

A bold new chapter: The emergence of the American Academy of Prosthetic Dentistry

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In a groundbreaking move set to redefine the landscape of Prosthetic Dentistry, the boards of the two leading Prosthodontic organizations, the American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics (AAFP) and the American Prosthodontic Society (APS), vote to consolidate into a new nonprofit, unified entity: the American Academy of Prosthetic Dentistry. This historic consolidation represents not just the merging of two esteemed organizations, but the dawn of a new era in the pursuit of excellence in prosthetic dentistry.

Founded in 1951, the AAFP is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge, excellence, and the highest ethical standards within the dental discipline of fixed prosthodontics and is the second largest prosthodontic organization in North America. Its mission is to foster excellence in fixed prosthodontics, implants, and esthetic dentistry through mutual study, participation, and cooperation.

Founded in 1928, the APS is an international organization dedicated to promoting the science of prosthetic dentistry and the clinical practice of prosthodontics and broadening dental professionals' expertise. Its mission is to improve patient care and the advancement of prosthodontics through education and research. In 1951, APS was one of the founding organizations of the Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry and is the second oldest prosthodontic organization in the world.

After careful study and reflection over several years, legal consultation, and prudent study of budgetary implications, the board of directors of both organizations have now approved this merger, subject to discussion and membership approval. On membership approval, the newly established organization will be known as the American Academy of Prosthetic Dentistry (AAPD). The path forward involves critical steps: in February 2025, members of both the APS and AAFP will vote on the proposed merger at their respective annual meetings. If the resolution passes, the AAPD will officially come into existence on March 30, 2026.

With a shared dedication to improving patient care and advancing the field, this decision marks a pivotal moment for the field, as the new organization promises to enhance the quality of prosthetic dental care and expand opportunities for professional development and collaboration. As a global, inclusive, and diverse nonprofit organization, and combined resources, it will focus on several key areas: promoting excellence in patient care, advancing education and research in prosthetic dentistry, and fostering camaraderie among dental professionals.

With a combined membership of approximately 900, the AAPD will represent a significant force in the field of prosthodontics. Membership will be open to licensed dentists, researchers, dental laboratory technicians, and students enrolled in accredited dental programs, en-

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suring a broad and inclusive community of professionals committed to the advancement of prosthetic dentistry.

In its initial phase, the AAPD will be led by a team of co-Presidents, co-President-elects, and co-Vice Presidents, reflecting a collaborative leadership model. The Board of Directors will initially consist of 17 members, with a planned reduction to 13 members within five years, streamlining governance while maintaining a diverse range of perspectives.

As we anticipate this exciting development, it is clear that the creation of the American Academy of Prosthetic Dentistry will not only honor the legacies of its predecessor organizations but also pave the way for future advancements in the field. The AAPD stands ready to lead with innovation, inclusivity, and an unwavering commitment to excellence in prosthetic dentistry.

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