

IOWA

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The 2021 Iowa Society of Orthodontists meeting was held on October 10-11 in Iowa City. The meeting included speakers from the University of Iowa Department of Orthodontics including Dr. **Steven Marshall** speaking on the topic of *Airways in Orthodontics*. Drs. **Southard, Callan, Shin** and **Moreno** provided both lectures and hands-on training for in-house aligner therapy. Our speaker on Monday was Dr. **Jason Cope** speaking on *How to Become an In-House Aligner Powerhouse*.

Several representatives from the ISO are working with an Iowa Dental Board (IDB) committee to change language pertaining to Level 1 dental assisting registration. We would like to have our orthodontic assistants demonstrate orthodontic bonding systems without also needing to demonstrate cavity liners and bases/desensitizing agents. We are waiting for the IDB to formally approve this change.

The Iowa Mission of Mercy (IMOM) will be returning in 2022 and is scheduled for November 4-5 in Des Moines. Since both the 2020 and 2021 IMOMs were canceled due to Covid 19, the Iowa Dental Association encouraged dentists to host IMOM local clinics in individual offices. In total, 29 clinics opened their doors for free dental care to 530 patients and provided over \$369,000 worth of care.

The top priority of the Iowa Dental Association during the 2022 Legislative Session is increasing access to quality oral health care by increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates which have not increased in Iowa in 20 years.

Melissa Bernhardt

West Des Moines, Iowa