

November 11, 2020

## **Ontario Report – November 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.

Our OAO President, Dr. Shervin Abbaszadeh, along with the OAO Board and executive team have been providing excellent leadership to our Ontario members as they continue to work on a number of other files that affect our members, including the DTC issue, insurance concerns, education for membership and patient complaints.

The OAO Fall Meeting was held via a virtual format on November 12, 2020, with AAO President, Dr. Chris Roberts addressing our members on the benefits of AAO membership. Dr. Arlene Dagys, a past president of both the Ontario and Canadian Associations of Orthodontists, was recognized with the OAO's Distinguished Service Award at the meeting, recognizing her years of service in both educational and leadership fronts.

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.

The next meeting of the OAO is our Biennial Scientific Session which is tentatively scheduled for May 28 – 30, 2021 at Niagara-on-the Lake. Details can be found on the OAO's website, [www.oao.on.ca](http://www.oao.on.ca). All orthodontists from the Great Lakes region are encouraged to attend.

Please do not hesitate to contact me ([drdrew@smithorthodontics.ca](mailto: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