

# Comprehensive Frenulum **Surgery** Workshop Infants, Adolescents, and Adults

Presented by Soroush Zaghi, MD (*Lead Faculty*)

with James Murphy, MD, Douglas Galen, DDS, Irene Marchesan, PhD, Giovanni Olivi, MD, DDS  
Sanda Valcu-Pinkerton, RDHAP, OMT, Roberta Lopes de Castro Martinelli, PhD Student, M.SLP, OMTS

- An intensive frenulum surgery workshop to provide allied health professionals a foundation for the revision of ankyloglossia
  - This workshop is designed to work towards the establishment of the 1st frenulum surgery standard of care that will be medically validated, "Myofunctional Frenuloplasty"
    - The focus of this workshop will be to provide clinicians (MDs, DDSs) with practical tools to use in their practice immediately, whether they use scissors, scalpel, or laser
  - Step by step surgical technique (scalpel and scissors, Zaghi, Murphy) will be presented with both infant and adults (different procedures for both) for surgical revision of ankyloglossia
  - The emphasis in this workshop will be focused on a foundation based on technique beginning with and focused on scalpel and scissors.
  - An overview of our medically validated frenulum inspection protocols will be demonstrated (Marchesan)

## ROME, ITALY

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Agostino Gemelli University Polyclinic

Largo Agostino Gemelli, 8, 00168 Roma RM, Italy



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### Soroush Zaghi, MD

Dr. Zaghi graduated from Harvard Medical School and completed a 5-year residency training in Head and Neck Surgery at UCLA. He completed Sleep Surgery Fellowship as Clinical Instructor of Otolaryngology at Stanford University. The focus of his specialty training is on Sleep Endoscopy, CPAP Optimization, Myofunctional Therapy, Frenuloplasty, Nasal Surgery, Throat Surgery, and Maxillofacial Surgery for the treatment of nasal obstruction, snoring, upper airway resistance syndrome, and obstructive sleep apnea.

### Irene Marchesan, PhD

Dr. Irene Marchesan is director of the prestigious CEFAC Institute in Sao Paulo and President of the Brazilian Speech Language Pathology Society, is one of the foremost leaders of myofunctional therapy in the world. She is the most published researcher in the field and a visionary for the establishment of myofunctional therapy as a standard of care. She, along with Roberta Martinelli, is lead architect of Brazil's "Frenum Inspection Law" requiring as of January 2015 that all babies born in that country have their frenulum inspected and, if warranted, to be revised to avoid myofunctional disorders later in life.

### James G. Murphy, MD

Dr. James Murphy is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. He is a former Governing Council member of the International Affiliation of Tongue Tie Professionals, a member of the International Lactation Consultants Association and, since 2009, an Internationally Board Certified Lactation Consultant.

### Douglas Galen, DDS

Dr. Douglas Galen is board certified and a Diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. He is a fellow of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. In addition, Dr. Galen is the president of the Advanced Treatment Planning Dental Study Group. Dr. Galen is associated with Cedars Sinai Medical Center and UCLA Medical Center.

### Sanda Valcu-Pinkerton, RDHAP, OMT

Sanda Valcu-Pinkerton believes in treating people, not problems. As a therapist, she works with patients of all ages to help train the orofacial muscles to develop optimally. During surgery, she supports Dr. Zaghi in their functional frenuloplasty procedures, incorporating myofunctional therapy to optimize outcomes. Besides her 25+ years of experience working in clinical practice as a Registered Dental Hygienist in Alternative Practice (RDHAP), she has continued to increase her knowledge and skills by becoming an Orofacial Myotherapist and Buteyko Breathing coach.

### Giovanni Olivi, MD, DDS

Giovanni Olivi is a Professor of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics in the Degree Course in Dentistry and Master in "Laser Dentistry" at the University of Genoa. He graduated with honors in Medicine and Surgery at the University "La Sapienza" of Rome. He obtained a Master of the American Academy of Laser Dentistry in Las Vegas, NV. Speaker in more than 150 international conferences, scientific advisor to several magazines, author of numerous publications, in 2007 was awarded in Nashville with Leon Goldman Award, received for Clinical Excellence.

### Roberta Lopes de Castro Martinelli, PhD Student, M.SLP, OMTS

Roberta Lopes de Castro Martinelli, PhD Student, M.SLP, OMTS has a clinical background in Speech-Language Pathology with a specialization in Orofacial Myology. She works at the Department of childcare in a Brazilian Public Hospital. Her main research area is Oro-Myofunctional disorders. She has published papers on her research.

Ankyloglossia, a key orofacial myofunctional disorder, has gained tremendous attention from major medical meetings to mommy blogs as a potentially perilous condition. From difficulty breastfeeding to creating a pathway to an altered craniofacial morphology, the more that is known about this condition the greater sense of the sense of urgency has arisen to identify and address this condition.

Public health milestones such the validation of frenulum inspection tools for infants (Martinelli) as well as adolescents/adults (Marchesan) and the passage of Brazil's Teste da Linguinha/Frenulum Inspection Law (as of January 2015) coupled with recent work identifying ankyloglossia as a phenotype for OSA (Guilleminault 2016, Yoon 2017, Yoon 2017) have helped strengthen the foundation for OMT to emerge.

Much more work, however, around phenotyping, treatment standards, and the science of the mechanisms involved are needed for the field of OMT to gain a solid footing as a standard of care.

There is practically no consensus around prevalence of ankyloglossia, but work stemming from the Martinelli and Marchesan protocols has made clear that this is a serious condition with upwards of 21% (Martinelli 2016) of the population perhaps requiring surgical revision to avoid the potential for alterations in speech, altered craniofacial morphology (Yoon 2017), and potential for OSA (Huang 2015, Guilleminault 2016).

The fact that ankyloglossia is referenced throughout dental and medical literature, but no standard of care for its revision is, in the opinion of this institute, a scandal. It is our aim to establish, along with our medically validated frenulum inspection protocols, the 1st medically validated frenulum surgery standard of care.

## Learning Outcomes

- Review of tongue surgical anatomy
- Assessment of readiness to proceed with intervention
  - Risks, benefits, and alternatives to surgery
- Anterior tongue-tie release vs. posterior tongue-tie release
- Understanding the Surgical Technique: Myofunctional Frenuloplasty, with surgical assist provided by a myofunctional therapist
  - Follow up and post-operative care
  - Management of difficult cases

