

# What is Orofacial Pain? (OFP)

- Orofacial Pain is an official specialty of dentistry in the USA . OFP Specialists are trained to treat Temporo Mandibular Disorders (TMD) and other pains in the head and neck including:
  - TMJ Pathology
  - Disorders of Masticatory Muscles
  - Disorders of neck and shoulder muscle and nerves that impact the trigeminal system
  - Trigeminal Nerve disorders
  - Movement disorders involving the masticatory muscles
  - Oral appliance therapy for Obstructive Sleep Apnea
  - Headaches
  - Any pains or disorders that are associated with the trigeminal nerve.
- The OFP residency programs and all dental schools and specialty residencies must follow the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) standards in order to become and continue to be accredited as an approved dental school or specialty residency . to be accredited as an approved dental school or specialty residency .

# The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)

CODA was established in 1975 and is nationally recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE) as the sole agency to accredit dental and dental-related education programs conducted at the post-secondary level.

As the current commissioner for the Specialty of Orofacial Pain, my goal in this brief presentation is to familiarize you with the role of CODA in helping to establish guidelines for TMD in the USA.

# Mission Statement of the Commission on Dental Accreditation

- The Commission on Dental Accreditation serves the public and dental professions by developing and implementing accreditation standards that promote and monitor the continuous quality and improvement of dental education programs. Commission on Dental Accreditation Adopted: August 5, 2016; Revised August 6, 2021
- The **Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)** is responsible for accrediting dental, advanced dental, and allied dental education programs in the United States. It ensures the continuous quality and improvement of dental education by developing and implementing accreditation standards

# Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Orofacial Pain

- OFP specialists have to graduate from one of the OFP residency programs in order to be a specialist and must pass the board exams in order to be board certified.
- Only graduates of a CODA approved residency can take the board exams. The American Academy of Orofacial Pain (AAOP) Guidelines and the ABOP board exams must also follow the CODA Standards.
- Any input from outside organizations such as NASEM are welcome as the standards are continuously revised based on formal requests to the CODA Orofacial Pain review committee. My current role is chair of that committee and I present the findings of that committee to CODA for their approval.
- Any new standards go out for public comment before the Commission votes on the new standards.

# Application of the CODA Standards

- I feel that one of the major goals of the CODA standards is to provide training to residents to treat patients with the most evidence-based treatments possible in order to provide the most effective care to help patients and minimize harm.
- Irreversible treatments are taught to be available only when thorough reversible treatments have been unsuccessful.

# My Personal Comments Related To Guidelines And The Research To Support Guidelines In My Role As A Researcher And As A Section Editor For A Journal:

- Research based on the diagnosis TMD is not appropriate since TMD is not a diagnosis. TMD is the umbrella term for all the diagnostic categories covered by the term. All research concerning TMD should be focused on the diagnosis and treatment of disorders within specific diagnostic categories in order to be relevant.
- Any recognized guidelines for Temporomandibular Disorders (TMD) in the USA should comply with the CODA Standards.