

Philosophy of Care

I believe that a thorough understanding of my patients' goals and priorities allows me to provide the best possible care. Together, we can discuss options and decide upon the most appropriate choices. My team's goals are to achieve natural surgical results and to provide the best possible patient care experiences.

Clinical Interests

Dr. Tollefson is Professor and Director of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the UC Davis, where he specializes in cleft and pediatric craniofacial care, facial reconstruction and facial trauma care. His interest in the emerging field of Global Surgery and improving surgical access in low-resource countries led him to complete an MPH at the Harvard School of Public Health. His current research focuses on clinical outcomes of patients with cleft lip-palate, facial trauma education in Africa, patterns of mandible fracture care and patient reported outcomes in facial paralysis surgeries.

Research/Academic Interests

Dr. Tollefson is the Editor - in Chief of the premiere medical journal, Facial Plastic Surgery & Aesthetic Medicine (formerly JAMA Facial Plastic Surgery). His current research focuses on improving surgical outcomes in children with cleft lip-palate through patient reported outcome measures and comparative effectiveness research. He also enjoys studying facial trauma education in Africa, patterns of mandible fracture care and patient reported outcomes in facial paralysis surgeries. He coedited, Complete Cleft Care, an evidence-based textbook on team management of cleft lip-palate, which summarizes the current support for different treatment protocols.

Title Director, Division of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

Director, AAFPRS UC Davis Fellowship

Co-Director, UC Davis Cleft & Craniofacial Program

Professor, Department of Otolaryngology

Specialty Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Cleft and Craniofacial Disorders

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Division Head and Neck Surgery

Facial and Reconstructive Surgery

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Education M.D., University of Kansas, Lawrence KS 1998

M.P.H., Clinical Effectiveness, Harvard University School of Public Health, Boston MA 2011

B.S., Biology, Baker University, Baldwin City KS 1993

Internships General Surgery, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Kansas City KS 1998-1999

Residency Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, University of Kansas, Lawrence KS 1999-2003

Fellowships Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, UC Davis, Sacramento CA 2003-2004

Board Certifications American Board of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

American Board of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery

American Board of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, Complex Pediatric Otolaryngology

Professional Memberships American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association

American College of Surgeons - Fellow AO North America - Craniomaxillofacial

California Medical Association

California Society of Facial Plastic Surgery

Sacramento Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society

Honors and Awards Advanced Leadership Development Program, UC Davis, 2019

The Best Doctors in America, Peer Selected, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022

Otolaryngology Faculty Teaching Award, UC Davis, 2013

UC Davis Biomedical Engineering Senior Design Course - Best Senior Design Award "Orbital

Prosthesis Blink Mechanism", 2013

AAO-HNS Foundation Certificate of Honor Award, 2012

Select Recent Publications Tollefson TT. The Right Time for a Special Issue on Rhinoplasty. Facial Plast Surg Aesthet Med.

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Sclafani AP, D'Souza A, Tollefson TT. Collaboration in Facial Plastic Surgery. Facial Plast Surg. 2021 Oct;37(5):553-554. doi:10.1055/s-0041-1732479. Epub 2021 Sep 3. PMID:34479370.

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