

The Ontario Association of Orthodontists continues to successfully represent and promote the interests of its members across the province. The Board of Directors has had a productive spring and summer working on a number of files on behalf of orthodontists in Ontario.

While the highly successful Consumer Awareness Program finished its three year run at the end of this past May, the Board is currently evaluating its effects and is working on a replacement program in order to continue educating the Ontario public about the benefits of specialty orthodontic care.

The Board of Directors has been very active in representing our specialty's interests at the regulatory level for the past year, working on three main issues that affect all orthodontists in Ontario. Having previously met with officials from our regulatory body, the Royal College of Dentists of Ontario, with AAO legal counsel, Mr. Sean Murphy, this file remains very active and the OAO is working closely with both the AAO and Canadian Association of Orthodontists (CAO) on this issue. The OAO has also provided official input into the proposed RCDSO changes for intraoral duties that dental assistants are allowed to perform under direct supervision of an orthodontist in Ontario. These changes are something the OAO has been lobbying for over the past two decades to improve the efficiency of the delivery of care in Ontario, bringing us on par with the other provinces in Canada. Continuing on the regulatory theme, in June, the OAO sponsored a continuing education course for its members reviewing the new RCDSO standards on infection prevention and control.

In early May, the Ontario Dental Association (ODA) hosted a meeting of leaders from the various dental specialty associations in Ontario. The goal of the meeting was to gauge the various concerns specialties face in order to determine how the ODA and the specialty associations can work collaboratively on these issues. The OAO was well represented by Board member Natoosha Nargaski and the meeting was deemed a success, with follow-up meetings being planned for the future.

The OAO Annual Meeting was held on May 23<sup>rd</sup> in Toronto. Presentations were made by CAO President, Dr. Rick Odegaard, and RCDSO Registrar, Mr. Irwin Fegergrad, along with RCDSO Director of Quality Assurance, Dr. Michael Gardner. The meeting was live streamed in order to allow all OAO members to virtually attend and propose questions to our invited guests.

Earlier this past spring, the OAO held its annual elections via an electronic vote. The Board of Directors for 2019 – 2020 is as follows:

Dr. Pourang Rahimi – President

Dr. Shervin Abbaszadeh – President-Elect

Dr. Kent Floreani – Treasurer

Dr. Emel Arat – Immediate Past President

Dr. Michael Goldstein – Director

Dr. Natoosha Nargaski – Director

Upcoming Meetings:

- 1) University of Toronto Orthodontic Alumni Association Meeting – Friday, October 18, 2019 at the Faculty of Dentistry. Speaker – Dr. Anoop Sondhi. Registration details - <https://sites.google.com/site/uoftorthoalumni/>
- 2) Ontario Association of Orthodontists Fall General Meeting – Thursday evening, November 14, 2019. Details to follow.
- 3) Toronto Orthodontic Club Fall Meeting – Friday, November 15, 2019. Speaker – Dr. Jason Cope. Registration details – [www.toclub.ca](http://www.toclub.ca).
- 4) OAO Biennial Scientific Session – May 29 -31, 2020, Niagara on the Lake. Details to follow.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Drew Smith