



## Global orthodontic leaders gather at International Orthodontic Congress

The WFO 10<sup>th</sup> International Orthodontic Congress brought a record number of participants to Rio de Janeiro, with 7,014 orthodontists from over 100 countries intellectually engaging with 250-plus speakers and enjoying camaraderie with colleagues from around the world.

The IOC, which took place October 22-25, 2025, was led by 2020 - 25 WFO President **Dr. Nikhillesh Vaid**, with the organizing committee led by **Dr. Flavia Artese**. The Brazilian Association of Orthodontics and Facial Orthopedics (ABOR) was the national host.

The high-energy Opening Ceremonies included an inspiring opening lecture by **Dr. Eustáquio A. Araújo** and presentation of the William H. DeKock Distinguished Service Award to **Dr. Athanasios E. Athanasiou**, past WFO president and vice president.

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The more than 7,000 IOC attendees brought enthusiasm from around the world to Rio de Janeiro.

TURN TO PAGES 2-3 TO VIEW A COLLAGE OF PHOTOS FROM EACH PART OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> IOC.

## A message from Dr. Letizia Perillo

Dear WFO Fellows and Student Members,  
Warm greetings to all!

It is with great honor and excitement that I begin my five-year journey as President of the WFO. As we step into this new chapter together, I would like to share my vision and enthusiasm for advancing the art and science of orthodontics worldwide.

First, it was such a delight to see so many of you at the IOC this fall. It was truly exciting to meet up again with a huge number of world-renowned professionals, distinguished colleagues, and close friends from around the globe as we were inspired by speakers and learned from their world-class scientific and clinical presentations. And of course, experiencing the unique joy of Rio de Janeiro and Brazilian culture together was the experience of a lifetime for many of us.

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Dr. Letizia Perillo addressed attendees at the 10<sup>th</sup> International Orthodontic Congress.

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# Highlights from the International Orthodontic Congress

Dr. Vaid's inspiring Opening Ceremonies address, "Voluntary Service, Life, and Legacy: The Emotions That Last a Lifetime and Impact Others' Lives!" highlighted the importance of career mentoring and is available at the *JWFO* by clicking on the link.

The Opening Ceremonies concluded with a celebration that was, for many attendees, a first experience of the joy and energy of Brazilian culture.

[VIEW THE ENTIRE PHOTO WEB GALLERY](#)

The WFO will present the 11<sup>th</sup> IOC in 2030 in Milan, Italy, led by 2025-30 WFO President **Dr. Letizia Perillo** and IOC Chair **Dr. Ambrosina Michelotti**. ▼

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Drs. Nikhillesh Vaid and Letizia Perillo, outgoing and incoming WFO presidents



Dr. Perillo is pictured with new WFO Executive Committee member (representing Europe) Dr. Daniela Garbo (left) and Dr. Ambrosina Michelotti, Chair of the 11<sup>th</sup> IOC.



IOC Chair Dr. Flavia Artese thanked IOC attendees for being part of the meeting.



(Left) 2020-25 WFO President Dr. Nikhillesh Vaid embraced Dr. Letizia Perillo in congratulations as the presidency transitioned to her during the IOC Closing Ceremony.

(Right) Dr. Lee W. Graber (center) delivered the first IOC William H. DeKock Memorial Leadership Lecture, sharing Leadership Pearls.



(Left) During the Opening Ceremony, Dr. Athanasios E. Athanasiou (center), past WFO president and vice president, received the WFO's highest recognition award, the William H. DeKock Distinguished Service Award.

(Right) Dr. Eustáquio A. Araújo IOC honorary opening lecture presenter at the Opening Ceremony, was greeted by his family and Dr. Nikhillesh Vaid after the lecture.



# Highlights from the International Orthodontic Congress continued



Brazilian culture was integrated into every IOC event, much to the delight of attendees.



Dr. Valmy Kulbersh led the Society of Orthodontic Specialty Certifying Boards symposium (see more starting on page 9).



Attendees experienced the joy of Brazilian culture at the Carnival event.



The 2025-30 WFO Executive Committee is pictured. See more about the EC starting on page 6.



The first Future Leaders in Orthodontics Symposium (FLOS) meeting took place during the IOC. See more on page 12.



Dr. Carlos Flores-Mir delivered the inaugural Dr. David Turpin Lecture at the IOC Educators Forum. See more on the following page.

## WFO first Orthodontic Educators Forum: A global celebration of excellence in teaching

The World Federation of Orthodontists (WFO) proudly hosted its inaugural **Orthodontic Educators Forum**, a historic gathering dedicated to advancing orthodontic education worldwide. Over **500** educators from around the globe joined this unique platform to share knowledge, exchange ideas, and inspire one another in shaping the future of the specialty worldwide.

The Forum opened with a warm welcome from **Dr. Letizia Perillo**, the WFO's 2025-30 president, who emphasized the pivotal role of educators in advancing orthodontics.

“Every advancement in our field begins with committed educators who mentor, guide, and inspire the next generation,” she said. Dr. Perillo introduced **Dr. Eric Liou**, Chair of the Education Committee, who outlined the scope and initiatives of the WFO Education Committee, followed by **Dr. Takashi Ono**, lead author of the *WFO Guidelines for Postgraduate Education*. Dr. Ono highlighted the significance of this landmark work.

A highlight of the Forum was the presentation of **the first-ever WFO Awards for Excellence in Orthodontic Education**, recognizing outstanding educators whose leadership, mentorship, research and innovation have had a global impact.

### Scroll of Honor: Dr. Anne Marie Kuijpers-Jagtman



Dr. Kuijpers-Jagtman studied the biology of orthodontic tooth movement, cleft lip and palate and 3D-imaging during her 30 years as a faculty member at the Radboud University Medical Center in The Netherlands, before becoming a senior faculty member/educator at the University

Medical Center Groningen, Department of Orthodontics, in Groningen, The Netherlands.

### WFO Outstanding Educator Awards

#### Dr. Seung-Hak Baek

Dr. Baek is a professor in the Department of Orthodontics at Seoul National University, a prolific speaker and researcher, and a past president of the Korean Association of Orthodontists and the Korean Cleft Lip and Palate Association. He is an associate editor of *Orthodontic and Craniofacial Research* and the *AJO-DO Clinical Companion*.

#### Dr. Sunil Kapila

A professor and the Dr. Thomas R. Bales Endowed Chair of Orthodontics at University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), Dr. Kapila's U.S. National Institutes of Health-funded research focuses on the hormonal basis for TMJ degeneration. He has published two textbooks, *Current Therapy in Orthodontics* and *Cone Beam Computed Tomography in Orthodontics*.

“Every advancement in our field begins with committed educators who mentor, guide, and inspire the next generation.”

– Dr. Letizia Perillo

#### Dr. Stella Chaushu

Dr. Chaushu is vice dean, professor, and chairperson of the Department of Orthodontics at the Hebrew University – Hadassah School of Dental Medicine. She pioneered immunorthodontics, exploring the interplay between innate immunity and bone remodeling. Dr. Chaushu serves as associate editor of *Seminars in Orthodontics*, *Progress in Orthodontics*, and the *Journal of the World Federation of Orthodontists* (JWFO), and on the Editorial Board of the *AJO-DO*.

In honor of the late **Dr. David Turpin**, a visionary leader in orthodontic education and long-time editor-in-chief of the *AJO-DO*, the WFO established a lecture and award for the Educators Forum to honor his legacy. **Dr. Carlos Flores-Mir**, from the University of Alberta, delivered the inaugural lecture, “Orthodontic Education: Challenges and Hopes,” exemplifying Dr. Turpin's values of excellence, innovation, and dedication to nurturing future educators.

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Outstanding Educator Award recipients, Dr. Seung-Hak Baek, Dr. Sunil Kapila and Dr. Stella Chaushu are pictured with Drs. Nikhillesh Vaid and Letizia Perillo.

Orthodontic Educators Forum... [ 4 ]

## Short Presentations Session

The Forum also featured a dynamic **Short Presentations** session, showcasing innovative approaches and best practices in orthodontic education:

- ▶ **Dr. Daniela Garib**, University of São Paulo – *From Tradition to Innovation: Shaping Excellence in Orthodontic Education*
- ▶ **Dr. Sath Allareddy**, University of Illinois Chicago – *Current Landscape in Orthodontics Residency Education in the USA*
- ▶ **Dr. Sumit Yadav**, University of Nebraska – *AI and Research Landscape in Orthodontics*

The Forum concluded with a celebration of collaboration, innovation, and global connections among educators. ▼



The Educators Forum presenters, award recipients and WFO Education Committee members gathered for a photo at the close of the Forum.

## WFO appoints Regional Membership Chairs (RMCs)

The WFO is pleased to introduce the newly appointed Regional Membership Chairs, who will play a central role in strengthening the connection between each region and the WFO, while helping shape the future of orthodontics globally. Their leadership and dedication will help ensure the WFO remains inclusive, innovative, and connected worldwide as our membership grows.

### Their mission includes:

- ▶ Encouraging cooperation between local and international orthodontic communities
- ▶ Sharing best practices and professional resources
- ▶ Expanding access to continuing education and scientific updates
- ▶ Strengthening the global orthodontic network
- ▶ Promoting opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange

### The Regional Membership Chairs and their regions are:

- ▶ Dr. Abidine Zouhair, Africa and the Middle East
- ▶ Dr. Sridevi Padmanabhan, Central and East Asia
- ▶ Dr. Cristóbal García Izquierdo, Central and South America
- ▶ Dr. Eleftherios Kaklamanos, Europe
- ▶ Dr. Martin Palomo, North America
- ▶ Dr. Benny Soegiharto, Southeast Asia & Oceania

Dr. Letizia Perillo... [ 1 ]

A sincere thank you to the IOC Organizing Committee, ABOR, and our exceptional Meeting Chair, **Dr. Flavia Artese**, for creating such a remarkable event that will resonate with all of us for years to come.

As we look to the future, I am thrilled to welcome our new WFO Executive Committee members. At the same time, we extend our deepest gratitude to those who have retired from the EC, and to our continuing members for their invaluable contribution. While we will greatly miss those departing, we celebrate the friendship and wisdom they have shared and look forward to building on our shared vision with our incoming leaders. The following pages will introduce you to our new, continuing, and retired leaders. Please take a moment to read about the exceptional talent guiding our federation.

The coming years promise exciting opportunities for all of us. We are resolved to expand our resources, strengthen global orthodontic education, mentor the next generation of leaders, and share cutting-edge research and clinical insights. I encourage every member, Fellow and Student alike, to embrace these opportunities, engage

fully, and contribute to our shared mission of advancing excellence in orthodontics.

In the meantime, please be sure to take advantage of all the benefits your WFO membership offers: Join our webinars, revisit archived webinars and explore the latest studies in the *JWFO*. Connect with peers, exchange ideas, and be inspired by the vibrant conversations on our social media platforms.

I look forward to seeing you all in person as I travel to affiliate meetings around the world. Together, let us continue to build a future where the WFO not only supports orthodontic excellence but also fosters a global community united by passion, learning, and friendship.

With warm regards and boundless enthusiasm,

*Letizia Perillo*

*President*

*World Federation of Orthodontists*

## Executive Committee members leading WFO for 2025-30 represent diverse perspectives and expertise

Joining WFO President Dr. Letizia Perillo in leading the organization during the next five years will be an outstanding team of orthodontists. They join returning Executive Committee members, with everyone eager to work to advance the specialty worldwide.

“I am truly delighted to welcome our new Executive Committee members.”

– Dr. Letizia Perillo

“It is a great honor and joy to begin this journey with such talented, passionate, and dedicated colleagues,” adds Dr. Perillo. “Together, we will continue to strengthen our Federation and foster unity, excellence, and inspiration across the global orthodontic community. They bring energy, dedication, and a spirit of service as well as professional excellence and remarkable human qualities — the true strength of our Federation.”

### Executive Committee Members

Providing leadership of the WFO along with Dr. Perillo will be:

#### ► Dr. Bryce Lee, Vice President



In orthodontic practice in Orchard, Singapore for over 30 years, Dr. Lee is the clinical director and head of Junior Dental Care in a multidisciplinary clinic. He chaired the Joint Committee for Dental Specialist Accreditation (JCDSA) which oversees the accreditation of dental specialists in Singapore. He is a past president of the Association of Orthodontists (Singapore), the Asian Pacific Orthodontic Society (APOS) and the College of Dental Surgeons in the Academy of Medicine, Singapore.

### Representing Africa & Middle East

#### ► Dr. Reem A. Alansari



Dr. Alansari is the first woman and the first Saudi to represent the Middle East and Africa on the WFO Executive Committee. She is a professor of orthodontics at King Abdulaziz University and an adjunct professor of orthodontics at the Touro College of Dental Medicine at New York Medical College. She serves on the Saudi Orthodontic Society Board of Directors.

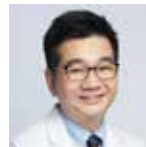
#### ► Dr. Ramzi Haddad



A full-time assistant professor in the division of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics at the American University of Beirut-Medical Center, Dr. Haddad is the president of the Scientific Committee of the Lebanese Orthodontic Society and the immediate past president of the Society. He is a Licensed Hospital Practitioner at the Hospital Medical Center of Dijon, France. He is also an International Members' Ambassador for the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO).

### Representing Central & East Asia

#### ► Dr. Eric J.W. Liou



Dr. Liou is an associate professor in the Graduate Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Science of Chang Gung University, and DentWay International Dental Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan. He is the editor-in-chief of *APOS Trends in Orthodontics*, the *Asian Pacific Orthodontic Society Journal*, and an Advisory Board member of the *Taiwanese Journal of Orthodontics*. He is a past president of the Taiwan Association of Orthodontists and of the World Implant Orthodontic Association (WIOA).

#### ► Dr. Young Guk Park



A professor of orthodontics at Kyung Hee University School of Dentistry, Seoul, South Korea, Dr. Park is a past acting president and Provost of Kyung Hee University, and a past president of the Korean Association of Orthodontists and the Korean Academy of Dental Education. He is a former dean of the Kyung Hee University School of Dentistry and is a world-renowned researcher, author, and speaker in clinical orthodontics and basic science of craniofacial biology.

#### ► Dr. Joseph Varghese



In orthodontic practice in Cochin, India, for nearly 30 years, Dr. Varghese also maintains a part-time practice in Dubai. He is a past visiting professor of orthodontics at Manipal College of Dental Sciences in Mangalore, India, a past president of the Indian Orthodontic Society and past chairman of the Indian Board of Orthodontics. He has conducted courses on biomechanics in many regions of India and is a frequent conference and study group lecturer in India and other parts of the world.

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Executive Committee members... [ 6 ]

## Central & South America

### ► Dr. Rocío Casasola Arias



Dr. Casasola, of Costa Rica, is the immediate past president of the Latin American Association of Orthodontics (ALADO). She is the president of the Costa Rican Academy of Orthodontics (ACO) and the Federation of Orthodontic Associations of Central America (FAOCA).

### ► Dr. Jorge A. Castillo



Dr. Castillo is an orthodontist and a pediatric dentist, currently a professor at the Department of Stomatology for Children and Adolescents at the Peruvian University Cayetano Heredia (UPCH). He is also an affiliate assistant professor in the Department of Oral Health Sciences, University of Washington in the United States, and is a past president of the International Association of Pediatric Dentistry (IAPD).

## Representing Europe

### ► Dr. Derya Germec Cakan



Currently a professor and the head of the Department of Orthodontics at Yeditepe University, Istanbul, Dr. Germec Cakan is a past president of the Turkish Orthodontic Society, a member the Executive Committee of the Turkish Cleft Lip and Palate Association and a past editor-in-chief of the *Turkish Journal of Orthodontics*.

### ► Dr. Daniela Garbo



In orthodontic practice in Turin, Italy, Dr. Garbo is also a periodontist. An adjunct professor in the School of Specialization in Orthodontics, San Raffaele Life and Health University of Milan, she is an internationally noted speaker. She is a past president of the Italian Society of Biomechanics and Segmented Orthodontics (SIBOS), served as treasurer of the Italian Society of Orthodontics (SIDO) and is the president-elect of SIDO for 2026.

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## THANK YOU, 2020-25 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE!

Pictured from left: Drs. Dewayne McCamish, Lee Graber, Aron Dellinger, Eric Liou, and Bryce Lee; Ms. Alisha Ademovic; Drs. Valmy Pangrezio-Kulbersh, Nikhillesh Vaid, Letitia Perillo, Flavia Artese, Panagiotis Skoularikis, Ricardo Cruz, Khaled AboulAzm, Vinod Krishnan, Takashi Ono.



### Members who retired from the Executive Committee at the 10<sup>th</sup> IOC include:

**Dr. Skoularikis:** Vice president of the WFO for 2020-25, Dr. Skoularikis represented Europe and was the Chair of the Membership and Communications committees, spearheading World Orthodontic Health Day and leading the WFO's comprehensive website re-development in 2023-24.

**Dr. AboulAzm:** Representing Africa and the Middle East, Dr. AboulAzm served on the WFO Membership and Communications committees.

**Dr. Artese:** Dr. Artese was the Chair of the WFO's highly successful 10<sup>th</sup> International Orthodontic Congress in Rio de Janeiro.

**Dr. Cruz:** Representing Central and South America, Dr. Cruz was the Chair of the WFO Member Resources Committee.

**Dr. Graber:** A WFO Executive Committee member for most of the organization's history, Dr. Graber served most recently as assistant secretary general. He was previously WFO secretary general, president and vice president.

**Dr. Kulbersh:** Representing North America, Dr. Kulbersh led the Society of Orthodontic Specialty Certifying Boards (SOSCB).

**Dr. McCamish:** Representing North America, Dr. McCamish was the Chair of the WFO Finance and Bylaws committees.

**Dr. Ono:** Dr. Ono served as the Chair of the WFO 9<sup>th</sup> International Orthodontic Congress during 2025-20. The IOC was originally scheduled in Yokohama, Japan but leaders converted it to a virtual meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Ono remained on the Executive Committee as a representative of Central & East Asia and serving on the Member Resources and Educators committees.

Executive Committee members... [ 7 ]

## ► Dr. Vaska Vandevska-Radunovic



A professor and postgraduate orthodontic program director at the University of Oslo, Norway, Dr. Vandevska-Radunovic is involved in the education and research activity of graduate, postgraduate and doctoral students. She was the European Orthodontic Society president in 2023 and is currently the president of the NEBEOP Board (Network for Erasmus Based European Orthodontic Programs). She is an associate editor of *Clinical and Experimental Dental Research* and *The Korean Journal of Orthodontics*.

## Representing North America

### ► Dr. Myron D. Guymon



Dr. Guymon, of Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, has practiced orthodontics in Northern Utah since 1990. He was president of the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO) in 2023-24 and previously served as president of the Utah Association of Orthodontists and the Rocky Mountain Society of Orthodontists (a constituent of the AAO). He was the Chair of the AAO Council on Communication and represented the AAO in Public Service Announcements, podcasts, webinars, and live television interviews. Dr. Guymon has long been engaged with orthodontics at the international level and dedicated efforts to support the WFO.

### ► Dr. Roberto Hernández Orsini



The current president of the American Board of Orthodontics (ABO), Dr. Hernández has an orthodontic practice in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. He has served as the ABO liaison to numerous organizations including the WFO. He is an associate professor of orthodontics at the University of Puerto Rico School of Dental Medicine, and an assistant adjunct professor in the Orthodontics Department at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry.

## Representing Southeast Asia & Oceania

### ► Dr. Roberto B. Tan



A past president of the Asian Pacific Orthodontic Society (APOS), Dr. Tan is in orthodontic practice in Manila and other locations in the Philippines. He is also a past president of the Association of Philippine Orthodontists, a past faculty member of the Centro Escolar University College of Dentistry, and a member of the Philippine Board of Orthodontics Executive Council.

## Organizational Leadership Responsibilities

### ► Dr. Ambrosina Michelotti

#### *Chair, 11<sup>th</sup> International Orthodontic Congress*



The Chair of the next WFO International Orthodontic Congress (to be in Milan, Italy in 2030), Dr. Michelotti is a professor at the University of Naples Federico II, teaching pre-graduate and postgraduate orthodontic courses. She is a past president of the European Academy of Craniomandibular Disorders and SIDA (Società Italiana di Disfunzioni ed Algie Temporomandibolari), and other organizations. She is the associate editor of the *European Journal of Oral Science* and the *Journal of Oral Rehabilitation* and an Editorial Board member of the *European Journal of Orthodontics*.

### ► Dr. Vinod Krishnan

#### *Editor-in-Chief, Journal of the World Federation of Orthodontists (JWFO)*



Dr. Krishnan is a professor and head of the orthodontic program at Sri Sankara Dental College. He edited two orthodontic textbooks, *Biological Mechanisms of Tooth Movement* and *Integrated Clinical Orthodontics*. In addition to serving as editor-in-chief of the *JWFO*, he is a peer reviewer for other international journals and has published numerous papers. He edited three issues of *Seminars in Orthodontics*.

### ► Dr. Nikhillesh Vaid

#### *Immediate Past President*



WFO 2020-25 President Dr. Vaid is now serving on the EC in the capacity of immediate past president, aiding WFO leaders and mentoring new EC members. He was the previous EC Communications Committee Chair and launched World Orthodontic Health Day in 2019. After becoming president in 2020, he then oversaw all WFO initiatives, representing the organization worldwide.

### ► Dr. Aron Dellinger

#### *WFO Secretary General*



As secretary general, Dr. Dellinger is responsible for the WFO's membership and finance processes and other business operations. He began working in this position in 2023. He is a past president of the Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists (GLAO), a constituent organization of the American Association of Orthodontists. A Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics (ABO), Dr. Dellinger has served as an ABO examiner and as a question preparer and editor for the current scenario-based exam. ▼

## SOSCB update from the IOC: Global Symposium report

The global symposium of the **Society of Orthodontic Specialty Certifying Boards** took place during the 10<sup>th</sup> IOC in Rio de Janeiro on October 22, 2025.

**P**articipants including orthodontic board presidents, examiners from multiple orthodontic boards worldwide as well as interested orthodontic practitioners participated in round table discussions moderated by assigned orthodontic leaders. Dr. Roberto Hernandez Orsini, the current president of the American Board of Orthodontics, gave the opening address which was followed by Dr. Orsini's delivery of Dr. Jae Park's presentation (Dr. Park could not be present at this meeting).

The deliberations highlighted the need for furthering the recognition of board certification. The topics discussed are provided below with highlights of each group's discussion of specific questions. Additional information is available from the WFO Executive Committee.

### Identifying Barriers to Board Certification

**Discussion leader:** Dr. Mala Ram Manoha, India

- ▶ Most attendants favored a 2-step examination with the first being a remote written exam and the second phase an in-person examination with clinical case presentations. Records of the selected cases could be sent digitally beforehand to the examiners to expediate the case review.

### Feasible Modifications to Board Certification Processes

**Discussion leader:** Dr. Maria Madrazo, Argentina.

- ▶ Most participants favored a digital board examination right after graduation and then, five years later, a clinical oral exam composed of case-based scenarios (provided by the certifying board) and case presentations (provided by the examinees), to demonstrate clinical skills. Regional testing centers could minimize travel and reduce expenses for the examiners and examinees.

### Increasing the Number of Board-Certified Orthodontists

**Discussion leader:** Dr. Giorgio Iodice, Italy

- ▶ Participants urged advertising the value of board certification at regional meetings by designating an opportunity for recently certified orthodontists to share their experiences with the certification process and how it benefited them. Regional affiliated societies should encourage all orthodontists and students, in their educational institutions, to participate in the board certification process.

### Standardized Certification Requirements

**Discussion leader:** Dr. Susan Al-Khateeb, Jordan

- ▶ The members at the table expressed concern about the lack of standardization of minimum requirements in their educational institutions. They thought that the lack of minimum educational standards is a barrier to the global standardization of a board certification process.

### The Role of Educators in Board Certification

**Discussion leader:** Dr. Jayesh Rahalkar, India

- ▶ There was agreement that the educators should encourage the attainment of orthodontic board certification. The challenge discussed was that most educators in global institutions were not board-certified. Lack of requirements regarding qualifications for participation as full or part-time faculty made this goal difficult to attain.

There was no consensus on whether residents should use clinical cases treated during training for certification. Many expressed their concern about using cases from residency for board certification.

### Supporting Board Certification Promotion

**Discussion leader:** Dr. Alberto Caprioglio, Italy

- ▶ Participants felt that the affiliate societies could encourage their leaders and members to organize for the formation of regional certifying boards, followed by outreach to already established orthodontic board certifying agencies in other regional areas. The goal of the latter would be to start the exchange of ideas regarding the formation of a new board certifying body, including policy development. The SOSCB could act as a mediator among interested entities.

### Remote Certification Exams

**Discussion leader:** Dr. Dennis Lim, Philippines

- ▶ The majority of the participants support a 2-step certification process. The first step would consist of a remote written exam and a clinical exam, in which case-based scenarios and clinical cases are presented.

Responses varied among participants regarding whether their institutions have the necessary video conferencing facilities for residents. Geographic locations in which such resources are more readily available had better technological facilities than others.

### Adapting Case Requirements for Board Certification

**Discussion leader:** Dr. Eman Abdulbaset Alnamnakani, Saudi Arabia.

- ▶ The removal of case requirements may make it more attractive to participate in the certification process. The participants were in agreement that clinical cases treated by the examinees should remain as a requirement for board certification. They also agreed that the requirement of specific types of cases could be eased out.

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# International teaching service helps advance orthodontic patient care in many countries

by Dr. John Kanyusik

Early in my career I was interested in volunteering overseas as an orthodontist. Most of the oral health volunteer opportunities, however, were for general dentists and oral surgeons. There are now options available to share our clinical expertise in orthodontics with overseas colleagues through teaching.

Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO) is a private, non-profit, volunteer organization that was founded in 1986. HVO is sponsored by many health care organizations including the American Dental Association and the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.



Dr. John Kanyusik is pictured with a Nepal Dental School student.

HVO's mission is to improve the worldwide availability and quality of healthcare through the education, training, and professional development of the local health workforce in resource-scarce countries. HVO volunteers provide free training to over 3,200 health professionals each year, across more than 18 healthcare specialties in over 23 countries. There are opportunities to serve both in-person and virtually, and to provide both clinical and didactic information to our overseas colleagues.

Through the years I have had the opportunity to volunteer in-person at the HVO sites in Vietnam, Tanzania, Nicaragua, Moldova, and Nepal, as well as virtually in Uganda.

Often on my HVO trips I would travel with my spouse and/or other family members, and we would combine a personal trip either before or after my HVO volunteer stint. There is a wide range of educational interest from the various HVO site locations. Some of the HVO orthodontic sites have interests in basic diagnostic and treatment presentations for the undergraduate dental student. Other sites are ready for orthodontic graduate level information about complex multi-disciplinary treatment for patients with craniofacial disorders.

HVO trips are often arranged with the help of the HVO staff, the HVO site coordinator and the local HVO onsite coordinator. Guidance for housing and local transportation as well as local cultural information are typically provided for the volunteer.

## Orthodontists and Residents Share Expertise with Students in Nepal

The HVO program in Nepal is facilitated by HVO Project Director **Dr. Brian Hollander** and by the HVO On-Site Coordinator **Dr. Dashrath Kafle**. Dr. Kafle is the clinical coordinator of the dental program at Kathmandu University Teaching Hospital in Dhulikhel.

A volunteer opportunity is available to participate in a monthly orthodontic case seminar hosted by Dr. Kafle, his orthodontic faculty and their orthodontic residents. This seminar is accessed remotely by the participating residents, orthodontists, and maxillofacial surgeons through the HVO web site. A typical seminar will consist of the Kathmandu University orthodontic resident's presentation of a challenging case for diagnosis and treatment planning, followed by discussion with the seminar participants.



Pictured is an HVO project group including dental students at the Kathmandu University Teaching Hospital in Dhulikhel.

In addition to the diagnosis and treatment planning of these prepared cases, contributing orthodontists and maxillofacial surgeons often lecture on topics of interest. Recently, virtual lectures were presented during these seminars by **Dr. Jeffrey Miller** on CBCT imaging, by **Dr. Cheryl Anderson-Cermin** on cleft lip and palate treatment timing, and by **Dr. Jeffrey Posnick** on orthognathic surgical techniques.

Participating orthodontic residents from the University of Minnesota and the Mayo Clinic orthodontic programs have also provided virtual presentations on various topics during these seminars. **Dr. Anderson-Cermin**, who is a University of Minnesota faculty member, recently shared her clinical expertise in cleft lip and palate management while in Nepal with a multispecialty cleft team.

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International teaching service... [ 10 ]

**Drs. Stuart Sheer, Richard Chang, and Mairead O'Reilly** are among the other orthodontists who have served as volunteers to teach in Nepal through the HVO program. **Dr. Kelton Stewart**, Chair of the Indiana University Orthodontics Department, has provided support to the orthodontic program in Nepal by sending donated orthodontic textbooks for the dental library at Dhulikhel Hospital.

Dr. Kafle and his faculty have developed an excellent orthodontic residency program that educates future orthodontic clinicians and provides quality multidisciplinary treatment for their patients.

If you have an interest in the Health Volunteers Overseas organization, please visit the HVO website, [www.hvousing.org](http://www.hvousing.org), and contact their dedicated HVO staff:

**Ms. Lauren Franklin, Program Manager**  
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1900 L St., NW, Suite 310  
Washington, DC 20036  
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HVO Office: (202) 296-0928  
Email: [l.franklin@hvousing.org](mailto:l.franklin@hvousing.org)

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the opportunity to participate with HVO and the Nepal HVO program:  
**Dr. John Kanyusik, [johnkanyusik@gmail.com](mailto:johnkanyusik@gmail.com).** ▼

#### **Editor's Note:**

*A WFO member (retired category), Dr. Kanyusik retired from private orthodontic practice in Minnesota in 2020. He was an adjunct assistant professor with the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry Department of Developmental and Surgical Sciences from 2002 – 2023 and currently is an orthodontic consultant at the Mayo Clinic. He served on the American Association of Orthodontists Council on Membership, Ethics and Judicial Concerns and is a past president of the Minnesota Association of Orthodontists, the (AAO constituent) Midwestern Society of Orthodontists, and the College of Diplomates of the American Board of Orthodontics (CDABO). He is a clinical examination consultant for the American Board of Orthodontics and previously directed the CDABO preparation course for the ABO certification exam.*

*Dr. Kanyusik received the AAO's James E. Brophy Distinguished Service Award in 2023.*

SOSCB update... [ 9 ]

#### **The Value of Board Certification from an Educator's Perspective**

**Discussion leader:** Gustavo Zanardi, Brazil.

- ▶ All participants agreed that the number of board-certified orthodontists among alumni, is a reflection of an academically stronger program. It was also discussed that programs that evaluate and grade their residents' finished cases reflect excellence.

#### **The Value of Board Certification for Orthodontic Graduate Programs**

**Discussion leader:** Dr. Padma Mukherjee, USA

- ▶ Group members agreed that board certification is a good method to demonstrate the effectiveness of clinical teaching, and therefore the quality of the program.

#### **Exam Structure Comparison**

**Discussion leader:** Dr. Nita Viwattanatipa, Thailand

- ▶ The group recommended a two-step process including a written exam and clinical scenario-based cases provided by the board. A hybrid process would include a literature-based multiple-choice exam and a clinical scenario-based section with cases provided by the board. Most participants supported a two-step process with a written portion and a clinical-based exam with cases provided by the examinees.

#### **Promoting Board Certification Worldwide**

**Discussion leader:** Dr. Rocio Casasola, Costa Rica

- ▶ Initiatives could promote and encourage the implementation of board certification across different regions, with affiliate societies encouraging their leaders and members to organize for the formation of regional certifying boards.

#### **Timing of Board Examinations**

**Discussion leader:** Dr. Roberto Hernández Orsini, Puerto Rico

- ▶ Group members felt that two exams per year could be sufficient. Resources were discussed and many agreed that one exam per year is more feasible.

#### **Certification Consideration for Requirement to Practice**

**Discussion leader:** Dr. Peerapong Santiwong, Thailand

- ▶ There was no support for offering the certification exam during the residency program. Administration of board exam after graduation from a specialty program and an opportunity to treat cases is preferred.

#### **Need for Recertification**

**Discussion leader:** Dr. Chaiyapol Chaweewannakorn, Thailand

- ▶ There was consensus on the need for recertification. Some group members preferred certification renewal every five years while others expressed desire to see it every 10 years. ▼

## Young leaders' organization holds first meeting during IOC

The inaugural Future Leaders in Orthodontics Symposium (FLOS) meeting took place October 22 during the 10<sup>th</sup> International Orthodontic Congress in Rio de Janeiro, marking an important step in the WFO's commitment to supporting early-career orthodontists.

The session opened with a keynote lecture from **Dr. Ali Darendeliler**, who delivered an energizing and insightful overview of root resorption and set the stage for a morning focused on shared learning and global collaboration.

"Residents from Australia, Egypt, Brazil, Peru, Turkey and the United Kingdom presented an impressive series of clinical cases and practice-enhancing pearls," said FLOS Chair **Dr. Julian Wooley**. "The breadth of presentations demonstrated the strength of the international orthodontic community and the value of creating spaces where residents can exchange ideas across borders. Adding a touch of youthful enthusiasm, the FLOS temporary tattoos and stickers quickly became a unifying symbol of the morning and could be seen throughout the IOC venue in the days that followed."

The well-attended meeting included:

- ▶ The Best Clinical Case award presentation to **Dr. Ahmed Samir** from Egypt; and
- ▶ The Best Clinical Pearl award presentation to **Dr. Beyçe Karaman** from Turkey.

2020-25 WFO President **Dr. Nikhillesh Vaiid** presented a WFO pin to Dr. Wooley in recognition of his leadership of FLOS and commitment to strengthening the global orthodontic resident community.

The event concluded with an invitation from the incoming FLOS Chair, **Dr. Hanyi Li**, to upcoming opportunities for young members to connect, including the next FLOS session at the Asian Pacific Orthodontic Congress in Singapore (November 6-8, 2026). ▼

## WFO and AAO collaborate on development of 2026 AAO Annual Session pre-conference

On Thursday, April 30, 2026, the American Association of Orthodontists' inaugural **Annual Session International Pre-Conference** will take place in Orlando, Florida.

The WFO collaborated with the AAO Committee on Conferences and Meetings (CCon) to develop this exciting addition to the AAO Annual Session, which will be from May 1-3. The Pre-Conference will be open to all International AAO members and WFO members who are registered for Annual Session, and to U.S. and Canadian registrants. There is no additional registration fee or pre-registration requirement to attend the Pre-Conference.

Extending from 8 a.m. until 3:45 p.m., the Pre-Conference will feature eight 45-minute lectures. Also included will be three 15-minute sessions, including a WFO article award recipient lecture and case presentations from a WFO-affiliated group of student members and young Fellows, Future Leaders in Orthodontics (FLOS).

Join your colleagues and enjoy high-interest clinical and scientific lectures by experts including seven members of the WFO Executive Committee:

**Dr. Reem Alansari**, EC representative of Africa and the Middle East

**Dr. Derya Germec Cakan**, EC representative for Europe

**Dr. Jorge Castillo**, representative for Central & South America

**Dr. Vinod Krishnan**, editor-in-chief of the *Journal of the World Federation of Orthodontists (JWFO)*

**Dr. Young Guk Park**, representing Central and East Asia on the EC

**Dr. Vaska Vandevska-Radunovic**, EC representative for Europe

**Dr. Joseph Varghese**, EC representative for Central and East Asia

**Dr. Adith Venugopal** of New Zealand will also present a lecture during the program. Dr. Venugopal serves on the WFO Task Force on Environmental Footprints of Orthodontics.

[VIEW THE PROGRAM SCHEDULE AND LECTURE TITLES](#)

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ANNUAL SESSION AND REGISTER](#)

[ACCESS THE VISA INVITATION PAGE](#)

*If you require a visa letter to enter the United States.*

## Orthodontic editors meet, discuss today's editorial concerns at IOC

A highly productive and successful gathering of editorial board members from numerous orthodontic journals took place on October 23 as part of the 10<sup>th</sup> International Orthodontic Congress in Rio de Janeiro.

Representatives from most orthodontic journals participated and delivered insightful lectures on shaping editorial policies, making the literature more evidence-based, and exploring how modern technology is impacting orthodontic publishing. The meeting opened with remarks by 2020-25 WFO President **Dr. Nikhilesh Vaid**, who emphasized how essential each editorial member is in providing the scientific community with clear, evidence-based literature, and shaping the future of our specialty.

The opening lecture was delivered by *Journal of the World Federation of Orthodontists (JWFO)* Editor-in-Chief, **Dr. Vinod Krishnan**, who outlined the editorial responsibilities owed to authors, reviewers, and both the scientific community and the public.

Dr. Krishnan also provided insights into the importance of incorporating diversity and equity into the selection of editorial board members and manuscripts for publication, emphasizing the need to consider all contributors, including those from underprivileged backgrounds. The lecture also offered insights into the journal's metrics, such as indexing and impact factor, and how these influence the journal's standing within the scientific publishing landscape.

Dr. Krishnan also provided insights into the importance of incorporating diversity and equity into the selection of editorial board members and manuscripts for publication, emphasizing the need to consider all contributors.

*JWFO* Associate Editor **Dr. Carlalberta Verna** outlined peer review guidelines and emphasized the importance of training reviewers, using refined language to communicate effectively with authors, highlighting the critical role of the entire process in enhancing manuscript quality and acceptance. Dr. Verna's lecture explored various forms of engagement between journals and reviewers, including community building and training initiatives, to ensure the sustainability and integrity of scholarly communication. The session also sparked extensive discussion among attendees about the use of artificial intelligence in the peer-review process and strategies for employing such technology without compromising confidentiality agreements between authors and publishers.



Participants in the IOC meeting of orthodontic journal editors gathered for a photo.

*Research spin*, defined as the biased or selective reporting of research findings to present a more favorable impression, was eloquently explained by **Dr. Carlos Flores-Mir**, who represented *The Angle Orthodontist*.

Dr. Flores-Mir's lecture emphasized the importance of upholding research integrity by adhering to principles of honesty, transparency, and accountability. He also addressed how to mitigate research waste through the implementation of robust methodologies and the avoidance of unnecessary duplication to enhance the impact of scientific inquiry.

*Orthodontics and Craniofacial Research* Editor-in-Chief, **Dr. Ambrosina Michelotti**, thoroughly elucidated the pertinent issues of plagiarism and research misconduct. She highlighted the significance of utilizing plagiarism detection software within the manuscript workflow from submission to publication and discussed the advantages and limitations of various software available in the market.

The pressing issue of text recycling (self-plagiarism), wherein an author reuses their own previously published material, was examined extensively during Dr. Michelotti's lecture. She underscored that maintaining research integrity necessitates effectively addressing retractions, removals, and expressions of concern.

**Ms. Lindsay Allen**, the senior publisher from *Elsevier*, shared valuable insights on how an editor and the organization can work together smoothly with the publisher. She discussed strategies to ensure successful publications and maintain the journal's financial and operational stability. Details were shared on ways to boost audience engagement and improve journal performance, as well as Elsevier's outlook on future publishing strategies, helping assess risks and opportunities for the journal's sustainability.

**Dr. Veerasathpurush Allareddy**, representing *Seminars in Orthodontics*, explained how generative artificial intelligence is transforming the publishing world, including its advantages and challenges. He highlighted how data mining software and large

continued [ 14 ]

## WFO webinars feature sought-after topics

The WFO monthly webinar series for members continues to feature internationally noted experts, with 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 portal, which is now available from the home page of the updated website, [wfo.org](http://wfo.org). **IMPORTANT NOTE:** If you wish to access WFO online educational resources directly rather than from the [wfo.org](http://wfo.org) home page, note that the URL for the Education Portal has changed and is now [portal.wfo.org](http://portal.wfo.org).

[VIEW THE EDUCATION PORTAL](#)

Live webinars take place every month, always on the second Tuesday of the month.

Click on the **Upcoming Webinars** tab on the portal to register for the webinar scheduled on **Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 7 a.m.**  
**Central time:**



- ▶ **Program:** Orthodontics for Functional Rehabilitation: Managing Occlusal Trauma, Tooth Position, and Implant Sites
- Presenter:** Dr. Sergio Valverde

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



Orthodontic editors meet... [ 13 ]

language models assist in extracting evidence-based information from vast data sets and emphasized the importance of using this information in orthodontics. The lecture also covered the nuances of AI, noting that authors sometimes rely heavily on these systems, which can lead to conclusions based on biased information. He warned about the importance of data confidentiality when using AI tools, describing this as a double-edged sword.

**Dr. Sergio Valverde**, representing the *Journal of Clinical Orthodontics*, highlighted creative ways to use online platforms to foster collaboration and strengthen engagement between the journal and its readers. He stressed how vital it is to involve the new generation of orthodontists in ensuring the journal’s sustainability and shared effective strategies for connecting with them through social media platforms. He also discussed the successful model adopted by the *Journal of Clinical Orthodontics*, which provides

readers with evidence-based information — crucial in today’s world where the public is often confused about what is real, genuine, or fake scientific content.

The meeting, moderated by **Dr. David Normando** with the assistance of Dr. Krishnan, generated extensive discussion with numerous contributions and constructive comments from the audience. The discussion addressed the importance and drawbacks of utilizing artificial intelligence in the publishing field, the necessity for proper training of peer reviewers and editorial board members, methods to detect false science and uphold integrity in publishing, as well as strategies to combat fake social media posts about orthodontics.

Participants agreed to compile the deliberations and publish them in the February 2026 issue of the *Journal of the World Federation of Orthodontists*. ▼

## News from Around the World

### EMIRATES ORTHODONTIC SOCIETY

The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Emirates Orthodontic Society Congress took place October 17–18, 2025 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, drawing about 500 delegates from throughout the Middle East and Africa. The meeting was tailored to a multidisciplinary audience including orthodontists, general dentists, oral and maxillofacial surgeons, dental residents, laboratory technicians, and dental assistants. Many attendees also participated in pre- and post-congress workshops.

The meeting was led by EOS President Dr. Mohammed Mahmoud Al Shalabi. Then-WFO President Dr. Nikhillesh Vaid represented the WFO at the meeting. ▼



Dr. Nikhillesh Vaid (center) represented the WFO at the Emirates Orthodontic Society meeting and met with EOS leaders including (from left) Dr. Khaled Alkateb, general secretary; Dr. Abdelhakim El Gheriani, Cultural Committee chairperson; Dr. Mohammed Al Shalabi, president; and Dr. Khalid Al Ameri, vice president.

### ITALIAN SOCIETY OF ORTHODONTICS (SIDO)

SIDO hosted its 56<sup>th</sup> International Congress: November 20–22, 2025, at the Fortezza da Basso in Florence, Italy, under the leadership of SIDO President Dr. Lorenzo Franchi. The nearly 40 speakers included present and past WFO leaders including Drs. Nikhillesh Vaid, Takashi Ono, Flavia Artese, Bryce Lee and Ambrosina Michelotti.

WFO President Dr. Letizia Perillo represented the WFO during the Opening Ceremonies of the meeting. ▼



WFO leaders and representatives were ready to warmly greet visitors to their booth at the SIDO 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress.

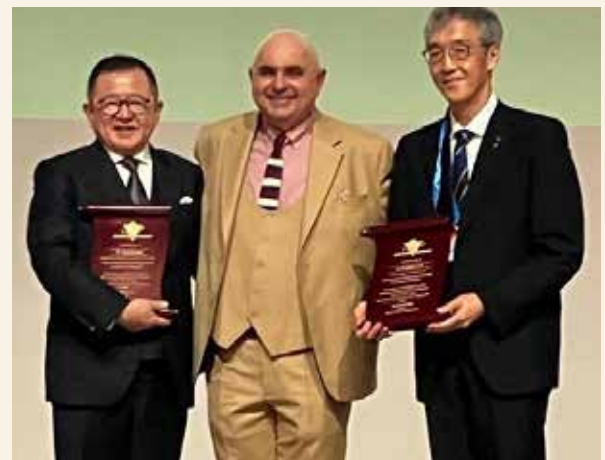
### BRITISH ORTHODONTIC SOCIETY



The British Orthodontic Society held its 2025 British Orthodontic Congress September 23–26 at the International Convention Center in Caerleon, Wales, under the leadership of BOS President Dr. Robbie Lawson. During the meeting the BOS honored the WFO by granting Honorary Life Membership to Dr. Nikhillesh Vaid in recognition of his voluntary global contributions to orthodontics. Dr. Vaid is pictured with the Honorary Life Membership certificate presenter, British Orthodontic Society Patron Ms. Roz McMullan.

### BRITISH ORTHODONTIC SOCIETY

The 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Japanese Orthodontic Society took place September 29 – October 1 in Sapporo, Japan. The meeting included an international special lecture to which Dr. Nikhillesh Vaid was invited as the speaker, with his term as WFO president about to conclude. Dr. Vaid, pictured in the center, also presented plaques to JOS President Dr. Kazuhito Arai, at right, and Congress Chair Dr. Yoshiaki Sato.



# WFO Meetings Around the World

## 2026

### Italian Society of Orthodontics (SIDO) Spring Meeting

March 13-14, 2026  
Riccione, Italy  
[www.sido.it/eng/future-events/](http://www.sido.it/eng/future-events/)

### American Association of Orthodontists Annual Session

May 1-3, 2026\*  
Orlando, FL, USA  
[www.aaoinfo.org/meetings](http://www.aaoinfo.org/meetings)

### \*International Pre-Conference on April 30

### World Federation of Orthodontists World Orthodontic Health Day

May 15, 2025

### College European d'Orthodontie Annual Congress

(Children and Teenagers and Orthodontics)  
May 29 - June 1, 2026  
Antibes, France  
[www.wfo.org/organizer/college-europeen-dorthodontie-2](http://www.wfo.org/organizer/college-europeen-dorthodontie-2)

### European Orthodontic Society 101<sup>st</sup> Congress

June 7-11, 2026  
Dublin, Ireland  
[congress.eoseurope.org](http://congress.eoseurope.org)

### Canadian Association of Orthodontists 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

September 24-26, 2026  
Saint John's, Newfoundland, Canada  
[www.cao-aco.org/en/conference](http://www.cao-aco.org/en/conference)

### Italian Society of Orthodontics (SIDO) 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress

October 8-10, 2026  
Torino, Italy  
[www.sido.it/eng/future-events](http://www.sido.it/eng/future-events)

### Association of Orthodontists (Singapore) & Asian Pacific Orthodontic Congress

November 6-8, 2026  
Marina Bay Sands, Singapore  
<https://aoscongress.com>

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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## WORLD FEDERATION OF ORTHODONTISTS COUNCIL



The WFO Council, pictured meeting in Rio de Janeiro during the 10<sup>th</sup> IOC, is the organization's ultimate policy-making body. Members of the Council and all WFO leaders wish you happiness, success and excellent health in 2026.

# EOS 2026

7-11 JUNE | DUBLIN, IRELAND  
101<sup>ST</sup> CONGRESS OF THE  
EUROPEAN ORTHODONTIC SOCIETY

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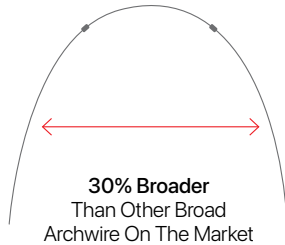
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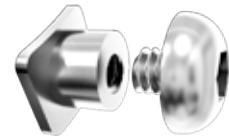
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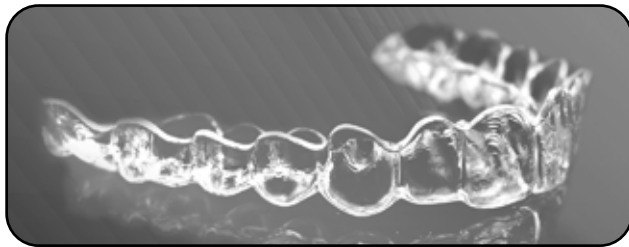


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