

Dr. Kelton T. Stewart
January 21, 2018

I'd like to begin by wishing you all a very Happy New Year! I hope that you had a wonderful, safe, and relaxing holiday season with friends and loved ones.

As 2018 begins, I would like to provide you with some important updates about both new and ongoing events within our profession.

American Board of Orthodontics Clinical Examination Change

On January 17, 2018, the American Board of Orthodontics (ABO) announced that they would be making a significant change to the clinical examination process associated with board certification. In an attempt to remove barriers to board certification and establish an examination process that is more "fair, valid, and reliable", the ABO has decided to make the Clinical Examination a scenario-based oral examination. This exam format will include a number of scenarios that will evaluate the candidates' knowledge in a wide range of topic areas. The questions presented to the candidates during a scenario-based examination can be standardized and the possible responses scaled with the use of a grading rubric. This provides the potential for a high degree of consistency between all examination sessions and also allows the examiners to critically assess both the breadth and depth of a candidate's knowledge. With this format change, ABO candidates will no longer be required to submit patient cases. Many individuals at the 2017 ABO Educators Symposium voiced concerns about the total elimination of submitted cases and advocated for a hybrid examination (reduced number of clinical case submissions along with scenario-based items). This model, however, was not the one ultimately selected by the ABO. The ABO reports that their decision to move towards a complete scenario-based examination came after an extensive review process. During the appraisal process, the ABO investigated the certification process of other professional groups, conducted numerous survey assessments, and re-evaluated the primary purpose of the Board itself.

The ABO seeks to have a smooth transition from the existing examination format to the new scenario-based oral examination format. Candidates will have the opportunity to pursue the traditional Clinical Examination format throughout 2018 until February 2019 by petition only. Starting in November 2019, only the scenario-based oral examination process will be available. To gain additional information about the examination changes, please consider the following resources:

- ABO Clinical Examination informational session(s) at the AAO Annual Session in Washington D.C. this May
- Review the AAO Clinical Examination changes podcast, available in late February
- Read the ABO Clinical Examination change article, to be included in the March issue of the AJO-DO
- Contact the ABO with questions via Info@AmericanBoardOrtho.com
- Visit the ABO website at <https://www.americanboardortho.com/> for more information

The profession will watch with great interest over the next 18-24 months as this change is implemented. In time, we will learn what type of impact the format change will have on the number of board certified orthodontists, the ABO's ability to achieve its stated mission, and the future strength of our specialty.

Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) Standards Review Taskforce Update

The CODA taskforce, appointed by the AAO leadership in the late spring of 2017, continues to assess the current CODA standards that establish the educational guidelines for all orthodontic residency programs. Members of the taskforce provided a presentation about their work to-date and solicited input from individuals in attendance at the 2017 ABO Educator's Symposium, in St. Louis this past November. Additional input about the proposed standard changes will occur at the Society of Orthodontic Educators- Educational Leadership Conference during the 2018 American Association of Orthodontists meeting in Washington, D.C. As additional input is gathered from various stakeholders, the taskforce seeks to compose a list of recommended changes that will be supported by the majority of the orthodontic profession. The ultimate aim of these changes is to ensure that orthodontic residents, at all programs, are provided with the best possible educational experience and one that will allow them to be successful after their formal training. The taskforce plans to finalize the list of proposed recommendations and submit them to the Commission on Dental Accreditation for assessment and possible implementation sometime in the latter half of 2018. If you have any comments that you would like the taskforce to consider, please feel free to share that information with me and I will see that your input is shared with the group.

For a listing of the current orthodontic CODA standards, please use the following link:

<http://www.ada.org/~media/CODA/Files/ortho.pdf?la=en>

2018 Rolf G. Behrents Educational Leadership Conference

This year the Society of Orthodontic Educators (SOE) will conduct their annual Educational Leadership Conference on Friday, May 4, 2018, in conjunction with the 2018 AAO Annual Session. The 2018 Educational Leadership Conference will honor Dr. Rolf G. Behrents, one of the profession's most prolific and influential orthodontists over the last several decades. The conference is set to review a number of relevant topics including CODA standard revisions, the revised ABO Clinical Examination, Barriers to Pursuing Academic Careers, and Professionalism in Education. Another exciting component of this year's conference will be a panel discussion entitled "Notes from God's Waiting Room". This 90-minute panel discussion will include an all-star cast of orthodontic educators who have worked to discover and disseminate the knowledge that orthodontists around the world use in their daily professional endeavors. The conference will be an excellent opportunity for everyone to gain additional information about the state of orthodontic education and visit with colleagues that influenced the education of numerous generations of orthodontists.

For more information about the education leadership conference, please visit the AAO SOE website at: <https://www.aaoinfo.org/education/society-orthodontic-educators> and for a schedule of the 2018 Rolf G. Behrents Educational Leadership Conference, please use the following link:

<https://www.aaoinfo.org/system/files/2018%20SOE%20Program%20Schedule%2011%2008%2017.pdf> or see the attached PDF.

AAO Full-Time Faculty Teaching Fellowship Program

In my last report, I shared that the AAO Council on Education (COE) was in the process of investigating the possible revival of the AAO Full-Time Faculty Teaching Fellowship Program. This program was active from 2008 to 2010 and was designed to support the recruitment, development, and retention of orthodontic faculty members. The fellowship program displayed significant productivity, with 16 of the 20 participants still actively engaged in academic careers as of December 2017. After a review of the state of orthodontic education and the current and future need of capable orthodontic educators across the country, the AAO COE unanimously voted to put forth a motion to the AAO to have the program re-instated. Efforts are underway to finalize the motion and formally submit it for review. The overall goal of the program is to re-establish a pathway to identify, cultivate, and retain orthodontic educators. Within the profession, there is a scarcity of programs seeking to actively increase the number of orthodontic academicians and the re-activation of this program would greatly aid in addressing the continued shortage of educators in our residency programs. Moreover, the career training and financial support associated with the program will help alleviate two of the major barriers that keep individuals from actively pursuing a career in orthodontic education.

The COE believes this is an important and valuable initiative and we strongly encourage you to speak with your colleagues throughout the organization to help garner additional support for this program. I hope that you will take the time to voice your support for this program to your various AAO representatives; both our future residents and the orthodontic profession as a whole will benefit. If you have questions about the proposed Full-Time Faculty Teaching Fellowship Program or how you can support the potential re-instatement of this invaluable development program, please contact me (see contact information below).

2018 ADEA Annual Session and Exhibition

The American Dental Education Association (ADEA) will conduct its Annual Session and Exhibition at the Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center in Orland, Florida from March 17-20, 2018. The theme of the ADEA meeting this year is Vision 2030. During the four day meeting, various programming will be conducted that will investigate what the landscape of dental education could look like 12 years from now. Furthermore, the meeting will focus on how we can utilize emerging pedagogy and technologies to influence this future and enhance the way we train the next generation of oral healthcare providers and educators.

Within ADEA, the orthodontic profession is represented by the Orthodontic Section on Orthodontics (SOO). This group works to represent the orthodontic specialty and our interests in the broader dental education milieu. The SOO will host a member's forum, open to all, on Monday, March 19, 2018 from 7:00-8:00AM in the Naples 3 room. Orlando is a wonderful place and if your schedule allows, I highly encourage you to attend this very informative meeting.

Questions, Comments, or Concerns:

If you have any questions, concerns, accolades, or items related to orthodontic education that you would like to bring to the council's notice, please feel free to contact me via email or telephone. My email is keltstew@iu.edu and I can be reached by telephone at 317-278-1087.

As I close, I encourage you to find ways to be actively involved within organized orthodontics and strive to positively impact our wonderful profession this year.

I wish you all a very prosperous 2018,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Kelton T. Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kelton T. Stewart

Interim Chair & Graduate Program Director

James J. Baldwin Associate Professor, Indiana University School of Dentistry

Diplomate, American Board of Orthodontics