

James Ying-Jie Cheng
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Education

University of California, Los Angeles (07/01/2023– 06/30/26)

- PGY-3 Periodontics
- Chief Resident

University of California, Los Angeles (09/23/2019– 06/16/2023)

- Doctor of Dental Surgery, Class of 2023
- Dean's Scholarship
- David and Miki Lee Scholarship

University of California, Los Angeles (2015–2019)

- Bachelor of Science: Human Biology and Society, Class of 2019
- GPA: 3.95, Summa Cum Laude, Regents Scholarship

Research Experiences

Team Surface Labs (Dr. Ogawa)

(July 2020- Current)

- Postgraduate thesis defense, UCLA Periodontics on “Comparative Analysis of Human Gingival Fibroblasts and Human Oral Epithelial Cells Behavior and Growth on Titanium Surfaces: An Examination of Vacuum UV Photofunctionalization on Soft Tissue Cellular Behavior”
 - Current tasks involve SEM imaging, assorted assays, culturing osteoblasts, optimizing lab protocol, and training prosthodontic residents on osteoblast seeding and performing assays
 - Previous research involves osseointegration optimization with zirconium nanosurfaces and the cytotoxicity of implant provisional materials on gingival cells

Collaboration with Dr. Yvonne Hernandez-Kapila

(October 2025-April 2026)

- Publication in Periodontology 2000 on the effect of Senescence and Inflammation on Aging-associated Periodontitis
- 1st author with contributions to doing the review of literature, writing the original draft, and finalizing the review for publication

Mackenzie-Graham Lab

(December 2016– June 2019)

- Researching hormonal treatments (estriol) and their effectiveness against multiple sclerosis and other neurodegeneration via EAE (induced brain inflammation) on a mice model; perform dissections, perfusions, brain imaging using MRI, and voxel-based morphometry (VBM)
- Independent project involved determining if loss of estrogen receptor beta (ER-beta) function leads to neurodegeneration and if ER-beta plays a role in hormonal protection of neurons using VBM and Statistical Parametric Mapping (SPM8). Presented in **2018 UCLA Undergraduate Research Day**

Ellis Labs (thinkSMART program at UCLA)

(January 2017– June 2019)

- Research on neurobiological links between ADHD, depression, and schizophrenia with biological markers and pathways in adolescent children to more accurately diagnose patients
- Independent project involved finding a link between resting Frontal EEG Asymmetries (FA) and higher Behavioral Approach Systems (BAS) scores. Presented in **2018 Semel Institute Research Conference**
- Patient recruitment; assisted EEGs and scrubbed data for signal analysis
- Created the framework for research surveys

Publications

- Sakaguchi W, Matsuura T, **Cheng J**, Saito N, Komatsu K, Ogawa T. *UV photofunctionalization differentially modulates fibroblast–epithelial dynamics on titanium: A cellular ecology rebalancing strategy for soft tissue sealing*. Manuscript submitted for publication to Int J Implant Dent. 2026.
- **Cheng J**, Aung CTZ, Suslavich SF, Sahingur SE, Hernandez-Kapila YL. From senescence and inflammaging to systemic comorbidities: Drivers of aging-associated periodontitis. *Periodontology* 2000. 2026;00:1-35. doi:10.1111/prd.70049
- Chao, D., Komatsu, K., Matsuura, T., **Cheng, J.**, Stavrou, S. C., Jayanetti, J., Chang, T. L., & Ogawa, T. (2024). Human gingival fibroblast growth and function in response to laser-induced meso- and microscale hybrid topography on dental implant healing abutments. *International Journal of Oral & Maxillofacial Implants*.
- **Cheng, J.**, Saruta, J., Ozawa, R., Taleghani, S., Kitajima, H., & Ogawa, T. (2021). Meso-scale spikes and nano-trabeculae implant surfaces for enhanced endosseous integration. *Journal of Dental Research*, 100(Spec Iss A), 2347. (Abstract).
- Kido, D., Komatsu, K., Suzumura, T., Matsuura, T., **Cheng, J.**, Kim, J., Park, W., & Ogawa, T. (2023). Influence of surface contaminants and hydrocarbon pellicle on the results of wettability measurements of titanium. *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*, 24(19), 14688. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms241914688>
- Kitajima, H., Komatsu, K., Matsuura, T., Ozawa, R., Saruta, J., Taleghani, S. R., **Cheng, J.**, & Ogawa, T. (2023). Impact of nanoscale trabecula size on osteoblastic behavior and function in a meso-nano hybrid rough biomimetic zirconia model. *Journal of Prosthodontic Research*, 67(2), 288–299. https://doi.org/10.2186/jpr:JPR_D_22_00015
- Komatsu, K., Matsuura, T., **Cheng, J.**, Kido, D., Park, W., & Ogawa, T. (2024). Nanofeatured surfaces in dental implants: Contemporary insights and impending challenges. *International Journal of Implant Dentistry*, 10(1), 34. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40729-024-00550-1>
- Matsuura, T., Komatsu, K., Chao, D., Lin, Y. C., Oberoi, N., McCulloch, K., **Cheng, J.**, Orellana, D., & Ogawa, T. (2022). Cell type-specific effects of implant provisional restoration materials on the growth and function of human fibroblasts and osteoblasts. *Biomimetics*, 7(4), 243. <https://doi.org/10.3390/biomimetics7040243>
- Matsuura, T., Komatsu, K., Choi, K., Suzumura, T., **Cheng, J.**, Chang, T. L., Chao, D., & Ogawa, T. (2023). Conditional mitigation of dental composite material-induced cytotoxicity by increasing the cure time. *Journal of Functional Biomaterials*, 14, 119. <https://doi.org/10.3390/jfb14030119>
- Matsuura, T., Komatsu, K., **Cheng, J.**, Park, G., & Ogawa, T. (2024). Beyond microroughness: Novel approaches to navigate osteoblast activity on implant surfaces. *International Journal of Implant Dentistry*, 10(1), 35. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40729-024-00554-x>
- Matsuura, T., Stavrou, S., Komatsu, K., **Cheng, J.**, Pham, A., Ferreira, S., Baba, T., Chang, T. L., Chao, D., & Ogawa, T. (2023). Disparity in the influence of implant provisional materials on human gingival fibroblasts with different phases of cell settlement: An in vitro study. *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*, 25(1), 123. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms25010123>
- Meyer, C. E., Gao, J. L., **Cheng, J. Y.**, Oberoi, M. R., Johnsonbaugh, H., Lepore, S., Kurth, F., Thurston, M. J., Itoh, N., Patel, K. R., Voskuhl, R. R., & MacKenzie-Graham, A. (2019). Axonal damage in spinal cord is associated with gray matter atrophy in sensorimotor cortex in experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis. *Multiple Sclerosis Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1352458519830614>

Leadership Experiences

Periodontics Study Club

(September 2019- Current)

President 2021-2022, Secretary & Treasurer 2020-2021

- Plan with Periodontics faculty for lunch and learns and workshops to advance school participation
- Coordinated 2021 BruinNecessities Healthfair, 2021 Suturing workshop, and 2021 PerioDash
- Planned initiatives: Purchasing additional implant workshop cassettes for increased workshop space, and providing student-made instructional videos for PER202 Periodontal Instrumentation course
- Provided duties for the club on sending emails, and managing membership status for selective credits

Chinese Dental Student Association

(October 2019- Current)

Vice President 2021-2022, Treasurer 2020-2021, 1st year representative 2019-2020

- Coordinated with faculty on health-fair logistics such as selective credits allocation and finding attending coverage for patient screenings
- Worked and planned in conjunction with CDSA cabinet for community socials, annual Dental Chinese selective, and health fairs.

Community Service Experiences

Dental Education & Outreach

(September 2019- Current)

Oral Hygiene Instructor

- Outreach to local elementary schools to educate children on proper oral hygiene, caries prevention, and correct usage of toothbrush (BASS Method) and flossing

Basic Dental Principles

(September 2020- Current)

Bench Instructor

- Supervised and tutored pre-dental students in basic composite and amalgam preparation form
- Provided feedback regarding personal statements and application cycle to pre-dental students

Students United with America's Toothfairy (SUAT)

(September 2016– June 2019)

- **President (2017-2019):** lead discussions on dental education and preparation for dental school; coordinate with UCLA's student organization for grants and sponsorship; approach dental professionals in the school of dentistry for academic advising and talks; manage mentorship program within club
- Outreach to local elementary schools to educate children about the necessity of proper hygiene, caries and prevention, and proper dental techniques like flossing and correct usage of toothbrushes

Dental Assistant with Venice Family Clinic

(June 2017– January 2019)

- Assist dentists with clinical work; triage patients; streamline patient care by preparing the procedure trays; prepare dental stations for checkups; apply fluoride varnish

MESH (Medical Experience through Service and Healthcare)

(September 2015 – June 2019)

- Volunteer for Pediatric Literacy/ Project Pediatrics: Interact with patient's children at Venice Family Clinic and help children with homework and reading; teach children the benefits of exercise and proper diet, encourage a healthier style of living to prevent complications later in life
- Committee member for the Cambodia Mission Trip; create powerpoints on cardiovascular disease and diabetes that would help limit unhealthy lifestyle habits

Awards

2021 IADR 411 Basic Sciences Research Award, 3rd place

- Biomimetic zirconia with cactus-inspired meso-scale spikes and nano-trabeculae for enhanced bone integration

2021 IADR Young Research Award, Implantology Research Group, Top 5 Semifinalist

- Biomimetic zirconia with cactus-inspired meso-scale spikes and nano-trabeculae for enhanced bone integration

2022 Division of Regenerative and Reconstructive Sciences Science Day, 3rd place in Dental Materials

- A Novel Zirconia Surface for Enhanced Osseointegration

2025 Division of Regenerative and Reconstructive Sciences Science Day, 2nd place in Resident category

- Biomodulation of Soft Tissue Attachment with Novel UV Treatment on Titanium Surfaces

Conference Presentations

- **Cheng J**, Sakaguchi W, Matsuura T, Saito N, Komatsu K, Ogawa T. Comparative analysis of human gingival fibroblasts and human oral epithelial cells behavior and growth on titanium surfaces: an examination of vacuum UV photofunctionalization on soft tissue cellular behavior. Poster presented at: UCLA Science Day 2026; Los Angeles, CA.
- Neapole C, **Cheng J**, Kapila Y. Clonidine adjunct for midazolam-induced paradoxical reaction: a case report. Poster presented at: UCLA Science Day 2026
- **Cheng J**, Saruta J, Ozawa R, Taleqani S, Kitajima H, Ogawa T. Meso-scale spikes and nano-trabeculae implant surfaces for enhanced endosseous integration. J Dent Res. 2021;100A:2347. Presented at: IADR General Session 2021.
<https://iadr.abstractarchives.com/abstract/21iags-3571421/meso-scale-cactus-like-spikes-and-nano-trabeculae-zirconia-for-enhanced-osseointegration>
- Taleghani S, Shokeen B, Saruta J, Kitajima H, **Cheng J**, Lux R, Ogawa T. Reduced oral bacterial biofilm formation on newly developed hybrid-rough zirconia. J Dent Res. 2021;100A:0254. Presented at: IADR General Session 2021.
<https://iadr.abstractarchives.com/abstract/21iags-3569445/reduced-oral-bacterial-biofilm-formation-on-newly-developed-hybrid-rough-zirconia>
- Kitajima H, Taleghani S, **Cheng J**, Saruta J, Hirota M, Ogawa T. Plasma protein flow simulation around dental implant surfaces. J Dent Res. 2021;100A:2342. Presented at: IADR General Session 2021.
<https://iadr.abstractarchives.com/abstract/21iags-3571890/plasma-protein-flow-simulation-around-dental-implant-surfaces>

References:

Dr. Takahiro Ogawa, PI of Team Surface Lab; TOgawa@g.ucla.edu

Dr. Yvonne Kapila-Hernandez; YKapila@dentistry.ucla.edu

Dr. James Zidell, former program director of endodontics at UCLA, alumni mentor; JZidell@gmail.com