



Leon Assael, DMD

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Dr. Leon Assael has a wide and deep range of experience, an outstanding reputation, and a compelling vision for the future of dentistry and the U of M School of Dentistry.

Dr. Assael is a graduate of Columbia University and earned his Doctor of Dental Medicine from Harvard University, School of Dental Medicine, as well as a Certificate in Medical Management from the University of Kentucky, Gatton School of Business. He completed his residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery at Vanderbilt University. Dr. Assael served as dean to the College of Dentistry, University of Kentucky until 2003, when he was appointed professor and chairman of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the School of Dentistry at Oregon Health & Science University.

Dr. Assael has an accomplished reputation in research, surgery and teaching, as well as previous experience as a dean.

He is the past editor-in-chief of the Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, the past chairman of the Council on Dental Education and Licensure of the American Dental Association, and a diplomate to the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. In 2001, President George W. Bush awarded Dr. Assael the America's Promise Award for advancements in oral health in Appalachia achieved by the University of Kentucky faculty. In 2010, the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons awarded Dr. Assael the Board of Trustees special recognition award. Included among the professional societies on which he serves are the American Dental Association and the Hispanic Dental Association.

The University of Minnesota School of Dentistry is the state's only dental school and the only dental school in the northern tier of states between Wisconsin and the Pacific Northwest. Founded in 1888, the school graduates dentists, dental hygienists, dental therapists, dental specialists and research scientists who improve oral health through scientific advances and by translating knowledge and experience into clinical practice.