

TDA TODAY

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Texas Radiation Control Program:

X-Ray Registration Requirements for All Texas-Licensed Dentists and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

The Texas Radiation Control Program, under the authority of the Texas Department of State Health Services, Consumer Protection Division, recognizes that Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS) is a subspecialty of dental practice. As such, all facilities that operate as OMFS with dental X-ray units, including Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT) units, will be designated as dental registrations and receive a Dental Certificate of X-Ray Registration in accordance with 25 Texas Administrative Code §289.232.

This designation applies to all facilities operated by or under the supervision of a Texas-licensed dentist, including those whose dental practice involves the treatment of obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) or disorders of the temporomandibular joint (TMJ). A Texas-licensed dentist practicing in any of these areas who operates dental X-ray units, including CBCT units, is subject to the same registration requirements and shall receive a Dental Certificate of X-Ray Registration in accordance with 25 Texas Administrative Code §289.232.

Facilities with medical practitioners that operate outside the practice of dentistry will be subject to the regulations of the medical use of X-ray equipment in accordance with 25 Texas Administrative Code §289.

For more information about the Radiation Control Program at the Texas Department of State Health Services, go to <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/texas-radiation-control>. 

TEXAS MISSION of MERCY, INC.

Texas Mission of Mercy (TMOM) Brings Smiles and Hope to San Antonio

On May 29–30, TMOM hosted its San Antonio dental mission at Our Lady of the Lake University, where 638 volunteers came together to provide life-changing dental care. Over the course of two days, volunteers delivered more than 4,872 dental treatments to 524 patients, representing an incredible \$717,954 in donated dental services.

While patients see the impact during event days, the work begins long before the first patient arrives. Volunteers dedicated countless hours unloading trucks filled with equipment and supplies, setting up dental chairs and units, assembling treatment areas, sterilizing instruments, and preparing thousands of dental trays. Many arrived as early as Wednesday to help transform an empty facility into a fully functioning dental clinic.

We would like to recognize the extraordinary commitment of our volunteers, many of whom worked long shifts and traveled from across Texas to serve others. From the volunteers who arrived before dawn to check in at 5:00 a.m. to those who stayed late ensuring everything was ready for the next day, your dedication made this event possible.

A special thank you goes to Methodist Healthcare Ministries, the presenting sponsor of this event. Your generous support helps make it possible for TMOM to provide essential dental care to underserved communities and expand access to treatment for Texans in need.

We also extend our sincere gratitude to Our Lady of the Lake University for graciously hosting this event. The facility provided an outstanding environment for patient care, volunteer operations, and community service. We are thankful for your partnership and hope to return again in the future.

To every volunteer, partner, and supporter who helped make San Antonio a success—thank you for helping TMOM continue its mission of providing compassionate dental care to Texans in need. 



Dr. Jerry Roach of San Angelo, a TDA Smiles Foundation 100 Club Member. The 100 Club includes dedicated donors who contribute monthly to sustain the TDSAF mission. Membership in the 100 Club directly enables TDSAF to award scholarships to deserving dental students; fund grants that expand access to care; and support outreach initiatives that make a lasting difference in communities across Texas.



TDA President Dr. Elizabeth Goldman, a TDSAF 100 Club Member, treats a patient at the San Antonio TMOM.



TDSAF Chair Dr. Craig Armstrong volunteers at the San Antonio TMOM.



The volunteers San Antonio TMOM treated 524 patients in May 2026, donating \$717,954 in dental services.

Texas Dental Schools Graduate Hundreds of Students

Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine

Sixty-one students graduated from the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine (WLHSDM) on May 16.

This was the second graduating class for WLHSDM, which opened in 2021. WLHSDM’s curriculum places students in clinical settings beginning in their first semester, along with Spanish-language training to help graduates better serve the community. Each graduate earns a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree, and a Community Health Certificate.¹

Founded with a \$25 million gift from the Hunt Family Foundation, the school is the first new dental school in Texas in more than 50 years and the only dental school on the U.S.-Mexico border. With over 200 students across 4 classes and over 60,000 patient visits provided annually, the school is expanding access to oral healthcare in the region.¹



Graduates celebrate at the May commencement for Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine.

UTHealth San Antonio School of Dentistry

The UTHealth San Antonio School of Dentistry conferred 198 degrees on the May 18th commencement.

“Graduation marks a significant accomplishment for our School of Dentistry students and residents, who are well prepared to advance the profession of dentistry in meaningful ways,” said School of Dentistry Dean Ken Hargreaves, DDS, PhD. “Whether they go on to provide exceptional patient care, pursue discovery through research or educate future clinicians, they carry forward a commitment to excellence that defines our school. I congratulate each of them on this achievement and look forward to seeing the many ways they will make a meaningful difference in the communities they serve, and how they will shape the future of oral health.”

The School of Dentistry is now ranked No. 1 in Texas and 9th nationally among all schools of dentistry that received National Institutes of Health funding in 2025. In 2024, the school established 2 interdisciplinary centers of excellence, the Center for Regenerative Sciences and the Center for Pain Therapeutics and Addiction Research, helping to drive outstanding faculty recruitment and ensure that scientific discoveries translate into improved patient care.²



Pictured are graduates of the UTHealth San Antonio School of Dentistry at the commencement on May 18.

Texas A&M University College of Dentistry

All the years of studying and hard work paid off for 177 dental students, dental hygiene students, and graduate students who earned their degrees and specialty certificates May 22 from Texas A&M University College of Dentistry in Dallas, also nicknamed “Aggieland Dallas” by Dr Lily T. García, the dean.

Dr Stephen McDonald, clinical associate professor in comprehensive dentistry, and Chelsi Graham, clinical assistant professor in the dental hygiene program, were recognized as Teachers of the Year. They were nominated by the students.



Dr Youngju Oh, front, walks with other graduates toward Texas A&M University College of Dentistry’s commencement ceremony at Winspear Opera House-AT&T Performing Arts Center on May 22.

UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry

UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry welcomed 177 graduates of the Class of 2026 to its alumni base during its 121st Commencement Ceremony on May 13.

Graduates included students from the doctor of dental surgery, dental hygiene, and advanced education programs. Several advanced education programs will hold individual ceremonies recognizing their graduates.

The ceremony also marked the final commencement for Dean John A. Valenza, DDS ’81, before his retirement, a milestone recognized throughout the afternoon by university and dental school leadership, speakers, and alumni organization representatives.

UTHealth Houston President Melina R. Kibbe, MD, congratulated the graduates. “Graduates, your training has prepared you to improve not only oral health, but overall health and well-being for the patients and the communities that you will serve,” Kibbe said.³

- Resources
- May 18, 2026. “A Calling to Healthcare—Tech Talk: TTUHSC El Paso News and Events.” <https://www.techtalkelpaso.com/home/a-calling-to-healthcare-may-18-2026>.
 - Binkley, Jessica. May 11, 2026. “Health professional schools celebrate commencement, academic milestones—UT Health San Antonio.” <https://news.uthscsa.edu/health-professional-schools-celebrate-commencement-academic-milestones/>.
 - Rogers, Kyle. May 14, 2026. “School of Dentistry marks 121st commencement ceremony, honors 2026 classes—UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry.” <https://dentistry.uth.edu/news/story/school-of-dentistry-marks-121st-commencement-ceremony-honors-2026-classes>. 



Chloe Colville, DDS (right), hugs her father, Clark D. Colville, DDS, MS, on stage before being hooded at UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry’s 121st Commencement Ceremony. Photo by Kyle Rogers.

Highly Acclaimed,
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TDA Members at
Significant Discounts

TDA Perks Program’s recent endorsement of dental-AI world leader, Overjet, means TDA members have access to significant discounts on the company’s suite of tools designed to improve patient care and streamline office operations.

As part of the negotiated benefits, the \$1,500 installation fee is waived for TDA members. With the waiver and additional discounts, an office seeing fewer than 500 patients/month that bundles Overjet AI, Iris Imaging, and Insurance Verification saves \$4,248 in the first year and \$2,748 annually thereafter. Larger offices qualify for even higher tiered discounts.

Notably, first-year savings are more than double annual TDA dues, and the recurring annual savings will completely offset dues every year after—essentially meaning this program’s savings will cover TDA membership dues and more.

Overjet tools include:

- **Vision AI:** Analyzes x-rays to detect and outline disease and anatomy, improving patient care and case acceptance.
- **IRIS AI-Native Imaging:** Enhances images automatically—even when offline—and works with any sensor.
- **Voice AI:** Documents, monitors, and analyzes patient visits to turn conversations into detailed clinical notes. It enables hands-free periodontal charting without extra staff, even in noisy environments.
- **Insurance Verification:** Checks eligibility and benefits automatically in advance. This eliminates manual tasks, accelerates workflows, and saves front offices up to 20 hours per week.

For more information, please visit tdaperks.com (look under the **Compliance & Supplies** menu) or scan the QR code.



You can also contact Overjet directly at (617) 458-7964 or marketing@overjet.ai. 



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At the May 2026 House of the
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The Texas Toothline

YOUR MONTHLY UPDATE FROM THE FRONT LINES OF TEXAS DENTAL ADVOCACY



Texas Dental School News

UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry: Research Launches to Space Station

Research from UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry is currently orbiting Earth aboard the International Space Station (ISS) as part of an innovative project studying how to preserve bone health in space.

The project, known as VIBES (Vibration-Induced Bone Exercise Stimulation) launched May 15 aboard SpaceX’s CRS-34 resupply mission from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida.

VIBES will examine whether low-intensity vibration can help counteract the aging-like bone loss associated with microgravity, and the experiment will operate aboard ISS for 21 days using Space Tango’s automated bioreactor system.

The study uses 3D-printed tissue-engineered bone marrow analogs designed to model the effects of aging and bone loss in space. Researchers aim to better understand whether low-intensity mechanical vibration can serve as a countermeasure to preserve bone tissue during extended spaceflight.

The \$1.2 million National Science Foundation-funded project includes researchers, graduate students, and undergraduate students from multiple institutions, including UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry’s Mary C. “Cindy” Farach-Carson, PhD, professor and associate dean for research, and Danielle Wu, PhD, assistant professor, from the Department of Diagnostic and Biomedical Sciences.

“This project represents an exciting opportunity to study bone biology in a completely unique environment,” Dr Farach-Carson said. “The findings could have important implications not only for astronauts during long-duration missions, including missions to Mars or permanent stations on the moon, but also for aging populations and individuals experiencing bone loss here on Earth.”

Microgravity conditions in space can accelerate bone deterioration, making astronauts more susceptible to fractures and other skeletal complications. Researchers hope the study will provide insights into strategies that may reduce those effects and contribute to future treatments for osteoporosis and age-related bone disease.¹

Reference

1. Rogers, Kyle. May 21, 2026. “School of Dentistry research launches to International Space Station aboard SpaceX CRS-34 mission - UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry.” URL: <https://dentistry.uth.edu/news/story/school-of-dentistry-research-launches-to-international-space-station-aboard-spacex-crs-34-mission>Dentistry research launches to International Space Station aboard SpaceX CRS-34 mission - UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry.

Texas A&M University College of Dentistry: Two Influential Instructors Retire

Drs Amp Miller and Ernestine Lacy Bid Goodbye to Students

After 53 years as an A&M Dentistry faculty member and 4 years before that as a dental student at then-Baylor College of Dentistry, **Dr Amp Miller III** said goodbye to everyone on the Gaston Avenue campus, retiring on May 31—his 79th birthday.

“He’s taught thousands of dental students, including me,” said Dr Lily T. García, A&M Dentistry’s dean and a prosthodontist and BCD Class of 1984. “The dental college has served the North Texas community for 120 years, and Dr Miller has been an important part of it for nearly half the time. His contributions are immense.”

Either as a part-time or full-time instructor, Miller’s courses ranged from preclinical classes to graduate prosthodontics. He also earned a prosthodontics certificate from his alma mater and employer in 1980, while also working in private practice. His academic career includes stints as interim assistant department head of comprehensive dentistry, interim chair and then chair of restorative dentistry, director of curriculum and interim associate dean for clinical affairs.

Miller relinquished the dean role because he missed teaching and daily interactions with students too much.

“Students have inquiring minds,” he said. “I like to watch them develop their knowledge and skills. They are full of questions, and they develop some swagger as they gain confidence in their abilities.”

Students adore Miller, and they named him Teacher of the Year in 1992, 2005, 2011, 2018 and 2025. In addition, he was named to A&M Dentistry’s Hall of Fame in 2025, alongside **Dr Ernestine Lacy**, professor and associate dean for student affairs at A&M Dentistry, who also retired May 31.

Dr Lacy has the heart of a teacher. In fact, she spent 17 years as a high school math and science teacher, first in the Birmingham Public School District in Alabama, where she grew up, and then at Fort Worth Independent School District.

She earned her dental degree in 1994 from A&M Dentistry, then known as Baylor College of Dentistry, and soon after collected a certificate in advanced education in general dentistry. Lacy was wooed back to academia and began teaching at her alma mater as an assistant professor in restorative sciences.

“What drew me to health professions is the ability to help somebody on a personal level and the connection with that I’m doing something meaningful in a healthcare sense for this person ...,” said Dr Lacy, who also worked in private practice at times. “It’s being a contributor to the well-being of somebody else.”

She stayed at A&M Dentistry and eventually moved into several administrative roles. Dean García praised Lacy’s commitment to student success, academic excellence and expanding access to dentistry.

“Her visionary leadership has created transformative opportunities for so many aspiring dental professionals,” Dr García said.

Dr Lacy, who plans to spend her retirement traveling more with her husband, Glen, and visiting her mother in Alabama, shared some wisdom for students.

“Follow your heart,” Dr Lacy said. “Be sure you do your part by finding out as much about that profession as possible – do the observations, do the volunteering and do what’s required and what you need to do to be competitive...Does it fit you, and do you fit that profession? Do all you need to do to know in your heart of hearts that’s your professional calling.”

Though both officially retired, Drs Miller and Lacy will continue to serve at the school in some capacity. 



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