

Dr. Kelton T. Stewart
August 14, 2020

Salutations. I hope that you and your loved ones are safe and health, as we all continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. I would like to share a few updates on orthodontic education since the last GLAO E-News edition.

Council on Orthodontic Education (COE) Update

The COE welcomed two new members this past May. Dr. Sercan Akyalcin from Tufts School of Dental Medicine and Dr. Leslie Will from Boston University School of Dental Medicine. In addition, the council welcomed Dr. John Callahan, as its new AAO Board of Trustee liaison.

The COE has been active with connecting educators from across the country during the pandemic. The group has disseminated multiple surveys to Orthodontic Department Chairs and Program Directors to assess how programs are managing the numerous challenges brought on by the pandemic. The surveys have garnered a fair amount of participation from the orthodontic education community and the attained results have aided programs in implementing different educational strategies in their departments during the pandemic.

2020 Carla Evans Educational Leadership Conference

While the 2020 AAO Annual Session was converted to an online event, the decision was made to cancel the 2020 Society of Orthodontic Educators (SOE) Educational Leadership Conference. In addition, the society decided to postpone the recognition of the honoree, Dr. Carla Evans, until 2021. More information about the 2021 Leadership Conference, as well as the 2022 honoree will be shared in future communications.

Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) Standards Review Taskforce Update

The Commission held a meeting on August 7, 2020 to discuss the various challenges facing orthodontic education and adopted numerous actions regarding the Coronavirus pandemic. A complete listing of these actions can be reviewed by visiting: <https://www.ada.org/en/coda/accreditation/accreditation-news/covid-19-updates>

A few of the more significant actions include:

- The Commission's intent to extend the current flexibility in standards related to Interruptions of Education. In addition, the Commission charged all Review Committees to assess the impact of the pandemic on programs and provide recommendations to the Commission. A decision of future flexibility for the Class of 2021 will be made by the Commission in October of 2020.
- The temporary ability of residency programs to utilize distance education was extended through the end of December 2020, without any additional reporting requirements.

- The Commission also indicated that they would develop an electronic system to accept applications for accreditation and other types of program reports.
- The Commission will also pursue alternative site visit methods, as needed to employ in 2021

For details on these and other actions, interested parties can refer to the [COVID-19 Excerpts](#) from the August 2020 CODA meeting (or by viewing the attached document).

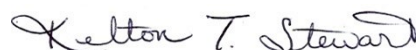
ADEA Call for Programs for the 2021 Annual Session and Exhibition Meeting

The decision was made to hold the 2021 American Dental Education Association Annual session in a virtual format. As previously reported, the theme for the 2021 meeting will be “We” and will occur March 13-16. The deadline for program submissions was June 15 and notifications of program acceptance will be shared electronically in a few weeks (late August). Individuals are still welcome to submit ADEA TechExpo sessions and poster presentations until September 7. Notification of session/poster acceptance will be disseminated in mid-November. For more information about program submissions, please visit the ADEA 2021 submission portal at <https://www.adea.org/2021/Submit/>

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.

I wish you all safety and an abundance of good health in the weeks and months to come. I look forward to seeing you all again in-person at a regional or national meeting soon.



Kelton T. Stewart
GLAO COE & COSA Representative
Chair & Graduate Program Director
Baldwin Endowed Associate Professor, Indiana University School of Dentistry
Diplomate, American Board of Orthodontics