

Ontario Report – November 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 month, Ontario's orthodontists were thrilled to hear that the OAO's hard work and diligence on the issue of delegatable duties to dental assistants has finally paid off, with the RCDSO expanding the intra-oral duties orthodontists can delegate to dental assistants, bringing us more in line with our colleagues across Canada.

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. A very successful virtual CE event was hosted by the OAO on October 14th, focusing on clinical management of patients with neurodevelopmental conditions. The Fall General meeting is scheduled for November 25th and will once again be held through a virtual format. Guest speakers include our new CAO President, Dr. Brian Phee, who will give us an update from the Canadian Association of Orthodontists and Dr. Regina Blevins (sponsored by Align Technologies) who will provide a presentation on maximizing clear aligners in growing patients. All OAO members are encouraged to register through our OAO website at www.oao.on.ca. 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 also be found on the OAO's website. 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