



**AAO Council on New and Younger Members
Dr. Kaitrin Kramer**

February 14th, 2024

Greetings,

I would like to echo my predecessor Dr. Brandon Shoukri and begin with gratitude for the ability to serve my colleagues and peers in the capacity as representative to CONYM on behalf of GLAO. This was my first meeting and my first time in St. Louis at the AAO headquarters. If you haven't had a chance to visit the headquarters, I highly recommend it!

Despite this being our first meeting, several members of the council, including myself have been hard at work organizing the New Orthodontist and Resident Conference Luncheon at Annual Session. This event is already sold out! The event will be held on Saturday, May 3 from 11:30a – 2pm. The keynote speakers will include Drs. Neal Kravitz and Enrique Cruz, as well as Nathan Mick.

Our AAO staff and CONYM have been working diligently to develop a New Ortho Engagement strategy with key goals. These include:

1. Build awareness and usage of AAO advocacy, education, and other relevant programs.
2. Develop AAO advocates among orthodontic educators.
3. Create a welcoming community where members feel engaged in the AAO and specialty.
4. Offer resources and programs that are based on members needs an easy to consume.

If anyone would like further detail related to these initiatives, please do not hesitate to ask.

CONYM will continue to explore the status of the AAO Connections Program as it is currently underutilized. The council will continue to explore options to help facilitate mentorship and networking opportunities for our members. CONYM is also working on creating a programming list for NYM at annual session. We will continue to grow outreach with residents through the resident champions and creating opportunities for AAO to share information regarding membership benefits with residents.



I am sad to say that this was my first and last meeting as the GLAO representative to CONYM. However, I am happy to say that I will continue to be on CONYM through my new role as Trustee at Large starting in May. Until I roll off, I will continue to work hard on these initiatives on behalf of the GLAO. If anyone has any questions, concerns or is interested in learning more about this position please do not hesitate to let me know.

Respectfully submitted,

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GLAO Representative to the AAO Council on New and Younger Members

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