

ANSEN ZHI-HAN LAI

University of California, San Francisco | School of Dentistry Class of 2026



📍 San Francisco, California


in [linkedin.com/in/zhi-han-ansen-lai](https://www.linkedin.com/in/zhi-han-ansen-lai)

EDUCATION

University of California, San Francisco, School of Dentistry (2022-Present)

- Class of 2026, Doctor of Dental Surgery

New York University Abu Dhabi (2018-2022)

- Bachelors of Science in Bioengineering
-  and Summa Cum Laude (top 5%)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant at UCSF School of Dentistry (2024-Present)

- Mentor: Dr. Jean Star
- Study: Analyzed and wrote about trends in dental sedation permits across the United States, identifying variations in permit availability and their implications on patient access to care

Center to Address Disparities in Children's Oral Health (2023-Present)

- Mentor: Dr. Stuart Gansky
- Study: Used Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) to model causal-effects between community, family, and child risk factors on children's caries in low-income communities, revealing the significance of caregiving roles

NYU Abu Dhabi Applied Interactive Multimedia Lab (2019-2022)

- Mentor: Dr. Mohamad Eid, Dr. Peter Loomer, Prof. Dianne Sefo
- Study: Built graphic UI, haptic interface, and virtual environment for VR and haptic-based periodontal training simulation with NYU Dentistry and UT Health San Antonio

Research Assistant at Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi (2019-2020)

- Mentor: Dr. Mohammad Qasaimeh
- Publication: *Tactile Sensing for Minimally Invasive Surgery: Conventional Methods and Potential Emerging Tactile Technologies*
- Study: Designed and fabricated affordable force-sensing laparoscopic grasper for minimally invasive surgery, tested by surgeons by tumor detection, suturing, and palpation

LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

American Student Dental Association District 11 Events Director (2024-2025)

- Raised \$160,000+ for California District ASDA Conference with 230 attendees
- Led a team of 8 to plan conference, invite speakers, design marketing material, present awards, and host socials

Pediatric Dentistry Club Secretary (2023-Present)

- Connected pediatric doctors and residents with current students interested in the specialty

UCSF Taiwanese American Student Association Chapter President (2022-Present)

- Chapter Founder, now with 100+ involved students across UCSF Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, PT, and Grad School
- Hosted 6 socials to connect doctors, nurses, researchers and other medical industry professionals with ties to Taiwan

Practice Management Club Vice President (2022-Present)

- Hosted 8 socials with guest speakers to discuss dental practice management strategies

NYU Abu Dhabi Pre-Health Advisory Board President (2020-2022)

- Built network of 40+ students and doctors in Abu Dhabi
- Moderated panels for students on personal statement and CV writing, interview tips, and selecting schools

Bioengineering Academic Representative (2020-2022)

- Launched NYU Abu Dhabi's Bioengineering Major, hosted 3 townhalls, and represented students in ABET accreditation
- Established NYU Abu Dhabi Biomedical Engineering Society Student Chapter at NYU Abu Dhabi

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant for Computer Programming (2019-2020)

- Taught C++ and MATLAB, designed and managed course schedule and weekly quizzes

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Reach out and Read UCSF Dentistry School Representative (2024-Present)

- 10 hours volunteering at Mount Zion Pediatric Hospital to promote health literacy to families

Elementary School Oral Hygiene Instruction (2023-Present)

- 50+ hours volunteering at elementary schools for dental screenings and oral hygiene instruction

Chinese Dental Health President (2022-Present)

- Led two consecutive annual volunteer trips, providing oral screenings for 100+ low-income geriatric Chinatown patients
- Hosted 1 speaker event and 2 oral-hygiene instruction trips based in libraries in San Francisco

Give Kids a Smile Day at UCSF Dentistry (2023)

- 9 hours planning, setting up, assisting, and editing videos for the event

Campus COVID-19 Testing Center Coordinator (2020)

- Implemented protocol for patient sign-in, sample collection, and test result notification

Nepal ADARA Volunteer (2020)

- Traveled to and organized donations inventory, distribution, and designed oral disease prevention campaigns

Thailand Habitat for Humanity Volunteer (2020)

- Traveled to and helped construct house for underprivileged family
- Drafted public health proposals to improve access to preventive medicine

PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AWARDS

Publications

- Second Author | Frontiers in Robotics and AI | *Tactile Sensing for Minimally Invasive Surgery: Conventional Methods and Potential Emerging Tactile Technologies*

Presentations

- UCSF Research and Clinical Excellence Day

Awards

- Finalist for American Association for Dental, Oral, Craniofacial Research National Student Research Group Rapid Research Competition (2025)
- First Place Prize for ASDA National Leadership Conference Video Competition (2024)
- Finalist for UCSF Research and Clinical Excellence Day Competition (2024)

OTHER SKILLS

Fluency in Mandarin and English

Technical and Software Proficiency

- Programming: MATLAB, C++, Python, JavaScript, php, CSS
- Software: Solidworks, Autodesk, Blender, Google App Engine