

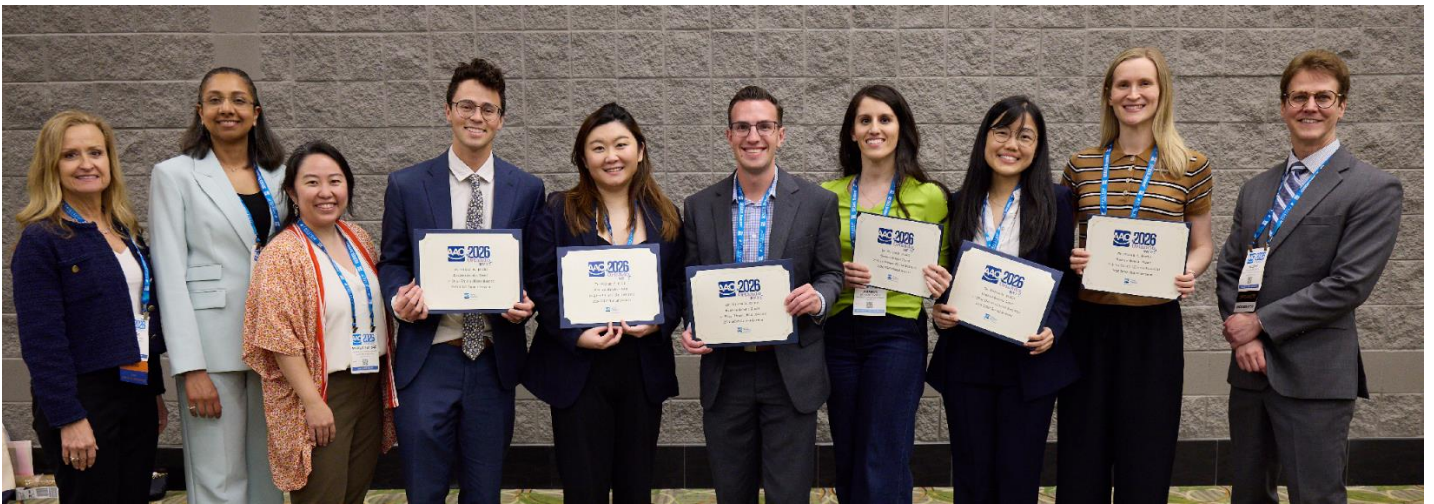


**AAO Council on Scientific Affairs
Dr. Marilia Yatabe**

August 2026

During Annual Session 2026 in Orlando, Florida, COSA members judged 32 William R. Proffit Resident Scholar Award presentations and 17 Table Clinic presentations. COSA members moderated 17 Oral Research presentations and the Hellman, Sicher, Graber lectures. 315 E-Posters were available for viewing during Annual Session.

The 2026 William R. Proffit Resident Scholar Award winners are:



Basic Science Research

First place: Tyler Starley – University of the Pacific

Research title: MTHFR and RFC1 gene polymorphisms affect multiplication of human PDL stem cells

Second place: Catherine Chou – University of Connecticut

Research title: Effects of i-PRF Injections in Buccal Bone following Maxillary Expansion in Rats

Third place: Mitchell Piacsek – Medical University of South Carolina

Research title: Differential Role of Kinin Receptors on Bone Cell Differentiation and Function

Clinical Research

First place: Lucy Leon – University of British Columbia

Research title: Validation of a Screening Tool for Pediatric Obstructive Sleep Apnea

Second place: Amanda Nikho – University of Illinois, Chicago

Research title: A Unified Deep Learning Approach for Skeletal Maturity Assessment from CBCT Scans

Third place: Siew Leng Tan – Eastman Dental

Research title: Childhood Cancer and Orthodontic Treatment: A cross-sectional study

The 2026 Joseph E. Johnson Clinical Award for Table Clinics winners are:



First place: Arjun Kumar – Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine

Research title: Morphologic Analysis of Metal Particle Release Following TAD Insertion

Second place: Ginny Hsu – Oregon Health & Science University

Research title: Optical Biomarkers of Tooth Eruption

Third place: Lizbeth Ortiz Luna – Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

Research title: 3D Direct Printing Aligners with Green Synthesized Antimicrobial ZnO Nanoparticles Coatings

The 2026 Hellman, Sicher, Graber award winners received their award plaques prior to their lectures at Annual Session:



Applications are being accepted for the 2027 Milo Hellman Research Award, the Harry Sicher Research Award and the Thomas M. Graber Awards of Special Merit. Applications for these awards can be found on the 2027 Annual Session website - [Hellman, Sicher, Graber Research Awards](#)

Only the online application will be accepted. The application deadline is **5:00pm CST (6pm EST) on October 1, 2026.**

COSA will be accepting online applications to present Oral Research, Table Clinics and E-Posters at the 2027 AAO Annual Session starting the first week of June 2026. The application deadline is 5:00pm CST (6pm EST) on October 15, 2026.

COSA will be accepting online applications for the William R. Proffit Resident Scholar Award presentations for the 2027 AAO Annual Session starting the first week of December 2026. The first forty residents who apply for the program will be accepted. The application deadline is 5:00pm CST (6pm EST) on February 3, 2027.

The 2026-2027 members of COSA are:

Dr. Helder Jacob-Chair (SWSO)
Dr. Thikriat Al-Jewair-Vice -chair (NESO)
Dr. Jose Bosio, chair (MASO)
Dr. Burcu Bayirli (PCSO)
Dr. Denise Prugh (RMSO)
Dr. Sheela Premaraj (SAO)
Dr. Sath Allareddy (MSO)
Dr. Marilia Yatabe Ioshida (GLAO)
Dr. Steven Marshall, Member at large
Dr. Jeffrey Nickel, Member at large
Dr. Jae Park (Trustee Liaison)

COSA's next meeting is January 8, 2027 via Zoom.

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 | www.glao.org/