

# NEWS

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\*\*\*\*\*Dallas surgery professor named  
winner of American Society of  
Oral Surgeons' Research Recognition  
Award for 1977.

DALLAS--Dr. William H. Bell, associate professor of oral surgery at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, has been named recipient of the 1977 Research Recognition Award of the American Society of Oral Surgeons for his trailblazing work in developing new techniques for correcting dental/facial deformities.

The award will be presented Sept. 24 during the opening session of the society's 59th annual meeting at San Francisco's Fairmont Hotel, according to an ASOS announcement from its Chicago headquarters.

Dr. Bell was the unanimous choice of the society's advisory committee on research, Chairman Dr. Richard D. Zallen wrote Bell, "in recognition of your significant research contributions in the area of surgical correction of dentofacial deformities which have had a demonstrative effect on delivery of oral surgery care." The committee praised Dr. Bell for his "leadership in fostering research and... accomplishments that have brought credit to the speciality of oral surgery."

The Dallas surgeon and teacher has pioneered in the perfecting of improved surgery procedures involving extensive restructuring of jaws and teeth to correct a variety of "malocclusions" or deformities such as overbite, underbite and openbite (in which teeth do not touch at the front of the mouth).

He has published more than 75 journal articles describing his research and experimental surgical techniques, and has contributed to two textbooks on the subject. He is coauthor of a major new work, "Correction of Dentofacial Deformities," due to be published in 1978.

Bell's principal contribution has been in establishing an underlying biologic basis for jaw surgery--techniques of revascularization and bone regeneration--to insure the viability of teeth and segments of jaw moved during reconstructive procedures.

He and a team of UT Health Science Center experts have described steps essential to avoid relapse and insure healing of bone and surrounding soft tissue, particularly the palate.

In the past three years, a surgical team led by Dr. Bell has performed more than 100 corrective operations on victims of "long-face syndrome," a common form of upper jaw deformity in which the maxilla, or upper jawbone, grows too long vertically and disrupts normal mouth and tooth closure. This defect interferes with function such as chewing, and its harm to appearance can cause psychological damage as well.

Typical corrective steps for "long-face" syndrome involve removal of a horizontal piece of the upper jawbone plus a vertical strip along with two teeth, to bring upper and lower jaws more into line. The Dallas team's work has attracted wide attention nationally, with numerous groups of visiting surgeons observing and studying the operations performed here.

Dr. Bell has been on the Southwestern faculty since 1972. He is a graduate of St. Louis University, receiving his B.S. degree there in 1950 and his D.D.S. degree in 1954. He served an oral surgery internship in Metropolitan Hospital, New York, in 1954-55 and an oral surgery residency at M.D. Anderson Hospital, Houston, in 1955-56. After a teaching fellowship at The University of Texas Dental branch in Houston, he joined the faculty of the dental branch parttime and engaged in private practice of oral surgery until coming to the Dallas medical school.

He received the St. Louis University alumni merit award for achievement in oral surgery in 1974. He was certified as a diplomate by the American Board of Oral Surgery in 1959.

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