

Ontario Report – August 2021

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, as well as with our provincial Ministry of Health and Long Term Care over the past year and a half. More recently, the OAO has voiced its concerns to the RCDSO over the administration of regulatory specialty exams, endorsing the Royal College of Dentists of Canada as the appropriate body to administer these exams.

This past May, the OAO elected a new slate of Officers and Directors, as Drs. Pourang Rahimi, Shervin Abbaszadeh, Kent Floreani and Mariela Anderson completed their terms of service as Past President, President, Treasurer and CAO Representative respectively. Many thanks go to each of these fantastic individuals for their leadership over the years. The OAO's new Officers and Directors include:

Dr. Natoosha Nargaski – President
Dr. Girish Deshpande – Vice President
Dr. Joel Schacher – Secretary
Dr. Maxwell Abraham – Treasurer
Dr. Shervin Abbaszadeh – Past President
Dr. Eric Smith – Director

While the pandemic has kept us from meeting in person, the OAO has organized a number of virtual events to keep orthodontists in touch and up to date. The AGM was held on May 26, 2021 where the business of the association was carried out. Also during this meeting, we had four members put together short educational videos on "Orthodontic Gems", providing clinical tips to help make our practices better. A very successful virtual CE event was hosted by the OAO on July 22nd on "Social Media and the Dentist" with over 88 members attending. Another complimentary virtual CE event is planned for October 14th, focusing on clinical management of patients with neurodevelopmental conditions. The Fall General meeting is being planned for late October or November and will once again be held through a virtual format. Stay tuned for details. The OAO Scientific Session is planned for June 3-5, 2022, held in beautiful Niagara-on-the-Lake. Dr. Richard Marcus has a spectacular event planned, chock-full of CE and social events. Details can be found on the OAO's website at www.oao.on.ca. I encourage all GLAO members to consider attending.

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. I encourage you to continue to support all of our orthodontic associations so that you may continue to enjoy the benefits that membership brings with it.

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