

It is a privilege and an honor to serve as the GLAO president. I am deeply grateful to those who have supported me, and to those who have served as role models showing me how to lead during constantly changing times. I would like to recognize Debbie Nunner, our executive director, and Karla Dunbar, our coordinator, who as a team are the core of our society, always providing the support and the behind-the-scenes work that is essential for the multitasking lives that we have.

I have been part of the GLAO leadership for many years now, and what I am most grateful for is the diversity of backgrounds and thoughts that we have in our group. The discussions and opinions shared are often very different than the microcosm we live in. As the director of an orthodontic residency, when asked what I expect from graduates of our program I say that I would consider their training a failure if in the future all they do is go from office to home and home to office, without being part of something bigger. Something bigger could be as simple as part of a study club, but hopefully, organized dentistry. We all know that we help ourselves by helping our profession, and that we have strength in numbers, but there is more. Being part of a regional or national organization exposes one to a diversity of thoughts, situations, and it opens our minds, forcing us to grow. I consider that a clear win-win situation.

Our constituency is focusing on this message, with special attention on the orthodontic residents, who are the future of our specialty. We are creating ways to keep a strong presence from all our schools, by providing engagement, and giving residents an opportunity to contribute and discuss the direction of our specialty.

Please plan on attending our joint Annual Session with MASO at the Gaylord Hotel in National Harbor, Maryland, on September 22-23, 2023. This is a particularly special meeting for me, since the MASO president, David Harmon, in addition to being a good friend, was my co-resident during training. We have put a great team together, and at the GLAO, Fatima Ahmed and Tasha Hall are already working hard on a great program. I hope to see you in Maryland!

Respectfully submitted,

Juan Martin Palomo

2022-23 GLAO President