

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

