



Third Molars: Defusing an Oral Time-Bomb Press Conference

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Raymond P. White, Jr., DDS, PhD Lead Investigator, AAOMS/OMSF Third Molar Study



DR. RAYMOND P. WHITE, JR. is Dalton L. McMichael Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of North Carolina, and lead investigator for the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons/Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Foundation Third Molar Study.

Now in its seventh year, the Third Molar Study has produced more than 15 articles detailing the health and disease related problems exacerbated by the presence of third molars, even asymptomatic third molars, in adults over 25 years of age.

Dr. White is former Director of the Dental Scholars Program for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Currently, he serves on the research committee of the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Foundation.

Dr. White is a co-author of four books, co-editor of the International Journal of Adult Orthodontics and Orthognathic Surgery, and assistant editor of The Journal of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery. He served as Dean of the UNC School of Dentistry from 1974-1981.

Before coming to UNC, Dr. White was Chairman of the Department of Oral Surgery at the University of Kentucky, and Assistant Dean for Administrative Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. White received his DDS and his PhD from the Medical College of Virginia.

Dr. White has received numerous awards and honors. Earlier this year, the Dental Foundation of North Carolina Inc. presented him with the 2004 University of North Carolina School of Dentistry's Class of 1958 Distinguished Clinical Research Award, in recognition of his work with the Third Molar Study. His work in third molar research was also recognized in 2003, when he received the AAOMS Distinguished Service Award and the OMSF's Research Recognition Award and Daniel M. Laskin Award.

Dr. White was named to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences in 1982, and was awarded the highest distinction from the North Carolina Dental Society, the Distinguished Service Scroll Award, in May 1999. He has given more than 100 presentations nationally and internationally, and has authored a similar number of papers all focused on dentistry, surgery, or health policy.