



**Stjepan Špalj** (1974.) diplomirao je, magistrirao i doktorirao na Stomatološkom fakultetu Sveučilištu u Zagrebu. Specijalizirao je ortodontiju na KBC Zagreb. Diplomirao je novinarstvo na Fakultetu političkih znanosti u Zagrebu. Završio master studij temporomandibularnih poremećaja na Sveučilištu Fridrika II. u Napulju, Italija. Redoviti je profesor u trajnom izboru na sveučilištima u Rijeci i Osijeku. Jedan je od osnivača te voditelj poslijediplomskog doktorskog studija Dentalna medicina na Sveučilištu u Rijeci te Međunarodne ljetne škole ortodontije. Osnivač je Laboratorija za kraniodentofacijlnu biometriju i Laboratorija za oralnu biologiju i biomaterijale Fakulteta dentalne medicine u Rijeci te Biobanke za dentooralne i periooralne biouzorke. Glavni je istraživač u 7 istraživačkih projekata, mentor 13 obranjenih doktorskih disertacija, koautor 8 udžbenika i 130 znanstvenih radova. Radovi su mu citirani 1537 puta uz h-indeks 20 (WoSCC). Vodio je dva projekta Hrvatske zaklade za znanost te dobio financiranje plaće 3 doktoranda i jednog poslijedoktoranda. Razvio je opsežnu međunarodnu znanstvenu suradnju. Dobitnik je postdoktorske istraživačke Fulbrightove stipendije za boravak 2024. na Sveučilištu Case Western Reserve u Clevelandu, Ohio, SAD. Na Erasmus stipendijama i studijskim boravcima boravio je na sveučilištima u Ujedinjenom Kraljevstvu (London), Njemačkoj (Mainz), Švedskoj (Göteborg), Norveškoj (Oslo), Belgiji (Leuven), Španjolskoj (Madrid), Italiji (Bologna, Padova, Trst i Napulj), Austriji (Graz), Poljskoj (Krakov), Mađarskoj (Budimpešta), Sloveniji (Ljubljana), Turskoj (Antalya) i Egiptu (Aleksandrija). Državnu nagradu za znanost u Hrvatskoj dobio je 2021., a nagradu za znanost Zaklade Sveučilišta u Rijeci 2020. Na Fakultetu za dentalnu medicinu i zdravstvo u Osijeku dobio je nagradu za znanstvenu izvrsnost (2020.) te za izdavačku djelatnost (2024.). Dodijeljeno mu je zvanje istraživačkog profesora na Sveučilištu u Rijeci 2024. godine.



**Stjepan Špalj** (born 1974) earned his DMD, MS, and PhD degrees at the School of Dental Medicine, University of Zagreb, and completed a specialization in orthodontics at University Hospital Centre Zagreb. A degree in journalism was obtained at the Faculty of Political Science in Zagreb, followed by a master's program in temporomandibular disorders at the University of Federico II in Naples, Italy. Currently, Stjepan Špalj holds the position of full professor with tenure at the Universities of Rijeka and Osijek. He is among the founders and serves as head of the postgraduate doctoral program in Dental Medicine at the University of Rijeka, as well as of the International Summer School of Orthodontics. He also founded the Cranio-Dento-Facial Biometry Research Laboratory and the Laboratory for Oral Biology and Biomaterials Research Laboratory at the Faculty of Dental Medicine in Rijeka, in addition to establishing the Biobank for dento-oral and peri-oral biospecimens.

His academic and research activities include serving as principal investigator on seven research projects, supervising 13 completed doctoral dissertations, co-authoring eight textbooks, and publishing 130 scientific papers. These publications have received 1,537 citations, with an h-index of 20 (WoSCC). Two projects funded by the Croatian Science Foundation were led under his coordination, securing salary funding for three doctoral candidates and one postdoctoral researcher. Extensive international scientific collaboration has been a hallmark of his career.

A Fulbright postdoctoral research fellowship supported a research stay in 2024 at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, USA. Additional academic experience was gained through Erasmus scholarships and study visits to universities in the United Kingdom (London), Germany (Mainz), Sweden (Gothenburg), Norway (Oslo), Belgium (Leuven), Spain (Madrid), Italy (Bologna, Padua, Trieste, and Naples), Austria (Graz), Poland (Kraków), Hungary (Budapest), Slovenia (Ljubljana), Turkey (Antalya), and Egypt (Alexandria).

Recognition for scientific excellence includes the Croatian National Science Award (2021) and the Science Award of the University of Rijeka Foundation (2020). Further distinctions were awarded by the Faculty of Dental Medicine and Health in Osijek for Scientific Excellence (2020) and Publishing Activity (2024). In 2024, the title of Research Professor was conferred by the University of Rijeka.