



**Presidents Message**  
**Dr. Juan Martin Palomo**

**May 16, 2023**

"United we stand, divided we fall" is a phrase that can be traced back some 2,600 years to the 6th Century B.C. John Dickinson, one of our nation's Founding Fathers, is attributed to be one of the first ones to use it in modern times in his song, "The Liberty Song." This saying is most often used when looking to inspire unity and collaboration, and its premise is that together we can achieve greater success than we can alone. How true is that? And how many ways are there to say the same thing? From "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much" to "Strength in numbers", the message is the same. And together as part of GLAO and the AAO is the only way we can protect our specialty. Nowadays advocacy is the best weapon, and our meeting this year is in one of the most important advocacy places. I encourage you to stay up to date with all advocacy moves made by our associations, at local, state board, and national levels. Some groups and organizations are formed to change, dilute, and eliminate the orthodontist from the equation, and without advocacy, we cannot reach the ears of those who are voting and be able to show why an in-person examination is important. Our next Coffee Chat is scheduled on Saturday, June 24, and we will have Nathan Mick, AAO's director of advocacy, to share how advocacy works and what we can do to protect our specialty. Our annual meeting, so close to the Capitol, will also have an advocacy focus. Our meeting chairs Drs. Fatima Ahmed and Tasha Hall did such a great job putting this meeting together. Look at the diversity of speakers and topics. We have presentations on aligners, custom brackets, hybrid treatment, practice management, and even artificial intelligence. If those topics are not reason enough to attend, remember that you are part of a group and together is the only way we stand. Another old proverb says, "One arrow alone can be easily broken but many arrows are indestructible", so let's be many. We hope to see you at our joint Annual Session with MASO at the Gaylord Hotel in National Harbor, Maryland, on September 22-23, 2023. Let's make our specialty indestructible!

Respectfully submitted,

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GLAO President

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