



**AAO Council on Governmental Affairs
Dr. Valerie D. Martone**

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The Council on Governmental of Affairs has been renamed the Council on Governmental Advocacy to better reflect the mission of this council. In surveys, AAO members have ranked advocacy as the top concern for its members. Money raised by the AAOPAC allows COGA, the AAO Advocacy Team, attendees of our Professional Advocacy Conference and our lobbyists access to members of Congress to advocate for our profession. Please donate to the PAC to help with our advocacy efforts and thanks to all of you who made a contribution!

The Professional Advocacy Conference took place at the end of February in Washington, DC. AAO members, residents, COGA, and AAOPAC, gathered together to learn about AAO legislative priorities and to hear from our lobbying firm about the current state of affairs in Washington. A record number of residents attended the conference this year and it was wonderful to see them engaging with AAO members and members of Congress.

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 the investigation is ongoing.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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GLAO Representative to the AAO Council on Governmental Affairs

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