



May 2026



Dr. Mariela Anderson
manders1@uwo.ca

Dear Colleagues,

It has been my honour to serve as President of the GLAO during this remarkable year as we celebrate the centenary of the Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists.

As a constituent of the AAO, the GLAO exists to provide a strong local support network for our orthodontic colleagues across Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Ontario, and Western Pennsylvania. Our organization remains committed to advancing both education and advocacy on behalf of our members.

I am delighted to invite you and your teams to attend the GLAO Annual Session in Columbus, Ohio, from October 23–24, 2026. As we commemorate 100 years of the GLAO, we also look ahead to the future of orthodontics and the opportunities that lie before us.

This year's program has been thoughtfully designed to reflect the evolving future of our specialty. From innovations in skeletal expansion and digital treatment planning to the growing influence of agentic AI, patient experience, and modern marketing strategies, our conference topics focus on the technologies, ideas, and clinical approaches that will shape orthodontic practice in the years ahead.

This year's program features an outstanding lineup of speakers and topics designed to inspire both clinicians and team members alike. Among our featured presenters:

- Dr. Audrey Yoon will discuss *Custom 3D-Printed MARPE for Predictable Skeletal Outcomes with Minimal Complications* as well as *Non-Surgical Solutions for Facial Asymmetries in Non-Growing Patients*.
- Dr. Lucia Cevitanes will address *Agentic AI and Chatbots* and explore how these technologies are changing orthodontic practice.
- Ms. Tracy Martin will present *The Modern Patient Experience* and examine its impact on patient starts and practice growth.
- Dr. Farah Kar will discuss *The Unicorn Factor: Marketing in 2026*.

I look forward to celebrating this milestone with you in Columbus. As we honour the past 100 years of the GLAO, this meeting offers a wonderful

opportunity to reconnect with friends and colleagues from across the Great Lakes region.

Meetings such as this enrich our knowledge, strengthen our professional community, and allow us to grow together as colleagues and friends.

I hope you will join us for this special occasion.

Sincerely,

Mariela
President, Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists

YOU and YOUR STAFF are invited to the 2026 GLAO Annual Session in Columbus, Ohio, October 23-24!

Registration is now open!
[CLICK HERE](#) to register.



**Meeting
Registration**

**Hotel
Reservations**

**2026 AS
Information**

The GLAO is ready to CELEBRATE 100 YEARS, and we want you to join us! We are looking forward to seeing you and your team October 23-24 in Columbus, Ohio!

This two-day program for doctors, staff, and residents will be held at the Hilton Downtown Columbus. Columbus, Ohio is easily accessible for most of our GLAO members and will provide an excellent opportunity for some in-person education, networking, and celebration! [LEARN MORE](#)

GLAO 100th Anniversary Year!

GLAO



THE GREAT LAKES ASSOCIATION
OF ORTHODONTISTS

Celebrating 100 Years!

Looking Back, Leading Forward: A Coffee Conversation with Dr. Chris Roberts Discussing GLAO's Centennial Celebration

By: Dr. Brandon Shoukri

[Click Here](#) to read more.

Member News

Dr. Richard Kulbersh Receives the ABO 2026 Albert H. Ketcham Memorial Award

Congratulations to Dr. Richard Kulbersh, of Detroit, Michigan, recipient of the 2026 Albert H. Ketcham Memorial Award from the American Board of Orthodontics (ABO). This award is presented annually to an individual who has made a notable contribution to the science and art of orthodontics and is the ABO's highest honor.

[Click Here](#) to read more.



Nationwide Tour with Senator Terry Johnson

Dr. Katrin Kramer and Nationwide Children's Hospital hosted Senator Terry Johnson of the Ohio Senate for a tour and to discuss AAO policy priorities in Ohio.

This visit is a result of conversations during last year's AAO/OAO Lobby Day: [Advocacy in Action: AAO Members Advance Priorities at the 2025 Ohio Lobby Day - AAO](#).



Congratulations to Our Newly Retired Members!

Dr. Steve Hoagburg - *Fort Wayne, IN*

Dr. Fang-Bin Sun - *Troy, MI*

GLAO Student Award of Excellence

The GLAO Student Award of Excellence was established this year, to recognize senior dental students who have demonstrated exemplary aptitude and achievement in orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics during their formal dental training. The GLAO opened nominations from each of the orthodontic programs in the GLAO region. Senior dental students who have matriculated into an orthodontic residency program in the GLAO region were eligible. The following is the criteria for award nominations:

Scholastic Success: The recipient must have demonstrated exceptional academic performance in orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics.

Research: Qualified recipients should have also engaged in research and/or community service activities that contribute to the advancement of the dental profession or specialty of orthodontics.

Community Service: Recipients should have participated in community service activities that promote the enhancement of their community.

Preference: Preference will be given to a senior dental student who has matriculated into an orthodontic residency program in the GLAO region. The GLAO is pleased to recognize the hard work and dedication of our future orthodontists! We are happy to announce that the following individuals received the 2026 GLAO Student Award of Excellence:

Nomination by:

Case Western Reserve University
The Ohio State University
Indiana University
University of Michigan
University of Pittsburgh

Award Recipient:

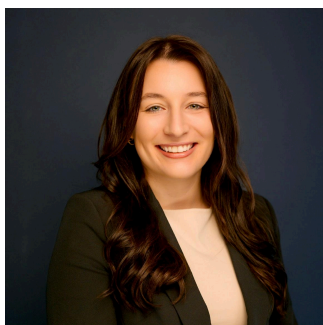
Xiao Lu
Jessie Weinder
Makenzie Myers
Kelsey Gruber
Taylor E. Dermond



Xiao Lu



Taylor E. Dermond



Kelsey Gruber



Left to Right: Dean Carol Anne Murdoch-Kinch, Ms. Makenzie Myers, Dr. Kelton Stewart, Dr. Carolina Frota

2026 AAO House of Delegates



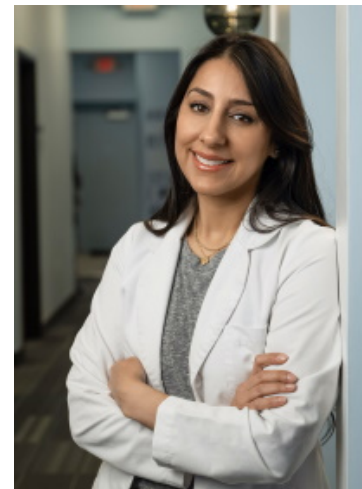
Thank you to the GLAO delegation who attended the AAO Annual Session in Orlando, representing the GLAO: **Dr. Fatima Ahmed, Dr. Mariela Anderson, Dr. Jashleen Bedi, Dr. Tarek ElShebiny, Dr. Valerie Martone, Dr. John**

Monticello, Dr. J. Martin Palomo, Dr. Scott Schulz, Dr. Kelton Stewart, and Dr. Josephine Weeden. Also present were: **Dr. Kaitrin Kramer** (AAO Trustee-at-Large), **Dr. Kevan O'Neill** (AAO Trustee-at-Large), **Dr. Michael Sherman** (GLAO Trustee to the AAO), and **Ms. Debbie Nunner** (GLAO Executive Director).

Delegation Chair Report

Serving as Delegation Chair for the Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists at the American Association of Orthodontists Annual House of Delegates in Orlando was truly one of the greatest honors of my professional career. Representing the members of the Great Lakes Association in the House of Delegates provided a unique opportunity to participate in meaningful discussions that will help shape the future of organized orthodontics and the continued strength of the American Association of Orthodontists.

[Click Here](#) to read more.



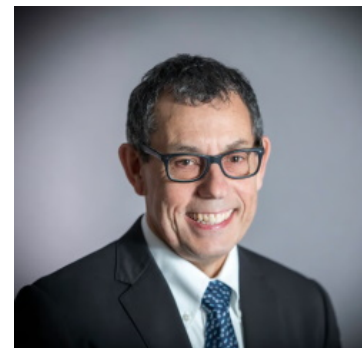
Dr. Jashleen Bedi
jbedidmd@gmail.com

AAO Trustee Report

Serving as Your GLAO Trustee: Reflections and an Invitation

As I step into the role of Secretary-Treasurer of the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO), I begin my eighth year serving our membership as GLAO Trustee on the AAO Board of Trustees. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to represent you in this capacity. With the election of my successor approaching in the summer of 2027, I would like to share an overview of the Trustee role for those who may be considering a candidacy.

[Click Here](#) to read more and to learn about the GLAO Trustee election process. A letter of interest is requested by 9/8/26.



Dr. Michael W. Sherman
msherman@aaortho.org

ABO News and Information

The American Board of Orthodontics (ABO) remains committed to elevating the quality of orthodontic care for the public by promoting excellence through certification, education, and professional collaboration. Currently, **68%** of AAO orthodontists are board certified, a significant milestone that reflects a strong collective commitment to excellence within our specialty.



Dr. Anthony M. Puntillo
ABO Director
dr.p@pandcsmiles.com

ABO at the AAO Annual Session

2026-27 Appointed Officers

While in Orlando P. Emile Rossouw, M.Ch.D., Ph.D., of Rochester, N.Y., was officially installed as President of the ABO Board of Directors for the term beginning in May 2026. Additional appointments include:

- Anthony M. Puntillo, D.D.S., M.S.D. of Chesterton, IN as President-Elect.
- Daniel J. Rejman, D.D.S., M.S. of Castle Rock, Co as Secretary/Treasurer.

[Click Here](#) to read more.

AAOF

AAO Foundation Highlights:

At the AAO Annual Session in Orlando the following awards were presented:

- Dr. Thomas Cangialosi was presented with the 2026 Jarabak Award during the AAO Leadership Reception. Dr. Cangialosi was nominated by his constituency (MASO) to receive the award for his dedication and accomplishments in orthodontic teaching and research.
- Dr. Maria Costanza Meazzini, Research Director, of the Cleft Lip and Palate Center in Milan, Italy presented the 2026 Salzmann Lecture during the AAO Annual Session.



Dr. J. Martin Palomo
GLAO Representative to
AAOF
jmp5@case.edu

[Click Here](#) to read more.

GLAO Component Updates

Below are links to the most current reports.

Indiana

Dr. Lana Helms..... lrhelms@sbcglobal.net

Michigan

Dr. Brandon Shoukri..... bshoukri@umich.edu

Ontario

Dr. Girish Deshpande..... drgdeshpande@gmail.com

Ohio

Dr. Dale Anne Featheringham..... dafortho@yahoo.com

Pennsylvania

Dr. Wellington Rody, Jr..... Wjr34@pitt.edu

AAO Council Featured Reports

AAO Council on Governmental Advocacy (COGA)

AAO Advocacy representatives visiting Washington, D.C. recently hand-delivered the recently published AAO position paper on artificial intelligence to the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Small Business Administration, and the White House. The outreach was part of continuing political and regulatory outreach.

The AAO Position Paper is called “Responsible Integration of Artificial Intelligence in Orthodontic Clinical Practice.” A shout out to GLAO’s **Dr. Anthony Puntillo**, a member of the Task force on Artificial Intelligence and AAO Committee on Technology Chair, **Dr. Lisa Alvetro** who participated in the development of this paper.

[Click Here](#) to read more.



Dr. Valerie Martone
valeriemartone2@gmail.com

AAO Council on New and Younger Members (CONYM)

The inaugural CONYM Pre-Conference Seminar was highly organized and well-executed. While afternoon seminar attendance was lower than anticipated, the evening social event saw excellent participation. This disparity suggests that younger members faced challenges taking



Dr. Javen Durham

time off from work on a Thursday. These issues will be taken into consideration for the next New and Younger member seminar.

DRD@eaganortho.com

[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

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

Dr. Valerie Martone.....valeriemartone2@gmail.com

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

Dr. Riyadh Al-Qawasmi.....alqawara@udmercy.edu

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

Dr. Javen Durham.....DRD@eaganortho.com

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

Dr. J. Martin Palomojmp5@case.edu

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

Dr. Leah Stetzel Miller.....stetzelleah@gmail.com

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

Dr. Lana Helms.....lrhelms@sbcglobal.net

[Council on Scientific Affairs \(COSA\)](#)

Dr. Marilia Yatabe Ioshidamsyatabe@umich.edu

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.

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. 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!

Get Connected

Join the **GLAO Facebook Page!**

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

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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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