



## Celebrate worldwide sharing of smiles May 15 is World Orthodontic Health Day

**A**s an organization with more than 120 affiliate organizations worldwide, the WFO understands that the positive connotation of a healthy, beautiful smile may often transcend cultural and geographic differences. In celebration of this fact, the theme of the 2025 WFO World Orthodontic Health Day is: “A World of Smiles.”

Since 2017, World Orthodontic Health Day has provided an excellent opportunity to spread the positive messages of orthodontic treatment and interact with members of the public of all ages who would like to know more. The event is celebrated annually on May 15.

“The WOHD 2025 theme was developed to highlight the fact that people in all regions and many cultures share smiles with those they know and care about and in many places, with strangers as well,” said **Dr. Nikhillesh Vaid**, WFO president. “A healthy, beautiful smile can bring happiness to everyone who sees it.”

continued [ 2 ]



## 10<sup>th</sup> International Orthodontic Congress updates Brazilian Dinner to take place at dinner club near Copacabana Beach

**O**utstanding speakers from dozens of countries are preparing to share their research, knowledge, ideas and innovations during the 10<sup>th</sup> WFO International Orthodontic Congress (IOC). **The 10<sup>th</sup> IOC will be October 22-25, 2025 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and registration is now open with promotional pricing available through April 14. Register at [www.wfo2025rio.org](http://www.wfo2025rio.org).**

Lecturers will include renowned members of the specialty from many countries and speakers with emerging profiles who have high-interest research and clinical approaches to present. The scientific program lecture schedule will soon be published on the Congress website and the *Schedule At A Glance* is now available.

IN THIS ISSUE

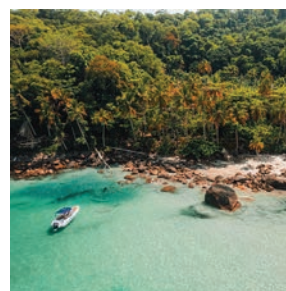
RIO AND BEYOND...	[ 4-5 ] ▶
2024 JUSTUS TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP	[ 7 ]
WFO AFFILIATE NEWS	[ 10-13 ]
MEETINGS AROUND THE WORLD	[ 13 ]

### VIEW THE SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

A two-day program for allied health team members (orthodontic clinical assistants, treatment coordinators and technicians) will also be offered.

Enriching professional content presented in lecture halls will be complimented by many conversations with your peers from around the world. All conference presentations will be in English, with translation into Portuguese and Spanish in the main rooms. In Brazil, the official language is Portuguese. See page 3 for details about each of the three inaugural **Pre-Conference Activities** and register for these programs by April 18.

continued [ 3 ]



Find more  
news online  
[www.wfo.org](http://www.wfo.org)

WOHD... [ 1 ]

The WFO has developed a comprehensive toolkit for member use in planning and promoting World Orthodontic Health Day observances and celebrations this year. The WOHD toolkit includes flyers, fact sheets, social media graphics and customizable email templates. Users in various categories will find materials designed for their needs in the kit as noted below.

## Members (Fellows)

**Ready-to-use materials are available for use by individual practices/clinics.** Choose from flyers, patient email templates that share information about WOHD, and social media posts. Also available is a press release template for customization with your practice name and distribution to the media.

A waiting room slideshow has before/after treatment stories and fun facts for your patients and parents to enjoy. A video script with filming tips provides an easy way to produce and share a video about orthodontic treatment and WOHD.

## Affiliate Organizations

**Region-specific resources are available for affiliate organizations.** Prepared web landing pages include content about WOHD and orthodontic treatment benefits and may be customized with brand elements or information about local events. Additional elements include a fact sheet, press release, postcard templates and an event coordination guide.

## Educational Institutions

**Campus-focused resources are available for orthodontic education programs.** Available resources include slide decks, student competition guides and customizable departmental email templates. Items listed above under Affiliate Organizations may also be of interest to academic leaders for WOHD planning.

[ACCESS THE WOHD TOOLKIT](#)



“We hope everyone will explore the toolkit as there are many well-designed and very useful items in it,” said WFO President **Dr. Nikhillesh Vaidi**. “Whether you have an open house in your practice, an educational program about orthodontics hosted by your academic department for the local community, or a special seminar for residents and local orthodontists, we hope everyone will participate in some way.”

“For practices and clinics, a celebration for patients in treatment and who have completed treatment might include an invitation, for those who are comfortable doing so, to share how orthodontics has impacted their lives,” added Dr. Vaidi. ▼

## URGENT NOTICE

### BEWARE OF FRAUDULENT EMAIL SENDERS POSING AS WFO

We have been made aware of fraudulent emails circulating that appear to be from the WFO President, Central Office, or other WFO officers, requesting deposits or payments. Please be advised that these emails are scams and should be ignored.

Important reminders:

- ▶ WFO will never request money transfers or deposits via email.
- ▶ Do not click on links, download attachments, or respond to suspicious emails.
- ▶ Official WFO communications (announcements, e-blasts, news) are sent only from **wfo@wfo.org**.

**If you receive a suspicious email claiming to be from WFO leadership, please do not engage — delete it immediately.**

Your vigilance helps protect our community. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

10<sup>th</sup> IOC... [ 1 ]

IOC content will be presented within an integrated complex composed of a convention center, an amphitheater, and a 5 Star Hotel. The Riocentro was designed and built to host national and international events. Latin America's largest convention center, the Riocentro's space flexibility and modern environment are widely regarded. The Riocentro has a strong commitment to serving meeting attendee needs.



R.M. Nunes / Shutterstock.com

## Enjoy Brazilian culture before, during and after the IOC

If you have already registered and are planning sightseeing experiences and adventures in and near Rio, see our overview of recommended places to visit starting on page 4.

As you plan your IOC experience, be sure to allow time for conference events that will combine fun with old and new friends with joyful cultural experiences of Brazil and Rio.

IOC special events will include:

- ▶ **The 10<sup>th</sup> IOC Welcome Reception, October 22, 2025**, in the Riocentro exhibit hall. Meet old and new friends and hear from WFO leaders as you begin your IOC experience.
- ▶ **Brazilian Dinner, October 23, 2025**, at the Roxy Dinner Club, just two blocks from the legendary Copacabana Beach.
- ▶ **International Reception/Postgraduate Party, October 24, 2025**, Riocentro Pavilion 2, with entertainment including Monobloco and Samba. ▼



The Roxy Dinner Club is near the legendary Copacabana Beach.

## REGISTER FOR PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES TODAY

The WFO is pleased to invite you to the three landmark events featured in the all-new Pre-Congress activities of the 10<sup>th</sup> International Orthodontic Congress. All programs will take place at the Riocentro in Rio de Janeiro on Wednesday, October 22, 2025.

Please respond to this invitation by April 18, 2025, indicating your participation in the events.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

### FIRST GLOBAL ORTHODONTIC EDUCATORS' FORUM

**For Orthodontic Chairs/Educators**

**Time:** 8:30 AM – 11:15 AM

**Room:** To be announced in the program

- ▶ This forum has been designed to bring together educators from across the globe to foster collaboration in teaching and research and to develop new strategies to enhance orthodontic education. Your participation will be instrumental in achieving these goals and shaping the next era of orthodontic training. Please contact Dr. Letizia Perillo [letizia.perillo@gmail.com](mailto:letizia.perillo@gmail.com) or Dr. Eric Liou [lioueric2042@gmail.com](mailto:lioueric2042@gmail.com) for details.

### FIRST SOCIETY OF ORTHODONTIC SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION BOARDS (SOSCB) SYMPOSIUM

**For Orthodontic Boards Officials/Diplomates of the Orthodontic Boards and All Other Orthodontists Interested in Board Certification**

**Time:** 11:30 AM – 01:30 PM

**Room:** To be announced in the program

- ▶ The SOSCB symposium has been created to allow the exchange of information and discussions about developing effective orthodontic certification processes. Please contact Dr. Valmy Kulbersh [vkulbersh@aol.com](mailto:vkulbersh@aol.com) for further details or see page 7 of the *Gazette* for additional information.

### FIRST WFO – FUTURE LEADER ORTHODONTIC SYMPOSIUM (FLOS)

**For WFO Student Members**

**Time:** 9:30 AM – 01:00 PM

**Room:** To be announced in the program

- ▶ The WFO/Future Leader Orthodontic Symposium has been conceived to emphasize the importance of nurturing the next generation of orthodontic leaders. This symposium serves as a platform for sharing innovative ideas and fostering collaboration among orthodontic residents from all over the world. Please contact Dr. Bryce Lee [brycelee37@gmail.com](mailto:brycelee37@gmail.com) for further details.

## Rio and beyond: Unique Brazilian adventures to enhance your IOC experience

The 2025 International Orthodontic Congress is the first WFO Congress to take place in Latin America, in a host city renowned worldwide for its sophisticated amenities and natural beauty so unique that it has been designated as a World Heritage Site.

Rio de Janeiro is known worldwide as the site of the iconic Christ the Redeemer sculpture, as the location of many films and as host of events such as the 2007 Pan American Games, 2016 Summer Olympics and Paralympics and headquarters of the International Broadcast Centre for the 2014 FIFA World Cup. The vibrant city combines characteristics that are integral to Brazilian culture including warm, Latin-American hospitality as well as festive, high-energy socializing and a deep appreciation of nature.

While in Rio and outside the lecture halls, IOC attendees and their guests will be able to enjoy attractions such as:

- ▶ Exotic plants and flowers at the **Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden**, first opened in 1808. The garden's 800-yard-long rows of towering royal palm trees, combine with a rain forest trail, an orchid house and varying animal life including monkeys to amaze and delight visitors.
- ▶ More natural beauty at the **Tijuca Forest**, one of the largest urban hand-planted forest in the world. Home to hundreds of species of plants and animals, the forest spans a mountainous region that includes the **Corcovado** peak, location of Christ the Redeemer. Hiking trails and 30 waterfalls, along with unexpected features such as the Mayrink Chapel and a pagoda-style gazebo, add to the forest's unique appeal.
- ▶ A wealth of beaches ranging from the beautiful, lively Copacabana, famous worldwide and spanning a three-mile residential area of the city filled with restaurants, shops, hotels and vibrant street fairs. Also well-known, **Ipanema Beach** offers a carnival-like atmosphere where visitors watch or participate in volleyball, beach soccer and surfing.

Other beaches include the family-oriented Leblon with its **Baixo Baby playground**; **Barra de Tijuca**, praised by surfers as offering the best surfing; and **Grumari**, a small beach surrounded by a nature reserve.

- ▶ Aerial views of Rio's beauty may be found via a cable car ride to the top of Sugar Loaf Mountain, one of the city's peaks, or a train ride to the summit of Corcovado and the base of Christ the Redeemer, with full-scale views of the city.

### Expanding the journey: beautiful places to explore near central Rio

For IOC attendees who are able to spend additional days in Rio de Janeiro before or after the meeting (highly recommended), many destinations that are a bit further from central Rio will offer fun, relaxation and lifelong memories.

- ▶ If you would like a relaxing setting, the island of **Paqueta** may suit. The island is technically part of Rio but does require a one-hour ferry trip across Guanabara Bay. Home to about 4,000 residents, Paqueta offers a quiet, environment with no cars. Visitors enjoy its colonial architecture and low-key restaurants known for excellent seafood and Brazilian specialties. Bicycle rentals are available and bike paths offer scenic views.



- ▶ For those interested in boat trips and snorkeling, **Paraty** is an excellent option. A coastal town on Rio's southern end, Paraty was once a renowned gold port. Visitors today enjoy its colonial architecture, cobble streets, snorkeling and boat trips to tropical islands. The town also has nearby nature trails including the famous Pedra que Engole, where one can slide through a crevice in a curtain of water to reach an underground cave. Paraty also has an artistic scene as it has attracted many writers, musicians and artists.



continued [ 5 ]

Rio and beyond... [ 4 ]

- ▶ Located in the mountains just outside Rio, **Petropolis** is a small colonial town that was home to Dom Pedro II, the last emperor of Brazil. It is a showcase of classic Portuguese architecture including the Imperial Palace and is also known today as the home of the Bohemia brewery, which offers tours.



- ▶ Located 96 kilometers (about 60 miles) northeast of Rio, **Teresopolis** is a small, primarily residential town. Nature lovers will enjoy its long trails and many hidden waterfalls and its reputation for mountaineering. Surrounding peaks include Peak of Pedra do Sino which stands at 2,263 meters (7,425 ft) and the Peak of Dedo de Deus at 1,651 meters (5,417 ft).



- ▶ **Ilha Grande** – meaning ‘Big Island’ – located just off the coast of Rio de Janeiro, is known for its pristine beaches, crystal clear seas, and jungle hikes. A popular vacation destination for both Brazilians and international visitors, the island is car-free and has a small population of residents. Hike up Pico do Papaguio, the highest peak on the island, for panoramic views, or visit Lopes Mendes beach, considered one of Brazil’s most scenic beaches.



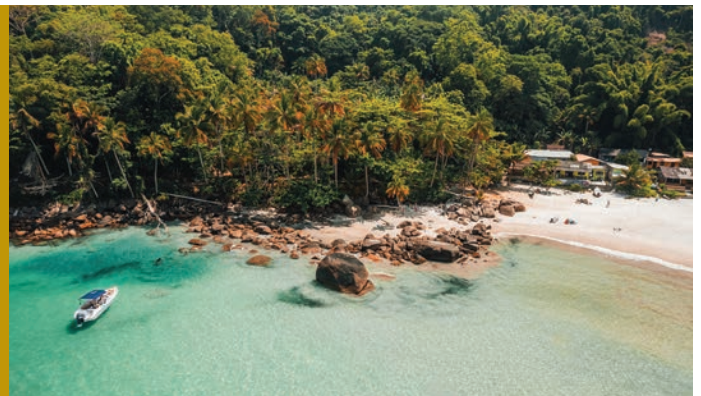
### São Paulo offers Latin American-style big city adventure

For many visitors to Brazil, the experience would not be complete without a stop in São Paulo. About a five-hour drive from Rio, São Paulo hosts many events and is a center of gastronomy and nightlife.

Due to its population of nearly 12 million, it was ranked as the largest city in the western hemisphere for 2024, by population residing within city limits (based on the most recent official census results). Home to the renowned University of São Paulo, the city also is known as the headquarters of the B3 Latin American stock exchange and numerous financial districts.

As the home of the largest Arab, Italian, and Japanese diasporas in the world, São Paulo offers a wealth of international cultural experiences. Visitors also enjoy its many monuments, parks and museums such as the Latin American Memorial, São Paulo Museum of Art, Museum of Ipiranga, Catavento Museum, Ibirapuera Park, Cinemateca, Itaú Cultural, Museum of the Portuguese Language, Football Museum, and the Museum of Image and Sound. ▼

Many destinations that are a bit further from central Rio will offer fun, relaxation and lifelong memories.



## DeKock family establishes William H. DeKock WFO Fund

As our most recent issue of the *Gazette* reported, orthodontists around the world were mourning the August 17, 2024 passing of WFO founder Dr. William DeKock. While serving as president of the American Association of Orthodontists (1994-95), Dr. DeKock, already a long-time advocate of international interaction and sharing of ideas among orthodontists, led the formation of the WFO. His leadership resulted in 69 organizations from 62 countries signing the original WFO charter during the 1995 AAO Annual Session in San Francisco.



Dr. William H. DeKock

WFO leaders recently received unexpected news from Dr. DeKock's family, which endowed the WFO with a major financial donation in his memory, in support of the WFO awards program.

"This was a remarkable gesture by the family that underscores Dr. DeKock's enduring vision and commitment to the orthodontic community," said WFO President **Dr. Nikhillesh Vaiid**.

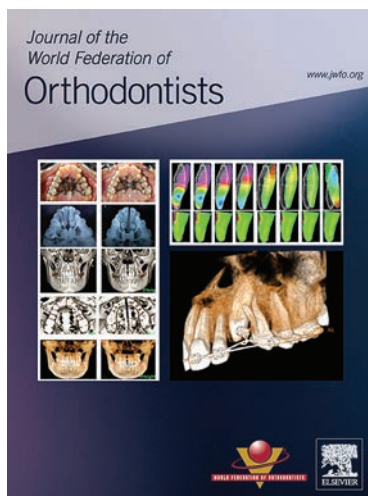
"This fund will not only serve to support our mission but will also ensure that Dr. DeKock's legacy continues to inspire future generations of orthodontists around the world. In recognition of this heartfelt contribution, we have reached out to the DeKock family to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation for their generosity."

The WFO Central Office and Finance Committee are collaborating to explore appropriate investment strategies for the fund to ensure its sustainability and impact.

"As we reflect on our shared history and the enduring legacy of Dr. DeKock, let us be reminded of the values he instilled in us: collaboration, compassion, and dedication to advancing our field," said Dr. Vaiid. "His remarkable contributions continue to shape the WFO and the orthodontic profession, reminding us that even after his passing, he remains a guiding light. Together, let us embrace this opportunity to honor our founder and visionary leader, reaffirming our commitment to his mission and ensuring that his spirit lives on through the work we do." ▼

## 2025 T.M. Graber Outstanding Article examined en masse retraction of anterior teeth

The WFO has recognized the article, "En Masse Retraction of Anterior Teeth through Rapid Periodontal Distraction by a Retraction Screw: A Randomized Control Trial" as the recipient of the 2025 Dr. T.M. Graber Outstanding Article Award.



The article appeared in the June 2024 edition of the *Journal of the World Federation of Orthodontists*. The *JWFO* is offered exclusively online, and WFO members have complete access to the peer-reviewed journal's content as a membership benefit.

Authors included **Hibu Dora, Mubasshir Ahmed Shaikh, Seema Gupta, Sameena Begum Maqbool, Salim Shamsuddin and Saraswati Raghunath**

**Kokate.** Dr. Dora is in private practice in Naharlagun, Papumpere, Arunachal Pradesh, India. The other authors are affiliated with orthodontic departments of JMF ACPM Dental College, Kothiwal Dental College and Research Centre, Oxford Dental College and Dr. H.S.R.S.M Dental College and Hospital, all in India.

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE ARTICLE](#)

The award is named in honor of **Dr. T. M. Graber**, who was the first editor of the WFO's first official journal, the *World Journal of Orthodontics (WJO)*. The award recognized Dr. Graber's life-long contributions to the specialty of orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics through his endeavors as an academician and researcher and his extensive scientific and clinical publications and his responsibilities as editor.

The principal author of the Graber award-winning article receives a plaque, and the principal author and any co-authors receive an award certificate presented during the AAO/WFO Presidents' Breakfast at the AAO Annual Session. The principal author also receives a cash award, in the amount of \$1,000, sponsored by the T.M. Graber Educational and Charitable organization. ▼

## 2024 Justus Travel Scholarship recipients begin traveling to present lectures

New WFO awards introduced in 2023 included the **Roberto Justus 'Rising Star' Travel Scholarship**, designed to help researchers aged 38 or younger speak at meetings outside their regions.

This esteemed award, established by the WFO Executive Committee, is named in tribute to former WFO President Dr. Roberto Justus, who has been an inspiring mentor to younger members of the orthodontic community. The Rising Star Award is presented to WFO Fellows who demonstrate exceptional leadership potential and have made significant contributions to the field of orthodontics.

The first recipient of a 2024 Justus Rising Star award to begin using her award monies to travel and present lectures is **Dr. Fabrizia d'Apuzzo** from Naples, Italy. Attendees of the 28<sup>th</sup> Indian Orthodontic Society Postgraduate Convention at Manav Rachna Dental College in Faridabad, India, just south of Delhi, gave Dr. d'Apuzzo a warm welcome. The convention took place February 20-23, 2025.

Dr. d'Apuzzo presented her pioneering research on "Diagnosis and Treatment Management of Growing Patients with Temporomandibular Disorders." This innovative research, developed at the University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, where she has been a Research Fellow since 2019, sparked lively discussions among the thousands of orthodontists and other dental professionals in attendance.

This prestigious event provided Dr. d'Apuzzo with a unique platform to share her research, clinical expertise, and personal insights. She had the opportunity to engage with a global network of professionals, fostering connections that will not only enhance her career but also contribute to the growth of the international orthodontic community.

Dr. d'Apuzzo expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the WFO Executive Committee, including President, **Dr. Nikhillesh Vaid**, **Dr. Bryce Lee** and **Dr. Letizia Perillo** for their ongoing mentorship and encouragement that inspire young orthodontists to actively participate in the global WFO family. She also extended her sincere thanks to **Dr. Puneet Batra**, President of the Indian Orthodontic Society, and **Dr. Ashish Kumar Singh**, Organizing Secretary of the convention, for their warm hospitality, as well as to the many colleagues and students whose kindness made her time in India unforgettable.

Looking ahead, Dr. d'Apuzzo is excited to attend the upcoming AAO Annual Session in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA April 25-27, where she will receive the WFO Travel Scholarship certificate during the annual AAO/WFO Presidents' Breakfast, alongside other distinguished award recipients.

Recipients of the 2025 Roberto Justus 'Rising Star' Travel Scholarship and other WFO awards will also be announced during the Presidents' Breakfast and reported in the subsequent edition of the *Gazette*. ▼



Dr. Fabrizia d'Apuzzo accepted congratulatory certificates from Dr. Sanjay Labh, Secretary General, Indian Orthodontic Society, left, and Indian Orthodontic Society President Dr. Puneet Batra.

## WFO webinars feature sought-after topics, new enhancements for participants

The WFO monthly webinar series for members continues to feature internationally noted experts, with the archived lectures helping to expand the already large compilation of high-quality lecture content on the WFO’s educational website for members.

Live webinars take place every month, always on the second Tuesday of the month (irrespective of the date). Webinars continue to be free for all WFO members. Each month’s webinar is announced in advance on the WFO Facebook page and in an email sent to all WFO members.

Upcoming lectures are also listed on the WFO education hub, which is now available from the home page of the updated website, wfo.org.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** If you wish to access WFO online educational resources directly, note that the URL for the Education Portal has changed and is now [portal.wfo.org](http://portal.wfo.org).

[VIEW THE EDUCATION PORTAL](#)

(Click on the **Upcoming Webinars** tab.)

Register via a link in the monthly email to participate in the webinar – OR click on the Register Now button included with the webinar in which you wish to participate, on the **Upcoming Webinars** page.

When registering, you must use the email address associated with your WFO membership. The WFO central office confirms each registrant’s membership status.

Don’t miss the next webinar, **Tuesday, May 13 at 7 a.m. Central time:**



- **Topic:** Advances in Managing Maxillomandibular Transverse Discrepancy: Surgical and Non Surgical Approaches  
**Presenter:** Dr. N. R. Krishnaswamy

### Archived lectures continue to be available for viewing

Soon after each webcast, the webinar is archived for future viewing on the webinar series page, where it will be available to WFO members.

To access archived webinars, return to the **Education Portal** page linked above and click on the **Lectures** tab. Then:

- Use the pulldown that appears at right to select **WFO Webinar Series**.
- Click on the icon at left on the page that appears, and access recent webinars including:



- **Topic:** More Than Orthodontics: Branding Yourself and Building a Community through Social Media *(This webinar will soon be archived.)*  
**Presenter:** Dr. Enrique Cruz



- **Topic:** 2×4=4×2 – The Order of the Factors Does Not Alter the Product Considerations for Fixed Appliances in the Mixed Dentition  
**Presenter:** Dr. Jorge Castillo



- **Topic:** Integrating Artificial Intelligence with Traditional Orthodontic Practices: A Synergistic Approach  
**Presenter:** Dr. Jonas Bianchi



- **Topic:** The Integration of CBCT into Clear Aligners using the Invisalign System: Considerations and Application  
**Presenter:** Dr. Suliman Yousif Shahin

### EDUCATIONAL PORTAL ENHANCEMENTS NOW LIVE

New enhancements to the education user experience also include:

- **Progress tracking:** Track your progress toward your goals in completing course and lectures.
- **Interactive quizzes:** Test your knowledge and reinforce best practices with engaging assessments.



## Society of Orthodontic Specialty Certifying Boards continues work to support affiliate certification processes

Since its establishment by the WFO in 2020, the Society of Orthodontic Specialty Certifying Boards (SOSCB) has focused on how best to support and advise WFO affiliate organizations and national certifying bodies on development of orthodontic program curricula and board certification processes.

All SOSCB member organizations were invited to have representatives participate in the SOSCB's most recent virtual meeting on November 17, 2024 and most did so, with 20 national board representatives participating.

SOSCB Chair **Dr. Valmy Kulbersh** led the meeting. Joining Dr. Kulbersh in welcoming the representatives and providing information were SOSCB committee members, **Dr. Eric Liou** and **Dr. Ricardo Machado-Cruz**.

Discussion during the meeting focused on the challenges of instituting widespread board certification. Concerns raised by **Dr. Mala Ram Manohar**, vice chair of the Indian Board of Orthodontics, are similar to those encountered in many countries, including motivating orthodontists to pursue certification and standardizing exams across different regions of a large country that may have varying standards of work.

### Questions on SOSCB Symposium at 10<sup>th</sup> IOC Discussed

An additional topic of discussion was the Society of Orthodontic Specialty Certifying Boards Symposium scheduled October 22, 2025 during the 10<sup>th</sup> WFO International Orthodontic Congress. The purpose of this event is to stimulate the formation of new orthodontic board certification agencies worldwide.

Dr. Machado-Cruz, who is also the vice chair of the IOC, provided details on the schedule for the IOC Global Educators Forum, also of interest to many SOSCB members. The forum and the SOSCB Symposium will not conflict with each other. They are two of three Pre-Conference Activities planned for the IOC, for which registration is required by April 18.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

The members of the SOSCB believe that orthodontic board certification is a must to increase the quality of orthodontic care worldwide, and to protect the public against poorly rendered orthodontic treatment by unqualified dental practitioners.

Dr. Kulbersh outlined the plan for the IOC symposium, which will include a keynote speech by **Dr. Jae Park**, 2024-25 president of the American Board of Orthodontics (ABO) and an update on the ABO certification process given by **Dr. Roberto F. Hernández Orsini**, 2025-26 president of the ABO. The symposium will feature round table discussions on various topics, led by table leaders who will present conclusions at the end. Topics of round table discussion will include:

1. Identification of barriers to board certification, exam format, work for the societies, benefits of board certification.
2. Feasible modifications of board certification processes in each region/country.
3. Ways to increase numbers of board-certified orthodontists in each region/country. Creation of value (increased recognition among lay people, education of the public to recognize difference between certified and non-certified orthodontists etc.).
4. Requirements for board certification. (Identify commonalities and feasibilities.)
5. Should educators encourage their graduates to obtain board certification upon completion of the orthodontic residency program by completing the certification process soon after graduation, using clinical cases treated during residency?
6. How could the regional boards and the SOSCB help orthodontic programs in promoting board certification?
7. Should the initial certification exams be conducted remotely? How do you envision a remote examination would be conducted? Does your school have a videoconference facility that could be used by your residents in taking a remote examination?
8. Do you think that a change in case requirements could help residents in becoming board certified with cases from their residencies? What might this change involve?
9. Do you as an educator see the value of board certification?
10. How do you feel about a 2-step exam (written and scenario-based clinical cases presented by the board) - as opposed to a 1-step hybrid exam that would include a literature evidence-based section with multiple choice questions, and a clinical section consisting of a scenario-based exam with clinical cases presented by the board?
11. What could the boards do to promote/encourage certification expertise throughout the world?

## News from Around the World

### AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ORTHODONTISTS

More than 1,100 orthodontists and pediatric dentists attended the AAO 2025 Winter Conference, **From Small to Tall: Nurturing the Growth of Pediatric Dentistry & Orthodontics**. The meeting, hosted by the AAO and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD), took place January 24-26 in Marco Island, Florida.

Among the lecturers was WFO President **Dr. Nikhillesh Vaid**, who presented "Enamel Homeostasis & The Orthodontist – WSLs & MIH: The Why, What and How!" **Dr. Takashi Ono**, WFO Executive Committee member for Central and East Asia, presented "Revisit to Scammon's Curves: Lessons from the Recent Studies on Adenoids & Tonsillar Hypertrophy." ▼



WFO Secretary General Dr. Aron Dellinger, left, greeted WFO President Dr. Nikhillesh Vaid at the AAO Winter Conference.

### ASSOCIATION OF ORTHODONTISTS (SINGAPORE)

The Association of Orthodontists (Singapore) Congress (AOSC) 2025 took place at the iconic Marina Bay Sands March 1-2 2025, with pre- and post-congress activities on February 28 and March 3, respectively. The event welcomed 785 participants from 31 countries.

Distinguished guests included Singapore's Ministry of Health Chief Dental Officer, **Dr. Chang Chai Kiat** and WFO President **Dr. Nikhillesh Vaid**; and representatives from the Asian Pacific Orthodontic Society (APOS).

Under the theme "**Forging Ahead with the Evolving Faces of Orthodontics: Embracing Fundamentals, Change, and Innovation**," AOSC 2025 featured an engaging scientific program led by 11 esteemed experts, including keynote speakers **Dr. Ute Schneider-Moser** and **Dr. Sandra Tai**.

The conference addressed pivotal topics such as the evolution of fixed appliances versus clear aligners, innovations in 3D-printed shape memory aligners, advancements in self-ligating bracket systems and lingual orthodontics, strategies in early orthodontic intervention, auto-transplantation, and integration of orthognathic surgery with aligners. Delegates had the opportunity to exchange ideas, delve into cutting-edge research, and

A highlight of the congress was the 2<sup>nd</sup> AOSC Resident's Symposium, organized in collaboration with the Faculty of Dentistry, and held at the National University of Singapore. Another notable event was the Pre-Congress Forum: Women in Orthodontics. The forum featured an insightful presentation by Oral Medicine specialist **Dr. Chelsia Sim** on "Oral Medicine and Women's Health: A Closer Look at Female-Specific Conditions," followed by a dynamic panel discussion with esteemed female leaders **Dr. Ute Schneider-Moser**, **Dr. Sandra Tai**, and **Dr. Letizia Perillo**, incoming president of the WFO. ▼



Association of Orthodontists (Singapore) Congress attendees gathered for a photo.

## News from Around the World

### TAIWAN ASSOCIATION OF ORTHODONTISTS

The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Taiwan Association of Orthodontists, December 3-5, 2024 in Taipei, Taiwan. Officially titled 2024 TAO APOC Taipei, the meeting also included the 14<sup>th</sup> Asian Pacific Orthodontic Congress (APOC) and the TAO APOC Joint Residents Forum on December 2.

The APOC is the official conference of the Asian Pacific Orthodontic Society and is held every two years.

The theme of the 2024 meeting was **Embrace 3C: Connection, Communication & Creation**. In addition to the main sessions, a “Rising Stars of APOS” program took place and provided an opportunity for young clinicians and outstanding researchers to become better-known.



The WFO Executive Committee was photographed at the Taiwan Association of Orthodontists meeting and 14<sup>th</sup> Asian Pacific Orthodontic Congress (APOC).

The meeting was attended by members of the WFO Executive Committee, several of whom presented lectures. **Dr. Bryce Lee**, EC representative for southeast Asia and Oceania, presented “APOS and Orthodontics - Our Past and Our Future.” Other EC speakers included WFO President **Dr. Nikhillesh Vaid**, Vice President **Dr. Panagiotis Skoularikis**, incoming President **Dr. Letizia Perillo**, and **Drs. Khaled Samir AboulAzm, Flavia Artese, Takashi Ono** and **Valmy Pangrazio-Kulbersh**.

Other outstanding guest speakers included **Drs. Chris Chang, Johnny Liaw, Simon Littlewood, Keiji Moriyama** and **Jae Hyun Park**. ▼



Attendees at the Taiwan Association of Orthodontists meeting and 14<sup>th</sup> Asian Pacific Orthodontic Congress (APOC) gathered for a photo.

### SAUDI ORTHODONTIC SOCIETY

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Saudi Orthodontic Society took place December 12-14, 2024 in Riyadh. The meeting drew 1,000 orthodontists and also included the 15<sup>th</sup> Orthodontic Implants Conference and the 4<sup>th</sup> Clear Aligner Conference.

The more than 30 lecturers included **Dr. Khaled AboulAzm**, WFO Executive Committee member for Africa and the Middle East, and **Drs. Joseph Bouserhal, David Sarver, Sandra Tai** and **Abbas Zaher**.

During the meeting **Dr. AboulAzm** joined fellow WFO Executive Committee members, **Dr. Eric Liou** and **Dr. Nikhillesh Vaid**, in presenting a recognition gift from the WFO to the Saudi Orthodontic Society Board of Directors. ▼



**Drs. Eric Liou** and **Dr. Nikhillesh Vaid**, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> from left, and **Dr. Khaled AboulAzm**, 8<sup>th</sup> from left, all of the WFO Executive Committee, presented a recognition gift honoring the outgoing Saudi Orthodontic Society Board of Directors.

News from Around the World

HONG KONG SOCIETY OF ORTHODONTISTS



WFO President Dr. Nikhillesh Vaiid recently attended a one-day clinical symposium with the Hong Kong Society of Orthodontists and the Hong Kong University orthodontic program. He was photographed with faculty member Dr. Yanqi Yang, and Dr. Yooh An Kook of Korea (all in the back row behind the residents). ▼

MACAO ASSOCIATION OF ORTHODONTISTS



Dr. Nikhillesh Vaiid participated in the Congress of the Macao Association of Orthodontists in December 2024 in Macau, China, where he was photographed with Macau Association President, Dr. Wei Lin (left) and Dr. Samuel Lei. ▼

ASSOCIATION OF PHILIPPINE ORTHODONTISTS



Dr. Nikhillesh Vaiid is pictured with Dr. Joy Maranon, President of the Association of Philippine Orthodontists, at the 12<sup>th</sup> APO Regional Conference, March 3-4, 2025. ▼

## News from Around the World

### PORTUGUESE ORTHODONTIC SOCIETY



During the November 2024 meeting of the Portuguese Dental Association, WFO President Dr. Nikhilesh Vaid met with officers of the Portuguese Orthodontic Society, Dr. Rui Pereira, left, and Dr. Pedro Mariano Periera at right. ▼

## WFO Meetings Around the World

### 2025

**American Association of Orthodontists  
Annual Session**

April 25-27, 2025  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA  
[www.aaoinfo.org/meetings](http://www.aaoinfo.org/meetings)

**The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual World Orthodontic Health Day**

May 15, 2025

**Portuguese Society of Dentofacial Orthopedics**

36<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
May 16-17, 2025  
Leiria, Portugal  
<https://spodf.pt/events/xxxvi-reuniao-anual-da-spodf-2025/>

**European Orthodontic Society  
Annual Congress**

June 3-7, 2025  
Krakow, Poland  
[www.eoseurope.org/annual-congress](http://www.eoseurope.org/annual-congress)

**College Europeen d'orthodontie  
Spring Annual Meeting**

June 6-9, 2025  
Strasbourg, France  
<https://ceortho.fr/>

**The 16<sup>th</sup> World Implant Orthodontic  
Conference (WIOC), and  
7<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress of the Vietnam  
Association of Orthodontists (VAOC)**

July 26-27, 2025  
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

**Canadian Association of Orthodontists  
75<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

September 18-20, 2025  
Quebec City, Canada  
[www.cao-aco.org/orthodontics/events/upcoming-events/](http://www.cao-aco.org/orthodontics/events/upcoming-events/)

**World Federation of Orthodontists  
10<sup>th</sup> International Orthodontic Congress**

October 22-25, 2025  
Rio De Janeiro, Brazil  
<https://www.wfo2025rio.org/en>

**Societa Italiana Di Ortodonzia  
56<sup>th</sup> International Congress**

November 20-25, 2025  
Fortezza da Basso  
Florence, Italy  
[www.sido.it](http://www.sido.it)

Meetings are listed in this section when affiliate organizations notify the WFO Secretariat. Send meeting updates to the WFO Secretariat at [wfo@wfo.org](mailto:wfo@wfo.org)

**WFO Gazette**

[www.wfo.org](http://www.wfo.org)

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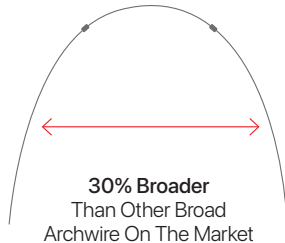
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- Maximum Leveling & Alignment
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- Produces A Beautiful Broad Smile
- Pre-Stopped
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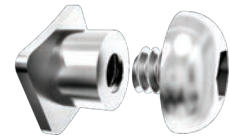
Specifically for use alongside aligners, CS<sup>®</sup>5 Bondable seamlessly integrates into various orthodontic treatment plans for enhanced efficiency.



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The low force spring which generates 150 grams of force, accompanied with low-profile bondable pivot ensures predictable results.

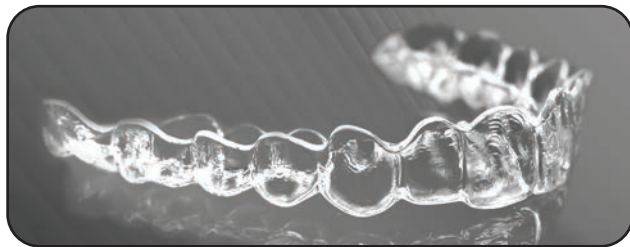


Low Profile Bondable Pivot & Screw



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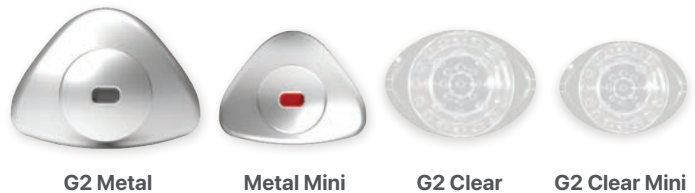
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