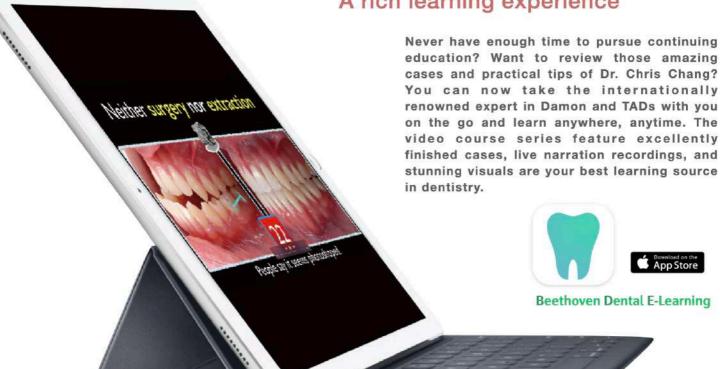
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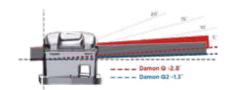






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Fig. 1: Dr. Chris Chang, recipient of the 2025 John Valentine Mershon Memorial Award*1

Where Legacy Meets Innovation: Reflections on the Mershon Award and an Al-Assisted AAO Presentation

傳承與創新的交會點:

從 Mershon Award 到 AI 輔助AAO演講的啟示

Anyone who has devoted themselves to the field of orthodontics has likely heard of the John Valentine Mershon Memorial Award. Established by the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO) in 1960, it is the third oldest honor - following the Ketcham and Hellman Awards - designed to recognize individuals who have made visionary and inspiring contributions to the profession. Dr. Mershon was a direct student of Dr. Edward H. Angle and served as

Head of the Department of Orthodontics at the University of Pennsylvania from 1916 to 1925, during which time he developed the innovative removable lingual arch. His influence continues to shape the field, and the award that bears his name has become a symbol of excellence in clinical innovation and treatment philosophy. In an era where orthodontic tools and concepts are increasingly refined, receiving this honor carries even greater significance.

^{*1}圖一:張慧男醫師於 2025 年獲頒 John Valentine Mershon 紀念獎。



Lexie Y. Lin
Resident, Beethoven Orthodontic Center

● 每一位投身矯正學的專業人士,或許多少都 曾聽過 John Valentine Mershon Memorial Award 的名字。這個由美國矯正醫學會(AAO)於 1960 年設立的獎項,是僅次於 Ketcham 與 Hellman 獎的第三個最古老榮譽,旨在表彰那 些在矯正學領域提出具遠見與啟發性理念者。 Dr. Mershon 本人不僅是 Dr. Edward Angle 直接 教導的學生,更在任教於賓州大學期間(1916— 1925)創新性地發展出 removable lingual arch。 他的貢獻延續至今,這項獎項也因此被視為象 徵矯正臨床實踐與治療哲學創新卓越貢獻的成 就。在治療理念和矯正工具越發成熟的今日, 要榮獲此殊榮,著實別具意義。

Two weeks before the lecture, Dr. Chang asked me to use Al to create a Keynote presentation introducing the history of the Mershon Award. That request became the starting point for a new kind of preparation - one that embraced Al as a tool for both thinking and design. Beyond helping me clarify historical context and personal connections, ChatGPT became a creative partner in shaping the narrative. I also incorporated Ghibli-inspired illustrations into the Keynote slides, giving the presentation not only accuracy and fluency, but also warmth and imagination. Al became more than just a tool - it was a dialogue partner and a source of inspiration. The entire process reminded me of orthodontic treatment itself: once the

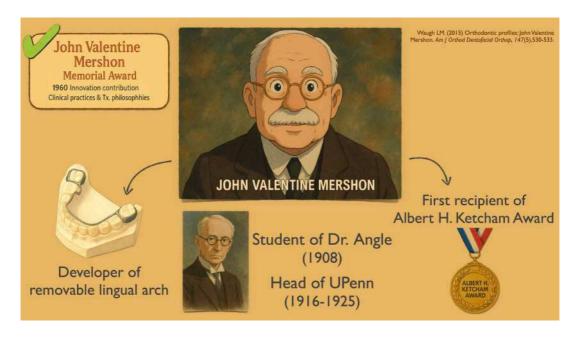


Fig. 2: Dr. John Valentine Mershon, a student of Dr. Angle and former Head of UPenn Orthodontics, developed the removable lingual arch and was the first Ketcham Award recipient. The Mershon Award, founded in 1960, honors clinical innovation.*2

^{*2}圖二: John Valentine Mershon 博士是 Angle 博士的學生,也是賓州大學矯正所的前所長,他發展出 卸除式舌側牙弓維持器,也是第一位 Ketcham 獎的得獎者。成立於 1960 年的 John Valentine Mershon 紀念獎讚揚的是臨床上的創新。

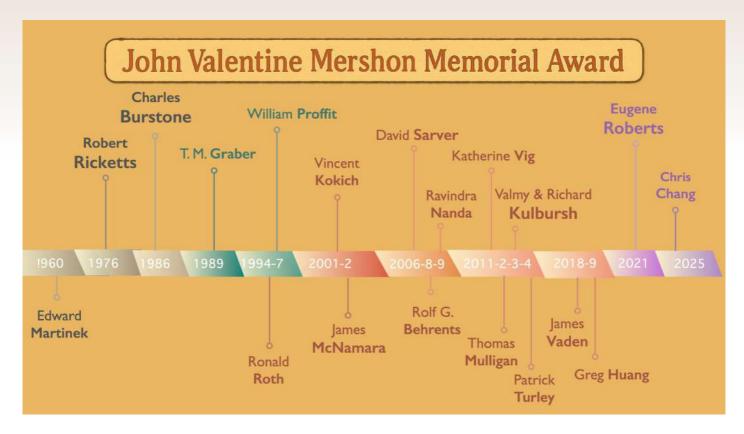


Fig. 3: Timeline of distinguished recipients of the John Valentine Mershon Memorial Award.*3

direction is clear, we rely on the right tools and refine each step, continuously optimizing to strike the right balance between beauty and gentle force.

◆ 在演講前兩週,張醫師請我用 AI 製作一份 關於 Mershon Award 歷史的 Keynote 簡報,這 也成為我嘗試以一種新的方法做簡報的契機:善用 AI 技術輔助思考與設計。除了透過 ChatGPT 釐清人物關係、歷史脈絡,更在 Keynote 的設計中加入吉卜力風格的插畫,讓 這份介紹不僅正確、流暢,也更富創意與溫

度。AI 不再只是工具,它也成為了高質量對話的對象、靈感的觸發點。整個準備過程就如同進行矯正治療:先確立方向,再善用工具,在細節中持續打磨,追求美學與力度之間的最佳平衡。

Witnessing Dr. Chris Chang receive the Mershon Award in Philadelphia this year was one of the most thrilling moments of my trip. Not only is he a role model and mentor within my family, but he is also the first Asian recipient in the award's history. Within a minute, the lecture room was packed with

^{*3}圖三: John Valentine Mershon 紀念獎獲獎者時間軸。



Fig. 4: Among 65 recipients of the Mershon Award, only four have been from outside the United States. Dr. Chris Chang is the first Asian honoree.*4

over a hundred attendees. Dr. Chang opened with his signature humor, pausing perfectly for three seconds after a well-timed remark that instantly captivated the audience. He then delivered decades of insight into orthodontics with clarity and conviction, sharing not only his clinical wisdom but also the deep sense of responsibility he carries for the profession. As gasps and murmurs of admiration echoed through the room, we witnessed how some of the most complex and demanding cases were solved through his unconventional thinking and masterful technique.

The pacing and timing of the entire lecture were flawless - concluding with a seemingly self-deprecating joke that, in truth, landed like a strategic mic drop, deterring any would-be challengers.

→ 今年在費城親身見證 Dr. Chris Chang 獲頒 Mershon Award,是我此行最令人激動的時刻之一。他不僅是我家族中的榜樣與導師,更是歷來首位獲此殊榮的亞洲人。講座開始前不到一分鐘,演講廳迅速湧入了上百位聽眾;張醫師以一貫幽默的風格揭開序幕,丟

^{*4}圖四:在65位紀念獎得獎者中,只有4位非美國籍,張醫師更是亞洲第一位得獎者。

出一句話後精準停頓三秒,立刻吊足了全場 胃口。隨後,他以簡潔而深刻的語言,分享 了自己數十年來對矯正學的洞見與責任感。 台下一聲聲驚嘆中,我們一同見證了那些極 度困難、刁鑽的案例,如何被他以跳脫框架 的思維與高超的臨床技術逐一破解。整場演 講的節奏與時間控制無可挑剔,最終以一個 看似自嘲的笑話作結,實則是一記高明的降 維打擊,讓別人不敢輕易提出挑戰。

At that moment, I truly understood the saying: "Teaching by words is not as powerful as teaching by action; and teaching by action is still not as powerful as shaping through presence." True influence is not delivered - it is absorbed, through a continuous and transformative experience. Perhaps

ten years from now, neither I nor his daughters will remember every detail of the lecture. But the spirit of legacy will continue to flow through our veins - like a long-distance relay, quietly urging us to keep refining ourselves - until the day comes when we too are ready to pass on the baton.

● 那一刻,我深刻體會到:「言教不如身教,身教不如境教」— 真正的影響力,不是灌輸的知識,而是潛移默化、持續發生的動態歷程。或許十年後,對我與他兩位女兒而言,這場演講的細節未必仍清晰可辨,但那份堅定傳承的精神肯定會在我們的血液中持續流淌,如同一場長跑接力,默默驅動我們不斷精進,並在某個時刻,穩穩地把我們所學與信念傳遞出去— pass on the baton。



Fig. 5: Dr. Chang and family with the current president of AAO, Dr. John Callahan, and his wife, Elet Callahan. 圖五:張醫師一家與現任 AAO 會長 Dr. John Callahan 及其夫人 Elet Callahan。



Fig. 6: Dr. Chang and a fully seated hall during his lecture that followed the award receiving ceremony. 圖六:張醫師與高朋滿座的演講廳。



Fig. 7: Dr. Chang and Beethoven's doctors with Dr. Rolf Behrents, the former chief editor of AJO-DO, at the AAO meeting 圖七:張醫師及貝多芬的年輕醫師團與前任 AJO-DO 主編 Dr. Rolf Behrents 於 AAO 大會上合影。