

Dr. Richard Kulbersh- an Orthodontic Educator for 43 years

On May 9th, at the annual Detroit Alumni Orthodontic Seminar in Novi, Michigan, Dr Richard Kulbersh announced his upcoming retirement from the University of Detroit/Mercy Orthodontic Residency program. Dr. Kulbersh inherited a well-established program and worked tirelessly to transform it into a contemporary orthodontic program incorporating common elements of several occasionally competing philosophies of care with state-of-the-art technology.

Following his graduation from The Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, Dr Kulbersh served his country for four years during the Vietnam era as a Captain in the U.S. Air Force. Upon completion of his service, he continued his education, at what was then the University of Detroit, where he earned a Masters Degree in Orthodontics in 1975. Once he became a specialist he never left the University of Detroit.

In 1986 Dr. Kulbersh was named Chairman and Program Director of the Department of Orthodontics. Since taking the reins, Dr. Kulbersh has supervised over 100 Masters Theses and graduated over 160 orthodontists – who now practice all over the world. In addition to his duties at the university, Dr. Kulbersh has also published numerous scientific and research articles and given over 100 presentations to both national and international audiences.

He and his wife, Dr. Valmy Pangrazio Kulbersh opened a private practice in Sterling Heights, Michigan while devoting their professional lives to education at the university. An educator for 43 years, Dr. Kulbersh has dedicated his life to teaching orthodontics to both undergraduate and graduate dental students. He developed a comprehensive TMJ/TMD component, invited Dr. Ron Roth to teach a segment on condylar position and developed a strong early treatment component to intercept growth interferences. He coordinated the construction of two new orthodontic clinics as the dental school changed locations twice during his career. He was instrumental to computerizing and digitizing the orthodontic department and incorporating CBCT diagnostic scans for orthodontic patients.

He is a diplomate of The American Board of Orthodontics and serves the board as an examiner consultant. He is a Fellow of the American and International College of Dentists and the Angle Society, serves as an Orthodontic consultant and examiner for The Council on Dental Accreditation and is a GLAO Delegate to the AAO House of Delegates.

Dr. Kulbersh has held numerous leadership positions in multiple professional organizations and has been the recipient of some of orthodontic's highest awards, including:

- The Dale B Wade Award – a national recognition given by The American Board of Orthodontics honoring an exemplary senior clinician and Board Certified Orthodontist who demonstrates exceptional dedication to orthodontics through clinical excellence and devoted teaching.
- The O.B. Vaughn Special Recognition Award – another national recognition by The American Board of Orthodontics given to an individual who has significantly contributed to orthodontic education and furthered the ideals of The American Board of Orthodontics.

The University of Detroit Mercy has been very fortunate to have had this very talented and devoted man for 43 years. Thank you Dr. Kulbersh for your dedication to education, the University of Detroit Mercy and the specialty of Orthodontics.

- Dr. John Monticello and Dr. Debby Priestap