

Ross Crist – MSO 2020 Shepard Award Recipient

The MSO Earl E. Shepard Distinguished Service Award was created in 1987 to honor Dr. Shepard and recognize those orthodontists who perform service to mankind in a combination of service to orthodontics and service in other areas in dentistry and/or their state or local community. Dr. Ross L. Crist of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, was unanimously selected by the Board of Directors as the recipient of the 2020 MSO Earl E. Shepard Distinguished Service Award. The award was presented to him in July by his family after the MSO 2020 Annual Session was moved to a virtual format.



Ross was involved in education, organized dentistry and orthodontics and community organizations for all of his adult life.

He was born in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, and attended the University of Nebraska for both his undergraduate and dental education, receiving his DDS in 1981. After graduation, he practiced in Torrington, Wyoming until in 1990 going back to the University of Nebraska Medical Center as the director of the Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD).

In 1993, he received an MA in Business Management from Bellevue University and just a few months later he started his orthodontic residency at West Virginia University in Morgantown, finishing in 1996. He returned to the Midwest and set up his orthodontic practice in Sioux Falls.

While building his general practice, he continued to serve his profession and his community. From 1990 to 2019 he held teaching responsibilities at both the University of Nebraska and Creighton University. He received numerous awards while a dental student as well as during his time in general practice. He was a member of the Wyoming Dental Association and the Nebraska Dental Association and served on several committees in both organizations. He was also involved in both the Wyoming Academy of General Dentistry and the Nebraska Academy of General Dentistry.

Page 2 – Dr. Ross Crist

In the late 1990s, he became involved with the South Dakota Society of Orthodontists, serving as an officer from 2002-2009. As an officer in the SDSO, he served as the director from South Dakota to the Midwestern Society of Orthodontists Board and then officer until serving as president from 2012-2013. From 2007 to 2018, he served on the MSO delegation to the AAO House of Delegates numerous times and had leadership roles several times as MSO Delegation Vice Chair and Delegation Chair.

He served on numerous AAO House of Delegates committees and task forces and from 2016-2019, Ross served as MSO's representative to the American Association of Orthodontists Foundation. Ross also was a member of the College of Diplomates of the American Board of Orthodontics and was board certified by the American Board of Orthodontics.

Ross gave numerous presentations and had several publications. He was involved in a variety of organizations, including the Knights of Columbus, Chamber of Commerce, Boy Scouts, American Cancer Society, and United Way.

He passed away on July 16, 2020 at home surrounded by his loving family. MSO expresses our heartfelt sympathy to his wife Lisa, two sons Austin (Sarah) and Jace (Whitney) and four grandchildren that brought the biggest smile to Dr. Crist's enthusiastic conversations.