Orofacial Myofunctional Disorders (OMDs) are disorders pertaining to the orofacial complex, which lead to seemingly unrelated physical problems and symptoms. They may affect directly and indirectly airway function, occlusion, deglutition, temporomandibular joint dysfunction, speech, and others.

OMDs may also impinge upon various medical and dental treatments. Therefore, early intervention and treatment are key; as in many cases, they can be prevented.

This is an introductory course designed to address a need for clinical information about Orofacial Myofunctional Disorders and their detrimental health effects; and provides basic knowledge on assessment, prevention, and various treatment modalities used for the treatment of OMDs.

Learning objectives: Participants will learn to:
- Define Orofacial Myofunctional Disorders (OMDs)
- Explain why OMDs are detrimental
- Review the physiology of swallowing
- Review various treatment modalities
- Familiarize themselves with some measuring tools used in research
- Objectively evaluate most orofacial features

About our speaker

Martha Macaluso, MLT, MSED, RDH, is a Dental Hygienist, Researcher, Myofunctional Therapist, Dental Hygiene Educator and holds a degree in Medical Laboratory as well as in Health Education. She received her degree in Dental Hygiene from Farmingdale State University and specialized in Myofunctional Therapy through the Academy of Orofacial Myofunctional Therapy.

She has taught at New York University College of Dentistry and for the Academy of Orofacial Myofunctional Therapy and is on the faculty at Greenville Technical College, where she teaches dental hygiene and myofunctional disorders.

Lecturing internationally and writing about myofunctional disorders, she has contributed toward bridging the information gap between the medical and dental professions. Her most recent publications include an Amazon E-book *Stop Snoring and Improve Your Sleep Apnea* and a chapter in the textbook *Sleep Disorders in Pediatric Dentistry, Clinical Guide On Diagnosis and Management*, in which she collaborated alongside the world leader in Myofunctional Therapy, Joy Moeller.

Active in professional associations, she was editor to the Long Island Dental Hygiene Association, delegate to NYDHA and ADHA houses of delegates. She is founding member and sits on the board of The Academy of Applied Myofunctional Sciences, and member of the International Functional Association.