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## **AAID RECOGNIZES IMPLANT DENTISTRY ICONS AT THE 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

CHICAGO—The American Academy of Implant Dentistry (AAID) presented its highest awards at the recently concluded 74th Annual Conference in Phoenix, Arizona on Saturday, November 15, 2025.

The 2025 Aaron Gershkoff/Norman Goldberg Memorial Award, the most prestigious honor given by the Academy, was presented to Shankar Iyer, DDS, MDS, FAAID, DABOI/ID for his outstanding contributions and dedication to the field of oral implantology and his exceptional service to the Academy. Dr. Iyer is a globally recognized leader in prosthodontics and implant dentistry with more than 30 years of clinical, academic, and teaching experience. A Past President of the AAID, he has trained thousands of clinicians through national and international educational programs and has served as a main podium lecturer in more than 34 countries. He currently serves as a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Departments of Periodontics and Restorative Dentistry at Rutgers University School of Dental Medicine and has held adjunct and visiting faculty appointments at institutions including Roseman University, Jacksonville University, Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences, and New York University. Dr. Iyer has been repeatedly recognized as one of America's Top Dentists by the Consumer Research Council and has contributed extensively to scientific journals and implant dentistry education.

The 2025 Isiah Lew Memorial Research Award was presented to Lukasz Witek, MSci, PhD in recognition of his important contributions to research on implant dentistry. Dr. Witek is an Assistant Professor in the Biomaterials and Regenerative Biology Division of the Department of Molecular Pathobiology at NYU College of Dentistry, where he also serves as Director of the Dental Academic Research Experience (DARE) program for DDS candidates. His Biomaterials Science and Translational Research Lab leads NYU College of Dentistry's pioneering work in advanced biomaterials, titanium implants, resorbable ceramics, and 3D printing scaffolds strategies to improve osseointegration and tissue regeneration.

The 2025 Terry Reynolds Trailblazer Award was presented to C. Benson Clark, DDS, FAAID, DABOI/ID for personifying the spirit of inclusion, outreach, and service accomplishments as an innovative educator, and for his leadership in implant dentistry. Dr. Clark is a distinguished implant dentist and educator with a career spanning more than five decades in clinical practice, academic leadership, and professional service. He served in numerous national and regional leadership roles and has contributed extensively to professional committees, national dental policy, and curriculum development, influencing the evolution of oral implantology and implant prosthodontics in the United States and abroad.

The 2025 Paul Johnson Service Award was presented to Swati Agnihotri, DMD, AFAAID for contributing her time, her talent, and her insight as an exemplary AAID volunteer. Dr. Agnihotri is a clinician, educator, and leader in the dental profession, and her career is marked by a dedication to advancing the mission of the AAID through education and service. Her work with the AAID's publications and communications shows a commitment to fostering community. As Associate Editor for the *AAID News* and a member of the Communications Committee, Dr. Agnihotri has published cover stories and hosted webinars. By serving as a reviewer and editor for the *Journal of Oral Implantology (JOI)*, she helps uphold the scientific integrity and standards of the Academy.

For background on each of the awards and the history of past winners, please visit [aaid.com](https://www.aaid.com).

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Founded in 1951, the American Academy of Implant Dentistry (AAID) is the first professional organization in the world dedicated to implant dentistry. Its membership includes general dentists, dental implantologists, oral and maxillofacial surgeons, periodontists, prosthodontists, and others interested in the field of implant dentistry. As a membership organization, the AAID currently represents almost 4,000 dentists worldwide.

For more information about the AAID, visit [aaid.com](https://www.aaid.com) or call the AAID office at 312.335.1550 or 877.335.AAID (2243).

