



November 1st, 2022

On October 1st, we had a successful virtual coffee chat discussing the topics of student loans, steps to start a practice, and the mentorship program. We had over 20 participants including many residents that participated. Below are links and further information about **AAO connections** (mentorship program) and the **AAO Office Design Series** discussed during the virtual coffee chat.

AAO Office Design Series:

<https://www2.aaoinfo.org/practice-management/office-design-for-the-orthodontist/>

The AAO Office Design Series is a comprehensive resource exclusively for AAO members to help you every step of the way in remodeling an existing practice or designing and building out a new office. There are 7 modules, and you can access them at any time when logging into your AAO member account.

- **Module 1:** Planning Your Office Design Project
- **Module 2:** Determining Your Practice Needs
- **Module 3:** Owning vs. Leasing
- **Module 4:** Financing Your Project
- **Module 5:** Site Location & Details
- **Module 6:** Major Equipment and Software for Your Practice
- **Module 7:** Office Design Layout & Interior Design

AAO Connections:

<https://connections.aaoinfo.org/>

CONYIM oversees the AAO's online peer advising program, AAO Connections, which launched in Fall 2021. Currently there are 61 advisors and 77 learners fully onboarded. A total of 51 sessions have been booked since launch. The average session rating for advisors is 4.9/5 and learners is 5/5.

The mission of AAO Connections is to support and facilitate professional relationships between members across the country. Using the network, members have the unique opportunity to connect directly with advisors, learning from their knowledge and experience.

You can select to be an advisor and/ or a learner. This is open to all orthodontists no matter the number of years in practice. We highly encourage you to sign up to be an advisor if there is any information you would like share from the business or clinical aspect of orthodontic practice to new and younger members.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandon Shoukri, DDS, MS
GLAO Representative to the AAO Council on New and Younger Members