



Ontario Component Report
Dr. Drew Smith

Date August 16, 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. Joel Schacher – President
Dr. Brenda Chekay – Vice President
Dr. Ashley Phuong – Secretary
Dr. Maxwell Abraham – Treasurer
Dr. Girish Deshpande – Immediate Past President
Dr. Ziad Omar – Director
Dr. Jen Boogaards – Director

A big congratulations goes out to Dr. Girish Deshpande for his successful term as our OAO President. He has represented us well over the past year and continues to take on roles to promote our specialty.

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. Finally, work continues at expanding the duties allowed for dental assistants in Ontario orthodontic offices. The OAO has partnered with the AAO, with AAO Trustee, Dr. Michael Sherman working closely with OAO President and Immediate Past President, Drs. Joel Schacher and Girish Deshpande. The AAO has committed support for this undertaking through the AAO Component Legal Support Fund.

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 is organizing an online CE course for this coming October 17th and will also hold its Fall business meeting at the Old Mill Inn in Toronto on November 16th. The OAO Biennial Scientific Session is scheduled for May 31 – June 2nd, 2024 in Niagara on the Lake. Visit the OAO website for registration details. All GLAO members are encouraged to attend. It is a spectacular event combining exceptional CE and social events in Ontario's wine country. Dr. Richard Marcus always organizes an amazing event. Don't miss this opportunity to see Dr. Neal Kravitz lecturing on clinically relevant and timely topics.

Information on OAO meetings can be found here: <https://www.oao.on.ca/news-events>.

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.

September marks the end of my 6th and final year serving as Ontario Director with the GLAO. It has been a privilege serving with the GLAO in this position and I am always inspired by the work our AAO and GLAO leaders do for orthodontists in both the United States and Canada. Our OAO Immediate Past President, Dr. Girish Despande will begin serving his first term as our Ontario Director this Fall, and I know that he will represent us with the passion and zeal he has always demonstrated for our specialty. We are also fortunate to have Dr. Mariela Anderson serving as our GLAO Vice President, and of course, our AAO Trustee, Dr. Michael Sherman, who works tirelessly for the AAO, GLAO and OAO.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Drew Smith
GLAO Ontario Director

Respectfully submitted,

ABC XYZ, DDS, MS
GLAO Representative to the AAO Council

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