FaceBase 2022 Community Forum Speakers' and Panelists' Bios

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Azeez Alade, DDS, MS (Butali Lab, Univ of Iowa)

Azeez graduated from the College of Medicine, University of Lagos, Nigeria where he obtained his intercalated BS degree in Physiology as well as his Dental degree (DDS) in 2017. He also received a master's degree in Epidemiology at the University of Iowa in 2021. He then continued into PhD in Genetic epidemiology under the mentorship of Prof. Azeez Butali. He has over 15 publications in peer reviewed journals and over 12 presentations at national and international conferences. He currently serves as a reviewer for Cleft Palate Craniofacial Journal and the Journal of Dental Research, Clinical and Translational Research. He has received numerous awards, and these include graduating top of his class at both the Physiology and Dental degree, awards of best presentation at the University of Iowa American Association for Dental and Craniofacial Research (ADOCR) meetings and several award nominations at national AADOCR, international IADR and Cleft Congress meeting.

Samantha Brugmann, PhD (Cincinnati Children's Hospital)

Dr. Samantha Brugmann is a developmental biologist studying craniofacial development and disease. Her long-term goal is to help children with craniofacial anomalies by generating tissue amenable for surgical repair. To achieve this goal, her lab specifically focuses on the role the primary cilium during craniofacial development and the craniofacial anomalies that arise when the cilium do not function properly. Projects in her lab utilize avian, murine and human-induced pluripotent stem cells to gain a better understanding of the molecular mechanisms associated with craniofacial anomalies. In addition to using existing animal models to understand human craniofacial disorders, her lab also sequences patients and generates cell-based models to uncover novel genetic causes for craniofacial ciliopathies.

Azeez Butali DDS, PhD (Univ Iowa)

Azeez Butali is a Professor of Craniofacial Genetics in the department of Oral Pathology, Radiology and Medicine, Iowa Institute of Oral Health Research, Iowa Institute of Human Genetics and the Department of Pediatrics, University of Iowa. His lab uses genetics and genomics approaches to identify risk variants and genes that contribute to the etiology of craniofacial anomalies in the African population. He has also participated in multi-ethnic clefts

studies through international collaborations, published over 80 manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals and presented over 150 abstracts at National and International meetings. He is Director of the African Craniofacial Anomalies Network, Director and Board member of the IADR Craniofacial Biology Group, member of the Nominating Committee of the American Association for Human Genetics, member of the 2022-23 Task Force of the American Cleft Palate Association, and Councilor for Global Oral Inequalities Research Network to the American Association for Dental Oral and Craniofacial Research.

Yang Chai DDS, PhD (USC)

Dr. Yang Chai is the University Professor and the George and MaryLou Boone Chair in Craniofacial Biology at the University of Southern California. He serves as the Director of the Center for Craniofacial Molecular Biology (CCMB) and Associate Dean of Research at the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC. Dr. Chai earned a DMD degree from Peking University School of Stomatology as well as DDS and PhD in Craniofacial Biology from USC. He is most noted for his research on craniofacial development and birth defects, which has transformed the field and led to the successful rescue of cleft palate in mouse embryos. He also studies stem cells and is using innovative 3D-printed scaffolds seeded with stem cells to regenerate tissue for patients who have lost bone due to trauma, congenital defects, or disease. Dr. Chai is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS). He has authored more than 160 scientific papers, numerous book chapters, and recently edited a book on craniofacial development. His work has earned him multiple awards including the NIH MERIT award and the 2011 IADR (International Association of Dental Research) Distinguished Scientist Award.

Lucia Cevidanes, DDS, PhD (Univ Michigan)

Dr. Lucia Cevidanes is the Thomas and Doris Endowed Professor of Dentistry at the University of Michigan, and a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics. She is a practicing clinician who has published over 180 manuscripts on 3D imaging and her work has been recognized by NIH, American Association of Orthodontists and American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology awards. Her interests include Artificial Intelligence and integrative approaches for 3D Imaging Informatics to solve difficult clinical problems in Dentistry, with particular focus on Temporomandibular Disorders and studying current and new dental treatment approaches and technical procedures, as well as understanding treatment outcomes for dentofacial deformities.

Kimon Divaris DDS, PhD (Univ North Carolina)

Kimon Divaris is an Adams Distinguished Professor in the Division of Pediatric and Public Health, at the UNC Adams School of Dentistry. A board-certified pediatric dentist, he is actively involved in teaching at all levels, clinical practice, and research. He is an oral and genetic epidemiologist, and his NIDCR-supported research program lies in the intersection of clinical, biological, and public health research in oral, dental and craniofacial diseases. He is the PI of a community-based, multi-ethnic, genetic epidemiologic study of childhood oral health in North Carolina (ZOE 2.0) and he is actively involved in international consortia that seek to pool data and resources, and advance the oral health genomics knowledge base. He is the recipient of several major awards and has substantial scholarly and editorial activity.

Rena D'Souza, DDS, PhD, Director of NIDCR

Dr. Rena N. D'Souza is the director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research. She oversees NIDCR's annual budget of more than $475 million, which supports basic, translational, and clinical research in areas of oral cancer, orofacial pain, tooth decay, periodontal disease, salivary gland dysfunction, craniofacial development and disorders and the oral complications of systemic diseases.

A licensed dentist, Dr. D'Souza is recognized for her research in craniofacial development, genetics, tooth development, and regenerative dental medicine. Prior to joining NIH, Dr. D'Souza was the assistant vice president for academic affairs and education for health sciences at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City. There she also served as a professor of dentistry, the Ole and Marty Jensen chair of the School of Dentistry and professor of neurobiology and anatomy, pathology and surgery in the School of Medicine and the department of biomedical engineering. In 2012, Dr. D'Souza was selected to be the inaugural dean of the University of Utah's School of Dentistry. She is a devoted mentor and champion of diversity in the biomedical research workforce. Since 1985, she has served as a volunteer dentist for women in need and people struggling with homelessness in Salt Lake City, Dallas and Houston.

D'Souza received her bachelor's degree in dental surgery from the University of Bombay, India, after which she completed her general practice residency. She earned her DDS, PhD, and master's degree in pathology/biomedical sciences from the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston.

D’Juan Farmer, PhD (UCLA)

D’Juan Farmer is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Molecular, Cell, Developmental Biology (MCDB). D'Juan majored in MCDB with a minor in Biomedical Research at UCLA. He received his PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of California, San Francisco with Michael McManus and completed his postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Southern California with Gage Crump.

Benedikt Hallgrimsson, PhD (Univ Calgary)

Benedikt Hallgrímsson was born in Reykjavík, Iceland and studied at the University of Alberta (B.A. Hon) and The University of Chicago (M.A., Ph.D., Biological Anthropology). Hallgrimsson is an international leader in the quantitative analysis of anatomical variation. His work focuses on structural birth defects and the developmental genetics of complex traits. He integrates 3D imaging and morphometry with genetics and developmental biology. He was awarded the Rohlf Medal for Excellence in Morphometrics in 2015 and is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. He has published >160 journal articles, 32 chapters, three edited volumes, and a textbook. He is currently Deputy Director for the Alberta Children’s Hospital Research Institute and ¬Head of the Department of Cell Biology & Anatomy.

Carrie Heike, MD, MS (Univ Washington)

I am a pediatrician at Seattle Children's Hospital and a Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Washington School of Medicine. I have a passion for providing interdisciplinary team care to children with craniofacial conditions. My research focuses on the epidemiology of craniofacial conditions, clinical outcomes, quality improvement, patient-centered outcomes, interdisciplinary care, and team science.

Jan Ching Chun Hu, BDS, PhD, (U Michigan)

Dr. Jan Hu received her BDS from National Taiwan University in 1985. She completed a specialty certificate in pediatric dentistry in 1988 and earned her Ph.D. in craniofacial biology in 1990 at the University of Southern California (USC). Dr. Hu completed her post-doctoral fellowship in craniofacial molecular biology while at USC from 1990 to 1993. She joined the Department of Pediatric Dentistry at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio in September 1993. In 2002, she joined the University of Michigan School of Dentistry Department of Orthodontics and Pediatric Dentistry. From 2005 to 2008, she served as the director of pediatric dentistry then was named the director of the Oral Health Sciences PhD program from 2010 to 2018. She was appointed as the chair of the Department of Biological and Materials Sciences and Prosthodontics in 2018 and continues to serve. Currently, Dr. Hu is serving as the interim Dean of the School until a permanent dean is appointed.

Carl Kesselmen, PhD (USC)

Carl Kesselman is a William H. Keck Professor of Engineering at USC with appointments in industrial and systems engineering, computer science, preventive medicine and dentistry. Dr. Kesselman also leads the Informatics Systems Research division of USC's Information Sciences Institute (ISI). Kesselman is an ISI Fellow, the Institute's highest honor. One of the fathers of grid computing and the Globus open-source toolbox, now the de facto grid computing standard, he has received numerous honors for his pioneering research including the Lovelace Medal from the British Computer Society and the Goode Memorial Award from the IEEE Computer Society. He is a Fellow of the British Computer Society and the Association for Computing Machinery. Kesselman received his PhD in Computer Science from UCLA and an MS in Electrical Engineering from USC.

Pedro Sanchez, MD (Cedars-Sinai)

Pedro A. Sanchez-Lara, MD, MSCE, FAAP, FACMG is the Director of Pediatric Clinical Genetics at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and Associate Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA. He is also an adjunct professor at the Center for Craniofacial and Molecular Biology in the Ostrow School of Dentistry, USC. His research interest is in the developmental pathogenesis of birth defects and is currently the co-chair of ClinGen Craniofacial Malformations Gene Curation Expert Panel. He has written several dozen peer-reviewed scientific articles and has received funding from the National Institutes of Health, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and March of Dimes. He is actively involved in clinical research and enjoys mentoring and training students at all levels.

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A Resource For Craniofacial Researchers
http://www.facebase.org

Robert Schuler, MS (USC)

Robert Schuler is a Senior Computer Scientist and Research Lead at the University of Southern California's Information Sciences Institute. His research interests include scientific data management, cyberinfrastructure, and distributed systems. He has served in technical and leadership roles for large-scale NIH, DOE, and NSF initiatives including FaceBase, Biomedical Informatics Research Network, Earth System Grid, and Globus. Previously, Rob co-founded a software startup for digital media management with clients ranging from new media technology companies to major publishing and media corporations. Earlier, he worked for Xerox Corp. on the research and development of digital rights management technology acquired by Microsoft Corp. Rob earned his M.S. degree in Computer Science from USC.

Andrew Timberlake, MD, PhD (NYU)

Andrew is a current plastic surgery resident at NYU Langone Medical Center, with an interest in pediatric craniofacial surgery. He completed his PhD in human genetics with Rick Lifton at Yale and the Rockefeller University, using exome sequencing to explore genetic underpinnings of congenital neurocranial disorders including craniosynostosis, craniofacial microsomia, vascular malformations, jaw abnormalities, and hydrocephalus. His research interests include gene discovery in craniofacial conditions, and the application of gene editing technologies to the potential treatment of congenital craniofacial disorders.