know, sophisticated wording. It's just written by a non-dentist to non-dentist it, it's, it's, it's a very nice book. It's available to buy through the American prosthodontists' website

Dr. O'Keefe: And having a look through your website, I can see that there's a couple of sample chapters than any of our people could look through and then make the decision to purchase if it really catches their eye.

Dr. Baba: Of course.

Dr. O'Keefe: To wrap it up for today, Nadim, do you have any messages you'd like to convey to the dentists of Canada, specialists and generalists?

Dr. Baba: Well, what I want, what I want to stress is the, the I, I know that in that in Canada, I want to stress the importance of an oral exam to evaluate prosthodontists competency in the board examination process and I know I'm talking about with my colleagues at the Canadian prosthodontics Association, this is something that they have mentioned to me. And it's something else I want to say is that the American College of prosthodontists welcomes international and global alliance members and anybody who has the credentials can, can become a member and if they don't, if they just a general dentist and they would want to be considered at a special membership level, we call it the Global Alliance Membership and you can find some more information on our website www.prosthodontics.org.

Dr. O'Keefe: Well, that's a very nice welcoming message, uh, to, to round off this interview. Let me, on behalf of your Canadian colleagues, congratulate you on your great achievement of becoming president of ACP and let us wish you the best of luck in the year ahead.

Dr. Baba: Thank you, John. Thank you very much. Thank you for the opportunity of having me and I'm so proud to be a Canadian and Canadian dentist and I'm so proud to have graduated from the University of Montreal.