



**Ontario Component Report**  
**Dr. Girish Deshpande**

**November 15, 2023**

This is my first report as the new Ontario director as I take over from our very capable and well admired Dr. Drew Smith. I look forward to contributing and helping serve our orthodontic community to the best of my ability. The Ontario section is well represented by 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. I am indeed proud to be part of this great group.

Here is a brief update of the current activities of the Ontario Orthodontists:

- The Ontario Association of Orthodontists (OAO) has been working diligently on behalf of our members on a number of issues that affect orthodontists across Ontario. Right now, the OAO is very focused on getting work duties expanded for dental assistants in the province and has made great strides so far with the Ministry of Health. In order to achieve this, the OAO has partnered with the AAO, through Dr. Michael Sherman while working closely with OAO President (Dr. Joel Schacher) and me, the Immediate Past President. The AAO has committed its support for this undertaking through the AAO Component Legal Support Fund. Through the AAO legal support team, we have hired a prominent law firm in Ontario which is working hard to get the duties expanded for the dental assistants. If successful, this will be a monumental achievement for Ontario orthodontists.
- The OAO Board regularly meets virtually and have had two successful and productive board meetings over the past few months. The OAO organized an online Core 1 CE course on October 17<sup>th</sup> and will also hold its fall business meeting at the Old Mill Inn in Toronto on November 16<sup>th</sup>. The OAO Biennial Scientific Session is scheduled for May 31 – June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 in Niagara on the Lake. 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 current topics. All GLAO members are encouraged to attend. More Information on this and other OAO meetings can be found here: <https://www.oao.on.ca/news-events>.
- 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 to ensure that orthodontists interests in serving the public are well represented.

- The OAO is striving to improve its value to the membership. We recently completed refurbishing of the website, with an improved member section highlighting mentorship opportunities and job postings. The OAO is looking to institute a mentorship program and increase our presence with orthodontic residents by meeting with them to review the importance and benefits of being a part of the membership in our professional orthodontic associations. Keeping it green with a view to protecting the environment, the OAO is beginning work on a recycling program for clear aligners.

I look forward to serving as the new Ontario director and contributing positively to this amazing organization.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Girish Deshpande  
GLAO Ontario Director

The Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists  
400 W. Wilson Bridge Road, Suite 120  
Worthington, Ohio 43085  
(877) 274-6420 (ph), (614) 221-1989  
(fax) | [glao@assnoffices.com](mailto:glao@assnoffices.com) |  
[www.glao.org/](http://www.glao.org/)