



# The Teaching Excellence Award

## Educator Mentor: Clinical-Professional

**Timothy J. Tremont, D.M.D.**, is an exceptional educator with an unbridled passion for shaping the next generation of orthodontists. He spent several decades in private practice, during which he made extensive contributions to research and was frequently invited to present both nationally and internationally.

Before joining MUSC as chair of the Department of Orthodontics in 2017, Tremont earned a Doctor of Dental Medicine from the University of Pittsburgh and an orthodontic specialty certificate from the University at Buffalo. As chair, he reworked the orthodontics residency curriculum, adding important content that had been missing and introducing new technologies. As a direct result of his efforts, all graduates from the 2019 and 2020 residency classes have achieved board certification by the American Board of Orthodontics.

The field of orthodontics has been riddled with contradicting treatment methods and a multitude of treatment philosophies. Tremont works tirelessly to help residents wade through the competing views and methods of the field. He diligently identifies learning styles and tailors material to meet individual needs. He seems to have an endless supply of patience and works through lunch and often into evening hours to ensure residents receive the help they need. Since learning orthodontics requires spatial awareness, one creative way he has helped the residents is through photographing the surface of a mirror while looking into a patient's mouth so that they can see what he sees.

Tremont is indeed a skilled educator. Nearly all the support letters for his nomination commented on his amazing ability to break down complex topics into simple, easy to understand building blocks. He helps the residents connect the dots intuitively so that the result is lasting. Further, he uses past cases from his time in private practice to allow residents opportunities to diagnose and develop treatment plans. He then employs the Socratic approach to facilitate discussion before providing the residents with detailed steps of the treatment that Tremont ultimately provided the patient.

Because of Tremont's work, MUSC's once struggling program has been transformed into one of the most coveted residencies for future orthodontists. Therefore, the Medical University of South Carolina Foundation is thrilled to present the Teaching Excellence award as an Educator-Mentor in the Clinical/Professional category to Timothy J. Tremont, D.M.D., on August 17, 2021.