

## OAO Executive Council

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## President’s Message

Dear friends and colleagues,

First and foremost, I hope that you are all well. This extended ‘COVID-Holiday’ has been challenging to say the least. However, if you are like me, you must be getting very anxious to return to work, and to your patients. To normalcy.

The prospect of returning to work brings with it its own issues. Namely that of our new reality. Many questions run through my mind. Will I be able to acquire the PPEs I need to protect my staff, myself and my patients? What are the new IPAC protocols going to be? Will staff be willing to return to work once we are actually allowed to do so? How will the state of the economy affect potential patients? How am I going to manage all these changes? We still do not know many of the answers or hurdles that lie ahead; but I do know this: we’ll be just fine, thank you very much!

Over the past several weeks, I’ve had the opportunity to work and chat with many colleagues. Colleagues who are from the GTA, from Ontario, and from across this great country of ours from the Maritimes to British Columbia. Alongside my fellow board members, we have worked tirelessly on your behalf to advocate for our profession. Through the CAO, we have spoken to leaders of the various orthodontic provincial bodies. We provided valuable input to the CAO’s Back-to-Work Guideline that was recently released. We have had multiple conversations with the RCDSO and the ODA. We have participated in a joint effort with leaders of each of Ontario’s dental specialties in coordinating a letter to the RCDSO regarding our return to work, the procurement of PPEs and tele-dentistry. We recently submitted a letter to the RCDSO and the MOH regarding issues specific to our profession. Nonetheless, we still have many unresolved challenges; and so, we will continue to work towards resolving them.

I spent some of this past weekend listening to the AAO’s Online Annual Session. It was awesome to see the various innovations, tips, tricks and pearls from the lecturers. I was amazed at some of the measures that they have implemented or planning to implement as they return to their offices. And last but not least, I was impressed with how, in the face of a major crisis, the organizers were able to convert the most attended annual orthodontic meeting into a very successful virtual meeting. So why am I bringing this up? If this Covid-Holiday has taught me anything, it is that we orthodontists are a resilient, smart and innovative bunch! I do not know what lies ahead, nor what our new reality is going to look like. However, I do know that we are strongest together, and that as we soon return to work, we can overcome whatever challenges we might face. To paraphrase the Stockdale Paradox, we need to “hope for the best, but prepare for the worse.” Or my own humble version: Stay calm and ortho on!

I joined the OAO Executive approximately four years ago and I can tell you this: I sure didn’t see us having to navigate through a global pandemic! However, as my term as president of this great association comes to an end, I wanted to let you know in my last President’s Message, that despite these tumultuous last weeks, it has been an absolute honour and privilege to serve the OAO and all of its members. I am grateful for the support that many of you have given. I am also extremely proud of my fellow Executive Board members and the work that they have done throughout the last few years. I am grateful to all of them, as well as to the past presidents that preceded me for their help and guidance throughout this great journey. I know they will continue to serve you and our profession to the best of their ability, as will I in any capacity that I can.

Warm Regards,  
Dr. Pourang Rahimi  
OAO President



# OAO Scientific Meeting Update

Dear Friends,

The OAO Scientific Meeting is committed to protecting the health and safety of our members, student members, staff, presenters, and our industry partners. After much review and consideration, the OAO Board of Directors, together with the Conference Planning Chair, in the best interests of all involved, have decided to reschedule the May 2020 Scientific Meeting to take place on the same weekend in 2021 – May 28th – May 30th, 2021.

These are unprecedented times indeed. As all of you, we are extremely disappointed of the postponement of this event but know that it was the correct decision.

The Scientific Meeting remains an important educational, networking and social event for Orthodontists in Ontario, which is why this decision was not made lightly. We are looking at offering education virtually in the coming months. The 2017-2020 CE cycle which was due to end on December 14th, 2020 has been extended, however we are hoping to deliver at minimum, one Core-1 virtual lecture.

We thank you again for your continued and generous support. We look forward to seeing all of you in May 28-30, 2021, and hope that with your help, we can make it the best ever OAO Scientific Meeting yet!

Wishing you all good health,



Dr. Pourang Rahimi  
President, OAO



Dr. Richard Marcus  
Chair, 2021 OAO Scientific Meeting



FOURTH BIENNIAL  
**SCIENTIFIC MEETING**  
28-30 MAY 2021 NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

## RCDSO Council Report

Dear Friends,

Let's start off with a pre-COVID update, then, we'll move to post-COVID. On March 5th, I attended the RCDSO Council meeting. There were no ortho-related issues on the docket, and in fact, it was the shortest Council meeting that many in attendance had attended. There were discussions that soon the Council will put out a search for a new Registrar, and that possibly this council meeting may have been Irwin Fefergrad's last – pending the search committee's results.



Two important issues for orthodontists, that the College is working on in committees are the issues of delegation of duties (expanded roles for assistants) and Tele-dentistry.

Post-COVID, has seen a flurry of activity as you can all imagine. Our President, Dr. Rahimi and myself have been in high-level contact with the College as a result of the mandated closures, as recently as April 27, 2020. The College is aware of our concerns as a profession and our desire to be able to safely and effectively provide treatment to our patients.

We continue to have an open dialogue with the College, and have offered our help in providing data and expertise as required by policy makers so as to help shape their recommendations.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dr. Shervin Abbaszadeh

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## What's New at the CAO?

In early April, the CAO Board struck a Task Force to provide guidance to its members on safely providing orthodontic care during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Task Force assessed risk factors associated with virus transmission during orthodontic procedures and has developed a document providing recommendations to mitigate them. This process involved a review of the current literature as it relates to the transmission of the SARS-Co-V2 in the dental environment, as well as consulting with international orthodontic societies and Canadian Orthodontists to assess the steps they are taking to begin safely providing patient care. This document is available to all CAO members and we strongly urge you to refer to it when planning on returning to work.



In addition the CAO hosted a webinar with Dr. Aaron Burry who led the conversation on business recovery in the dental profession. He presented information on back-to-work conditions and considerations; provided details on PPE, aerosols, test kits from a national perspective; and briefly went over how dentistry will look like when dental practices are allowed to reopen.

The insurance committee is happy to announce the applications for digital predetermination and billing have been revised, reviewed, approved and submitted to the USL&LS committee for consideration and voting. Progress is moving forward – very well. Another avenue we will be able to employ convenience for our practices and our patients.

Due to the unprecedented changes brought on by the COVID19 pandemic the CAO will be holding their scientific session virtually instead on September 24-26, 2020. Details to follow!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dr. Mariela Anderson

# Membership Report

At April 28, 2020

	<b>Apr. 28</b>	<b>Apr. 30</b>	<b>Apr. 23</b>
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Standard</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>161</b>
Academic	5	3	4
Academic Retired	1	1	1
Honourary	6	6	6
Lifetime/Retired	95	95	93
Graduate (Total)	8	17	13
2017	1		
2018	4		
2019	3		
<b>Student</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Total membership</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>290</b>

## New Members

OAO welcomes the following new members:

November 2019 - Jia Lin Liu

December 2019 - Stephanie Colaiacovo

February 2020 - Anuraj Singh Kochhar, Shari Borsuk

April 2020 - Arpen Mahal

## OAO Special Acknowledgement

I wanted to express my gratitude for the help of Dr. Ziad Omar and Dr. James Noble (and their ad hoc team) for putting together a proposed Modified IPAC guideline for orthodontists. Though these were not submitted directly to the RCDSO, most aspects of the document were integrated in the broader CAO *Back to Work Guideline* that was subsequently sent to the RCDSO.

-Dr. P. Rahimi

## GLAO Report



The Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists (GLAO) is a constituent of the American Association of Orthodontists and comprises member orthodontists from Ontario, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. The GLAO held its ad interim meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with Ontario being well represented by Drs. Richard Marcus (Delegate for the AAO House of Delegates), Michael Sherman (AAO Trustee) and Drew Smith (Ontario Director to the GLAO and Delegate). The GLAO represents the interests of Ontario orthodontists on all AAO Councils, the House of Delegates and Board of Trustees.

Those OAO members who are GLAO/AAO members have been receiving daily updates on the activities of the AAO in guiding our specialty through these disruptive times and there are a great number of educational and administrative resources available to you and your staff on the AAO members site under the COVID-19 banner. While you are on the AAO members site, do not forget to check out the online CE opportunities that are now available free of charge for a limited time.

As you know, the AAO Annual Session in Atlanta was cancelled due to the pandemic. However, the AAO hosted a very successful virtual meeting free of charge to all members. I hope you were able to take advantage of this opportunity from the comforts of your own home. The GLAO Annual Session "Rock Your Smile" is scheduled for September 24-26, 2020 in Cleveland, Ohio. This is subject to change and may be postponed or cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A final decision on the conference will be made in early May... stay tuned.

I hope that you and your families have remained well during these trying times and I look forward to our specialty embracing and adapting to the "new normal" once we are able to return you our practices. Don't forget to lean on colleagues and of course your associations if needed. We are in this together and we will get through this.

As always, if you have any questions regarding the AAO or GLAO, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Best Regards,  
Dr. Drew Smith  
Ontario GLAO Director

## Upcoming Meetings and Scientific Sessions

OAO Spring Business Meeting and Virtual Panel Presentation:  
"Behind the scenes - how we are shaping the discussions for orthodontists to go back to work with a realistic way to protect practices as well as patients"  
May 20th, 2020

CAO Virtual Annual Session  
September 24-26th, 2020

GLAO Annual Session  
September 24-26th, 2020  
Cleveland, OH

NESO Annual Session  
Nov 5-8th, 2020  
Montreal, PQ

OAO Fall Meeting  
November 12th, 2020  
*Location TBC*

TOC Fall Meeting  
November 13th, 2020  
Sheraton City Centre, Toronto, ON

AAO Winter Conference  
Feb 12-14th, 2021  
Palm Desert, CA

AAO Annual Session  
April 24-27th, 2021  
Boston, MA



# OAO 2021 Scientific Meeting

The OAO thanks all our confirmed Sponsors and Exhibitors for continuing their support of our members. We look forward to meeting you in person in 2021!! Please visit the first edition of the **OAO Industry Partners Booklet** – learn about our exhibitors, reach out to them, and thank them for their support of our Association and profession!

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