

Council on Governmental Affairs (COGA) February 15, 2023

The Professional Advocacy Conference will be held at the end of February in Washington, DC. AAO members, residents, COGA, and AAOPAC gather together to learn about AAO legislative priorities and to hear from our lobbying firm about the current state of affairs in Washington. Members of Congress and regulatory agencies present to the group and some will join us for a meet and greet dinner. Wednesday is “Hill Day” where we go to meet with individual Congressional members and/or key staff. A key adage is: “If you are not at the table, you are **on** the table.” Every year we have more and more residents attending this conference and this is a great way to get them involved in the AAO. Please consider donating to the PAC to help with our advocacy efforts. The Advocacy Conference can be a really eye-opening experience for attendees learning about what the AAO is doing for its members and patients.

COGA and AAOPAC have been hard at work on their new mission to get more involved in state advocacy. We will be asking for AAO members who are interested in state advocacy for their help. If this appeals to you, please let me know and I will get you more information.

Your AAO Advocacy Team has created a new publication, known as “The Dashboard”, that will be released quarterly and at the end of the fiscal year. The Dashboard will highlight our advocacy priorities, interactions, and successes.

The AAO has advocated for more direct-to-consumer oversight for patient health and safety by the FDA and FTC regarding medical devices and helped to secure members of Congress to request the Government Accountability Office (GAO) conduct an investigative study. The GAO agreed to the request and will be proceeding with the investigation this summer. We have not heard the final word on the GAO’s investigation.

Thank you for allowing me to serve on this council. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Valerie Martone