

Meet Dr. Marilia Yatabe

Ann Arbor, MI

1) What made you want to become involved in the GLAO?

My first reference of Orthodontics (as an orthodontic resident) was the AAO, which is the international leader in Orthodontics globally. It was the highlight of the year participating in the greatest Orthodontic meeting of the year, knowing and/or listening to the Orthodontists who inspire you the most and learning the most updated Orthodontic techniques around the world. When I decided to move to Michigan as an educator and researcher, it was important to me to understand how Orthodontics is led in the United States. As faculty of the Orthodontic Program at the University of Michigan, I am extremely privileged to work among orthodontists who are not only clinicians, but also great mentors who help me navigate through the "new system" and always encourage me to take the next step.



Within one of these steps was representing. Being a member of GLAO is great, but being able to contribute to the future pages of our Orthodontic community is even greater. One reason that made me want to get involved was the opportunity to develop a different path of my career: leadership. I believe that this is a trait that we all have inside, but each of us have different ways of expressing it in different environments. Which leads me to the second reason, which was the chance to know our leaders, learn from them and eventually become one of them.

2) What is your practice model?

I see my orthodontic practice similar to a "boutique practice". It is a faculty practice at The University of Michigan that aims to treat patients with craniofacial differences or diagnosis that exceeds the "WNL range". It requires more time, creativity and a lot of communication with patients, family, and colleagues from many health care areas. What drives me in this environment is the fact that there is never a dull moment, hardly an "easy case", but many rewarding moments when the patient-provider bonding goes beyond the teeth.

3) What advice do you have for younger members beginning their careers?

1. Be true to yourself and your patients.

2. Despite all our efforts to study and learn, it is almost impossible to know it all.

Recognizing your clinical weaknesses and strengths is a virtue that will help you navigate through your cases.

3. The development of digital orthodontics is advancing our career at the speed of light, but don't ever forget that behind those teeth in the screen there is a face, and a human being that deserves a lot more than straight teeth.