

# Straight Talk NEWSLETTER



Ontario  
Association of  
Orthodontists  
ORTHODONTICS BY ORTHODONTISTS

*"all that's going on in and around the OAO"*

JANUARY 2021

## President's Message

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

To begin, I wanted to wish you all a very Happy New Year. One that I hope will be filled with much health and return to normalcy. I personally am excited to welcome this brand-new year and all the promise it brings!



It goes without saying that 2020 was a unique and difficult year for us all, both personally and professionally with the many challenges we have faced. Professionally we have had to deal with shutting down our offices, re-opening them, re-jigging our set-up and managing our staff. Ultimately our resilience has shone through as we adapted and carried on with what we all love to do, and that's to put beautiful smiles on our patients' faces. Personally, we have all faced significant challenges as we cope with the stress and anxieties of the pandemic. It has been heartwarming to know, that we are in this together and are not alone in the challenges we have faced.

I wanted to take this time to acknowledge the tremendous work of the executive and board members of your OAO. Each member of the board who volunteers their time have worked tirelessly during the past year serving the interests of our profession and advocating for the betterment of orthodontics. I am very proud to have these individuals representing us at our Association. Our group, has recognized the challenges faced by our members during the past year, and as such, made the decision to reduce the 2021 membership dues by 25%, to acknowledge the importance of our membership during these hard times.

The OAO has been engaged in discussions to make sure that we are as relevant to our broad spectrum of members as possible, representing all orthodontists, whether that be a new graduate, an associate or a practice owner. No longer can we assume that membership in the OAO is a given. We have to work harder to bring greater value for that membership, and do a better job in letting our members know the various advocacy work the OAO does on behalf of the profession. Whether that be hiring a major legal firm to push back against Do-It-Yourself orthodontics in the province, promoting tele-dentistry even prior to the pandemic, working with hygienists to align our regulations, pushing for expanded duties of dental assistants or regularly writing to the Minister of Health and the College to help shape the back-to-work guidelines. Always making our voice and views heard.

Even today, with all the challenges, we enjoy a profession like no other, and this is not accidental – it is because we all stick together, as a group. Our strength is our cohesiveness, camaraderie, looking after each other as friends and colleagues and having one strong voice together in our province.

I wish each and every one of you a healthy year head!

Warmest Regards,  
Dr. Shervin Abbaszadeh  
OAO President

## Treasurer's Report

As I look out over my back yard, it is hard to believe another year has flown by and the snow returns. I have been the OAO Treasurer now for four years and during this time, I am pleased to say we have implemented best business practices and governance models to the OAO with the guidance of Bond and Associates. We budget yearly and then monitor the past vs the present vs the future to prevent surprises. Covid was enough of a surprise.



Best practices indicate that Associations should have 6 months to 1 year of operating expense in their reserve. Who would know that 2020 would bring a year that would test this standard? I am pleased to say, that as of November 30th, our reserves are healthy and we surpass this threshold. This will keep the OAO in good shape into 2021 and beyond. While we hope we do not lose any membership in the new year, if this happens we are able to remain sustainable.

Our 2020 Scientific Meeting has been deferred to May 2021, and monies collected from registration fees and sponsorship will be moved to the balance sheet and then applied in 2021. We had very few cancellations and also remain in a good position to move forward once restrictions indicate that we can safely do so. We appreciate the good faith our members and partners have in the OAO to keep their deposits secure and apply them as soon as we are able.

In 2020, as there were no in-person meetings, this kept our expenses low, and at the same time we were able to engage our membership in a May business meeting and lecture, and then again with a meeting in November.

Our auditor and legal counsel both continue to confirm that the OAO is in good position, and that we keep timely and accurate records on all Association matters. Even though I am your treasurer living in Sault Ste. Marie, Pre-COVID we had already gone to a Zoom platform and implemented digital methods of financial transacting and approving. Fortuitously, this allows me to carry out my obligations as though I lived in the GTA!

I hope we get to meet in person in 2021!



Respectfully Submitted,  
Dr. Kent Floreani

## OAO Executive Council

Dr. Shervin Abbaszadeh  
President

Dr. Pourang Rahimi  
Past President

Dr. Natoosha Nargaski  
Vice President

De. Kent Floreani  
Treasurer

Dr. Girish Deshpande  
Secretary

Dr. Maxwell Abraham  
Director

Dr. Mariela Anderson  
CAO Rep

Dr. Drew Smith  
GLAO Rep, Honours & Awards,  
Bylaw Committees

Dr. Sean Chung  
Young and New Members Rep

Dr. Michael Goldstein  
Newsletter Editor

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## It's time to Renew Your OAO Membership

In light of the current COVID situation, your Board of Directors have approved a special renewal rate for 2021.

Renew your membership for only \$255 + HST. A savings of 25%.

After February 1st, 2021, our regular membership fee of \$340 + HST will apply.

In 2021, OAO will offer 4 complimentary education sessions covering "From Front Desk to Clinic and beyond". These will be Core 1,2 & 3 **at no additional cost**.

Plans for 2021 include revamping our website which will include a direct appointment request link from your member listing!

OAO will offer a mentorship program to connect new/younger members with established members.

OAO will continue to advocate for our profession on behalf of our members.

Please visit our website at [www.oao.on.ca](http://www.oao.on.ca) or [click here](#) to join/renew.

CLICK HERE TO  
**RENEW NOW!**

## 2020 OAO Accomplishments

- 25% reduction in 2021 membership dues due to the COVID hardship of 2020 for our members
- There were 178 email exchanges with RCDSO
- There were 24 phone conversations with the College
- 4 letters were sent to the Minister of Health regarding access to care, and urging CDHO and RCDSO to align recommendations
- 6 letters were sent to RCDSO expressing ortho as urgent care and essential service; and assistant expanded duties
- 3 letters to CDHO and ONAA regarding disparity of PPE requirements; and urge CDHO to work with RCDSO
- 7 executive meetings were held including emergency meetings to deal with COVID issues
- 7,000 clicks on OAO doctor locator where our members were found by prospective patients.

## Membership Report

OAO welcomes the following new Members:

May 2020  
Michael Sirisko

October 2020  
Jen Boogaards  
Negin Ghaffri  
Gabriella Kaminer-Levin

November 2020  
Domenico Barranca  
Shadzi Jebraelli

December 2020  
Mira Daljeet

January 2021  
Allison Nicholls

	Nov 9, 2020	Nov 13, 2019	Sept 12, 2018
Standard	141	155	169
Academic	5	3	4
Academic Retired	1	1	1
Honourary	6	6	6
Lifetime/Retired	97	95	93
Graduate (Total)	9	20	17
2018	3	-	-
2019	5	-	-
2020	1	-	-
Student	14	13	17
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>304</b>

OAO recognizes the following Honorary Life members for their support for the past 35 years:

2020  
Dr. Murry Deller  
Dr. Graeme Hibberd  
Dr. Gerald Zeit



Respectfully submitted,  
Dr. Girish Deshpande

## Distinguished Service Award

On November 12, 2020, Dr. Arlene Dagys was presented with the OAO Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Dagys served as OAO President in 1990-91 and continues to contribute to the OAO.

Congratulations Dr. Dagys!



## What's New at the CAO?

It's Time to renew you CAO membership! You should have received an email with a link for renewal. Your continued support of the CAO is important as the CAO is the voice of Orthodontists across Canada!



### Insurance

The CAO recently announced that the proposal of a code representing orthodontic predetermination has been accepted by the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association (CLHIA). The CAO continues to work with the CDA, CLHIA and various orthodontic software companies in the implementation of this code.

### HST

HST is one that affects ALL Canadian orthodontists. Therefore, the CAO continues to advocate for issues relating to the Orthodontic Supplies Agreement. Our CAO HST Advisor continues to monitor the situation and weather CAO is willing to help any member that runs into problems with CRA on this topic. The legal cases surrounding this topic are closely monitored and updated regularly.

### Meeting

Unfortunately the CAO Meeting in Kelowna was cancelled due to the COVID19 pandemic but CAO is hard at work making 2021 in Quebec City an event to remember! We look forward to seeing old friends at the conference in September 2021!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dr. Mariela Anderson

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## RCDSO Report

As many of you know, we have a new Registrar at the College – Dr. Daniel Faulkner. The OAO sent Dr. Faulkner a welcome letter at the start of his term welcoming him to Dentistry and letting him know he can count on the orthodontists of the province as a partner when it comes to looking after the health, safety and wellbeing of Ontario residents.

The College had its elections in December of 2020, and we are happy to report that one of our own, Dr. Mark Eckler was re-elected as a councillor. I personally also want to thank Dr. Ted Schipper for making a bid and running for a council position. The OAO reached out to all orthodontists in those two districts, bringing to their attention the running of a fellow orthodontist and to consider lending their support for their elections. It is important to have our voice heard on council.

The topic of expanded duties for dental assistants did not make it on to the agenda for the Council's November 2020 meeting, despite what we were hoping for. The OAO had been in communication with key members of the committee, including its Chair, and we were working on this file during the summer, hoping to push it forward on the College's agenda.

The next council meeting will be held on January 20 and 21, 2021. We continue to engage the College on the issues of dental assistants, cooperation between dentists and hygienists and direct to consumer orthodontics.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dr. Shervin Abbaszadeh

## GLAO Report

It's no exaggeration when I say I won't miss 2020 and how much I'm looking forward to brighter days ahead in 2021. One of the truths that became evident over the course of this past year was the value of membership in our professional orthodontic associations, as the OAO, GLAO, AAO and CAO dedicated their efforts towards providing support and guidance to their members through this most difficult of times. The AAO and GLAO pivoted from their in-person annual sessions, scheduled for Atlanta and Cleveland respectively, to virtual platforms, providing world class CE at no charge for the membership. Online asynchronous CE through the AAO was also made available to all members at no cost to members to help them while away their time during the lockdown in a meaningful, productive way. The AAO was also front and centre in providing regular updates on the pandemic, providing guidance, forms, releases and signage for member practices in Ontario.



Recognizing the financial hardship that many of us experienced, the AAO modified its membership renewal process as well as reduced the Consumer Awareness Program (CAP) assessment this year. Speaking of the CAP, the AAO's program continues to have great impact on Canadian consumers, with millions of AAO ad impressions reaching prospective Ontario patients each year. Beyond this, the AAO website directs a significant number of potential patients to Ontario AAO member offices each year through the orthodontist search option on the AAO website.

This year, the AAO and GLAO will be presenting a mixture of virtual and in-person events to ensure orthodontists can enjoy meaningful educational (and social) events in a safe manner. The AAO Winter Conference, focusing on Clear Aligner Treatment, is fast approaching, to be conducted via a virtual platform February 12-14, 2021. Currently, The AAO Annual Session is scheduled for June 25-27, 2021 in Boston, with both in-person and virtual options to attend. Registration details can be found at [www.aaoinfo.org/meetings](http://www.aaoinfo.org/meetings). The GLAO is planning an in-person event for this coming October 14-16 in Indianapolis, IN. The meeting theme is Back on Track Together, and will provide excellent educational and social opportunities for both you and your staff! Keep an eye out for registration details as they become available.

The Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists is a constituent of the American Association of Orthodontists and represents our Ontario interests with the world's largest and most influential orthodontic association.

We are well represented at the AAO and GLAO by Drs. Richard Sherman (Delegate for AAO House of Delegates), Michael Sherman (AAO Trustee) and myself (Ontario Director to the GLAO and AAO Delegate). The GLAO Board next meets this coming March, in a virtual ad interim session.

If you have any questions regarding the GLAO, please do not hesitate to contact me at [drdrew@smithorthodontics.ca](mailto:drdrew@smithorthodontics.ca).

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dr. Drew Smith  
Ontario GLAO Director

**SAVE THE  
DATE!**



## **GLAO 2021 Annual Session**

**October 14 - 16, 2021**

Hyatt Regency, Indianapolis  
Indianapolis, Indiana

An educational program for doctors, residents and staff will focus on the future of orthodontics, practice management and technology.

The program will include an exhibit hall with the latest in products and services and presentations from the following speakers:

- Dr. Dan Bills
- Mr. Chris Bentson
- Dr. Bob Bray
- Ms. Jackie Dorst, sponsored by SciCan / Coltene
- Dr. Barry Glaser
- Dr. Christian Groth
- Dr. Scott Law, sponsored by Smile Doctors
- Mr. Ryan Moynihan, sponsored by GAiDGE
- Mr. Hunter Satterfield, *sponsored by Cain Watters & Associates*

We look forward to being **Back On Track Together** this October!  
Visit [www.GLAO.org](http://www.GLAO.org) for more information, as it becomes available.

## Message from Dr. Richard Marcus

*Do you have an Orthodontic Gem you would like to share with your fellow OAO Members?*



Some idea or approach that has made your professional life easier or more enjoyable? We are interested in all topics ranging from mechanotherapy to office management, or anything in between.

Your presentation should be no longer than 15 minutes and could be live or recorded. A live Q&A session will follow the presentation.

Interested?

Please email me your idea and a brief outline of your presentation. We are hoping for many submissions on various topics. These presentations will then be incorporated in one or more OAO Membership webinars. If interested, or not yet sure, please don't hesitate to contact me by January 31, 2021 to discuss your exciting idea.

I can be reached at:

Email: [richard.marcus@utoronto.ca](mailto:richard.marcus@utoronto.ca)

Cell phone: 416-707-2855

I look forward to hearing from many of you.

Warm Regards,  
Dr. Richard Marcus

### Upcoming Meetings

- AAO Winter Conference - Virtual  
Feb 12-14, 2021
- AAO Annual Session  
June 25-27, 2021  
Boston, MA + Virtual
- CAO Annual Scientific Session  
September 23-25, 2021  
Quebec City, QC
- GLAO Annual Session  
October 14-16, 2021  
Indianapolis, IN