

## Ontario Report – May, 2022

The Ontario Association of Orthodontists has been working diligently on behalf of our members on a number of issues that affect orthodontists across Ontario. We are all anxiously awaiting the arrival of summer and look forward to a hopeful relaxation of our strict COVID-19 dental regulations, which continue to be the most rigid in North America as we emerge from the 6<sup>th</sup> wave of the pandemic.

The OAO Board continues to meet regularly via virtual executive meetings and convened twice over the past three months to discuss the issues, keeping the best interests of Ontario orthodontists front and centre. One such project is a revamp of the website, with an improved member's section highlighting mentorship opportunities and job postings. The OAO is looking to institute a mentorship program and increase our presence in the orthodontic resident's minds by meeting with them to review the benefits of membership in our professional orthodontic associations.

Our Spring AGM will be the long awaited OAO Scientific Session (cancelled twice previously due to COVID lockdowns) which is planned for June 3-5, 2022, to be 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 @ [www.oao.on.ca](http://www.oao.on.ca). I encourage all GLAO members to consider attending.

Our annual board elections will be taking place electronically in May, and the new Board of Directors and officers will be introduced at the Annual General Meeting.

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](mailto:drdrew@smithorthodontics.ca)) if you have any questions regarding the Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists and/or orthodontics in Ontario. 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