

## **COUNCIL ON ORTHODONTIC HEALTH CARE (COHC)**

The Council on Orthodontic Health Care met on June 22, 2019 at AAO Headquarters. The meeting was chaired by Dr. **Kim Batterson**. An update from the board liaison, Dr. **Norm Nagle**, gave information on the AAO strategic plan, decision making and governance. The Council then discussed access to care, and the AAO's initiative into access to care. Discussion centered on expanding the reach of the program and how that could be accomplished. The Council forwarded its recommendation to the board for consideration.

A report on the ADA's Code Maintenance Committee (CMC) in March centered on a few minor changes to the CDT coding manual related to orthodontic codes. The AAO also had proposed a preamble for the orthodontic section of the CDT manual to further define orthodontic care, however that change was voted down by the CMC. The Council discussed ways to further that idea at next year's CMC meeting. The Council also discussed the ADA's request that AAO look at all of the orthodontic codes and review them as they have not been modified for a number of years.

A brief report from the American Association of Dental Consultants (AADC) meeting in May focused on trends that are being seen in dentistry and insurance industry. While many of the issues were not specific to orthodontics, payer issues and concerns, practice modalities, and other topics were discussed over the 3-day meeting. Outside of the scheduled lectures, there was discussion of how some insurance companies are considering direct payments to direct to consumer entities and the concerns of many insurance companies about that occurring.

COHC reviewed the revised medically necessary orthodontic guidelines that were passed by the HOD in May and will not make any recommended revisions at this time. We also heard reports from staff on COGA and COC activities.

In new business, the Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act (ELSA) that is proposed legislation in Washington for insurance companies covering all care related to craniofacial anomalies was discussed and applauded by the Council. There were also discussions of teledentistry and DSO's but no actions were taken by the Council related to those topics.

The Council also will be electing the new chair for the next year. Results of that will be announced during the January conference of COHC.

**Randall Markarian**  
[randall@thinkbraces.com](mailto:randall@thinkbraces.com)

618/236-7846