

Ontario Report
GLAO Board Meeting – March 2023

OAO Board of Directors

The Ontario Association of Orthodontists has been working diligently on behalf of our members on a number of issues that affect orthodontists across Ontario. The OAO continues to enjoy a good diversity among its dedicated and talented elected and appointed leaders. The current Board of Directors includes:

Dr. Girish Deshpande – President
Dr. Joel Schacher – Vice President
Dr. Eric Smith – Secretary
Dr. Maxwell Abraham – Treasurer
Dr. Natoosha Nargaski – Past President
Dr. Brenda Chekay – Director
Dr. Ashley Phuong – Director

The OAO Board strives to keep the best interests of Ontario orthodontists front and centre, working diligently on a number of files for the benefit of members. 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. Another project the OAO is beginning work on is a recycling program for clear aligners and an expert on this issue is scheduled to speak at our annual meeting in March. Finally, work continues at expanding the duties allowed for dental assistants in Ontario orthodontic offices.

OAO Meetings

The OAO Board meets regularly via the Zoom platform, with two successful and productive board meetings having been convened over the past 3 months. The OAO held its Fall business meeting in downtown Toronto at the Westin Harbour Castle on November 3, 2022. The event was followed the next day by the biannual Toronto Orthodontic Club CE event. Dr. Girish Deshpande, serving as president of both the OAO and TOC did a wonderful job convening both events. The OAO Annual Meeting is scheduled for March 3rd at the Old Mill Inn, scheduled so that members once again can enjoy a full day of CE with the Toronto Orthodontic Club the following day.

The OAO continues to focus on continuing education as a primary member benefit and routinely hosts free online CE courses. Our Scientific Session Chair, Dr. Richard Marcus, continues to busy himself with planning the 2024 Biennial OAO Scientific Session.

National Dental Care Plan

Canada is in the midst of creating a national dental care plan to serve the oral health care needs of disadvantaged Canadians. The OAO is monitoring the development of this program closely with the Canadian Association of Orthodontists.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Drew Smith
GLAO Ontario Director