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## Jean-Pierre Rwigema '03, DMD, DDS

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*Doctor, Surgery Resident in Oral, Maxillofacial Surgery*  
UCLA Harbor Medical Center and Kaiser Permanente



Dr. Jean-Pierre Rwigema found inspiration for his profession in a personal and familiar place: home.

Rwigema is now a surgery resident in oral and maxillofacial surgery at UCLA Harbor Medical Center, where he also teaches. Originally from Rwanda, Rwigema said he strives to eventually provide treatment to people living in disadvantaged areas.

“Oral maxillofacial surgeons are in short supply, especially in unprivileged and small communities,” he explained. “In Rwanda, where I was born and grew up, there is no formal training in that field. As a result, there are many untreated conditions. I train so that in the near future, I can be instrumental in the health care of those people in remote areas without access.”

A former Pacem In Terris student, Rwigema said La Roche provided him with an invaluable experience. “It is the only place I had to enjoy living in a multicultural environment for four years and foster relationships,” he said.

