

August 14, 2020

Ontario Report – August 2020

The Ontario Association of Orthodontists has been working diligently on behalf of our members both at the forefront and behind the scenes on a number of issues that affect orthodontists across Ontario. Certainly, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected us all and the OAO continues to collaborate with our affiliated organizations, the Canadian and American Association of Orthodontists as well as the Ontario Dental Association. Of equal importance and particularly significant, the OAO has been active with the provincial regulators for both dentistry and dental hygiene, highlighting the differences of the delivery of orthodontic care versus general dentistry and how this relates to COVID-19 guidelines.

In May, the OAO held its Annual Meeting on a virtual platform and it was extremely well attended by orthodontists from across the province. A panel of experts was assembled to speak to our members, and included representatives from the Canadian Dental Association, Canadian Association of Orthodontists, the University of Toronto and the American Association of Orthodontists. Of note to GLAO members, Dr. Kelton Stewart, Chair of IU Orthodontics, GLAO representative on the AAO's Council on Education and member of the AAO's COVID-19 Task Force, spoke eloquently on behalf of the AAO and it was eye opening to realize the tremendous effort and resources the AAO has dedicated to support our specialty throughout the pandemic.

The OAO continues to work on a number of other files that affect our members, including the DTC issue, insurance concerns, education for membership and patient complaints.

Earlier in the spring, the OAO held its annual elections via electronic vote, electing a slate of talented officers and directors who will continue to represent the interests of Ontario orthodontists with professionalism and vigour. Our new OAO President, Dr. Shervin Abbaszadeh, has big shoes to fill in replacing Past President, Dr. Pourang Rahimi whose leadership served us so well during the initial phases of the pandemic, and we are very confident that Shervin will be up to the task. Rounding out our OAO executive are Drs. Natoosha Nargaski as Vice President, Girish Deshpande as Secretary, Kent Floreani continues his duties as our trusted Treasurer and Maxwell Abraham as a Director. Special thanks to Drs. Emel Arat and Michael Goldstein who have completed their terms on the board as outgoing Past President and Newsletter Editor respectively. Ontario continues to be well represented in both the AAO and CAO, with Dr. Michael Sherman serving as AAO Trustee and Dr. Eric Selnes taking the reins of the CAO as President this September.

The OAO Fall Meeting is being planned for November 12, 2020, with AAO President, Dr. Chris Roberts scheduled to address our members electronically. Details of the meeting are currently being developed and further information will follow in the coming months.

Never before has the value of our professional associations been more evident. The AAO/GLAO, CAO and OAO have represented the interests of Ontario orthodontists commendably over the course of the pandemic, providing leadership, resources and a pathway forward for our specialty.

Please do not hesitate to contact me (drdrew@smithorthodontics.ca) if you have any questions regarding the Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists. It is my pleasure to serve with the OAO Board as Ontario's link to the GLAO.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Drew Smith

Ontario Component Director, GLAO