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MASO Journal

Spring 2025

Middle Atlantic Society of Orthodontists





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SAVE THE DATE

2025 MASO ANNUAL SESSION

SEPTEMBER 25 – 27, 2025

WASHINGTON, DC

TRENDING TOPICS IN ORTHODONTICS

JOIN US AT THE MAYFLOWER HOTEL!

A circular graphic with a blue background. In the center is a white Washington Monument. Behind it, the US Capitol building is visible. The text is arranged around the circle: 'SAVE THE DATE' at the top, '2025 MASO ANNUAL SESSION' and 'SEPTEMBER 25 – 27, 2025' in the middle, 'WASHINGTON, DC' at the bottom, and 'TRENDDING TOPICS IN ORTHODONTICS' along the inner edge. 'JOIN US AT THE MAYFLOWER HOTEL!' is written in a larger font along the outer edge.

MASO Journal

Middle Atlantic Society of Orthodontists

Spring 2025

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THE MAYFLOWER HOTEL, AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION, WASHINGTON, DC

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Sana Augustus

Greetings MASO members,

It is an honor to serve as your President. I am deeply grateful for the trust you've placed in me, and I look forward to building on the strong foundation laid by those who came before me.

I realize that I stand on the shoulders of giants, like **Dave Harmon**, MASO's first Black president; **Steve Seigel**, our MASO trustee and future AAO President; and **Jean Asmar** who, as MASO Past President, saw leadership potential in me and countless others. I'm especially mindful of the big shoes I must fill as I succeed our Immediate Past President, **Omid Rajaei**, who led with grace, precision, and a forward-thinking mindset.

I'd also like to thank the AAO leadership, my fellow MASO board members, our delegates, and our executive director, **Jane Treiber**, who works tirelessly to keep MASO running smoothly. Most importantly, I want to thank God for His many blessings and my family for their unwavering love and support, which makes my service to you possible.

For those who don't know me, I'm from Silver Spring, Maryland—a wife, mother of two, and now a new practice owner after years of teaching at my alma mater, Howard University, and working as an associate. Throughout my journey, I've been mentored by exceptional women like Kathy Marshall, Marianne Siewe, Lobat Zainali and Gail Kirkland Briscoe—leaders who represent clinical excellence, intellectual brilliance, and a commitment to community.

As a former educator, I've had the privilege of teaching some of the brightest minds in our field. However, as any educator

knows, you often learn just as much from your residents as they do from you. That shared learning experience has given me a unique perspective on how trends in our field emerge and evolve.

As MASO's first Black female president, diverse perspectives are particularly important to me. And while trends come and go, some things should never be considered trends: kindness, empathy, wellness, environmental sustainability, evidence-based practice, community service and diversity, equity, and inclusion.

When it comes to trends, it's easy to get excited about what's new. Yet, what truly determines if a trend sticks or fades away is what's behind it. Is it just a passing idea, or can it spark real, lasting change? Consider Uber, Airbnb, or MTV's *The Real World*—what began as trends turned into movements that reshaped entire industries and society. In orthodontics, innovations like straight wire appliances, clear aligners, and passive self-ligation were once seen as trends but have since transformed the way we practice.

While trends can lead to progress, we should not lose sight of the value in what's come before. Bridging the gap between tradition and innovation is key. As we approach our 2025 Annual Session with the theme "Trending Topics in Orthodontics," let's critically assess these trends, approach them with curiosity, and ensure these new ideas can stand the test of time.

In closing, I encourage each of you to get involved. Whether big or small, your participation matters, and your voice is crucial in helping us continue to serve and grow. Remember to join us on March 7th for the MASO Spring CE at the Marriott Bethesda Downtown and September 25-27 for the MASO Annual Session at the historic Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC.

Together, we can keep MASO moving forward for the benefit of us all. ■



TRUSTEE'S REPORT

Dr. Steven Siegel

As I complete my ninth and final year as MASO Trustee and will soon transition from AAO President-elect to President, I reflect on the events within our association and profession that have transpired during my term of service on the Board of Trustees.

One of the most crucial functions of the Board of Trustees is to hire and oversee the performance of the AAO CEO. As a junior Trustee we conducted a CEO search and were fortunate to hire Ms. Lynne Thomas Gordon. Lynne had vast experience in the healthcare space and was highly regarded as a leader in the association management world. Ms. Gordon reorganized our organization and filled many senior positions with highly

qualified and knowledgeable team leaders. As a result of her effort, we are now a more effective and professionally managed association. Upon Ms. Gordon's retirement and after an outside consultant facilitated search, the Board voted to hire Mr. Trey Lawrence, our VP, General Counsel, Legal & Advocacy, as our new CEO. Mr. Lawrence has seamlessly continued the excellent management of our team and the advancement of our strategic plan.

One pivotal development within our profession was the introduction of direct-to-consumer aligner products. The Board, early on, took a courageous stance and assertive approach to protect the public from potential health and safety concerns from any orthodontic treatment that is not doctor directed, advocating that safeguards be put in place to require the involvement of licensed dentists or orthodontists in treatment. We, as dentists and orthodontists, would not move

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

teeth without first doing a clinical exam and radiographic evaluation to ensure that there were no pre-existing dental disease or conditions that could exacerbate or lead to dental health issues or a poor treatment outcome. We, as highly skilled professionals, know that teeth do not always move as planned on a computer and there may often be unexpected occlusal changes. We know that treatment must be adequately monitored and treatment mechanics or even a treatment plan may need to be altered due to unexpected treatment responses. The question was, how do we educate and inform the public, legislators, State Dental Boards, regulatory agencies, and others about the potential harm to the public that may occur from DTC orthodontic treatment if that treatment is not directed or overseen by a licensed dentist or orthodontist? Fortunately, we have in place a robust advocacy team and Consumer Awareness Program. Through the effort of the AAO and our members, we were effective in getting our message out. I wonder if not for the AAO, who would have been there to speak on behalf of public health and safety on this critical issue?

I recall, perhaps twenty years ago, when I first became involved in AAO advocacy, how unbalanced our AAOPAC giving plan was. Many years ago, one of our top legislative priorities was for the repeal of the estate tax, which in our printed material was referred to as the “death tax.” It was not much fun visiting with some of my Maryland legislators in Washington, D.C. with this as part of our legislative agenda. Frankly, I was reluctant to contribute to our AAOPAC. Over the years, I advocated for a change in our AAOPAC structure and focus. With the hiring of Nathan Mick, our VP of Advocacy, and the team he has put together, I am pleased to report that we now have a balanced giving plan. Our legislative priorities are now in line with the needs of our members; reduction of student loan debt, consumer health and safety issues related to Direct-to-Consumer orthodontic treatment, increasing access to, and the affordability of orthodontic care, and issues important to us as business owners.

We are in the process of building a National Advocacy Network (NAN) so that we can continue to stay well informed and be proactive on legislative and regulatory issues that affect our profession, practices, and public health and safety. We now focus our advocacy effort more on the state and local levels, knowing that legislation and regulations at the local level can have a profound effect on our practices and profession. I now gladly give the maximum allowable AAOPAC contribution each year and hope that you will consider giving generously to our PAC.

In 2018, I was asked by the AAO President to chair a CODA Review Committee which consisted of eight orthodontic educators including a representative from the American Board of Orthodontics. Our task was to review the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics and make any recommendations needed to improve and strengthen the standards. Our committee made a series of recommendations which were presented to a large group of educators through

presentations at the Society of Educators meeting and ABO Educators Symposium. We were able to obtain approval from the Board of Trustees and the recommendations were made to CODA. After several years, many of the recommendations were adopted into the standards. These included, for the first time, quantitative numbers for faculty to resident ratios for each program as well as for clinic coverage. These changes were needed to ensure that our orthodontic residents continue to receive the highest quality orthodontic education. The AAO, through its Council on Education continues to monitor and evaluate the accreditation standards and site visitation process.

I am proud of the actions of the Board and House of Delegates in creating the Special Committee on Women Orthodontists and Special Committee for Inclusion and Engagement. The demographics of our residents have changed and are much more diverse than in past years and will translate to a demographic change in our membership over time. We want to ensure that all our members feel welcome, engaged, have pathways to leadership and speaking opportunities, and that we are responsive to the needs of all our members.

The Board of Trustees, with the approval of the House of Delegates, created up to three Trustee at-large positions on the Board. The purpose was to add diversity and expertise to the Board. The Trustees-at-large have the same responsibilities and voting privilege as constituent elected Trustees, with a term of two or three years. This has been a wonderful addition and our first six Trustees at-large have added knowledge and perspective to the Board, which I find exciting and invaluable.

The Covid 19 pandemic created unique and unprecedented challenges for all of us and our association as well. I was a member of the AAO Covid 19 Task Force which included members with expertise in infectious diseases, infection control and office design. A resource page was created on our member website to provide critical information and resources during this stressful time. Lines of communication with regulatory agencies like CDC and OSHA were established to help ensure that through the AAO our members had a voice in policy discussions.

Lastly, I would like to mention the AAO Tech Transformation. In 2024 the AAO House of Delegates approved a Board resolution to create a 3-million-dollar technological transformation fund. This fund is needed to modernize and integrate the AAO's various management systems, marketing platform and member website. Mr. Rez Garrow was recruited to serve as the AAO Director of Information Management Solutions and oversee this multi-year project. Mr. Garrow recently provided an update on the considerable progress made in a presentation to the Board. He highlighted active advancements across all workstreams, supported by a dedicated project manager and a structured governance framework operating in 90-day increments. Key accomplishments include the completion of the ecosystem strategy and future state blueprint, IT policy updates with gap analysis, and the identification and prioritization of over 400 business and system requirements. Looking ahead, the first quarter of the new year will focus on selecting a common data platform, which will serve as the

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TRUSTEE'S REPORT

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foundation for improved data organization, migration, and analytics capabilities. This is a comprehensive project that will have an impact on all AAO departments and will allow the association and our members to interact more effectively.

As meaningful and important as the work I have done as a Board member is, it is the friendship with my fellow leaders that has been most rewarding. The Board members have been extraordinary in their commitment to our profession, but beyond that we enormously enjoy the comradery and social interaction that occurs outside of the boardroom. I congratulate my friend **Dr. Larry Wang**, MASO's Trustee-elect. I have known Larry since his days as a resident and know

that he will be an excellent addition to the Board and that he and his wife Jenny will have a wonderful experience ahead.

I am grateful to all the volunteer leaders who have represented MASO over the years. MASO is not a large constituent, but its impact has been significant. This is due to the quality and dedication of our MASO leaders who serve on MASO's Board of Directors, in the AAO House of Delegates, and on councils, committees and task forces. Their commitment has been outstanding, and I can assure you that you have been well represented. I would encourage anyone to become a volunteer leader, I know that it has greatly enriched my life.

It has been an absolute pleasure and privilege serving as your MASO Trustee and I look forward to continued service as AAO President. ■



EDITORIAL

Dr. Normand Boucher

A Trifecta For Our Educators

The first “win” occurred when our leaders invested in the health of our profession with the formation of the American Association of Orthodontics Foundation (AAOF). The result, over decades, has been over \$15 million dollars committed to the advance of the science of orthodontics and the important financial support of our educators. In spite of transformative technologies and treatment modalities resulting in existential threats, the orthodontic specialty is stronger than ever. The basic science and clinical research supported by grants from AAOF contributed to the evidence-based implementation of these treatment modalities that have enhanced our treatment outcomes.

The second “win” for the future of orthodontic education occurred when the MASO delegation crafted a resolution describing the “Full time Faculty Fellowship Program”, presented it to the AAO house of delegates, and successfully championed its adoption. This program has been designed to lessen the disparity between private practice income and that of a junior faculty member. By all measures the retention of MASO junior faculty members has been enhanced as a result of these grants which supplemented university incomes. In recognition of the importance of this program, the AAO HOD recently

challenged the AAOF to launch a campaign dedicated to raising 1.8m that the AAO will match, dollar for dollar, to permanently implement the Full-Time Faculty Fellowship program. This dedicated fund of \$3.2 million will permit the funding of three, two-year, \$30,000 fellowships to supplement the salaries of junior faculty members.

The third “win” ensuring the future of our profession was the formation of the Society of Orthodontic Educators (SOE). Bringing together our educators to brainstorm and collaborate on education issues at AAO Annual Session has had a tangible impact on the quality of orthodontic education. Since its inception, SOE provided valuable input to CODA resulting in a revision of orthodontic standards. It helped develop a closer working relationship of educators and the ABO, resulting in a growing number of orthodontists gaining ABO certification. Recently, SOE members developed webinars titled “Integrating Clinical Informatics and Standards”, another example of a small step forward to improve the quality of education.

In conclusion, our orthodontic volunteers have successfully invested in the “orthodontic education 401K” of our profession and are reaping the benefits of these wise decisions. ■

Editorials represent the opinions of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Middle Atlantic Society of Orthodontists or the American Association of Orthodontists.

2024 GLAO-MASO Joint Annual Session Recap



Reflect Refresh Renew

October 17-20, 2024

The Westin Beach Resort & Spa at Frenchman's Reef, St. Thomas, USVI

Thank you to all who supported the 2024 GLAO/MASO Annual Session in St. Thomas!

The 2024 GLAO/MASO Annual Session in the US Virgin Islands provided a great background for networking and education for doctors, residents, staff and guests! The theme *Reflect Refresh Renew* was evident throughout the annual session.

Five hundred GLAO and MASO members and guests enjoyed the sunshine and activities associated with the meeting, including the Welcome Reception on the Seacliff Terrace overlooking the Caribbean Sea, and a Saturday afternoon pool party and lunch with DJ entertainment, a coconut cutting station, and pool games.

Residents from the University of Maryland and Indiana University facilitated the Residents Forum, attended by 79 residents, providing an opportunity for engagement and discussion among future leaders in the profession. Educators from the MASO/GLAO regions met at the annual Educators Meet Up.

MASO leaders were recognized for their commitment to the profession at the annual membership/business meeting, including **Dr. Ty Saini** who was awarded the Gerard A. Devlin Award for significant service and contributions to MASO beyond his membership, and significant contributions

to the orthodontic and dental health of children and adults. Also at the business meeting, the Kress Award for the most outstanding research project was awarded to **Dr. Alex Lin**, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania residency program.

During the annual session, GLAO and MASO collaborated to support a local charity to make a positive impact in the St. Thomas community. The project selected supported the Virgin Islands Conservation Society. This organization and their "Refill Bottles, Not Dumpsters" project aligns with the concerns of MASO and GLAO members and efforts toward environmental sustainability and reducing plastics. Donations to the project totaled \$3,384, which provided enough funds to install a water filling station in a local school and provide 38 reusable water bottles to the students.

Following the meeting, MASO provided 57 \$600 scholarships to residents and faculty attending the meeting from MASO. A special thank you to all the companies who exhibited, providing the latest in orthodontic products and services, and thank you to our partners for their generosity and support. We look forward to seeing the MASO members next year at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC. [Click Here](#) to view photos from the 2024 Annual Session.



Fun Run participants

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MEETINGS



Roberto Hernández-Orsini, Dr. Steve Siegel



Coconuts from the market



MASO, GLAO lecture attendees



Left to Right: Dr. Ty Saini, Dr. Luis Toro, Dr. Rick Albright



Pool Party



Members of the Puerto Rico Society of Orthodontists

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MEETINGS



Ocean view



Dr. Sana Augustus, Mrs. Shonda Harmon



Left to right: Dr. David Harmon, Dr. Ty Saini, the recipient of the Devlin Award, Dr. Alireza Omid Rajaei



Officers and Directors sworn in by AAO Trustee Dr. Michael Durbin (far left)



The MASO/GLAO Leadership Dinner



The Welcome Reception featured entertainment by a Steel Pan band and Mocko Jumbie (shown here).

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!

2025 MASO Spring CE Program

Friday, March 7, 2025 • 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Marriott Bethesda Downtown @ Marriott HQ

You are invited to join MASO for its Spring CE Program on March 7, 2025 at the
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“All About Esthetics”

Speakers:

Dr. Jamie Barden - *Impact of Esthetics on Daily Life*

Dr. Maren Shaw - *Botulinum Toxin Do's and Don'ts*

Dr. Janice Lee - *(Part 1) - Orthognathic Surgery, Profile Analyses and Esthetics*

Dr. Nadine Almpani - *(Part 2) - Prediction of Facial Growth &
3D Analysis of Rare Craniofacial Diseases*

Dr. Kelly Bolden - *Procedures to Enhance or Complement Orthodontic Treatment*

5.5 CE Credits!

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Call 31-276-7707 or 800-228-9290

Reservation deadline: February 13, 2025 • Register online now at www.MASO.org



ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT FOR A COMPROMISED 69-YEAR-OLD FEMALE DENTITION

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Abstract

Orthodontic treatment of the elderly dentition creates real challenges and the need to establish realistic patient outcome expectations. This case report describes the treatment of a 69-year-old female dentition with a bilateral Angle Class II malocclusion, severe maxillary and mandibular crowding, gingival and periodontal recession and a poor treatment prognosis. The patient was told by other professionals that she would lose all of her maxillary and mandibular anterior teeth. With low treatment expectations, the patient was treated with maxillary and mandibular fixed appliances, and interdental elastics. Implant/crowns placed years before orthodontic treatment helped treatment goals. Appropriate leveling and alignment of the dentition was obtained with space maintenance for crown reconstruction. There was no tooth loss during treatment and the outcome produced a good long-term prognosis.

Main Points

- Teeth with severe bone loss can be moved and maintained in elderly dentition.
- Extreme dental mobility can occur without adverse consequence during treatment of a compromised dentition

- Dental implants can be used to achieve required maximum anchorage.
- Teeth considered to have a hopeless prognosis can sometimes be saved.

INTRODUCTION

As the population average life expectancy continues to increase, a greater number of elderly patients present with their natural dentition; however, it is frequently compromised.^{1, 2} These conditions present new and complex challenges for dental professionals, especially considering that most patients in this population age want to keep their natural dentition and often reject denture treatment options.^{1, 3} To address this situation, a combined orthodontic-restorative treatment approach has been shown to be a comparatively non-invasive way to deliver proper function and improved esthetics while preserving the natural dentition.⁴⁻⁶

There are many clinical considerations that need to be addressed to determine the direction and success of the orthodontic approach. These include the status of periodontal attachment, implants previously placed, the need for post-orthodontic dental restorative work, and the patient's mucogingival status. Unfortunately, bone loss and gingival recession are commonly noted in older patients.^{7, 8} Fundamentally, a minimal amount of healthy alveolar bone must be present to ensure a successful orthodontic outcome.^{1, 9, 10} When teeth are proclined beyond optimal inclinations, soft and hard tissue of appropriate dimensions must be present to avoid an iatrogenic outcome. Since mature adults frequently have dento-facial asymmetries, vertical and horizontal tooth movements must respect the limits of periodontal support. Implant placement for anchorage might be a necessary conditions to achieve the best outcome.^{10, 11}

Collaborative effort is almost always essential to achieve the necessary treatment objectives, since every case is unique, and requires different areas of expertise.^{12, 13} Complex interdisciplinary cases require good judgment on the part of experienced dentists and specialists.^{9, 12, 14, 15}

This case report describes the treatment of a 69-year-old patient with compromised dentition using orthodontic conventional braces. It demonstrates how dental midlines, curve of Spee, vertical and horizontal dimensions were corrected. It also discusses dental mobility during and after orthodontic treatment, functional outcomes, esthetic improvement, and long-term prognosis.

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CASE PRESENTATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

CASE PRESENTATION

Diagnosis and Etiology

A 69-years-old female presented to the University OF Maryland School of Dentistry with a chief complaint of “my teeth are moving more than normal following implant placement, and my dentist said I might lose all my front teeth”. The patient had two stable implants although the bone grafting procedure was complicated with calcium intake. The extraoral lateral photographs depict a concave lower facial profile, an obtuse nasolabial angle, and acute mento-labial fold. (Fig. 1) She exhibited passive lip closure and her facial thirds were balanced. There was facial asymmetry in which the right side was slightly longer than the left. Upon clinical examination, bilateral asymptomatic temporomandibular joint clicking was noted. She also reported the presence of controlled celiac disease.



Figure 1: Initial composite photos

The intraoral images revealed a right-side molar and canine Angle Class I, and left side canine Angle Class II malocclusion. The molar Angle classification was not determined on the left side since there were two implants/crowns in that section of the mandible. The patient had three millimeters of overjet and six millimeters of overbite. Severe maxillary and mandibular crowding was noted; perhaps associated with excessive tightness of the circumoral musculature. The mandibular midline was deviated towards the left side. Generalized extensive gingival recession and dental root exposure, associated with teeth extrusion and lack of bony support

were also recorded. There was anterior tooth mobility, the presence of black triangles between most of the maxillary and mandibular dentition, wear of the incisal edges of all incisors, and staining on most teeth. (Fig.1)

The panoramic radiograph indicated several missing teeth including all third molars, the upper and lower first premolars, the maxillary left lateral incisor, and the mandibular left second premolar and first molar. (Fig. 2) Implants/crowns were present to replace the maxillary left lateral incisor, the mandibular second premolar and the mandibular first molar. A gold crown on the maxillary left second molar, was over extruded below the occlusal plane. Porcelain crowns were present on the maxillary right and left first molars, the mandibular right and left second molars, as well as on the mandibular right first molar. There was previous endodontic treatment on the maxillary left first molar. The presence of generalized, severe bone loss was noted. Also noted was a radiopaque image between mandibular right canine and second premolar. The lateral cephalometric analysis indicated significantly retroclined maxillary and mandibular incisors, retrusive maxillary and mandibular jaws, reduced lower 1/3 of the face, an impinging deep bite, and increased curve of Spee. (Fig. 3-4) (Table 1)



Figure 2: Initial panoramic x-ray film

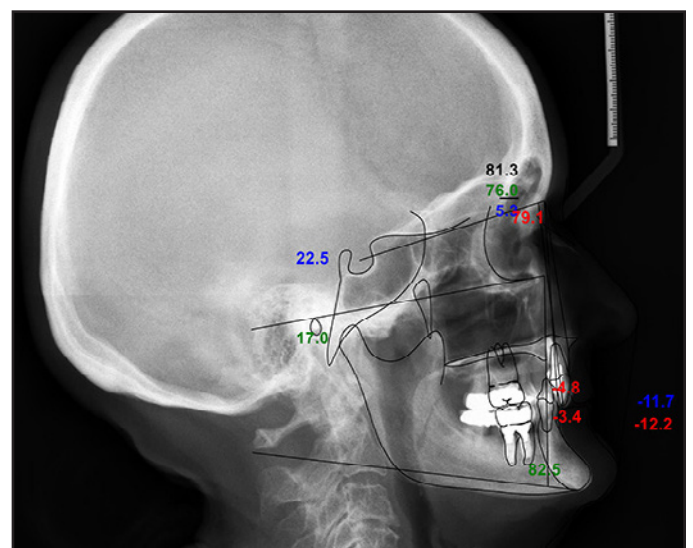


Figure 3: Initial cephalometric x-ray film

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CASE PRESENTATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

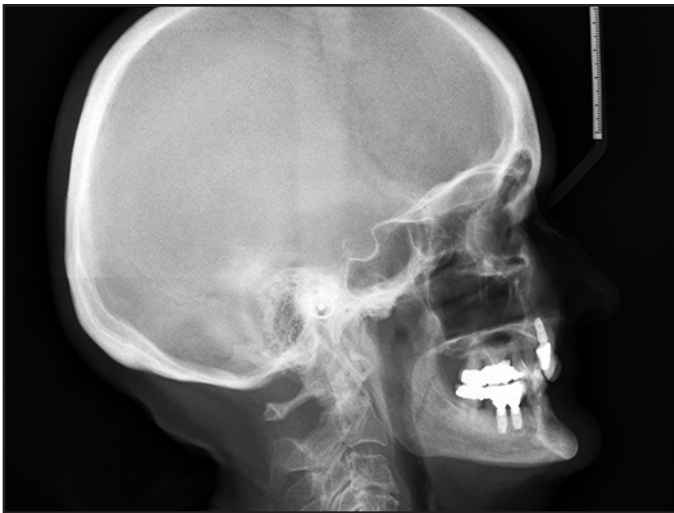


Figure 4: Initial cephalometric x-ray tracing

	Initial	Final	Difference	Norm
Maxilla to Cranial Base				
SNA (°)	81.3	79.3	2.0	82
Mandible to Cranial Base				
SNB (°)	76.0	77.3	1.3	80
SN - MP (°)	21.5	21.0	0.5	32.9
FMA (MP-FH) (°)	16.0	13.5	2.5	23.9
Maxillo-Mandibular				
ANB (°)	5.3	2.0	2.7	1.6
Maxillary Dentition				
U1 - NA (mm)	-4.8	-0.1	4.7	4.3
U1 - SN (°)	79.1	100.2	21.1	102.8
Mandibular Dentition				
L1 - NB (mm)	-3.4	-0.2	3.2	4
L1 - MP (°)	85.3	106.5	21.2	93
Soft Tissue				
Lower Lip to E-Plane (mm)	-12.2	-8.5	3.7	-2
Upper Lip to E-Plane (mm)	-11.7	-9.7	2.0	-6

Table 1: Initial and final cephalometric measurements, the differences, and the norms.

Treatment Objectives

The treatment objectives were to (1) eliminate maxillary and mandibular crowding, (2) reduce the curve of Spee, reduce overbite, (3) correct the maxillary and mandibular midlines as much as possible, (4) procline maxillary and mandibular incisors, and (5) reduce root exposure/gingival recession resulting in good function and esthetics without need for extraction. Ultimately the goal was to finish treatment while recognizing the need for a realistic instead of an idealistic treatment approach.¹⁶

Treatment Alternatives

Several treatment alternatives were offered to the patient.

1. No orthodontic treatment. She had maintained .ost of her teeth for 69 years, and perhaps with good oral hygiene might be able to maintain them for a considerable period.
2. Since the patient already had a few implants placed, and a guarded prognosis for the remaining teeth, the extraction of all teeth with implant supported prosthesis..
3. Extraction of all maxillary and mandibular teeth and replacement with full dentures.
4. Extraction of the teeth with the worst prognosis and replacement with removable maxillary and mandibular partial dentures.
5. Orthodontic aligners to intrude maxillary and mandibular teeth to simplify oral hygiene procedures but with the understanding that the number of aligners would increase treatment time. 6- Comprehensive orthodontic treatment with braces on maxillary and mandibular teeth to resolve most problems found on the diagnostic problem list.

The patient chose alternative number six. However, a statement was inserted on her contract about the potential for losing all maxillary and mandibular anterior teeth during the treatment. She took the risk of treatment since she had been already told that without treatment she could potentially lose all of her teeth.

The incisal edges of maxillary and mandibular central and lateral incisors would need to be restored at the end of treatment. The length of the crown to tooth ratio would not change. Gingival recession and dental root exposure would likely remain at the end of treatment. Black triangles would also likely be present after treatment. The facial asymmetry would remain unchanged and the asymptomatic TMJ clicking would likely be present at the end of treatment. The patient was informed that if pain arose during the orthodontic treatment, she would be referred to a pain clinic, and orthodontic treatment would resume following pain management. Referral to a general dentist for routine dental prophylaxis would be necessary. The radiopaque image between mandibular right canine and second premolar would be followed. She was informed that her teeth could become even more mobile during treatment.

Treatment Progress

At the start of treatment, the gold crown on the maxillary left second molar was banded and brackets were bonded on the remaining teeth. Only one attachment was placed

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CASE PRESENTATION

CASE PRESENTATION

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on the mandibular left posterior teeth since both units were implant/crowns. The maxillary teeth were bonded with American Orthodontic 0.022x0.028 Slot MBT prescription. Porcelain etching material was used to bond on porcelain crowns. Transbond XT® was used as a bonding agent. A maxillary arch wire (0.014 NiTi) was inserted on the first visit, the patient was given dental wax to prevent lip injuries, and oral hygiene instructions were provided.

In the subsequent visit, the mandibular arch was bonded with brackets with the same prescription and a 0.014 NiTi was inserted. On the next visit, mandibular anterior teeth showed significant mobility and the patient was instructed to monitor them for further mobility while the teeth aligned. Patient was reassured that the excessive mobility would decrease after removal of the braces.

The next arch wire was a 0.018 NiTi and the teeth started to show some intrusion; although the mobility remained high. Spaces were still present distal to the canines but alignment of upper and lower teeth steadily improved. The patient reported sleeping with a cotton roll between her teeth to prevent premature contacts. The mandibular 0.016 NiTi was followed by an 0.018 NiTi, while the maxillary arch progressed to a 0.017x0.025 NiTi wire in subsequent visits. At every arch wire appointment, the elastomeric rings had to be removed with the doctor's



Figure 6: Twelve-months composite photos

fingers holding the teeth inside the alveolus, because of the significant dental mobility. (Fig. 5)

The final working arch wires were maxillary and mandibular .017x.025 SS and .021x.025 SS to complete all leveling and alignment. The alignment continued to progress with noted excessive tooth mobility. The maxillary right second premolar which was the only tooth in contact with the opposing arch. This tooth was intruded along with the maxillary right first molar. (Fig. 6)

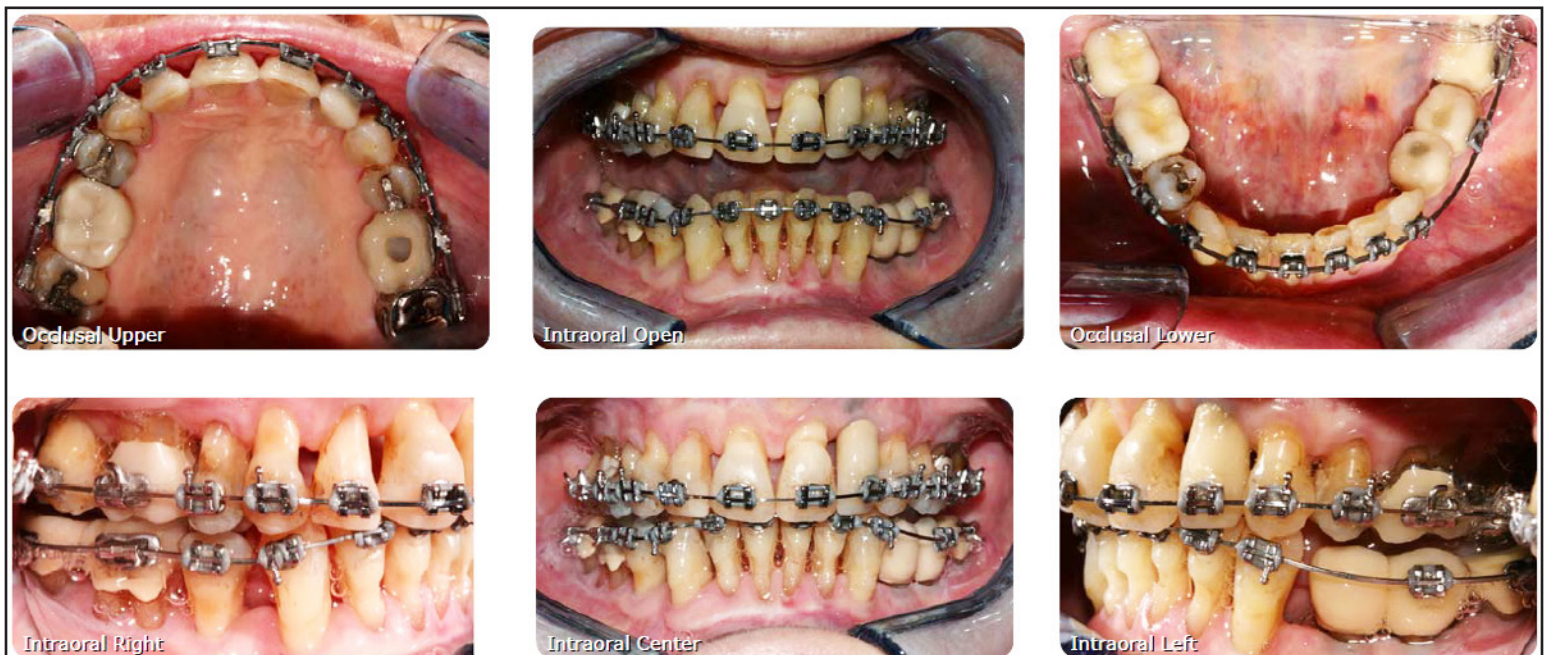


Figure 5: Eight-months composite photos

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CASE PRESENTATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Additionally, an open coil spring was introduced on the mandibular left side to open space for another implant/crown of mandibular left first premolar area and to help reposition mandibular midline. The maxillary and mandibular incisors were also intruded differentially, since the patient complained of contacting only the front teeth. As more dental units reached contact with the opposing arch, the mobility of teeth reduced. (Fig. 7)

The maxillary arch wire was constricted to allow better intercuspation on the left side due to the presence of implants on the mandibular arch. The maxillary incisors were intruded using the maxillary left lateral incisor implant as an anchor unit and power chain was utilized to close remaining spaces. A vertical space was left on the posterior segment to build “higher” crowns in order to restore the vertical dimension of occlusion.

Light force class II elastics (2.5ounce 1/4 inch, 12 hours per day) were used on the right side to improve the antero-posterior relationship and a posterior vertical elastic was also inserted on the right side to help close a posterior open bite.

Coordination with a fixed prosthodontist was necessary so that removal of orthodontic appliances, the polishing of teeth, and the fabrication of two crowns could take place on the same day. Once temporary crowns were made, maxillary and mandibular impressions were taken for the fabrication of Essix® retainers. At a later appointment the patient opted for Vivera® retainers.



Figure 7: Eighteen-months composite photos



Figure 8: Final composite photos



Figure 9: Six-months retention composite photos

All mandibular incisors and canines were then bonded with coaxial 0.0215 arch wire to act as a permanent lingual retainer. Essix® retainers were worn 24/7 for 6-7 months and then reduced to 18-hour wear time. (Fig. 8) The patient was then recalled for retention control and occlusal evaluation. (Fig. 9)

Treatment Results

The major objectives of this treatment were accomplished. The treatment resulted in stable and well-aligned dentition. There was no tooth loss during treatment and the overall prognosis of the dentition was improved. The mandibular left second molar developed

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CASE PRESENTATION

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a furcation problem during the retention period, and was extracted one year after treatment. Overall, the patient was extremely pleased with the orthodontic result.

The intraoral photographs show a leveled occlusion and proper alignment of the midlines. A close to ideal Class I canine occlusion relationship was achieved. The curve of Spee and the dental vertical dimension on the left side were also improved contributing to significant positive changes to the mucogingival tissues. (Fig. 8)

The final radiographs show successful intrusion of maxillary and mandibular incisors, which lessened the appearance of interproximal black triangles. Greater bone support was also evident on panoramic images. (Fig 10) The cephalometric analysis showed desired proclination of maxillary and mandibular incisors, which also improved lip support and esthetics. Cephalometric



Figure 10: Final panoramic x-ray film

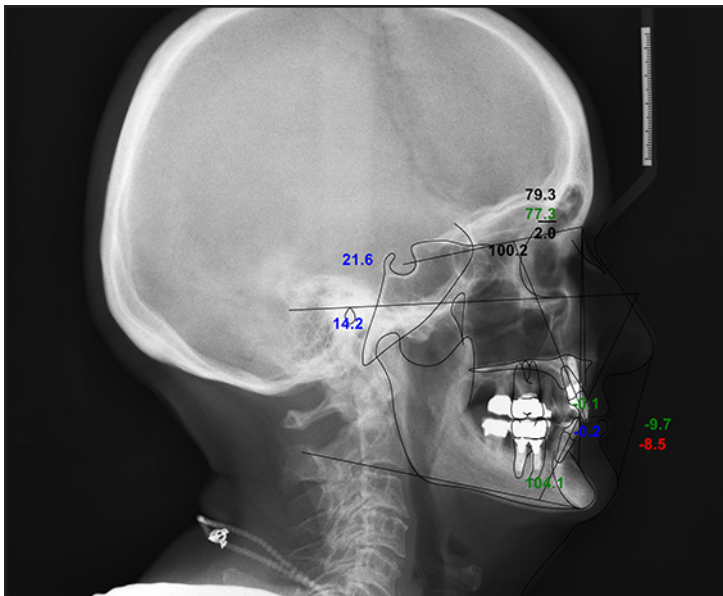


Figure 11: Final cephalometric x-ray tracing

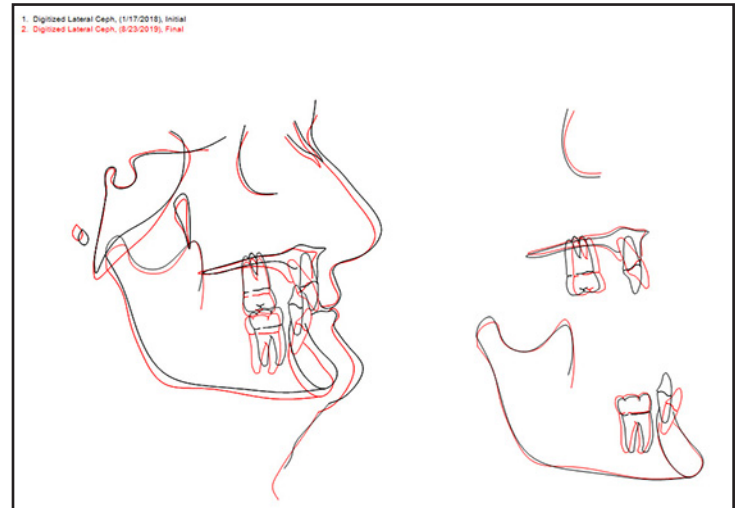


Figure 12: Initial and final superimposition.

tracings also indicated clockwise rotation of the mandible, making the chin less prominent. (Fig. 11) The superimposition shows the proclination of maxillary and mandibular incisors and the significant intrusion of mandibular incisors, slight clockwise rotation of the mandible. (Fig. 12)

Lastly, the patient's chief complaint was addressed. The teeth at the end of treatment had minimal mobility. At 6 months retention the dentition was found to be stable and no occlusal adjustment was necessary.

DISCUSSION

The dentition of mature, older patients present with many different factors that can make restoring function and esthetics complex.^{1, 3} Teeth may be missing, worn, rotated, mobile, stained, or infected, and bone loss is also a common issue.^{1, 3, 7, 8} Additionally, the medical history and systemic conditions can also affect treatment outcomes. When treatment planning for elderly patients with a compromised dentition, all of these factors must be considered not only as potential problems but also when developing solutions.¹⁷

This particular case was successful despite the multitude of clinical issues which were not ideal. Some of the clinical complicating issues were used as an advantage to resolve the case. The implants served as anchors for the intrusion procedures; which would not have been possible due to the torque that would have been applied to the mobile surrounding teeth. Emphasis on saving natural teeth rather than planning for restoration or extraction was considered in this case.⁵ The alveolar bone was adequate for orthodontic movement.

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CASE PRESENTATION

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While treating compromised dentitions especially in elderly patients, dentists must realize that a realistic approach must be taken over an idealistic one. Effective communication between different disciplines is essential for successful treatment of these patients.^{5, 17} The collaboration between the orthodontist, the prosthodontist, and the periodontist facilitated the delivery of crowns necessary to increase the posterior vertical dimension, and the maintenance of a good periodontal condition.

Elderly patients are one of the most underserved populations, and have the highest prevalence of oral disease.^{1, 2} They often lack the ability to drive to appointments, may struggle financially, and may be insecure due to inadequate health literacy.² It is the responsibility of dental health professionals to reach this population and empower them to be an active proponent of their oral health.

Improving function and esthetics through orthodontics in the aging population is a great alternative to more traditional prosthodontic options. Patients may avoid losing their natural teeth while undergoing realistic non-invasive treatments that do not require surgery. Most importantly these realistic approaches vastly improve this population's quality of life.^{16, 18}

CONCLUSIONS

This case report showed how orthodontics can be used as the major treatment approach to elderly patients with compromised dentitions. Patients with considerable alveolar bone loss, gingival recession, and root exposure do not necessarily need extraction of teeth, and instead can be treated with orthodontic intrusion, and orthodontic realignment. Holistic orthodontic treatment, supplemented by prosthodontics and restored function was provided and resulted in a viable treatment of a compromised dentition.

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COUNCIL ON COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Lawrence Wang

The council members and talented AAO staff have continued the important work of engaging and educating parents and patients, and strengthening the value of AAO membership. The COC met virtually four times this fiscal year 2025 – July, August, October, and December. Please see below for an update on COC activities and feel free to reach out to me with any questions or ideas.

CONSUMER AWARENESS PROGRAM (CAP) – FISCAL YEAR 2025

The CAP is the only mass advertising campaign promoting orthodontists as specialists and educating the public to see an orthodontist in person. The CAP program currently focuses on digital marketing, with the goal of driving quality traffic to the consumer website.

FY24 Performance June 1, 2024 – November 2024: (*first half of the fiscal year*)

- **252M impressions served** – This means that CAP ads appear across platforms like Google display, Paid Search on Google and Bing, YouTube online video, Facebook, and Instagram.
- **Over 9.8M video views**
- **Nearly 8M ad clicks**
- **Over 6.8M consumer website page views**
- **Over 2.2M Find an Orthodontist locator visits**

FY25 Consumer Awareness Program highlights:

1. **The Science of Smiles Campaign:** Launched in April 2024 and will continue through FY25. From November 1 – December 31, 2024, we will have two ads in rotation: *How Much Do Braces Cost* (adult, self-purchase) & *How Do Braces Work* (parent audience). The *Science of Smiles* campaign positions orthodontists as the ultimate authority through a series of engaging and educational videos highlighting their unique education and training and establishing them as the go-to experts sought after for their exceptional knowledge and skill. This campaign is seeing impressive results on all paid digital channels, with additional episodes scheduled for release throughout the year.
2. **Digital Agency:** We continue to optimize our CAP outreach with our digital agency, Steady Rain. They continue to help AAO significantly improve key metrics, with noteworthy year-over-year increases in traffic to the

consumer website, page views, ad clicks, and video views. Despite maintaining flat spending, our cost per user has declined, highlighting the efficiency of our investment. Proper oversight is in place, and AAO Staff monitors the agency dashboard daily, meets with the agency bi-weekly, and provides ongoing reports to COC.

3. **Search Engine Optimization (SEO):** This is an ongoing focus throughout FY25. COC continues to enhance and refine landing page content and develop new content for the consumer website to ensure we optimize organic traffic. We continue to attract visitors, especially with Mewing and Fashion Braces-related content. Plus, we are making content updates to better align with AI in organic search and AEO (Answer Engine Optimization), ensuring the AAO is the accurate and reliable authority for search engine queries.
4. **2025 PSA Collaboration:** We are partnering with the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) to create a PSA titled *Milestones Met, Healthy Teeth Set*. This PSA will stress the importance of seeing the appropriate dental specialist at ages 1, 7, and 15.
5. **2025, the 125th Anniversary of the AAO:** From January 1 to December 31, 2025, we will celebrate the AAO's 125th anniversary with various programs, marketing initiatives, and events, honoring our legacy and commitment to excellence.
6. **Bullying Bites 2024 Recap:** For the sixth year, the AAO's #BullyingBites campaign coincided with National Bullying Prevention Month. This initiative empowered both members and patients to act by creating awareness and spreading the message of kindness. This year, we leveraged public relations in three local markets – El Paso, TX, Ann Arbor, MI, and Portland, ME - and garnered over 1.3M viewers through our outreach. Plus, we lit up landmarks around the country, offering additional resources for members, partnered with the AAO Advocacy team, encouraging members to support a bipartisan bill to improve access to mental health resources in schools, and launched a new partnership with Kind Lips lip balm, an organization who also supports anti-bullying efforts.

MEMBER MARKETING UPDATES – FISCAL YEAR 2025

The AAO Board of Trustees identified Member-Centric Marketing and Communications as one of three objectives the AAO should prioritize.

Below are updates on our marketing efforts being employed:

1. **Omni-Channel approach to membership marketing:** Our member-centric marketing and communications

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strategy puts our members first in what we communicate about. The strategy includes increased posting on social media, strategic solo emails on specific topics, oversight of the issues covered in the eBulletin, increased texting, and keeping all-volunteer leadership aware of all areas of the association.

2. **eBulletin:** Reading the weekly eBulletin is the number one action we would want members to take with the AAO, and we use this to communicate the important AAO and industry news happening each week. We regularly see open rates above 60% (well above the industry benchmark standard). Each weekly eBulletin is also turned into an Instagram story every Friday and stories from the eBulletin are shared out through social media the following week.
3. **Member Minute:** In FY25, we are continuing our AAO member influencer program, which has seen increasing awareness and engagement in organic social channels. These videos allow members to hear straight from their colleagues about important AAO news and benefits each month on social media and in the eBulletin. We will have videos around upcoming AAO Events, the Bullying Bites program, the Supplier Network, the new Simon Sinek – AAO Inspiring Leadership program, and much more.

4. **Ortho Staff Outreach:** Continuing efforts to connect with members' office managers to communicate more easily with offices about marketing campaigns or relevant educational opportunities. We launched a new quarterly communication in September 2024 targeted at ortho team contacts that reaches over 9,000 team members. AAO Staff plans to continue collecting team member contact information twice a year.
5. **Social Media Outreach:** We will continue our strategic focus on increasing engagement and views, capturing new followers and content development throughout the AAO organic social channels (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram) and integrating key messages for members. We consistently find ways to improve our presence on social media, especially through Instagram. The AAO staff will continue to create Instagram Reels to deliver messages about events, CAP initiatives, and member benefits.
6. **Texting Initiative:** We utilize AAO texts to highlight AAO breaking news, events, and benefit programs.
7. **Member Website:** We continue to make improvements to ensure the accuracy of the Member Website and enhance the user experience. ■



COUNCIL ON EDUCATION

Dr. Padma Mukherjee

I hope everyone had a good Holiday Season and enjoyed some time with their families and friends!

A Very Happy New Year to dear friends in MASO!

The Council on Orthodontic Education (COE) met on September 9th, 2024. It was an all-day meeting at the AAO headquarters in St. Louis, MI. Dr. Ki Beom Kim continues to serve as the Chair of the COE. The members and liaisons of the COE include Drs. Sercan Akyalcin; Paul Armbruster; Jeff Iverson; Padma Mukherjee; Martin Palomo; Reginald W. Taylor; John Zhang; Mitchell Lipp, ADEA Council; Onur Kadioglu, ABO Liaison, Michael Sherman (Trustee Liaison) and Dr. Kaitrin Kramer (Trustee Liaison). The COE meetings would not be coordinated and conducted successfully if it weren't for our amazing staff, including Michelle Ritterskamp, Libby Dischert, Lauren Carr, and Melissa McCulloch.

The council's responsibilities are to evaluate and make recommendations on all matters relating to orthodontic education. Our council consults with all appropriate dental, educational, and governmental organizations with regard to

orthodontic education. The 2024 meeting was very productive, and here is a summary.

Trey Lawrence (AAO CEO) encouraged COE to consider adding Micro-Volunteer Service Opportunities for the projects they work on. For members, it is important to feel that the AAO is 'my AAO' and not 'the AAO.' By providing various opportunities for all members to participate, we will grow the commitment to their association. A micro or virtual volunteer opportunity is small, short-term, flexible, and could be 100% virtual. For younger members with time constraints, a micro-volunteer service opportunity is a perfect way to be involved. To do this, it is important for all members to 'tap' the younger members on the shoulder and ask that they become involved.

Dr. Sherman reviewed and provided a summary on behalf of the Trustees. It is important to promote responsible use of AI in Orthodontics via education and advocacy. He discussed the implementation of AAO Tech transformation. He also discussed the importance of Go Green initiative by encouraging sustainability practices among membership and AAO levels. The AAO will continue its support of the Full-time Faculty Teaching Fellowship Award Program and other awards to improve faculty retention and decrease the shortage of orthodontic educators. The COE also recommended supporting the donated Orthodontic Services

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Current COE Representatives and AAO Liaisons

Mindi Brothers (AAO VP Strategy & Innovation Chief Strategy Officer) shared a new leadership initiative consisting of the “Simon Sinek - AAO Inspiring Leadership Program” which will be offered in the fall and spring. This program will be a great opportunity for orthodontists to learn and to hone their leadership skills. The price to attend is \$850, and residents will receive a \$100 discount. The Wharton-AAO MBO Program will continue to be a member offering with two cohorts per year. The next cohort begins in January 2025. This program also is available to Residents at a discounted rate.

Onur Kadioglu, ABO Liaison provided us with updates on the ABO Written and Clinical examinations. Dr. Kadioglu reported that 63% of AAO Orthodontists are now board-certified. The 2024 Written Exam was administered in April, with 443 examinees and a 99% pass rate. The next written exam is scheduled for April 9, 2025. Open registration started on November 6, 2024. Residents must have completed 18-months of their program by the Written Exam to be eligible to take

the exam. For questions, please reach out to Nicole Huson at Nicole@AmericanBoardOrtho.com. The February 2024 Scenario-based Exam had a total of 329 orthodontists certified with an 89% pass rate. In 2025, there will be one Scenario-based Exam per year on September 17, 2025. Registration opened on September 18, 2024. For scenario test questions, residency programs should reach out to Kim Koch at Kim@AmericanBoardOrtho.com. Certification Renewal is required to maintain active board certification and may be started no earlier than 36 months prior to expiration.

The council recommended that AAO continue its support of the Full-time Faculty Teaching Fellowship Award Program and other awards to improve faculty retention and decrease the current shortage of orthodontic educators. The COE also recommended support of the donated Orthodontic Services Program.

The next COE virtual meeting will be on January 15, 2025. Among the agenda items, the next chair of the COE will be nominated and voted upon. The next Society of Educators Meeting conference honors Dr. James McNamara and is at the AAO annual meeting in Philadelphia on Thursday, April 24, 2025. Dr. James A. McNamara is the 2025 Honoree and Keynote Speaker. He will present on the topic “Evolution of Contemporary Orthodontic Treatment Options: A 60-year Personal Perspective”. It will be a memorable presentation, so please mark your calendars.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the MASO Spring Program on March 7, 2025. The COE is always willing to hear from our members and educators with any suggestions and comments. We are working for you to improve orthodontic education. If you have any topics that you wish to bring to the COE, please feel free to contact me. ■



COUNCIL ON GOVERNMENT ADVOCACY Dr. Jean Edouard Asmar

2025 has already started with the Council on Government Advocacy (COGA) working hard on behalf of our association. We continue to build on our 2024 successes and accomplishments with our member advocacy priorities. Our key issues remain as follows: workforce challenges, small business issues, student loan debts along with patient health and safety relating to mail order Orthodontics. We have had many conference calls to nominate and elect a new COGA chair and to finalize

planning for our upcoming joint COGA-AAOPAC boards meeting in Washington, DC which will take place in concert with the AAO’s 2025 professional Advocacy Conference (3/11 - 3/12). We will meet for a day and a half prior to the actual start of the meeting. We also met in person back on 8/22- 8/24, 2024 and worked hard on planning and finalizing all preparations for this upcoming Advocacy meeting. This will be one of the most successful meetings to date. I would like us to beat last year’s stellar contributions for the 30th anniversary of AAOPAC and to urge you all to make a contribution at AAOPAC.org.

Those dollars are instrumental in helping to fuel our advocacy priorities not only at the federal level but in states across the country. ■

See photos on page 19

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Dr. Doug Harte



Dr. Jean Edouard Asmar



Dr. Richard Williams



COUNCIL ON MEMBERSHIP, ETHICS & JUDICIAL CONCERNS

Dr. Tarun "Ty" Saini

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Annual Session in St. Thomas. Congratulations to Dr. Omid Rajaei and the planning committee for such a successful meeting!

I continue the privilege of representing MASO's members on COMJEC. Our fall meetings were held by Zoom. Dr. Mathew Ng (SWSO) continues as our Council Chair; Dr. Ken Webb (NESO) is now our Trustee Liaison and Mr. Brandon Hackworth is our AAO lead staff member.

Some important updates from our ongoing work:

HOD Resolutions

- COMEJC submitted four resolutions to the 2024 AAO House of Delegates that were adopted and here are their outcomes:
 - 08-24 COMEJC – *Bylaws Amendment (International Member Eligibility)*
Result: This removes superfluous and outdated language from Bylaws. International Membership eligibility is not impacted.
 - 09-24 COMEJC – *Bylaws Amendment (Retired Membership Eligibility)*

Result: Bylaws now more clearly define what constitutes retired status from the membership standpoint. More specifically, member must have retired from orthodontic practice, teaching and research but are allowed an exception up to 416 hours per year (one day per week) if they teach at an accredited program/dental school and/or provide locum tenens coverage.

- 14-24 COMEJC – *Establishment of Trial AAO Membership*
Result: The trial membership is being implemented for 2024-25 to allow eligible orthodontists to join at no cost for the first year (constituent/component dues still apply).
- 15-24 COMEJC – *Extension of Pilot for Bulk Membership Dues for International Orthodontic Societies*
Result: A previous pilot program is being extended by one year so the AAO can attempt to negotiate bulk membership dues with select international societies.

Membership Trends

- **Total AAO membership** is now at 18,920, a net decrease of 183 year over year. The primary reason for this comes from International Student Members (-236) and International Members (-125).
- **Total member retention** decreased from 93.9% in 2023 to 93.6% in 2024. This is primarily driven by retention decreases among Active Members, Student Members, International Members and International Student Members.

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- Current **U.S. market** share is calculated as 9,702 AAO members out of a total population of 11,302 orthodontists, or 85.8% as of May 31, 2024. This is a decrease from 86.4% in 2023.

Other Initiatives

- Upon referral from the Board of Trustees in February 2024, COMEJC reviewed the AAO's graduated dues scale available to new Active Members in their first four years. Following review of data and consultation with the Council on New and Younger Members, COMEJC reported to the Board in August 2024 that it does not recommend any changes to the dues scale at this time.
- COMEJC has formed an International Strategy Subcommittee to review the results of an International Member survey conducted in spring 2024. COMEJC will be using the survey data to consider changes to the AAO's international strategy, which will be recommended to the Board of Trustees.

- COMEJC continues to oversee the facilitation of the AAO's Resident Vitals and Financial Management for Residents presentations that are offered to residency programs annually (either in-person or virtually). Invitations were sent to orthodontic program chairs and directors to sign up for the presentations in August 2024. As approved by the Board of Trustees, the AAO will be utilizing six designated presenters to residency programs that sign up to host Resident Vitals. Presentations may also be requested at <https://www2.aaoinfo.org/programs-for-residents-and-educators/orthodontic-program-presentations/>.

I look forward to the next in-person COMEJC meeting on January 10, 2025. As always, when contemplating the initiatives and impact this Council can have, I think of what is in the best interest for the members of MASO, including our residents. Therefore, please do not hesitate to contact me with your suggestions and opinions! ■



COUNCIL ON NEW AND YOUNGER MEMBERS

Dr. Natalie Miller

CONYM members kicked off another council year and met virtually on June 18, 2024. We welcomed five new members: Javen Durham (GLAO), Stella Dong (PCSO), Terrance Campbell (SAO), Rachel Thorstenson (MSO resident), Zack Miller (RMSO resident). Dr. Steven Siegel and Dr. Kaitrin Kramer will serve as the council's trustee liaisons.

We continue to provide feedback on AAO's high-level strategy for resident and new orthodontist engagement, support AAO's membership renewal efforts amongst new orthodontists, and work with the Resident Champions program while continuously brainstorming ways to enhance the program.

CONYM will once again plan and facilitate the New Orthodontist and Resident Conference at the 2025 AAO annual session in Philadelphia. This event is already sold

out for 2025! For the upcoming conference, CONYM is working on restructuring the program and revamping the content to provide an invaluable experience for the attendees.

Despite the New Orthodontist and Resident Conference being open to residents as well as new orthodontists in their first few years of practice, data suggests that the conference has primarily been attended by residents since its formation. There has been feedback amongst membership that the new orthodontists are seeking resources from the AAO annual session that are more exclusively tailored to their needs. In response to this, CONYM, in conjunction with CCon, have been brainstorming ideas for future annual sessions starting in 2026. Stay tuned for some exciting news that will be announced soon!

CONYM continues to represent the AAO at the annual GORP and ASDA meetings and we look forward to maintaining our efforts at these conferences in 2025.

Looking ahead, we will convene in-person for our annual meeting on Saturday, February 8, 2025 in St. Louis. We welcome your outreach at any time with any questions, comments, or suggestions. ■

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**COUNCIL ON
ORTHODONTIC PRACTICE**
Dr. Madeleine Goodman

GENERAL: COOP held its annual in-person meeting in St. Louis the weekend of September 13th. Listed below is a recap of our ongoing programs as well as some initiatives we have in the works.

OFFICE DESIGN SERIES: The AAO is proud to have released their efforts on an entirely new approach to the AAO office design webpage. Its infrastructure is supported by the professional contribution of orthodontic design and business field experts. We are planning to release an updated version later this year.

<https://www2.aaoinfo.org/practice-management/office-design-for-the-orthodontist/>

PRACTICE TRANSITIONS: We’ve started a major initiative to develop and maintain the AAO’s Practice Transition content. Our plan is to use focus groups of micro-volunteers with recent experience in the following areas: Practice Startups, Practice Purchase, Practice Sale to Orthodontist, and Practice Sale to OSO/DSO. Our goal is to gather insights and information from multiple sources, including incumbent orthodontists and subject matter experts, organized by transition type. We will develop practical tools such as planning checklists and quick reference guides to support others through practice transitions. Also, we will identify “pain points” to prioritize needs for future targeted solutions. Please let us know if you are interested in helping with this valuable project.

AAO PRACTICE MANAGEMENT FORMS: To best serve the membership and their clients, informed consent forms on varied topics are available to you on the AAO website. I am confident that there is something there that you may not have considered for your practice.... please take the time to visit. COOP welcomes all member recommendations in an effort to modernize AAO forms as well as share subject suggestions (or example consent forms used in your practice) perhaps not yet broached by

the AAO. Please note: review of material or a new subject or modification does not confirm future use by the AAO. Needless to say, significant vetting and legal review is required; however, we thank you for any contribution to the membership. Please note that we are working on offering all forms in Spanish in 2024.

AAO-SPONSORED WEBINARS: COOP embraces the coordination of topics for AAO webinars throughout the year. A new webinar was recommended by COOP in 2024 addressing sensitive topics that clinicians face. The upcoming webinar schedule is as follows. Please visit the AAO website for a comprehensive listing.

Date	Webinar Subject	Presenter(s)/ Moderator	Category/ Personas/Tags
Jan 14th, 2025 12-1pm CST	OSHA: Team-Up for Safety!	Jackie Dorst	All Team

ORTHODONTIC STAFF CLUB (OSC) AND ALL THINGS STAFFING: We have many outreach initiatives going to help educate potential employees on the joys of working in the orthodontic field. Doctors are encouraged to continue the promotion of the Specialized Orthodontic Assistant program as well as clarify the benefits of membership on-line (website access, fee discounts, etc.). The OSC Facebook page has been transformed into a valuable educational resource, encompassing topics such as team training, bolstering member business acumen, clinical pearls, etc. We are planning to update this program in 2025. Please join us: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AAOstaffclub>.

SUSTAINABILITY SUBCOMMITTEE: We continue to work on resources that will help orthodontists limit their impact on the environment.. We have a number of exciting initiatives in the works and hope to have some up and running soon. Stay tuned!

I welcome you to reach out at any time with questions, comments, or suggestions that I may share with the Council throughout the year. Thank you for your trust and support! ■

AAO COUNCIL REPORTS



COUNCIL ON SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Jose Bosio

The AAO COUNCIL ON SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS (COSA) has been diligently working on scientific matters on behalf of the AAO in preparation for the 2025 Annual AAO Meeting in Philadelphia.

The following applications were received by COSA.:

- **Hellman, Sicher and Graber (HSG) awards:** 28 excellent basic science, translational and clinical papers were received. The recipients for the awards will be announced in February.
- **Oral Research:** **84 received 19 accepted and six were selected** to send a 2-minutes video, for selection of 2 research projects to be presented during the SOE meeting.
- **Table Clinic:** 41 received and 21 accepted to present at the AAO
- **Abstracts/e-Poster:** 304 e-posters received (there will be several more that were Oral Research and Table Clinic that were also accepted to be presented as e-poster)
- **Dr. William R. Proffit Resident Scholar Award program** application deadline is February 3, 2025 at 6:00pm.

COSA was also asked to revise a paper about microplastics published in the JWFO in November, and the members are working to provide a comprehensive report on the subject. There is concern of the authorities and the population about microplastic particles broken down from aligners and

its influences in the body. COSA and the AAO BOT shall be producing a summary of the findings soon.

All Council and Committee chairs, trustee liaisons and staff liaisons, and BOT members met on a Zoom call on December 11 to discuss possibilities of working on common projects. The meeting was truly enlightening and inspirational, and we anticipate that many projects beneficial to the AAO will result from this meeting.

I. MEETINGS

COSA is scheduled to meet on January 10, 2025 on a ZOOM call in preparation for COSA activities at Annual Session.

II. REFERRALS BY THE 2024 HOUSE OF DELEGATES

There were no HOD recommendations sent to COSA.

Term of Office:

On an annual basis, and prior to constituent organization annual meetings, staff in the AAO Executive Office will provide council/committee chairs, Trustee liaisons and staff liaisons a schedule of council/committee members who are scheduled to renew their terms at the beginning of the next council/committee year. The council/committee chair should then coordinate with the renewing members to determine whether they have interest in renewing their terms, as opposed to automatically renewing them at the end of the year. In the event a council member does not wish to renew their term, the constituent Trustee should notify the constituent to identify a replacement. In the event a committee member does not wish to renew their term, the committee should begin to identify a replacement.

And this is the fall report from COSA to the MASO members. Thank you. ■



AAO HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Dr. Jean McGill

The MASO Delegation met at the GLAO-MASO 2024 Annual Session and welcomed a new Delegate- Elect, **Lara Minahan**, and Alternate Delegate-Elect, **Dr. Edmund Khoo**. Your MASO representatives to the AAO House of Delegates are honored to represent our constituency at the AAO Annual Session on March 8, 2025 at the Marriott Bethesda Downtown in Bethesda, Maryland.

In addition to Drs. Minahan and Khoo, the rest of our Delegation includes: Delegates **Drs. Jean McGill**

(Delegation Chair), **Tarun (Ty) Saini**, **Richard Isaccson**, **Jean Asmar** and **Kathy Marshall**; and Alternate Delegates **Drs. Sana Augustus** and **Paul Batastini**. The House of Delegates (HOD) is the governing body of the AAO and plays a significant role in approving the operating budget, and establishing dues, assessments and policy changes to improve our organization.

Resolutions to the 2025 HOD will be posted on the AAO website and members are encouraged to comment and participate by attending live sessions during our Annual Session. Please reach out to contact us with questions, concerns or items for consideration. The Delegation and Board wish to thank our outgoing members: **Drs. Albright, Harte** and **Rajaei** for their years of service and participation with the Delegation. ■

AAO FOUNDATION

December 2024



DR. WILLIAM H. AND MARGARET LADD DEKOCK - GIFTED SMILES BENEFACTOR

The leadership of Dr. William H. DeKock, past president of the American Association of Orthodontists, community leader in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and friend of many within the specialty was a well-known advocate for the orthodontic profession.



Through a generous gift from the DeKock family, the AAO Foundation has established the Dr. William H. and Margaret Ladd DeKock Gifted Smiles Benefactor Fund to assure access to orthodontic care.

If you would like to contribute to this fund in memory of Dr. DeKock, please visit our website.

GIFTED SMILES CONTINUES GROWTH

With applications being received daily, the Gifted Smiles Program is looking to grow the volunteer base of AAO Members. Please consider accepting a Gifted Smiles patient from your own community. Volunteer today: aaofoundation.net/volunteer

[Read More](#)



Volunteer or Donate Here

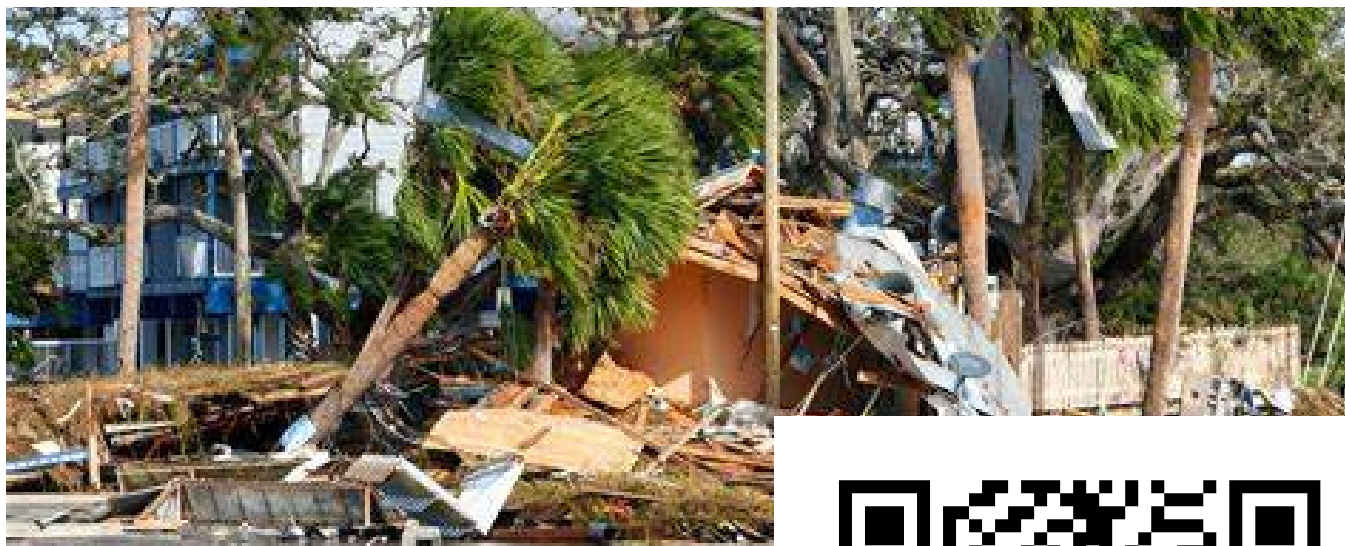


FRED A. GARRETT RESIDENT EDUCATION PROGRAM RETURNS

The AAO Foundation recognizes the importance of residents having the opportunity to experience an AAO Annual Session, and we support them through this program by



offering a one-time \$400 incentive to offset expenses to attend the conference. Visit aaofoundation.net/residents to see the qualifications.



FOUNDATION OFFERS DISASTER RELIEF

The AAO Foundation is accepting applications for assistance due to devastation from Hurricanes Helene and Milton in the Southeast. If your practice suffered damage, please scan the QR code to visit our website to apply today.

AAO Foundation recently received generous support from SAO/SWSO, who collectively refer to themselves as SSO. They will match contributions from their constituency members up to \$10,000 for all gifts made before December 31, 2024.





FOR THE FUTURE

The future of Orthodontics depends on our commitment to invest in the best educators. The AAO Foundation has launched **For the Future** - a campaign to invest in fellowships that will advance our specialty. The Full-Time Faculty Fellowship is a two-year, \$30,000 fellowship designed to supplement the salaries of those dedicated to orthodontic academics. In concert with AAO, and following the House of Delegates' unanimous support to create this powerful opportunity, this fellowship is our way of ensuring that the future is led by the most qualified and passionate individuals. Contributions will be matched dollar-for-dollar to create a fund to award three fellowships (awarded for two years) every year. To learn more about leadership opportunities, please call **Brett Schott** at the Foundation office: 314.292.6546 or bschott@aaortho.org.

AAO FOUNDATION BREAKFAST

Register to attend the AAO Foundation Breakfast in Philadelphia when you register for AAO Annual Session.

The Foundation will present the **Eugene & Pauline Blair, Distinguished Service Award to:**

Dr. Orhan C. Tuncay



Foundation Staff:

Brett Schott, Vice President
bschott@aaortho.org

Mindy Copp, Sr. Specialist, Marketing & Development
mcopp@aaortho.org

George Reinerman, Jr. - Program Specialist
greinerman@aaortho.org

Tabitha Smith - Program Administrator - Gifted Smiles
tsmith@aaortho.org



AAO PAC UPDATE

Dr. Doug Harte

As 2024 ended with the successful 30th Anniversary of AAOPAC, we look forward to celebrating 125 years of AAO in 2025. New changes are on the horizon as well as continued improvements are coming in this year. There has been a big change in the federal political landscape this year. We have a new (and former) President in office as well as a New 119th Congress. The Republican party will have control of both houses of congress. But as we have seen, their majorities are slim and will provide opportunities for compromise and as such will be good for us and our AAO priorities.

We continue to work with Cozen O'Connor as our lobby group and they help us to provide key contacts in Washington as well as to help guide us in our annual giving plan. It was noted that a divided government could be advantageous for small businesses due to less drastic policy changes.

Key legislative priorities include:

- The REDI Act: This bill in the last congress was supported by 66 House and 16 Senate co-sponsors. The Act would allow deferment of student loan payments for medical and dental interns and residents, improving access to care in underserved areas.
- The Oral Health Literacy and Awareness Act: Proposed legislation requiring HRSA to run a public education campaign to boost oral health literacy.
- The Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act (ELSA): This bill, which neared passage in the last congress, would mandate insurance coverage for congenital anomalies and birthdefects. There is urgency for its passage as two co-sponsors are retiring soon.
- The RAISE Act: Supported mainly by Republicans, this act would allow FSA and HSA savings to roll over into the next year.

These priorities will all need to be reintroduced with the new congress but we remain highly optimistic this time around.

The National Advocacy Network (NAN) will continue to expand and evolve to maximize strategic grassroots engagement by AAO Members for policy influence across the United States and Canada.

A large part of our fundraising since 2023 has been in conjunction with MMS company. It has proven to be a good partnership so far with the AAO.

Overview

2023 marked the first full year of the MMS and AAOPAC partnership. The goal of 2023 was to jumpstart AAOPAC's fundraising efforts after a few years of minimal member outreach. This effort was extremely successful in rejuvenating AAOPAC's contributor file and helping to deliver record revenue for the PAC.

In 2024, with the AAOPAC back on a firm foundation, the goal was two-fold: maintain the strong participation from a core group of dedicated supporters and invest in generating the 1st time contributors necessary for long-term growth.

As of November 18, 2024, AAOPAC has gained a 50% increase in prior contributor participation, while also generating a 260% increase in first-time contributors over 2023 at this same time.

AAOPAC had outlined four main strategies used to mobilize the grassroots network:

1. **Phone 2 Action:** Managed by our federal and state call-to-action consultant, this initiative has been particularly effective in states where advocacy efforts have faced challenges.
2. **In-Person Advocacy:** This strategy involves direct engagement by AAO NAN leadership and member advocates with legislators, lawmakers, and government agencies through both in-district and virtual meetings.
3. **Digital Advocacy:** In collaboration with the AAO marketing department and consultant Allison Aubuchon, this approach utilizes social media to promote calls to action and advocacy initiatives.
4. **AAO In-Person Events:** Events such as the Professional Advocacy Conference, GORP, Constituent meetings, and the AAO Mid-Winter Meeting offer additional platforms to advance advocacy goals

There are significant National priorities for states in the upcoming 2025 legislative sessions. Efforts in states across the country will be focused on teledentistry, workforce, delegation of duties, and dental auxiliaries. We will also be monitoring the licensure compact in states, dental loss ratio legislation, and more. Advocacy initiatives will also continue regarding delegation of duties and dental auxiliary regulations in Ontario.

As we wind down the 30th Anniversary celebration for AAOPAC in 2024, we are excited to jump into the celebration of AAO's 125th Anniversary. We anticipate continued success through storytelling about the AAOPAC, helping to fuel AAO Advocacy success in Washington, DC and states throughout the country. AAO Advocacy will continue to focus on data-driven policy

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priorities in Washington, DC, Canada, and across the U.S. at the state level, including workforce training and shortages, small business initiatives, student loan debt, and mail-order patient health and safety concerns.

2025 Professional Advocacy Conference Planning: The 2025 Professional Advocacy Conference will be held March 11-12 at the Capital Hilton in Washington, D.C. Those who have contributed \$250 or more to the AAOPAC since June 1, 2024,

will be first to receive an invitation to attend. In addition, people giving to the PAC will be able to enjoy the luxuries of the AAOPAC lounge in Philadelphia at the Annual Session. I look forward to seeing you there. Remember that our association is only as strong as its members and their support. Please don't forget to make your contribution this year. AAOPAC.ORG Your important donations help drive our legislative agenda and protect the profession and our patients. ■



ABO CONSTITUENCY REPORT **Dr. Roberto Hernandez-Orsini**

The ABO is committed to upholding our mission to elevate the quality of orthodontic care for the public by promoting excellence through certification, education, and professional collaboration.

ABO Yearly Update

The ABO is proud to announce that 63% of AAO orthodontists are now board certified.

Written Examination Update:

- The 2024 ABO Written Examination was administered to 443 examinees on April 2, at Pearson Vue Testing Centers in the United States and Canada. The examination had a 99% pass rate.

The next Written Examination is scheduled for April 9, 2025, online registration is now open as of November 6, 2024. Applicants must have graduated or enrolled in an advanced specialty education program in orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics in the United States or Canada, accredited by CODA. Orthodontic residents must have completed 18 months of their program by the Written Examination date to be eligible to take the exam.

Scenario-based Clinical Examination Update:

- The ABO February 2024 Scenario-based Clinical Examination was conducted February 22-23 at Pearson-Vue Testing Centers Worldwide. 329 orthodontists were certified during the 1st and 2nd Quarters of 2024, including the February examination, which had an 89% pass rate. In addition, 21 orthodontists completed their 10-year certification renewal requirements. Please visit the [ABO website](#) for a complete listing of names by constituency for this period.

The ABO September 2024 Clinical Examination was held on September 17 at Pearson-Vue Testing Centers Worldwide.

Beginning in 2025, the ABO will transition to offering one Scenario-based Clinical Examination per year, to be held in the fall. The scheduled date for the 2025 examination is September 17. Online registration is scheduled to open on September 18, 2024.

An orthodontist must first complete the ABO Written Examination before taking the Scenario-based Clinical Examination. Preparation materials for the examination, including study guides and sample cases, along with how to register are located on the [ABO website](#).

Certification Renewal Examination:

- Certification Renewal is required every 10 years to maintain an active board certification status and may be started no earlier than 36 months before the expiration date printed on the individual's certificate. For individuals whose board certification is set to expire within the next 3 years, communications are distributed throughout the year as a reminder to recertify. There are two options to complete the examination, which include one online Board Case Examination or a Mail-In Case Report Examination, both of which also require the completion of continuing education credits from online AJODO-selected articles. Please visit the [ABO website](#) for materials to help you prepare for the examination.

Please contact the following ABO staff members should you have questions on any of the ABO examinations:

Written Examination Certification Coordinator | Nicole Huson:
Nicole@AmericanBoardOrtho.com

Clinical Examination Coordinator | Kim Koch
Kim@AmericanBoardOrtho.com

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Educational Update:

- The ABO Educators Symposium will be held in St. Louis, MO on Saturday, February 22, 2025, with a dinner the prior evening. Invitations for the event have been distributed. Orthodontic department chairs, program directors, or two faculty representatives from each orthodontic program are invited to participate, along with ABO Emeriti, ABO Ambassadors, and leadership from AAO and CDABO.
- The ABO Pathway Program was launched in June 2024. The program is designed to introduce doctors to the ABO and the certification process, educate doctors about the value of Board Certification, encourage the pursuit of Board Certification, provide an overview of the Written and Scenario-Based Clinical Exam, address FAQ's, provide resources and engage doctors along their pathway to certification.

Ambassadors applied through an online application process. We currently have 16 Ambassadors representing all Constituencies for 2024-2026, all of which have completed the Scenario-Based Clinical Examination. In-person annual training attendance is required, and all resources are provided.

Two different presentations are available through the Ambassador Program: ***The Pathway to Board Certification: Overview*** and ***The Pathway to Board Certification: Clinical Examination***. Educators can request presentations for their residents, and we also hold virtual presentations for all registered examinees before each administration.

- The AAO recently put out a call for nominees for an upcoming national volunteer position on the CODA Review Committee on Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics Education to fill the role of the AAO/ABO joint representative.
- The ABO Executive Committee attended the AAO Winter Meeting in San Antonio, TX.
- The incoming ABO Executive Committee, along with Carole Newport, CEO, attended the February 2024 ASAE CEO Meeting in San Diego, CA. The meeting provided opportunities to brainstorm future strategic goals and objectives.
- ABO Directors participated in the 2024 CDABO March Meeting in Savannah, GA.
- The ABO is focusing on 2024 marketing efforts to include the development of a professional photo library for use on the ABO website, social media campaigns, and communications.
- The ABO has added an "Across the Board" blog on our website. Timely updates and important news will now be shared via this communication method.

- Board Certified Orthodontists have access to valuable tools and resources located on their ABO personal dashboards in communicating their board certification achievement. Customizable brochures, videos, patient/team materials, window clings, sample website copy, Brand Standards Guide, and ABO seal and logo designs are just a few of the items available.
- Please follow the ABO on social media for news and updates: <https://www.facebook.com/americanboardoforthodontics> <https://www.instagram.com/americanboardorthodontics>

- **2024-2025 ABO Directors:**

The ABO Directors for the 2024-2025 year are as follows:

- o Dr. Jae Hyun Park - President, representing the Pacific Coast Society of Orthodontists
- o **Dr. Roberto Hernández-Orsini** - President-Elect, representing the Middle Atlantic Society of Orthodontists
- o Dr. P. Emile Rossouw - Secretary-Treasurer, representing the Northeastern Society of Orthodontists
- o Dr. Anthony Puntillo - Director, representing the Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists
- o Dr. Daniel J. Rejman - Director, representing the Rocky Mountain Society of Orthodontists
- o Dr. Meenakshi Vishwanath - Director, representing the Midwestern Society of Orthodontists
- o Dr. Timothy Trulove - Immediate Past President, representing the Southern Association of Orthodontists

The AAO House of Delegates confirmed Dr. Onur Kadioglu as the new Director representing the Southwestern Society of Orthodontists. In addition, the AAO House of Delegates confirmed Dr. Timothy Tremont as the new Director representing the Southern Association of Orthodontists.

ABO at the 2024 AAO Annual Session

- The ABO was pleased to recognize the 2024 award recipients during the ABO 2024 Awards Night in New Orleans, LA. Congratulations to the following individuals:
 - o Dr. Peter M. Greco - Albert H. Ketcham Memorial Award
 - o Dr. Allen H. Moffitt - Dale B. Wade Award of Excellence in Orthodontics
 - o Dr. Eladio DeLeon, Jr. - Earl E. and Wilma S. Shepard Distinguished Service Award
 - o Dr. Leslie A. Will - O.B. Vaughan Special Recognition Award

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- The award recipients for 2025 were announced to include the following individuals who will be recognized during next year's 2025 AAO Annual Session in Philadelphia, PA. Congratulations!
 - o Dr. David Sarver – Albert H. Ketcham Memorial Award
 - o Dr. Scott Jamieson and Dr. Larry Tadlock - Dale B. Wade Award of Excellence in Orthodontics
 - o Mrs. Melissa Brydels - Earl E. and Wilma S. Shepard Distinguished Service Award
 - o Dr. Jim Henderson - O.B. Vaughan Special Recognition Award
- The ABO hosted the following events during the 2024 AAO Annual Session in New Orleans, LA:
 - o ABO Ambassador Training took place in preparation for the launch of The ABO Pathway Program.
 - o The ABO Booth was located inside the Exhibit Hall within the AAO Pavilion. ABO Directors and staff

were available to answer questions, promote board certification, and receive feedback. Newly Board-Certified orthodontists were invited to stop in to celebrate their achievements and receive a special gift.

The Booth was very well attended by newly certified orthodontists as well as current orthodontic residents and members of other Orthodontic Board agencies worldwide.

- o The ABO attended the New and Younger Member Conference and manned a booth to provide information on board certification to attendees.
- o Several ABO Directors participated as speakers on various topics during the AAO 2024 session.
- o ABO Appreciation Breakfast was held to thank ABO Emeriti, current year ABO Examiners, and ABO Ambassadors for their continued support and dedication to board certification. ■



**SOCIETY OF
ORTHODONTIC
EDUCATORS**
Dr. Anil Ardeschna
WWW

Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year to my dear friends and colleagues. I am pleased to present this report on behalf of the Society of Orthodontic Educators (SOE) to the Middle Atlantic Society of Orthodontists.

For the 2024-25 term, the SOE is led by an accomplished team of officers: President **Dr. Anil Ardeschna** (Rutgers University), President-Elect Dr. Po-Jung Chen (University of Nebraska Medical Center), Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Dimitrios Michelogiannakis (University of Rochester), Editor and Program Coordinator Dr. Andre Weissheimer (Harvard University), COE Liaison Dr. Paul Armbruster (LSU Health New Orleans), and AAO Staff Liaison Michelle Ritterskamp.

SOE is excited to host its annual conference on Thursday, April 24, 2025, in Philadelphia, just before the start of the AAO Annual Session. This year's conference will feature an honorary keynote by the esteemed Dr. James A. McNamara. The event will begin with registration at 9:30 am ET, followed by sessions from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm ET,

including a networking lunch. Attendees will also enjoy a networking reception from 4:00 to 5:00 pm ET. The conference offers members an exceptional opportunity to engage in educational content and connect with colleagues. Registration is exclusive to SOE members and can be completed alongside Annual Session registration.

Recently, SOE held its second webinar of the fiscal year, titled "How to Stay in Ortho Education for 30 Years or Longer." Moderated by Dr. Anil Ardeschna, this panel discussion featured Dr. Sarandeep Huja, Dr. Laura Iwasaki, Dr. Henry Fields, Dr. James A. McNamara, and Dr. Bhavna Shroff, and was highly praised for its insights on long-term success in orthodontic education.

Looking ahead, SOE has planned two webinars for the first quarter of 2025. On January 21, Dr. Carla Evans, Toni Magni, and their team will present "Integrating Clinical Informatics into Orthodontic Education," followed by a second session on February 18 focusing on "Integrating Clinical Informatics and Standards." Both webinars are free for members and promise valuable insights into leveraging clinical informatics in education.

SOE remains dedicated to advancing orthodontic education through high-quality programs and collaborative opportunities. We look forward to engaging with our members at the annual conference and upcoming webinars as we continue to elevate the field of orthodontic education. ■

AAO TechSelect: Navigating New Technologies in 2025

The orthodontic field is rapidly evolving, with new technologies and digital solutions reshaping practices every day. TechSelect, an exclusive program for AAO members, is your guide to navigating these innovations, helping you identify technologies appropriate for your practice to help you enhance patient care, improve efficiency, and elevate your practice.

Explore cutting-edge technologies:

- **3D Printing:** Discover the criteria to evaluate printers and research products using side-by-side comparisons. Learn about setting up a 3D print lab, how to fabricate aligners and retainers in-house, the cost of making in-house aligners and the benefits your colleagues are experiencing through 3D printing.
- **Intraoral Scanning:** Find the best scanner for your practice, considering accuracy, speed, and user-friendliness.
- **In-House Aligner Fabrication:** Evaluate the feasibility and benefits of offering in-house aligners including a cost breakdown. Learn about the equipment, software and digital workflows you'll need and the number of cases it will take to pay back your investment.
- **Remote Treatment Monitoring:** Discover technologies on the market for remotely monitoring patient progress and improving compliance. Explore platforms with virtual check-ins, progress photos, and communication tools.
- **Custom Bracket Systems:** Consider the advantages your colleagues are experiencing with custom brackets for more precise tooth movement and the potential for less chair time per patient. Discover software and services for designing and manufacturing custom brackets.
- **Digital Indirect Bonding:** Explore the benefits of digital indirect bonding for faster, more accurate, and more consistent bracket placement. Learn about the costs of products on the market and the potential for improved efficiency.
- **Robotics:** Explore automation tools for tasks like trimming aligners and assisting with patient movement. Evaluate how robotics can boost output, reduce staff reliance, and improve the patient experience.
- **Patient Comfort:** Address patient discomfort that can lead to anxiety and compliance issues. Explore technologies that relieve oral pain without needles, drugs, or numbness. Compare TechSelect Partner products to improve patient comfort and outcomes.

Make informed decisions:

TechSelect offers a wealth of resources to help you make the best technology decisions for your practice. From detailed product comparisons and side-by-side evaluations to investment payback calculators and instructional videos, you'll have everything you need to make informed choices.

Empower your practice:

TechSelect empowers you to stay ahead of the curve by providing the tools and knowledge needed to evaluate new technologies. By leveraging these resources, you can enhance practice efficiency, reduce operational costs, and ultimately deliver superior patient care.

Ready to embrace the future of orthodontics?

Visit TechSelect today and discover the latest technologies that can help you take your practice to new heights.

Social Media Copy: Considering new technologies for your practice in 2025? Explore AAO's exclusive TechSelect resource to research 3D Printers, Robotics, Patient Comfort solutions and more. Make informed decisions to enhance patient care and improve practice efficiency!

Discover more at techselect.aaoinfo.org.

An AAO Member Exclusive

AAO American Association of Orthodontists

AAO | TechSelect

Learn How. Explore Products. Save Money.

techselect.aaoinfo.org



TREASURER'S REPORT

Dr. Lynette Garcia

CURRENT ASSETS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024

Savings/Cash	\$111,009.60
Reserve Account	<u>\$714,280.12</u>
Other Current Assets	\$21,800.42
TOTAL ASSETS	\$802,872.38

INCOME	Year-End 2024	2025 Budget
Dues-Active / Reinstatement	\$144,683.88	\$140,000.00
Newsletter Advertising	0.00	1,900.00
MEETINGS		
CE COURSE	0.00	37,000.00
CE Registration	29,130.00	0.00
NET ANNUAL CONVENTION	10,208.27	30,000.00
OTHER INCOME		
Interest Income	215.08	100.00
Dividends	17,757.92	8,000.00
Miscellaneous Income	4,000.01	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	205,995.16	217,000.00
EXPENSES		
OPERATING EXPENSES		
AAO Dues BillingFee	4,119.84	2,900.00
President Honorarium	1,000.00	1,000.00
President Component Visits	0.00	1,500.00
AS Board Stipend (\$400 ea)	2,400.00	4,000.00
Management Fee	89,787.00	92,480.00
Office Supplies, Checks	1,390.49	1,400.00
Accounting	660.00	660.00
Subscrptns-formstack/cons cont	1,236.92	1,000.00
Stationary & Envelopes	0.00	100.00
Copying	380.68	400.00
Postage/Mailing House	133.22	150.00
Telephone/Fax	827.20	1,000.00
AAO Liability Insurance	1,142.00	0.00
Office/File Storage	120.00	120.00
Journal Editor - Honorarium	1,000.00	1,000.00
AS Scholarships	33,000.00	48,000.00
Gifts and Awards	5,794.96	4,500.00
Website Development	4.99	650.00
Journal Publication/Mailing	13,741.59	8,600.00
BOD - Travel Del-Mar Caucus	3,989.50	3,500.00
BOD - Meals/Room/AV - Del Mar	6,489.48	6,500.00
BOD-AnnlSession Bus Mtg (Sep)	19.00	200.00

INCOME	Year-End 2024	2025 Budget
BOD- AS Bd Mtgs (Sep)	2,866.25	2,000.00
Strategic Planning Initiatives	759.87	2,000.00
Website-maint, network solutns	525.00	0.00
CE COURSE		
CE Course	0.00	32,800.00
CE - Audiovisual/Equipment	3,194.72	0.00
CE - Meals/Breaks	5,992.56	0.00
CE - Postage/Mailing House	706.91	0.00
CE - Printing	1,441.95	0.00
Speaker Expense	6,481.80	0.00
Staff/Board Expense	2,821.23	0.00
CE Board Dinner	3,690.00	3,800.00
Hotel/Facilty Rental	1,230.00	0.00
NATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING		
Leadership/Gov Affairs Conf/EL	71.22	0.00
AAO-Del(7) Alt (3)Room & Misc	14,210.77	5,850.00
AAO-Delegates And Alt Airfare	6,647.61	2,500.00
AAO-Exc Dir Attendance	2,971.78	2,300.00
AAO Miscellaneous	53.37	0.00
Committee Expense	1,500.00	1,500.00
GORP Program	6,750.00	6,750.00
OTHER EXPENSES		
Credit Card/Processing Fees	1,443.32	1,500.00
Investment fees	916.17	1,500.00
Bank Service Charges	120.00	150.00
Miscellaneous	31.84	100.00
Liability Insurance	0.00	1,300.00
Audit Expense	5,000.00	0.00
Tax Filing	1,300.00	1,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	238,003.24	244,710.00
NET OPERATING INCOME	(32,008.08)	(27,710.00)
Unrealized gain/loss	54,460.84	0.00
NET INCOME	\$ 22,452.76	



Delaware State Dental Society **Dr. Mark R. Fiss**

Greeting from the First State! As the year comes to an end, the Delaware State Society of Orthodontics (DSSO) remains steadfast in addressing the concerns of our constituents as well as the public we serve as new challenges arise, and the orthodontic landscape continues to change.

Dr. Brienne Flagg, a MASO Board Member, has represented Delaware to the fullest. Most recently, she attended the MASO Board Meeting at the Joint GLAO/MASO Annual Session this past October. She was actively involved in helping the board review and establish membership goals, strategic plans, and advocacy campaigns for MASO.

As we will continue to focus on opportunities to engage our members at both the local, regional and national levels, we will keep you updated with any upcoming and exciting new changes to our organization, and look forward seeing you at the 2025 Spring CE program. ■



District of Columbia Society of Orthodontists **Dr. Jean Edouard Asmar**

Once again the DC component was very well represented at our MASO annual session meeting at the Westin Beach Resort & Spa at Frenchman's Reef in St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands. It was wonderful to catch up with so many friends and colleagues. Looking forward to getting together again at the upcoming Spring CE meeting. ■



speaker was Dr. Willy Dayan, who gave a presentation titled “Over 20 years with Aligner Orthodontics: Customized biomechanical approach to complex malocclusions!”. The current board members are: President, Dr. Natalie Miller; Vice President, Dr. Ariana Feizi, Secretary Treasurer, Dr. Omar Elnabawi, and Past-President Dr. Monica Schneider. We welcomed two directors to the MSSO Executive Board, Dr. Flavio Copello and Dr. Michael Powers.

Spring seminars for 2025 are being planned for April with current and relevant topics for our members. ■



Maryland Society of Orthodontists **Dr. Natalie Miller**

The Maryland State Society of Orthodontists (MSSO) hosted two outstanding speakers for our fall 2024 virtual seminars held on October 29 and December 02. Our first speaker, Dr. David Harmon, gave a lecture titled “Soft Tissue Management of Orthodontic Patients Using Electrosurgery”. The second

This past fall 2024, the NJAO welcomed Dr. Cory Costanzo. It was an excellent interactive lecture. Dr. Costanzo showed us how Chat GPT can aid in pictorially showing us ortho practice set-ups AND how using products from #SureSmile #DentsplySirona, the Sponsor for the event, has helped him with his orthodontic cases.

Dr Costanzo used his love of being an avid skateboarder to visually correlate between his love of skateboarding and honing

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New Jersey Association of Orthodontists **Dr. Shalin Shah**

Happy New Year from New Jersey! The New Jersey Association of Orthodontists (NJO) shares its gratitude to the Middle Atlantic Society of Orthodontists and all that comprise the MASO organization.

his craft of “aligning teeth”. In addition, Dr. Costanzo kept the attention of attendees with his “Where’s Waldo”, “Mini Doc” Bobble head game, which many who attended found to be fun; especially when winning a chocolatey treat for correct answers!

Attendees found the lecture to be humorous and fun, as well as informative, captivating, and interesting! Thank you, Dr. Costanzo for an excellent lecture. Thank you, Donna, Stephanie, and the banquet staff at the Hilton Hasbrouck Heights Hotel, for a superb ballroom setting; with a super view of the NYC skyline. And, thank you George, and your crew for the flawless AV support!

The NJAO is preparing for an equally engaging and robust 2025 continuing education series with three, 2-hour, online sessions in early 2025. In the Spring of 2025, the NJAO will welcome Dr. Dan Bills for a full day program that will include orthodontists and their teams.

Our 2-hour online sessions will be blessed by:

1/29/2025: Dr. Jerry Teplitz: “Part One: Increasing Your Brain’s Performance for Greater Success While Managing the Stress of Change. Part Two: WORKING TOGETHER: Effective Ways to Hire & Build Successful Teams”

2/27/2025: Ryan Williams: “An overview of the medical, financial, and clinical impact of DIBS AI on an orthodontic practice”

March 2025: Beth from HTI consultants in NJ would love to speak on the topic is HIPPA compliance and cybersecurity in dentistry

Dr. Sal Carcara, our Continuing Education Chair, and the executive board continues to bring the best and brightest speakers!

We also have several NJAO members and Rutgers’ residents who will represent the NJAO at the upcoming AAO Leadership Conference in January 2025. The conference begins the day before the AAO Winter Conference. We are looking forward to their insights and input after attending the AAO Leadership Conference; providing the executive board with great new ways to reach out to our New Jersey members.

Finally, we are beyond excited to announce the arrival of Dr. Khushali Shah’s (Treasurer) son, Arjun, in October 2024. The NJAO Board continues to expand its little heartbeats in the world as Dr. Cassandra Kahn (Vice President) is expecting in Spring 2025.

We will keep you updated with our upcoming continuing education schedule and topics as well as any exciting and new changes to our organization. Sending everyone all of our love and blessing from the NJAO Family! ■



Pennsylvania Association of Orthodontists **Dr. Marian Wolford**

The interim Board meeting of the Pennsylvania Association of Orthodontists was held on November 16, 2024 at the Omni Bedford Springs Resort. The 2025 Annual PAO Board meeting will be held on April 26, 2025 in conjunction with the AAO Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.

The Board voted to move the annual CE event to the Fall of 2025 to avoid potential conflicts with the AAO Annual Meeting. The event is tentatively scheduled for Friday, October 3, 2025 in Philadelphia. The program will include topics of clinical relevance to orthodontists and residents, as well as a practice management session focused on doctors and their orthodontic teams.

The Board will continue to seek opportunities to engage members at regional and national meetings, as well as to offer Lunch-and-Learns at the Pennsylvania orthodontic residency programs highlighting member benefits and volunteerism.

The PAO is seeking members interested in representing Pennsylvania in the AAO National Advocacy Network (NAN). Two positions are available: Component Advocacy Liaison (CAL) and Political Action Committee (AAOPAC) Captain.

1. Each Component Advocacy Liaison (CAL) will serve as a chief advocacy contact for Pennsylvania to support AAO priorities; including policy action for items with potential to impact orthodontists and patients.
2. The AAOPAC Captains will lead state-level AAOPAC fundraising in Pennsylvania and help recruit other leaders to build the committee.

Interested members should contact PAO’s Executive Director Tom Howley.

In closing, our meeting was productive and upbeat; and I’m grateful to have an engaging, thoughtful and dedicated group to work with on the Board. I appreciate the opportunity to serve as President and look forward to seeing everyone in Philadelphia.

PAO Officers for 2024-2025

- President: Dr. Marian Wolford
- President-Elect: Dr. Brittney Franklin
- Vice-President: Dr. Dan Fishel
- Secretary: Dr. Ryan Tamburrino
- Treasurer: Dr. Anne O’Day
- Executive Director: Dr. Tom Howley
- Immediate Past President: Dr. Jacob Orozco ■

COMPONENT NEWS



**Puerto Rico
Society of Orthodontists**
Dr. Bruni Ortiz-Giuliani

Our winter semester was truly exciting as we celebrated the biennial convention of the Sociedad de Especialistas en Ortodoncia de Puerto Rico (SEOPR). We commemorated our 46th anniversary at the El Conquistador Hotel in Fajardo, Puerto Rico, from November 8-10, 2024.

We are very proud to have had the participation of the vast majority of our members, as well as invited guests. The weekend was filled with education, collaboration, networking, music, and social events.

We were honored to have the support of several vendors who sponsored our meeting, including Aligntech, American Orthodontics, White Oak Orthodontic Products, Solventum, Zzon Dental, DHR, and GC Orthodontics.

Our course was led by Dr. Mazyar Moshiri, DMD, MS, FICD, a distinguished and highly regarded clinician, exclusive speaker for Aligntech, professor at St. Louis University, and founder of “The Aligner Intensive Fellowship.” The course covered various key topics, including general biomechanics, open and deep bites, Class II, Class III, TADs, and TMDs.



During our annual assembly, we welcomed two new members into our organization and introduced our new board of directors, who will lead us for the next two years. As I step down from my leadership position, I do so with deep gratitude, satisfaction, and affection for all the members of our chapter. ■

GRADUATE PROGRAM REPORTS



**ALBERT EINSTEIN
MEDICAL CENTER**
Dr. Vanessa Morenzi

Resident Activities

Along with our graduating 3rd year residents, **Drs. Jessica Azer, Alison Novakovic, and Seung (Hannah) Yu** and our rising 3rd year residents, **Drs. Ana Maria Male, Alexander Stanco** and **Nicoletta Venturini**, I will welcome those who will enter our program at the end of June 2025. They are:

- **Dr. Michelle Haykin** who completed a 2-year long GPR at Long Island Jewish Hospital and is practicing in a multispecialty practice on Long Island. Dr. Haykin completed her dental studies at the University of Pennsylvania.
- **Dr. Jordan Jackson** who completed an AEGD through the Navy, was stationed on the USS Norfolk. He is currently practicing general dentistry at the US Naval Academy. Dr. Jackson graduated from dental school at the University of Maryland.
- **Dr. Haley Lockstein** who is completing her 2nd year as chief resident at Jefferson Einstein GPR and graduated from Temple School of Dentistry. Dr. Lockstein is a Philadelphia area native.

Dr. Michael Roth, our Associate Program Director, and I extend our gratitude to the members of the Application Review, Selection, and Interview Committees – **Drs. Alan Borislow, Steven Cohen, Charles Gemmi, Peter Greco, Audra Kiefer, Michael Kotecki, Harold Middleberg, Michael Roth, Courtney Rubin, Adam Weiss**, and the residents, for graciously serving on these committees. We also sincerely thank each of our volunteer and part-time faculty for their invaluable support and dedication to the program and for the education of our residents. Without the valued commitment of our part-time faculty, it would be impossible to provide the quality educational experience we pride ourselves on. We are indebted to each of our community-based clinicians who give of their time to teach and mentor our residents.

Research – with presentations to our hospital community in April 2025:

Class of 2025 - **Dr. Jessica Azer** is investigating whether congenitally missing third molars lead to delayed development or eruption of associated second molars using patients from our clinic and a faculty private practice.

Dr. Alison Novakovic is evaluating coffee stain removal from Invisalign trays using four commonly used cleaning agents using both computer-based evaluation as well as indirect clinical evaluations by orthodontists.

Dr. Hannah Yu is evaluating the relationship between mandibular skeletal asymmetries and Class II subdivision malocclusion using CBCTs.

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GRADUATE PROGRAM REPORTS

Class of 2026 – in progress with presentation to our hospital community in April 2026:

Dr. Ana Maria Male is investigating the width of maxillary central incisors and their impact on the necessity for extractions and treatment outcomes in patients in our orthodontic residency program.

Dr. Alex Stanco is investigating silver diamine fluoride (SDF) and its effect on bond strength of orthodontic bands followed by in vitro testing of the caries rate for teeth which received SDF prior to banding.

Dr. Nicoletta Venturini is conducting a retrospective study on the outcomes of patients treated in our clinic with TAD-supported maxillary expansion.

Faculty Activities

We wish to offer our heartfelt thanks and heartiest congratulations to our decades-long faculty member, **Dr. Alan Borislow**, on his recent retirement from clinical teaching. Our program, our residents, and our graduates, shall miss his dedication, insight, humor, and humility, in guiding them through the processes of clinical care, differential diagnosis, and navigation into our wonderful profession. We wish Alan all the best for many years to come.

All are welcome to come and visit us on the second floor of the Paley Building at Jefferson Einstein Philadelphia Hospital. We are proud of our legacy and the residents that we are educating today who will become tomorrow's clinical and professional leaders. ■



CTOR ACADEMY Dr. Mani Alikhani

During this Winter season, we are preparing all of our students for important milestones in their careers. Let's take a look at what lies ahead for our students.

CURRENT RESIDENTS

Our Class of 2025 students are:

- **Shamelly Diaz, DDS** - PUC in the Dominican Republic
- **Hala Elsamna, DMD** – Rutgers University
- **Eric Halejian, DDS** – University of Maryland
- **Dayoon Lee, DDS** – New York University
- **Khalil Lion, DDS, MPH** – The Syrian Private University in Damascus, Syria
- **Maria Muñoz, DMD, MS** – University of Puerto Rico

With the ABO Written Examination now behind them, our inaugural class of students are preparing for the ABO Scenario-based Clinical Exam, which they can take after they graduate. Speaking of graduation, the Class of 2025 will have their graduation ceremony at the end of May 2025, making them the first class of students to graduate from CTOR Academy. Until then, they are finishing cases, writing their research papers and planning for their futures!

Our Class of 2026 students are:

- **Bassam Butto, DDS** – UCLA
- **Vincent DeMaio, DDS** – Columbia University
- **Jenna Heitzler, DDS** – SUNY Buffalo
- **Maxwell Herszage, DDS** – Columbia University
- **Chie Hung (Alain) Hu, DMD** – Midwestern University
- **Leelah Weitz, DDS** – Columbia University

This class is making steady progress through the program. Their focus is on treating their patients and on preparing for

the ABO Written Examination in April. Along with conducting research, this is a class with a lot on their plates.

NEW RESIDENTS – WELCOME TO THE CLASS OF 2027!

In July we welcomed the Class of 2027 to CTOR Academy. They have already made themselves at home here in Hoboken and, like most Year 1 students, they are enjoying themselves as they learn the language and skills to be outstanding orthodontists and dentofacial orthopedists. Let me introduce you to CTOR Academy's Class of 2027:

- **Vivian Duong, DDS, MS** – University of the Pacific
- **Jacob Gussert, DDS** – Indiana University-Purdue University
- **Bill Kim, DDS** – New York University
- **Ivana Newen, DDS** – New York University
- **Samantha Schnall, DMD** – Columbia University
- **Robert Spielman, DDS** – New York University



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EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

CTOR Academy faculty and students have been busy attending meetings around the US. These are great opportunities for them to establish professional networks in some wonderful locations!

1. 1st International Congress of Orthodontics

Dr. Mani Alikhani was guest speaker at the 1st International Congress of Orthodontics at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. His lecture, entitled “New Advances in Orthodontics: From Biology to Mechanotherapy” was presented to a full auditorium of international dentists, dental students, orthodontics residents, and dental researchers. Dr. Alikhani continues to promote CTOR’s unique perspectives on Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics and to engage our colleagues in thought-provoking conversations.

2. AAO Meeting in New Orleans

Our Chair, **Dr. Edmund Khoo**, represented CTOR Academy at the Society of Educators meeting at the 2024 American Association of Orthodontists Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. Also in attendance, and assisting the organizers, were Dr. Maria Munoz (Class of 2025) and Dr. Alain Hu (Class of 2026).



The 2nd **Annual CTOR Academy Alumni Reunion** was held on May 4, 2024 during the American Association of Orthodontists’ Annual Session in New Orleans. The event was a celebration of our shared journey, accomplishments, and dedication to advancing the field of orthodontics. We look forward to seeing all of our CTOR Alumni at our reunions, so we can catch up on where life is taking us all!

3. MASO Meeting in St Thomas US Virgin Islands

CTOR Academy Chair Dr. Khoo and residents attended the annual MASO Meeting in St Thomas US Virgin Islands. Dr. Khoo was elected as alternate delegate for MASO and also gave a presentation to orthodontic residents on miniscrews/TADs.



Dr. Edmund Khoo presenting his Clinical Pearls (left) and CTOR Academy students relaxing in the tropics (right) during this year’s MASO meeting in St. Thomas.

4. GORP 2024 – Graduate Orthodontics Residents Program

GORP is an annual event originated by the University of Michigan School of Dentistry’s Department of Orthodontics. On alternating years, UM hosts the three day weekend, which provides residents from across the US to gather and meet for presentations from leaders in Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics and fun. This year’s meeting was held in Ann Arbor, home to the University of Michigan, which is famous for “The Big House” where the UM football team hosts visiting teams in the largest football stadium in the US. GORP attendees got a tour of the stadium and took part in the traditional “T-Shirt Competition,” which rewards residents for their design creativity. **Dr. Bassam Butto** (Class of 2026) and **Dr. Jacob Gussert** (Class of 2027) represented CTOR Academy.



The always impressive group of orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics students and faculty attending this year’s GORP in Ann Arbor, Michigan. CTOR Academy’s students stood out with their bright purple tee shirts!

5. Tweed Course

Every year the Charles H. Tweed International Foundation offers Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics students The Tweed Study Course, which is an intense seven-day course in advanced mechanics and diagnosis using the Tweed/

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GRADUATE PROGRAM REPORTS

Merrifield force system. This year, three CTOR Academy Class of 2025 students (Dr. Hala Elsamna, Dr. Maria Muñoz and Dr. Eric Halejian) attended the course in Arizona.



Students from CTOR Academy (circled on the right) and UCSF at the Tweed Course in September 2024.

6. Clear Aligner Advanced Residency Education (CAARE) Course

Align Technology, which makes Invisalign clear aligners, offers a course for senior Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics students as a Clear Aligner Advanced Residency Education Course. This is a 1.5-day in-person immersive experience de-

signed to provide final-year residents an advanced education in clear aligner treatment, practice management, and career strategy. This year, three CTOR Academy students (**Dr. Hala Elsamna, Dr. Maria Muñoz and Dr. Eric Halejian**) attended the course in North Carolina in November 2024.



CTOR Academy Class of 2025 students, Dr. Hala Elsamna, Dr. Maria Muñoz and Dr. Eric Halejian, at the Clear Aligner Advanced Residency Education program in Raleigh, NC.

We extend our warmest wishes for a healthy and happy 2025 to all of our MASO colleagues! ■



HOWARD UNIVERSITY Dr. Kathy L. Marshall

Our program highlights this year include successful navigation of our CODA site visit in September 2024, and celebration of the ABO Board certification of our most recent graduating class. With our committed faculty, staff and residents, we were proud of our achievements. The program matched all slots for July 2025, with exceptional applicants who join us from Maryland, Florida, Ohio, Louisiana and Gambia. They are graduates from Howard University, University of Colorado, University of Detroit Mercy, Columbia University, Nova Southeastern and the University of Alabama-Birmingham by way of the U.S. Navy.

We cannot thank the current residents enough for their diligence and hard work through this period.

Our first-year class: **Drs. Nour Abou-Abdou, Tinashe Chapfika-Johnson, Christian Foster, Tifanni Drew Knight-Lynch, Oreoluwa Lanlokun and Samiyra Ojo.**

Our second-year resident class: **Drs. Kaelon Guillory, Eithan Lue Chee Lip, Adem Mahmud, Tangwan Nganteh, Racine Ramanand and CyVanie Ramkelawan.**

The Howard University faculty, staff, residents and alumni were also proud to have the first ever election watch party held on our HBCU's campus for our sitting U.S. Vice President and alumna of Howard University. The excitement and electricity are still felt.

Congratulations to **Dr. Sana Augustus**, former full-time faculty member at Howard University. During the MASO meeting in St. Thomas, Dr. Augustus was installed as MASO President; the first from Howard University to hold this position.

Howard Orthodontics continues to uphold the mission of our institution: to provide an exemplary education and opportunities for community service and research that promotes patient centered, collaborative care, and advocacy for the elimination of health care disparities. As always, we would like to thank the Howard University Orthodontic Alumni Association for their donations this past year. ■



MEDSTAR WASHINGTON HOSPITAL CENTER

Dr. Linda Hallman

The Medstar Washington Hospital Center Orthodontic Department is pleased to submit a departmental update. Thank you for the opportunity. We have had another exciting and successful year at WHC.

Our Chief residents, **Drs. Madison Moore** and **Hannah Rothback** are completing their clinical requirements, research, and preparing for their professional careers after residency. We welcomed our incoming class of residents in June 2024. **Dr. Sherlly Dolmuz** was a cum laude graduate of the University of Maryland, and then received her dental degree from Columbia University Dental School. **Dr. Hector Hernandez Villalvazo** received his initial dental training from Universidad de Montemorelos, in Montemorelos, Nuevo León, Mexico. He then received his DDS at Loma Linda University. We were very excited to welcome both outstanding individuals to join our staff. On November 29th, Dr. Hector Hernandez delivered a lecture at the Greater New York Dental Meeting on the topic of international dental volunteering, under the title “Called to Serve.” In his presentation, Dr. Hernandez shared valuable experiences and best practices to assist individuals interested in initiating their volunteer efforts in dentistry. Already, they have both

exceeded our expectations as residents and up and coming orthodontists. We continue to be blessed with outstanding residents; which is an asset for the future of the profession.

We enjoyed a successful match this year, matching at the top of our list. **Dr. Sharon Laughter** is a graduate of University of Colorado SODM, has completed an AEGD Program, and holds a Master of Public Health. She has served in the USAir Force as a general dentist since 2016 and is currently a Consultant for Global Health for the US Air Force. We are thankful for her service to our country. **Dr. Elsy Nouna** will join us from the University of Michigan Dental School. She also holds a Master’s in Management from the University of Michigan.

As a final announcement, we have a change in Program Director. After 30 years, **Dr. Linda Hallman** has turned the reigns to **Dr. Sheira Ramos Velez**, who will now lead us as Program Director. She is a MedStar graduate, has been on our full-time faculty since 2021, and is an excellent visionary leader. Dr. Hallman will remain on staff as Associate Program Director at MedStar Health, and as Co-Director and Academic Director of the National Orofacial Institute.

And as always, as we look back on the past year, we appreciate how fortunate we are at MWHC to work together with excellent and committed faculty, outstanding residents, and a strong commitment from our institution, Medstar Washington Hospital Center, as well as Children’s National Hospital and the National Orofacial Institute. ■



TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Jeffrey H. Godel

Happy New Year’s! Wishing everyone a healthy and happy 2025, from Temple University Kornberg School of Dentistry Department of Orthodontics. We are very excited about our astounding achievements during these last few months. The Class of 2024 held their graduation at Estia in Center city Philadelphia this past August. The graduates have all successfully spread their wings and left the nest. We look forward to seeing their contributions to the orthodontic profession, and their communities. They were **Katie Alexander, Corey Moletsky, Nina Golojuch, Jenna Herr, Amanda Noyek, and Daniel Seebold.**

Meanwhile, the Class of 2025 is eagerly working to complete their MS degree and the treatment of their patients in anticipation of their graduation in August 2025. These young professionals are looking forward to their future as orthodontists. They are **Rayane Farah, Jessica Ho, Hyangseong “Sophie” Jo, Daniel Markel, Jordyn Middleberg, and Matthew Wittstein.**

We welcomed the Class of 2026 in July, and they have started their journey into the exciting world of orthodontics. They are: **Colton Brown** from University of Pittsburg, **Paige Hodges** from Temple University, **Elizabeth Noel** from Creighton University, **Marielisa Otero** from Temple University, **Anwar Radwan** from University of Pennsylvania and **Eamon Whelan** from University of Connecticut. They are looking forward to attending the MASO upcoming meetings and are enthusiastically preparing for the TWEED course this spring in Arizona.

In addition, our residency program was overwhelmed with applications for the program this year. We invited 38 candidates for an interview and matched 6 wonderful and diverse group of residents: **Diana Tucker DeSanctis, James Martinez, Christine Schiller, Sean James Scott, Grace Shei and Anthony Sulvetta.** We are extremely thrilled and looking forward to the arrival of the Class of 2027 in July 2025.

On a different note, we continue with our focus on innovation and technology. We take special pride in our strong clinical

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focus and advanced technology. Our residents are excited and looking forward to their continued engagement in digital orthodontics.

We are also all very excited to have **Dr. Carmen Doumit** represent Temple Orthodontics as a new MASO Director. She will be a tremendous asset to the future of MASO, Orthodontic education, and the orthodontic profession.

Finally, it is with a sense of gratitude and bittersweet regret that I announce the retirement of **Dr. Orhan Tuncay** after an extraordinary 30 years of service at TUKSOD. Dr.

Tuncay's legacy is one of leadership and profound impact, having served as Chairman and Program Director for the first 16 years of his tenure, and continuing to shape the field of orthodontics throughout his career. Dr. Tuncay's contribution to the advancement of orthodontic education and research have been transformative, not only for our department, but the profession as whole. Please join me in celebrating his remarkable career and wishing him all the best as he embarks on this exciting new journey.

We hope to see everyone at the 2025 MASO Spring meeting in Bethesda and the AAO Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. ■



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Dr. Jose Bosio

Dear MASO Friends,

I am delighted to share the exciting updates from UMSOD over the past six months.

Incoming Residents:

Our 2025-2028 class has been successfully matched. We welcome **Drs. Morgan E. Anderson, Emmanuel Engermann, Sidney J. Goertzen, and Kayla Tinio**. They will begin their journey on July 1, 2025.

First-Year Residents:

Drs. Anjali Patel, Rebecca Steinfeld, Shannan Walker, and Tori Wallace started their program on July 1, 2024. They are each managing approximately 40 patients thus far. This hands-on experience has been instrumental in developing their skills in patient communication and treatment initiation. They attended the GORP meeting in Ann Arbor, MI, and the MASO meeting in the U.S. Virgin Islands. They benefitted from the support from UMSOD alumni, part-time faculty, and MASO. The residents extend their gratitude for this invaluable opportunity. Additionally, we are thrilled to welcome Rebecca's new baby to the UMSOD Ortho family!

Second-Year Residents:

Drs. Justin Mack, Elizabeth Crowe, Jessica Jiang, and Iman Shirmohammadi have taken over a significant number of transfer cases from the graduating class. They, along with their 3rd year residents, also attended the MASO meeting in the U.S. Virgin Island. They are diligently working on their master's theses while preparing for the ABO written exam. Congratulations to Elizabeth on her wedding this past November!

Third-Year Residents:

Drs. Alicia Briscoe, Christina Grace, Tri Le, and Steven Zinn are nearing graduation. They are completing their master's theses and actively interviewing for positions across the country.

Faculty Achievements:

Our full-time faculty have been remarkably productive:

- **Dr. Dina Sanches** spearheaded significant updates and changes to the predoctoral orthodontic curriculum, along with revisions to the predoctoral competency exams. In preparation for the 2026 CODA site visit, she is actively forming subcommittees to ensure thorough readiness. Dina submitted a manuscript to the AJODO and had a favorable review with only a few minor edits requested before publication. This manuscript is a collaborative effort involving Drs. Tim Tremont, Jessica Itani, Maria Doughan, and Dina as the thesis mentor. Additionally, along with Drs. Zinn and Mack, she has submitted abstracts on innovative orthodontic treatment modalities. She plans to present at the 2025 AAO Annual Session in Philadelphia.
- **Dr. Maria Doughan** attended the 2024 AAO meeting in New Orleans, presented a lecture on "The Why Behind the Smile," and published three significant articles in J Periodontal Res and BMC Oral Health. She has also submitted a manuscript on virtual setup among clear aligner companies to Dental Press Journal of Orthodontics.
- **Dr. Flávio Copello** had two AJODO cover page articles "Three-dimensional Evaluation of the Carriere Motion 3D Appliance in the treatment of Class II

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malocclusion” and Three-dimensional assessment of virtual clear aligner attachment removal: A prospective clinical study”. Drs. Jeremy Dock is the first author. Dr. Iman Shirmohammadi and myself also co-authored. Dr. Flavio is innovating with treatment approaches such as MARPE and MAMP (miniscrew-anchored Maxillary Protraction) for class III growing patients. Dr. Flávio also applied for 3 grant opportunities (OFDFA and PFA from AAOE, and In-Spire). He will also start serving as MSSO director in January 2025.

- **Dr. Eung K. Pae** also published an article titled “Orthodontic retreatment with clear aligners of an adult patient with late development of anterior open bite”. It was co-authored by another part-time faculty, Dr. Monica Schneider. Dr. Eung also lectured to the research group at UMSOD on ancient growth research.

Program Director Update:

And I was busy serving the AAO as the COSA Chair. My responsibilities include the Hellman, Sicher and Graber awards, grading exams, writing questions for the ABO, serving MASO as co-scientific director for the 2025 MASO annual meeting, preparing our program for interviews, writing reports for MASO journal, writing the Align Technology grant, helping residents to write abstracts for the AAO. Notably, the IRB approved the ICOPCO (International Clinical Orthodontic Practice Consensus Organization) study.

This is a groundbreaking international collaboration with **Dr. Padma Mukherjee** from Rutgers University, exploring consensus in orthodontic practices using augmented intelligence and quantum computing.

Our part-time faculty remain the backbone of our program. Special thanks to **Drs. Fred Preis, Saul Burk** and **David Harmon** for their involvement in the interview process this year. Fred and Saul continue campaigning to donate money to the program through the Dr. Preis and the Dr. Wanda Flinn endowment funds. Dr. Harmon was recognized on the national scene by the AAO as an exemplary part-time faculty. **Dr. Ty Saini** continues his journey to teach one week at UMSOD and another week at NYU. **Dr. Viney Saini** has started his process to join the Midwest Angle Society of Orthodontists. **Dr. Steven Siegel**, now elevated as AAO president-elect, is taking a larger role in the program after his retirement from private practice. **Dr. Jeff Jarvis** leads as liaison for the UMSOD ortho alumni and the residency program. **Drs. Erin Mahoney, Richard Chang, Scott Jenkins, Steven Tigani, Byron Bonebreak, Monica Schneider,** and **Chris Liang** are supporting our clinic on a regular basis. **Dr. James Tong** continues teaching the laboratory course to the first year residents. Finally, **Dr. Curtis Hayden** is joining as part-time instructor.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to our program. ■



UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
Dr. Chun-Hsi Chung

Faculty and Resident Awards:

- Dr. O’Hern Pilot Grant Recipient – **Dr. Wenjing Yu**
“A unique chondrocyte progenitor population maintains mandibular bone homeostasis”
- MASO Lifetime Achievement Award 2024 – **Dr. Chun-Hsi Chung**, to be awarded at the March 7, 2025 Spring CE Course.
- Dr. Jerome H. Sklaroff Award recipient – **Dr. Sarah Horne**
- Dr. Rosario F. Mayro Scholarship recipient – **Dr. Leandra Garcia Jorge**

- Dr. Robert L. Vanarsdall Scholarship recipient – **Dr. Jessica Kang**
- Dr. Rouff Scholarship recipient – **Dr. Jaime Guberman**

Our comprehensive clinic and didactic Orientation Program began on July 8, 2024 as we welcomed our new incoming class of 2026.

26 Month Certificate Program

- **Azizat Adediran** - Meharry Medical College 2024
- **Sapna Nath** – Harvard University 2024
- **Elizabeth Scagnelli** – University of Tennessee, 2024
- **Anqi (Gloria) Wan** – Penn 2024
- **Nikki Wei** – Penn 2024

3-year MSOB/Ortho Program

- **Min Jung Kim** – Peking University, 2018
- **Mohammad Mohammad** – Creighton University, 2021

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5-year DScD/Ortho Program

- **Hala Allawama** – University of Jordan,

Once again, our first-year residents participated in the GORP Conference which was held at the University of Michigan, August 1-4, 2024.

On August 23rd the 2024 graduation ceremony for our 26-month postdoctoral certificate program, took place at the Kimmel Center.

Orthodontic 26-Month Certificate Program

Vivian Chen, DMD

Jiahui Li, DMD

Min Kyung Shin, DMD

Sara Steinbaum, DMD

Jin Xu, DMD

Our J. Henry O'Hern annual Orthodontic Alumni Day was held in person on Friday, September 27 at Penn Dental Medicine. The Speakers were: Dr. Jae Park and Dr. Jay Bowman.

MATCH RESULTS:

The Penn Dental Postdoctoral Orthodontic Class 2027 has been selected and we are looking forward to welcoming our new residents this summer.

26 Month Certificate Program

- **Kimberly La** – Tufts University, 2024
- **Yontan Maryamian** – UCLA 2025
- **Sophia Oak** - Temple University 2024
- **Kyungjoon Park** – UPENN 2025
- **Shreya Shah** – UPENN 2025

3-year MSOB/Ortho Program

- **Dimitra Karamalaki** – National & Kapodestrian University of Athens 2021
- **Lauren E. Kim** – UCLA 2023

5-year DScD/Ortho Program

- **Lujain Alsulaimani** – Ibn Sina National College, 2021

Perio/Ortho Program (Non-Match)

- **Madawi Alhabib** – King Abdul Aziz University (currently completing her 1st year in Perio)

Perio/Ortho Program (non-match)

- **Timothy Roehm** -University of Pittsburgh 2021 (first year will be in Perio)

AAO Annual Session – April 25 – 27, 2025

The official Orthodontic Alumni Receptions are scheduled for Friday, April 25, 2025, 5:45 – 7:15 PM – to be held at Penn Dental Medicine.

Keep checking the PDM Alumni website <https://www.dental.upenn.edu/alumni/> for more information regarding this reception.

Warm wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year and as always, we would be honored to have you visit with us at UPENN! ■



UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO

Dr. Jose Morales-Diaz

Greetings from The University of Puerto Rico Orthodontic Graduate Program. Our postgraduate program successfully conducted a range of academic, research, and extracurricular activities during this reporting period. During the summer of 2024, our now second year residents, **Dr. Osmell Gonzalez**, and **Dr. Clarimar Soto** traveled to Tucson, Arizona to attend The Tweed Foundation Course. Two weeks earlier, we had a meeting for all members of our program; residents, staff, and faculty, where I presented a seminar and discussion about the History and Development of Orthodontics in Puerto Rico. On October 16, our six residents: **Drs. Ian Soto, Valeria Rivera, Osmell Gonzalez, Clarimar Soto, Samuel Ramos** and **Maria Rodriguez**, had the privilege to present The School of Dental Medicine Grand Round, titled: “Orthodontic Diagnoses and Treatment Planning of Patients

with Vertical Problems”. Congratulations to all residents for an outstanding presentation. Also, in October, our residency program represented the UPR Dental Medicine School at a community health fair in a rural area of PR. We interacted with a local community of hearing-impaired patients. Last November 16, the senior residents, **Drs. Samuel Ramos** and **Maria Rodriguez** went to the Advanced Clear Aligner Residency Education Workshop in North Carolina. On the third weekend of November residents and faculty attended the Local Society of Orthodontists (SEOPR) bi-annual meeting which was held at the beautiful Conquistador Resort in Fajardo, Puerto Rico. Thanks, and congratulations to our local society board of directors for an excellent meeting. This December, senior residents, Drs. Ramos and Rodriguez presented their thesis titled: “Incisor Movement in Patients Treated with Pressure Side Decortication Compared to Conventional Orthodontics; a Retrospective Cohort Study”. And finally, I am pleased to announce that the following dentists have been admitted to our program for the next class: **Dr. Antonella Rodriguez** and **Dr. Keila de Leon**. We wish both of them a successful residency. ■

Dr. Normand Boucher, Editor
Ms. Jane Treiber, MASO Executive Director
400 W. Wilson Bridge Rd, Ste 120
Worthington, OH 43085



facebook

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UPCOMING EVENTS



MARCH 7, 2025
MASO Spring CE
Bethesda, MD



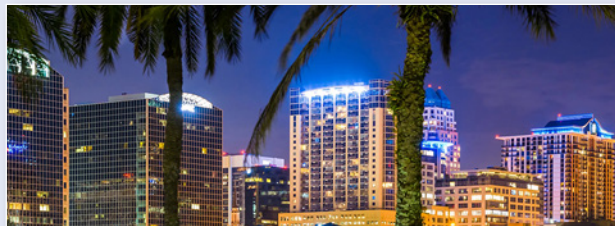
APRIL 25-28, 2025
AAO Annual Session
PHILADELPHIA, PA



SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2025
MASO Annual Session
WASHINGTON, DC



JANUARY 23-25, 2026
AAO Winter Conference
PHOENIX, AZ



MAY 1-3, 2026
AAO Annual Session
ORLANDO, FL