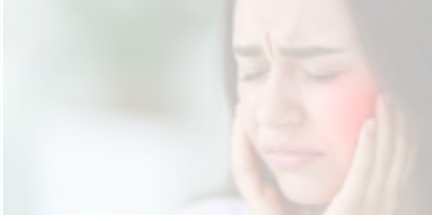
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM 2027-2028

Temporomandibular Disorders & Orofacial Pain

MODULES AND DATES



LIVE VIRTUAL MODULE - **April 24, 2027**

Module 1. Foundations of Orofacial Pain and TMD

Describe the functional anatomy and physiology of the masticatory system, temporomandibular joint (TMJ), and craniofacial and cervical structures. Explain peripheral and central pain mechanisms, sensitization, and referred pain; review epidemiology and major classification frameworks; and distinguish supported pain mechanisms from unsubstantiated structural explanations.

Core topics

- Pain neurobiology, referred pain, peripheral and central mechanisms, and sensitization.
- Gross and functional anatomy relevant to temporomandibular disorders (TMD).
- Epidemiology and terminology; introduction to the Diagnostic Criteria for TMD (DC/TMD) and the International Classification of Orofacial Pain (ICOP).
- Odontogenic and nonodontogenic pain; clinical interpretation of occlusal and skeletal variation.

LIVE VIRTUAL MODULE - **May 22, 2027**

Module 2. Clinical Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning

Conduct a comprehensive pain interview integrating medical, dental, sleep, behavioral, and psychosocial information. Perform a standardized examination, identify red flags, develop a prioritized problem list and differential diagnosis, and document findings clearly to support clinical decisions and continuity of care.

Core topics

- Pain history, functional impact, and patient goals.
- Musculoskeletal, TMJ, cervical, cranial nerve, oral, head and neck, and vital sign screening.
- Range of motion, palpation, symptom provocation, and interpretation of examination findings.
- Red flags, urgent referral, diagnostic uncertainty, and Subjective, Objective, Assessment, and Plan (SOAP) documentation.

LIVE VIRTUAL MODULE - **June 12, 2027**

Module 3. Muscular and Articular TMD and Rheumatic Disorders

Differentiate common pain-related and intra-articular TMD presentations. Recognize degenerative, inflammatory, traumatic, and systemic contributors; select initial conservative care; and determine when imaging or consultation with rheumatology or oral and maxillofacial surgery is indicated.

Core topics

- Myalgia, myofascial pain, and arthralgia.
- Disc displacement, degenerative joint disease, and subluxation.
- Evaluation of rheumatic and systemic inflammatory disease affecting the TMJ.
- Prognosis, response to initial care, and criteria for escalation or referral.

LIVE VIRTUAL MODULE - **June 26, 2027**

Module 4. Headache and Neuropathic Pain in the Differential Diagnosis

Differentiate primary headache disorders, warning features of secondary headache, cranial neuralgias, painful trigeminal neuropathies, persistent idiopathic facial pain, and conditions that mimic odontogenic pain. Recognize medication-overuse headache and coordinate urgent or routine referral according to the clinical presentation.

Core topics

- Primary and secondary headache disorders, mechanisms, and warning features.
- Trigeminal neuralgia and painful post-traumatic trigeminal neuropathy.
- Persistent idiopathic facial pain and other nonodontogenic pain presentations.
- Medication-overuse headache and indications for urgent or routine referral.

LIVE VIRTUAL MODULE - **August 21, 2027**

Module 5. Axis II Biobehavioral and Psychosocial Evaluation

Interpret pain-related disability and psychosocial risk using validated screening tools within the dental scope of practice. Communicate without stigma, incorporate self-management and behavior-change principles, recognize sleep dysfunction, and screen for sleep-related breathing disorders when referral is appropriate.

Core topics

- Biopsychosocial formulation, pain-related disability, pain behavior, and contextual factors.
- Depression, anxiety, somatic symptom burden, and pathways for safety escalation and referral.
- Education informed by cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), habit reversal, relaxation, stress management, and sleep strategies.
- Use and interpretation of validated screening tools; sleep-related concerns and referral coordination.

ONSITE I CLINICAL-PRACTICAL MODULE - **September 23-25, 2027**

Comprehensive Examination and Diagnostic Assessment

Three-day supervised onsite practical after Modules 1–5

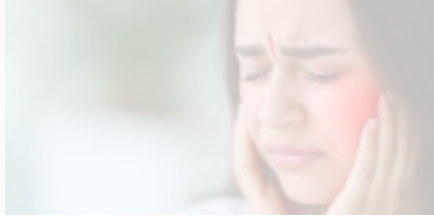
Perform a comprehensive orofacial pain evaluation under direct faculty observation. Synthesize medical, dental, pain, sleep, behavioral, and psychosocial information; complete a standardized examination; identify red flags; determine the need for further testing or referral; and formulate a prioritized problem list and differential diagnosis.

Core practical activities

- Structured pain history and integration of medical, dental, sleep, behavioral, and psychosocial findings.
- Calibrated head and neck, cranial nerve, cervical, masticatory muscle, and TMJ examination.
- Red flags, additional testing, referral decisions, and formulation of a differential diagnosis.
- Introductory appliance design and selection; indications, risks, and follow-up.
- Diagnostic and therapeutic injections and botulinum toxin: case-based review and supervised demonstration or practice within scope.

Temporomandibular Disorders & Orofacial Pain

MODULES AND DATES



LIVE VIRTUAL MODULE - **October 16, 2027**

Module 6. Diagnostic Testing and Interprofessional Consultation

Select imaging and other tests when the results are expected to influence care. Interpret common TMJ imaging findings within their limitations, recognize indications for laboratory studies, psychometric assessment, sleep testing, or specialist consultation, and communicate a focused clinical question to the receiving clinician.

Core topics

- Panoramic imaging, cone beam computed tomography (CBCT), computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and ultrasound: indications and limitations.
- Incidental findings and correlation of imaging with clinical findings.
- Laboratory studies, systemic disease evaluation, and indications for psychometric assessment and sleep testing.
- Consultation with radiology, neurology, rheumatology, sleep medicine, otolaryngology, behavioral health, and surgery.

LIVE VIRTUAL MODULE - **November 6, 2027**

Module 7. Conservative and Multimodal Management

Physical Therapy and Cervical Evaluation

Develop treatment goals linked to the diagnosis and obtain informed consent. Integrate education, self-management, physical therapy, cervical assessment, intraoral appliances, and behavioral strategies. Use shared decision-making, monitor outcomes, coordinate rehabilitation, and revise or discontinue ineffective interventions.

Core topics

- Patient education, reassurance, activity pacing, and self-management.
- Physical therapy, cervical evaluation, home exercise, and rehabilitation referral.
- Selection and monitoring of intraoral appliances and behavioral strategies; sequencing of multimodal care and measurement of outcomes.

LIVE VIRTUAL MODULE - **November 20, 2027**

Module 8. Pharmacologic Management of Orofacial Pain

Select medications according to the pain mechanism, patient history, and treatment goals. Screen for contraindications and interactions, prescribe and monitor safely, and recognize medication overuse, dependence, and withdrawal risks. Review the indications, evidence, safety considerations, and credentialing requirements for injections and other office procedures.

Core topics

- Analgesics, anti-inflammatory medications, muscle relaxants, and topical agents.
- Antidepressants, anticonvulsants, sodium-channel agents, and headache therapies.
- Medication interactions, polypharmacy, substance-use risk, and opioid stewardship.
- Diagnostic and therapeutic injections and botulinum toxin: indications, evidence limitations, safety, and informed consent.

LIVE VIRTUAL MODULE - **January 15, 2028**

Module 9. Oral Appliance Therapy for TMD and Obstructive Sleep Apnea

Differentiate the goals and indications of oral appliances used for TMD from those used for obstructive sleep apnea (OSA). Select patients and appliance designs, establish baseline dental and TMJ findings, and plan delivery, adjustment, monitoring, and interdisciplinary follow-up.

Suggested core topics

- TMD appliances: indications, stabilization and other designs, evidence, and limitations.
- OSA appliances: mandibular advancement devices, patient selection, and coordination with the diagnosing sleep clinician.
- Appliance selection, fitting, adjustment, and mandibular advancement titration; comfort and adherence.

LIVE VIRTUAL MODULE - **February 26, 2028**

Module 10. Sleep Medicine and Bruxism

Explore the relationships among sleep, bruxism, TMD, and orofacial pain. Review sleep physiology, differentiate sleep and awake bruxism, recognize sleep-related breathing disorders and other relevant sleep problems, and apply assessment, patient education, and referral strategies within an interdisciplinary model of care.

Suggested core topics

- Bidirectional relationship between sleep disruption and pain.
- Sleep and awake bruxism: definitions, mechanisms, contributing factors, and potential clinical consequences.
- Bruxism assessment using patient reports, clinical findings, and device-based measures when indicated; limitations of tooth wear as a stand-alone marker.
- Snoring, OSA, insomnia, and excessive daytime sleepiness: screening and referral pathways.
- Relationships among bruxism, TMD, headache, and sleep-disordered breathing; interpreting associations without assuming causation.
- Individualized management of bruxism-related consequences, patient education, and follow-up in collaboration with sleep medicine and behavioral health.

ONSITE II CLINICAL-PRACTICAL MODULE - **March 23-25, 2028**

Multimodal Treatment Planning and Follow Up

Three-day supervised onsite practical after Modules 6-10

evelop and communicate an individualized treatment plan under direct faculty supervision. Integrate medical and psychosocial risk, obtain informed consent, demonstrate selected conservative interventions within scope, coordinate referral, monitor response and adverse effects, revise care, and present treatment outcomes in an interdisciplinary case conference.

Core practical activities

- Intraoral appliances: indications, design principles, risks, delivery, and follow-up.
- Diagnostic and therapeutic injections and botulinum toxin: case selection, informed consent, and supervised demonstration or practice within scope.
- Physical therapy and cervical rehabilitation strategies integrated into individualized care.
- Interdisciplinary treatment planning, referral coordination, and monitoring of response and adverse effects.
- Case presentations, documentation, follow-up decisions, and communication of treatment outcomes.