

Greetings GLAO Family,

I am honored to serve as the GLAO President this year, and I hope that you are all off to a good start in 2025. As a sole-practitioner orthodontist, I am reminded often of how much the AAO and GLAO are doing for me and all its members. Instead of feeling alone, I am comforted knowing that my AAO is looking out for my team, my practice, and me. Our profession and the forces that affect us are continually changing, and the AAO continues to meet our challenges head on. The AAO continues to be the gold-standard for continuing education, practice management and legal resources. I am still learning how much the AAO website has to offer. The advocacy team has been very busy these last few years representing the interests of orthodontists at the state and national levels, with great success. I am thankful for everything the AAO has done for my practice and our profession. On a personal level, meeting up with old friends/colleagues at the GLAO and AAO Annual Sessions makes me feel whole as a professional and connected in a real way.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE: GLAO Annual Session, September 18-20 in Grand Rapids, MI. We have put together a very informative and team-friendly meeting this year. It is going to be an educational and memorable fun-filled two days for you and your team at a reasonable price. I love the regional meetings like this because it allows many of us bring our team with a reasonable drive or easy flights into Grand Rapids, Gerald R. Ford Airport (GRR). We have highly-discounted rooms at the gorgeous Amway Grand Plaza Hotel during a very exciting weekend in Grand Rapids, ArtPrize 2025. ArtPrize is an international art competition and cultural festival held over sixteen days in Grand Rapids, Michigan---a celebration of ideas, conversations, experimentation and inclusiveness. Plan on an amazing meeting with your GLAO colleagues and teams!

I just returned from the 2025 AAO Leadership Development Conference, and I was so inspired by the program. GLAO members made up a good portion of the speaker lineup and planning committee. Drs. Jashleen Bedi, Michael Sherman and Kaitrin Kramer all gave informative and moving presentations, and our Executive Director, Debbie Nunner, was major player on the planning committee. Future leaders of the GLAO attended and learned about the organizational structure of the AAO, leadership strategies, and volunteer leadership opportunities. I am excited about the involvement of these young doctors who will keep the AAO strong and purposeful. If you have any interest in volunteering in the GLAO, please contact me or your state or provincial representative. I know that my leadership involvement with the GLAO has benefitted me, far more than I have given back, and I am so grateful for the opportunity.

Please stay connected and informed by looking out for the GLAO E-News and attending our GLAO Virtual Coffee Chats every quarter on Saturday mornings.

I look forward to seeing you all in Grand Rapids in September!

Scott O. Schulz, DDS, MS
GLAO President