



December 2025



Dr. Mariela Anderson  
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It is a great honour to serve as President of the Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists (GLAO) for 2025–2026. I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to Dr. Scott Schulz and the Annual Session Planning Committee for organising an outstanding meeting earlier this year in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

In **2026**, we will celebrate a milestone, the **centennial anniversary of the GLAO**, with our Annual Session in **Columbus, Ohio, on October 23–24**.

I warmly invite all members to join us as we commemorate 100 years of leadership, advocacy, and service to our profession. We are planning a session which will be tailored to both doctors and their teams and look forward to seeing you there.

Across our region, many GLAO members continue to advocate at the state and provincial levels. In several U.S. states, proposed legislation seeks to remove language defining a dental specialist, which would permit virtually any dentist to advertise as a specialist. In Ontario, the OAO, is requesting the expansion of the duties of certified dental assistants. This change would align Ontario's regulations with those of several other Canadian provinces.

While the political and social landscape may at times feel turbulent, the GLAO remains steadfast in its mission to **advocate on behalf of our members** and to **promote the value and advancement of the specialty of orthodontics**

In these times of rapid change and uncertainty, it is essential that we reaffirm what grounds us: our shared values of respect, integrity, and commitment to one another.

We recognize that diverse perspectives are a source of strength. As an organisation, we are committed to fostering open and respectful dialogue that encourages understanding rather than division. Our focus remains clear: to support our members, advance our field, and make a positive difference in the lives of the patients we serve and the communities in which we live and work.

Professional organisations and professionals must continually adapt to change to survive and improve. Together, we can navigate these complex times with

empathy, resilience, and a renewed commitment to the principles that unite us. I look forward to connecting with many of you over the coming year, whether in person or virtually. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, ideas, or concerns.

Wishing all our members a **healthy, joyful holiday season** and every success in **2026**.

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## ***Mark Your Calendars and Plan to Attend!***



### **Member News**

**Thank you to all who attended and supported the 2025 GLAO Annual Session in Grand Rapids!**



The Annual Session provided excellent opportunities for learning and fun for doctors, residents, and teams! ***Grand Ideas and Artful Solutions*** was the theme, and it was evident both both in the program content and throughout Grand Rapids! ArtPrize in downtown Grand Rapids was a perfect fit for our Annual Session, offering many opportunities to explore international art exhibits.

Residents from the University of Detroit Mercy and the University of Michigan facilitated the **Residents Forum**, providing an opportunity for engagement and discussion among our future leaders in the profession. The **GLAO/TP Orthodontics Resident Scholarships** were announced during the GLAO Annual Member Business Meeting, where GLAO awards were also presented to leaders in recognition of their dedication to the profession. Educators from the GLAO region met at the annual **Educators Meet Up**. The Annual Session again featured the **Giving Smiles Project**, which provided the opportunity to give back to the local community (see more in the article below).

A special thank you to all the companies that exhibited, showcasing the latest in orthodontic products and services, and thank you to our partners for their generosity and support. We look forward to seeing GLAO members next year as we celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Columbus, Ohio!

[Click Here](#) to view photos from the 2025 Annual Session.

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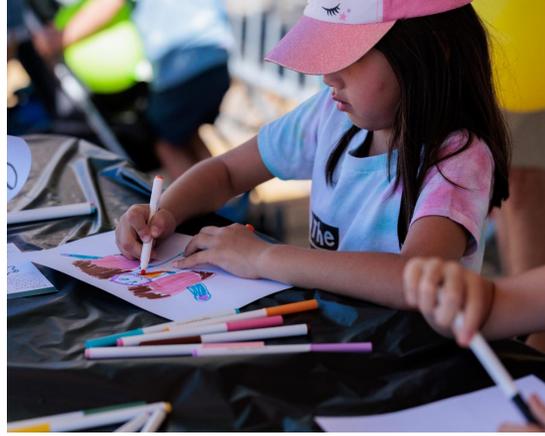
## GLAO Gives Back: Giving Smiles Project

As in previous years, the GLAO supported the local community at our Annual Session. This year, the GLAO supported youth and family programming at ArtPrize!

The GLAO was proud to sponsor a Luminarium Workshop for students and families in grades K–12. These students were given the opportunity to design and collaboratively build their own Luminarium structure. The workshop promotes creativity and education by offering a hands-on approach to art and architecture.

The GLAO was happy to bring smiles to the Grand Rapids community and give back!





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## 2025 GLAO Awards Recipients



*Dr. Schulz received the GLAO President's Award*

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*Dr. John Monticello received the GLAO Distinguished Service Award*

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*Dr. Kelton Stewart received the GLAO B. Holly Broadbent, Sr. Memorial Lecture Award*

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**The Lindsey O. Kesling Orthodontic Resident**

# Scholarship 2025 Award Recipients Announced

TP Orthodontics, Inc. in partnership with the GLAO, offers scholarships to residents attending orthodontic programs in the GLAO region. The *Lindsey O. Kesling Orthodontic Resident Scholarship Award* was created by TP Orthodontics, Inc. to give back to the orthodontic community in a way that helps residents by easing a small part of their financial burden. Applicants submitted an essay on humanitarian / volunteer efforts made by the resident during their years of attendance at their orthodontic residency program. Since 2017, a total of \$87,000 has been awarded in scholarships and over \$23,000 in TP Orthodontics product vouchers distributed. Thirty-four residents have received scholarships, to date.

We are pleased to announce the following recipients of the 2025 Lindsey O. Kesling Orthodontic Resident Scholarships:

**Dr. Parker Heiner** – The Ohio State University

**Dr. Alaina Ng** – Indiana University

**Dr. Ezzine Nwadinobi** – The Ohio State University

Thank you to TP Orthodontics, Inc. and congratulations to these residents who are making a difference in their communities! Scholarship applications and additional information can be found at [www.glao.org](http://www.glao.org).



TP Orthodontics, Inc.



Lindsey O. Kesling

ORTHODONTIC RESIDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

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## University Spotlight

On November 15th, the **Graduate Orthodontics Program** at the **University of Western Ontario** proudly celebrated the 50th anniversary of its first graduating class. With the support of American Orthodontics, the program welcomed distinguished clinical speaker **Dr. Graham Jones** from Monroe, WA, who delivered an insightful and engaging lecture. Dr. Jones shared his expertise on evidence-based Class II correction, torque considerations in everyday orthodontics, and autotransplantation, along with valuable “practice pearls” learned throughout his career.

[Click Here](#) to read more.



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***Join your GLAO colleagues for a Coffee Chat  
Thursday, January 29th, 12:00 - 1:00 pm ET***



This casual Zoom Meeting format will provide GLAO members an opportunity for informal discussions with your colleagues. The discussion topic will be: **It's All About the HEART: What Exactly Does our AAO Foundation Do For Us?** Join Brett Schott, Vice President of the AAO Foundation, to discover the power of our association's philanthropic arm and its commitment to our specialty. Brett will share the progress on the Foundation's current effort to endow Full-time Faculty Fellowship, the commitment to research and education, and Gifted Smiles. Learn how you can help make an impact. Please plan to participate in this interactive Zoom meeting to learn more!

**SIGN UP**

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY RETIRED MEMBERS!

Dr. Charles Canepa – *Lakewood, OH*  
 Dr. Lawrence Ellis – *Saint John, IN*  
 Dr. Richard Gobbie – *Pittsburgh, PA*  
 Dr. Thomas Jusino – *Waterford, MI*  
 Dr. James Karhohs – *Grand Rapids, MI*  
 Dr. Charles McDermott – *Columbus, IN*  
 Dr. Thomas Rykovich – *Mishawaka, IN*  
 Dr. Theodore Schipper – *Toronto, ON*  
 Dr. Michelle Wittler – *Westfield, IN*  
 Dr. Richard Zimmerman – *Indianapolis, IN*

**The GLAO has been notified of the passing of these members. Our thoughts are with their family members.**

Dr. Charles Y. Coghlan – *Bloomington, IN*  
 Dr. William A. Heisel – *Petoskey, MI*  
 Dr. James Karpac – *Dublin, OH*  
 Dr. Robert E. Matthews – *Farmington Hills, MI*  
 Dr. Leonard L. Veatch – *Royal Oak, MI*  
 Dr. Robert H. Williams – *Media, PA*  
 Dr. James F. Yonally – *North Canton, OH*

## AAO Trustee Report

At its recent meeting, the AAO Board of Trustees resolved to educate members on the legal and malpractice risks associated with orthodontic treatment platforms that facilitate collaboration between orthodontists and general dentists. This message provides perspective on the issue and does not constitute legal advice.

When an orthodontist develops a treatment plan for a non-orthodontist, several concerns arise—clinical, ethical, and legal. Ethically, the AAO Principles of Ethics and Clinical Practice Guidelines emphasize ongoing supervision and dynamic reassessment of care. If a non-orthodontist implements a plan without adequate oversight, patient outcomes may suffer, violating



Dr. Michael W. Sherman  
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Principle 2: "Do No Harm."

[Click Here](#) to read more.

## ABO News and Information

The American Board of Orthodontics remains dedicated to setting the standard of care and advancing the orthodontic profession. With 65% of AAO orthodontists now board certified, this achievement serves as a testament to those continued efforts. It also enables us to speak with a unified voice on the importance of seeking care from an ABO-Board Certified orthodontic specialist

Written Examination: The 2026 exam will be held on April 7, 2026. Registration for the 2026 exam opens on November 5, 2025.

Written Examination Coordinator | Nicole Huson  
[Nicole@AmericanBoardOrtho.com](mailto:Nicole@AmericanBoardOrtho.com)

[Click Here](#) to read more.



Dr. Anthony M. Puntillo  
ABO Director  
[dr.p@pandcsmiles.com](mailto:dr.p@pandcsmiles.com)

## AAOF

### For the Future - Faculty Fellowship Campaign

The future of Orthodontics depends on our commitment to invest in the best educators. The AAO Foundation has launched For the Future – a campaign to invest in fellowships that will advance our specialty. The Full-Time Faculty Fellowship is a two-year, \$30,000 fellowship designed to supplement the salaries of those dedicated to orthodontic academics. In concert with the AAO, and following the House of Delegates' unanimous support to create this powerful opportunity, this fellowship is our way of ensuring that the future is led by the most qualified and passionate individuals. Contributions will be matched dollar-for-dollar to create a fund to award three fellowships (awarded for two years) every year.

[Click Here](#) to read more.



Dr. J. Martin Palomo  
GLAO Representative to  
AAOF  
[jmp5@case.edu](mailto:jmp5@case.edu)

## AAO National Advocacy Network (NAN)

There are two opportunities within the NAN: the Component Advocacy Liaison (CAL), open to U.S. and Canadian members, and the AAOPAC Captain, open

to U.S. citizens and permanent residents only.

Members are invited to join the candidate search within every state and province across the United States and Canada with possible opportunities for two roles. Currently, the AAO is recruiting for a Component Advocacy Liaison (CAL) in Indiana, and an AAOPAC Captain in Western Pennsylvania.

The AAO will continue to build state Component Advocacy Liaison teams in all states, so even if there has been a CAL identified in a state, we encourage you to reach out to be considered as a part of the NAN Team in that state. Interested AAO members can reach out to Kim VanVeen, AAO Specialist of Grassroots and Digital Advocacy, at [KVanVeen@aaortho.org](mailto:KVanVeen@aaortho.org), or send the text message "NAN" to 52886, and Kim will set up time to discuss the opportunities.

## GLAO Component Updates

Below are links to the most current reports.

### Indiana

Dr. Lana Helms..... [lrhelms@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lrhelms@sbcglobal.net)

### Michigan

Dr. Brandon Shoukri..... [bshoukri@umich.edu](mailto:bshoukri@umich.edu)

### Ontario

Dr. Girish Deshpande..... [drgdeshpande@gmail.com](mailto:drgdeshpande@gmail.com)

### Ohio

Dr. Dale Anne Featheringham..... [dafortho@yahoo.com](mailto:dafortho@yahoo.com)

### Pennsylvania

Dr. Dana Craig..... [dana.craig22@gmail.com](mailto:dana.craig22@gmail.com)

## AAO Council Featured Reports

### AAO Council on Communication

#### Consumer Awareness Program (CAP)

The CAP is the only mass advertising campaign promoting orthodontists as specialists and educating the public to see an orthodontist in person. The CAP program currently focuses on digital marketing, with the goal of driving quality traffic to the consumer website.

Performance June 1, 2025 – October 31, 2025:

- **Over 7.2M consumer website visits** (+28% LY)
- **Over 2.85M Find an Orthodontist**



- **locator visits** (+32% LY)
- **490M impressions served** – CAP ads appear across platforms like Google display, Paid Search on Google and Bing, YouTube online video, Facebook, and Instagram. (+164% LY)
- **9.7M ad clicks** (+49% LY)

Dr. Jashleen Bedi  
[jbedidmd@gmail.com](mailto:jbedidmd@gmail.com)

[Click Here](#) to read more.

## AAO Council on Education (COE)

The Council on Orthodontic Education (COE) met virtually on Wednesday, July 23, 2025. Some of the highlights are described below.

- The AAO Trustee at Large search will begin in the Fall.
- A concern was raised about a proposed change to the academic limited license that governs how foreign-trained dentists and specialists are permitted to practice within university setting. COE members agreed to watch this issue on-campus, and report back at COE in-person meeting.



Dr. Juan Martin Palomo  
[jmp5@case.edu](mailto:jmp5@case.edu)

[Click Here](#) to read more

Below are links to the most current AAO Council Reports.

### [Council on Communications \(COC\)](#)

Dr. Jashleen Bedi.....[jbedidmd@gmail.com](mailto:jbedidmd@gmail.com)

### [Council on Governmental Advocacy \(COGA\)](#)

Dr. Valerie Martone.....[valeriemartone2@gmail.com](mailto:valeriemartone2@gmail.com)

### [Council on Membership, Ethics, and Judicial Concerns \(COMEJC\)](#)

Dr. Riyadh Al-Qawasmi..... [alqawara@udmercy.edu](mailto:alqawara@udmercy.edu)

### [Council on New and Younger Members \(CONYM\)](#)

Dr. Javen Durham.....[DRD@eaganortho.com](mailto:DRD@eaganortho.com)

### [Council on Orthodontic Education \(COE\)](#)

Dr. J. Martin Palomo .....[jmp5@case.edu](mailto:jmp5@case.edu)

### [Council on Orthodontic Benefits \(COB\)](#)

Dr. Tasha Hall.....[tashahall828@gmail.com](mailto:tashahall828@gmail.com)

### [Council on Orthodontic Practice \(COOP\)](#)

Dr. Lana Helms.....[lrhelms@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lrhelms@sbcglobal.net)

### GLAO MEMBERS:

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the AAOPAC and consider making a contribution.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the AAO Foundation and consider making a donation.

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## GLAO Information

### Share your knowledge and expertise:

Submit an article for consideration in the GLAO e-news, our quarterly e-news bulletin, by emailing [GLAO@AssnOffices.com](mailto:GLAO@AssnOffices.com). GLAO Coffee Chats provide informal opportunities to engage with other members. If you have a topic in mind or would like to facilitate a discussion, contact [GLAO@AssnOffices.com](mailto:GLAO@AssnOffices.com)!

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## Get Connected

Join the **GLAO Facebook Page!**

[Click Here](#) and sign into Facebook and follow our page.



NEW! Join the **GLAO on Instagram!**

[Click Here](#) and sign into Instagram and follow us.



Make sure the AAO has your current **email address** on file. We use that email address to stay in touch with you via e-blast like this one.

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### GLAO E-News:

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