GLAO
THE GREAT LAKES ASSOCIATION OF ORTHODONTISTS

Component Report for Western Pennsylvania **September 24, 2026**

Six years post-COVID, the way orthodontists pursue and obtain continuing education has evolved significantly. In 2026, the Pennsylvania Association of Orthodontists (PAO) Board set out to provide Pennsylvania orthodontists, their teams, and residents with a meaningful in-person event focused on the latest technological advancements shaping the profession.

On Friday, April 10, 2026, the PAO welcomed Dr. Lisa Alvetro to The Westin Pittsburgh, where she spent the day with 55 attendees presenting "Optimizing Your Orthodontic Practice: Technology for Clinical, Operational, and Patient-Centered Success." Dr. Alvetro was widely praised for her ability to present the most exciting innovations in orthodontics in a humble, practical, and easily digestible manner, and attendees left with numerous practical takeaways for their practices. The next continuing education meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 16, 2027, in Pittsburgh, as the PAO continues building meaningful in-person events that strengthen and advance the profession across Pennsylvania. Additional details will follow.

The PAO Board looks forward to continuing its outreach and awareness efforts with the state's five orthodontic residency programs — Penn, Temple, Einstein, Seton Hill, and Pitt — through ongoing lunch-and-learn sessions. Residents are also encouraged to apply for the David Hamilton Award for Outstanding Resident Research, open to all orthodontic residents in the state.

In a notable development for Pennsylvania's dental profession, Act No. 13 of 2026 (from House Bill 2163, signed May 6, 2026) amends The Dental Law to give dental schools greater flexibility in faculty staffing. Most significantly, the act expands where dentists holding a restricted faculty license may practice: previously confined to a dental school's primary facilities, licensees may now also work at facilities owned by an affiliated academic health care center or a dental school-owned faculty practice. It further extends the permitted duration for dentists to participate in continuing education courses at Pennsylvania dental schools, from 20 days to a full year. Additionally, the act allows foreign-trained dental professionals who completed their advanced credentials outside the United States to qualify directly for a restricted faculty license, without repeating foundational residency or clinical training through a CODA-accredited program.

In practice, these changes give Pennsylvania's three dental schools greater flexibility to place foreign-trained faculty across a wider range of clinical settings and to recruit them for teaching roles, thus supporting faculty recruitment and expanding supervised patient care. The act also addresses licensure standards more broadly, granting the State Board of Dentistry authority to use individualized character assessments for applicants with past criminal convictions.

Respectfully submitted,

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