

Straight Talk NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2025

President's Message

Hello friends and colleagues,

Spring is in the air, and with it comes a fresh start—and for me, that means stepping into the role of President of the OAO. I'm genuinely excited to take on this role, and I want to thank our past leadership for their dedication and hard work in keeping our Association strong and connected.

As we look ahead, one of our key priorities will be advocating for Ontario orthodontists as the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) continues to take shape. We'll be working hard to ensure our voice is heard in how the plan for orthodontic care is developed and delivered.

I'm really looking forward to connecting with many of you in the coming months. Your ideas and input help drive the OAO forward. And yes, we're hoping to have a little fun along the way too.

Thanks again for the warm welcome. Let's make this a great year—together!

Warmly,
Dr. Ashley Phuong
OAO President



OAO Executive Council

Dr. Ashley Phuong
President

Dr. Joel Schacher
Past President

Dr. Maxwell Abraham
Treasurer

Dr. Michael Greene
Director

Dr. Ziad Omar
Director

Dr. Jen Boogaards
Director

Dr. David Hirsch
Director

Dr. Bennett Mui
Director

Dr. Allison Nicholls
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Dr. Pourang Rahimi
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Dr. Drew Smith
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Dr. Girish Deshpande
GLAO Rep

Dr. Arezoo Ensafi
UWO Resident Representative

Dr. Justin Lin
UofT Resident Representative

Past President's Report

My Fellow Orthodontists:



As the seasons change, so does the Executive of the Ontario Association of Orthodontists. It is time for me to pass the President's gavel on to the capable hands of Dr. Ashley Phuong, who along with her capable Executive, will steer the OAO to even bigger heights. I will be there as Immediate Past President to put in my 2 cents as always, and to continue the movement for expanded duties for Level 2 Assistants along with Dr. Michael Sherman. Before I give my last President's Report, I want to reiterate how grateful I am to have been the recipient of both your trust and support over what became a 2-year presidency. Thank you for all the kind words and encouragement. Make no mistake however, representing you on the issues of our profession has been my pleasure. There is nothing else that I would have rather done.

1. It was my goal to elevate our membership back to pre-covid days. I believe that this was largely achieved. We have had meetings with great attendance including complimentary meals, drinks and most importantly great camaraderie. We introduced a range of dues schedules that encouraged reduced fees for an extended membership commitment. An array of Core 1 courses were offered to members so that CE was easier to obtain. Additionally, we became an initial source to help advise members regarding early patient complaints so that hopefully they could be diffused at the earliest stages. All of this for such a low membership fee.
2. The CDCP continues to be talked about relative to orthodontics. Dr. Phuong will attend an online Zoom meeting of the provincial presidents in early June, along with CAO President Avi Goldberg, to continue to lobby for a well-run and easily administered Orthodontic component. Currently, the structure is not well defined, and may resemble the NIHB Programme that is inefficient, and causes huge frustration to both patients and practitioners. The CAO has currently followed the lead of the CDA, but that has yet to yield any tangible results.
3. Expanded Duties for Level 2 Assistants does seem to be moving in a positive direction. Dr. Michael Sherman and I have had regular meetings with the firm that is guiding us through the process towards government approval of some crucial changes. We have had meetings with several Ministries, and another was scheduled for Friday May 30th. The RCDSO does seem to be part of the stumbling block but in September the Government will be looking at widening the scope of practice for many professions of which we are on the docket!
4. There has been an increasing number of member complaints regarding advertising done by DDS's posing as Orthodontic Specialists and other Orthodontists suggesting deep discounts on their services. It is certainly inappropriate for a general dentist to pretend to be an Orthodontist. Although not a violation, Orthodontic discounts by Orthodontists commoditizes our profession, and often makes us look unprofessional. Please keep this in mind.
5. The CAO has indicated that they are now starting to see the effects of Tariffs on orthodontic supplies. Please let us know if/when you come across any of this so that the Executive can develop an approach to attempt to mitigate these effects.

Past President's Report (Cont'd)

Well, that sums up the last President's Report from Dr. Joel Schacher. My contact information is included below; if you require my assistance, please feel free to contact me or any other member of your executive. It has indeed been a pleasure serving the OAO, and I look forward to seeing you all in person at our Fall AGM in November.

Have a great summer and stay well!

Dr. Joel Schacher
OAO Past President
drbraceface@hotmail.com

Membership Report

For the second consecutive year, we successfully conducted our two-year membership renewal covering 2025 and 2026.

We kicked off 2025 with our in-person Spring AGM, Presentations, and Dinner on May 22, offering members an engaging opportunity to connect and collaborate. As a valued member, you continue to enjoy complimentary attendance at dinner meetings. Additionally, we remain committed to flexibility by providing hybrid meeting options, allowing you to participate either in person or virtually.

Upcoming Event: Core 1 Lecture – June 18

Mark your calendars! This will be our second free event exclusively for members—don't miss this valuable opportunity.

Join Us and Strengthen Our Community

If you're an orthodontist who hasn't yet joined the OAO or renewed your membership, now is the perfect time! Together, we are stronger.

- **New members:** Become part of a supportive network driving progress in orthodontics.
- **Existing members:** Encourage colleagues to join or renew—your advocacy makes a difference.

Let's continue advancing our profession through **unity, education, and collaboration.**

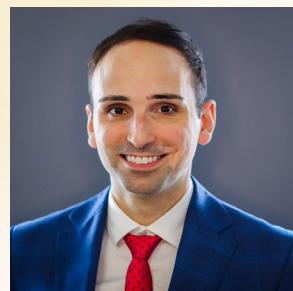
Join. Renew. Engage.

Please direct your patients to: www.oao.on.ca
For information and inquiries: info@oao.on.ca
416.490.8414; 1.888.788.4898 (Toll Free)

Membership Report	May 2025
Standard	43
Standard 2-year	98
Academic	4
Academic 2-year	8
Graduate	5
Student	15
Honourary	6
Academic Retired	1
Lifetime/Retired	97
Total Membership	274

Treasurer's Reprt

I hope everyone has been enjoying their spring! I wanted to bring attention to our current financial statements.



1. One of them is the total revenue and the net income as a result of the year where we have the scientific meeting. There are relatively small margins with costs increasing each year and we see the same thing with our business meetings. The main takeaway here is the importance of strong and consistent membership and secondly, amazing partners in terms of the companies that support the OAO. It is really important to pay attention to the those who are consistently supporting us and ensuring that we are giving them the opportunity for our business and time while encouraging them to continue investing in our association. This allows us to advocate for our profession and make Ontario orthodontists' lives as easy and stress free as possible!
2. In terms of our balance sheet with our assets, we still have a very strong amount in reserve. This has remained untapped for a quite a few years.

As always, you can always email me questions and ideas on ways the OAO can invest in the value of your membership; my information is below.

Dr. Maxwell Abraham

Treasurer

info@abrahamorthodontics.com

2025-2026 Meetings

2025-2026 Sponsorship Opportunities Now Available. Contact shirley@oao.on.ca for details.

- OAO Core 1 Lecture
June 18, 2025
Virtual
- GLAO Annual Session
September 18-20, 2025
Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA
- CAO Annual Coference
September 18-20, 2025
Québec City, QC
- OAO Fall Business Meeting
November 6, 2025
Sheraton Centre Hotel, Toronto, ON



Sixth Biennial Scientific Meeting

JUNE 5 - 7, 2026



GLAO Report

The GLAO board conducted the Ad interim meeting at Traverse City, Michigan in the month of March 2025 under Dr. Scott Schultz, the current president. Dr. Mariela Anderson, the current Vice president, Michael Sherman, AAO trustee and along with me as your component director attended the meeting. Many common topics of interest were discussed, and suggestions were made for increased involvement of the GLAO with the AAO. GLAO/AAO have pledged to continue their support and help with OAO's workforce initiative with continued financial support. This should go a long way towards bringing success to the Workforce initiative for the Ontario orthodontists.



2025 GLAO annual session will be held at Grand Rapids, Michigan from September 18-20. Dr. Schultz has promised it to be an exciting event with some great CE programs and providing a great opportunity for fun and professional development for you and your whole team. An outstanding program is being planned for both doctors and staff.

Speakers for the program include: Dr. Christian Groth, Dr. Hera Kim-Berman, Dr. Kaitrin Kramer, Dr. Kelton Stewart, Ms. Laura Cafik-Martin, Dr. Lisa Alvetro, and Dr. Riyad Al-Qawasmi. The Keynote presentation will be provided by Mr. David Avrin, CSP, GSF.

All the OAO members are encouraged to attend, and it promises to be an exciting event. Please visit the AAO website for further details and do not forget to mark your calendar! Here is the link for you to register... <https://www.glao.org/>

TP Orthodontics, Inc. in partnership with the GLAO, offers scholarships to residents attending orthodontic programs in the GLAO region. This award is to acknowledge the positive difference our residents are making in the community. Since 2017, a total of \$79,500 has been awarded in scholarships and \$20,000 in TP Orthodontics product vouchers distributed. All the current Ontario orthodontic residents are urged to apply. Email notifications have been sent to respective orthodontic departments.

Scholarship applications and additional information can be found at www.glao.org.

I look forward to contributing and representing Ontario orthodontists to GLAO/AAO and hope to see you all at Grand rapids, Michigan!

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Girish Deshpande.
Ontario Director, GLAO

CAO Report

The Joint CAO/AAO session:

Members from the CAO and AAO executive recently met at the AAO annual meeting in Philadelphia. Recognizing shared challenges and opportunities ahead, a working group will be formed to update the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to ensure a more unified path forward for both organizations.



CDCP:

With the recent expansion of the CDCP to include the 55-64 age cohort, the roll-out of the 18-54 age cohort is expected in the next few weeks. The CAO will use this as an opportunity to increase pressure on the government regarding the inclusion of orthodontics. Currently, weekly meetings are being requested. On May 30th the Ministry of Health responded by informing us that further internal discussions are required on their end to better form the plan and once completed they will arrange to meet with us. A new Minister of Health (Hon. Marjorie Michel) has been appointed by Prime Minister Mark Carney.

Direct-to-Consumer:

Recently, another aligner company began operating in British Columbia and is not actively recruiting doctors. The CAO has sent a formal letter to the British Columbia College of Oral Health Professionals (BCCOHP), the British Columbia Dental Association (CBDA) and the CDA to help prevent action and/or expansion of this company.

Tariffs:

The CAO is beginning to see the first signs of rising orthodontic supply costs related to tariffs and raw material costs. The CAO remains in communication with our Industry Partners regarding tariff implications, and we will increase engagement with them if, and when further developments arise.

Insurance:

The CAO Insurance Committee was been made aware of excessive requests coming from Canada Life for claims verifications. A letter was sent to Canada Life to express the CAO's frustration on behalf of our members and to request a meeting with a representative to discuss. (Sent May 14th)

CAO Annual Conference:

This year's meeting in Quebec City is fast approaching (Sept 18-20). The Early Bird deadline was May 31st. One of the hotels (Hilton Quebec) is fully booked. The other (Fairmont Le Chateau Frontenac) is ~80% booked. The social programs are filling up nicely with ~300 people signed up for the President's Banquet and the evening social event at the Sugar Shack is also 55% full. Please act soon to ensure access to these events. As always, any donations to the CFAO for the silent auction is greatly appreciated.

Orthodontic Staff Appreciation Day has been officially branded by the CAO as June 5th! This date coincides with similar celebrations in the U.S. Please participate, celebrate and recognize the hard work and contributions of your teams.

Cheers,
Dr. Sean Chung
CAO Rep

OA0 Spring AGM 2025: A Night of Transition & Insight

The OA0 Spring Annual General Meeting on May 22 marked a memorable close to the year as we welcomed the 2025-2026 Executive Team. See photo below.



We bid a heartfelt farewell to Dr. Joel Schacher, who transitioned to Past President, and warmly welcomed Dr. Ashley Phuon as our new President. We also thanked Dr. Sean Chung for his dedicated service as CAO Representative.

Dr. David Brown (ODA) provided an insightful association update; and Keshia Khikhar delivered an invaluable presentation on "Straightening Out GST/HST for Orthodontic Practices."

This event was made possible through the generous support of Align Tech and Doane Grant Thornton LLP. We thank all who attended—we look forward to another year of growth and collaboration!



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Dr. Richard Marcus
Scientific Meeting Chair