



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

**February 14, 2024**

I would like to first congratulate Dr. Drew Smith who has represented Ontario section here at GLAO very admirably over the last many years and I want to thank him for his mentorship. The Ontario section is well represented here 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. And I am indeed proud to be part of this great group. I

Here is a brief gist of what the Ontario Orthodontists are up to.

- The Ontario Association of Orthodontists has been working diligently on behalf of our members on several issues that affect orthodontists across Ontario. Right now, OAO is very focused on getting work duties expanded for the dental assistants in the province and has made great strides so far with the ministry. To achieve this, 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 myself. The AAO has committed 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 meets regularly via the Zoom platform, with two successful and productive board meetings having been convened 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. 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>.
- 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 the orthodontist's interests are well represented.
- OAO is striving to improve its value to the membership. Project recently completed was the revamping 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 GLAO is introducing is the the green initiative to improve environmental sustainability.

GLAO has formed a green initiative task force which I am part of and hoping to bring awareness to recycling of aligners and plastic materials and reducing waste we produce in the office daily.

- As an Ontario director to GLAO, I am actively involved in improving membership to AAO. It is always a challenge as Ontario Orthodontists must choose between CAO (Canadian Association of Orthodontists), OAO and AAO. But, thanks to AAO's legal fund support for Ontario's workforce initiative, I have had quite a positive response to many orthodontists that have I reached out personally or via social media and I am hoping it materializes into increased membership to AAO/GLAO.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



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GLAO Ontario Director

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