

Joseph McManus, DMD, MS, MHA, MBA, MS

Associate Clinical Professor of Dental Medicine, Columbia University College of Dental Medicine

Dr. Joseph McManus is currently a part-time faculty member. He practiced pediatric dentistry for over 25 years and has served on the faculty of Columbia University College of Dental Medicine where he held positions of Associate Professor, Associate Dean and the Executive Director of the Faculty Practices. He now serves as an Associate Clinical Professor of Dental Medicine at Columbia University and as a consultant for Henry Schein Professional Practice Transitions Division. Watch this video to learn more about Dr. McManus' career in teaching dentistry.

Video Transcript

DR. JOESPH MCMANUS: My name is Joe McManus and I'm Associate Clinical Professor at Columbia University College of Dental Medicine. I began my career, so to speak, in academics when I was a young man. I established a private practice in Connecticut, in pediatric dentistry. I had the pleasure of meeting the chairman of the department of pediatric dentistry at Columbia and he invited me to come on the part-time faculty. I functioned in that capacity for a great number of years and enjoyed my teaching as well as the private practice experience. In 2003, the University recruited me to become a full-time faculty member and I was glad to do so. I held positions as the Dean of Admissions and the Executive Director of the Faculty Practices. Sometimes you get the itch in your professional career. I did leave Columbia for two years to become the Senior Vice President of the Division of Dental Practice at the American Dental Association in Chicago and I recently returned back home to Columbia University and I'm very happy to be here.

Although I certainly enjoyed my full-time clinical practice, I had done it for 25 years and sometimes when you do something for that long, you'd like to do something different. Since I did go to school for those other degrees, I was really looking for an opportunity to put those degrees to good use. So when the dean at Columbia invited me to come on the full time faculty, I certainly embraced that opportunity. I sold my private practice and since 2003, I became a full-time member of the University.

When I became a full-time academician, I was relatively late in my career. And it's always difficult to leave your comfort zone. There were times when I thought, what am I doing? I'm going to sell my private practice. I'm going to sell something that I spent my entire adult life building and growing. But it was the smartest thing I ever did. It was time for me to move along. And the opportunities and the experiences that I've had in academics are unparalleled. I enjoyed those years immensely. It was a marvelous opportunity for a guy with gray hair to spend a lot of time with very young people that saw life very differently than I did with enormous amounts of enthusiasm and it washed off on me. My only problem was that since I spent so much time with these young people, I began to think that I was 23 as well. But reality would always set in the next morning when I look in the mirror and shave this face.

There's no question that there are opportunities in dental education for dentists who at the beginning of their careers, in mid careers, and in late careers. As a matter of fact, each of those periods of time in their life, they will bring something unique to dental education and we will certainly embrace those individuals because they are desperately needed. I would like to continue here at Columbia University. I am in the later stages of my career and no one knows where the future will bring them, but I can assure you that I've enjoyed the time I've spent as a part-time faculty member and as a full-time faculty member and each and every stage of my career. Where the future will lead, we don't know, but I can assure you that I can stay in academics until I retire.