

MIDWESTERN SOCIETY OF ORTHODONTISTS

THE EARL E. SHEPARD DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

2026 Recipient Dr. Alison Fallgatter, DDS

The Earl E. Shepard Distinguished Service Award, established in 1987, honors orthodontists whose meaningful service to others may often go unrecognized. Named after Dr. Earl E. Shepard—an influential educator, past MSO president, and the first and longest-serving Executive Director of the American Board of Orthodontics—the award reflects a commitment to both the profession and broader community.

The Midwestern Society of Orthodontists is proud to announce Dr. Alison Fallgatter as the 2026 recipient, in recognition of her exceptional contributions to orthodontics, education, and service at the state, constituent and national levels.

Dr. Fallgatter: The Consummate Volunteer



Upon graduation from the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry in 2001, Dr. Alison Fallgatter practiced general dentistry for three years in Bismarck before returning to Minnesota for orthodontic residency. She received an MS in Orthodontics there in 2006. She also became a Diplomate of the ABO this same year. Ali then practiced alongside former MSO President, Dr. Brian Jespersen in Bismarck, ND until 2009 at which time she opened her own practice in Jamestown, ND. She became a mother this same year, adopting her son, Will (now age 17). Will and his mother reside a mile from where she grew up in rural Steele, North Dakota.

The consummate volunteer, Dr. Fallgatter has served within North Dakota's district and state dental societies including as NDDA President in 2012-13 and as both a delegate and alternate delegate to the American Dental Association's House of Delegates. She also has served as President of the North Dakota Board of Dental Examiners and is currently serving her second five-year term with the Board. In addition, she has served in many MSO and AAO

leadership positions, councils, task forces, boards, AAO Advocacy, delegation and leadership areas while remaining active within her church and community.

Time undergoing orthodontic treatment provided by Dr. Jespersen in Bismarck was influential in Dr. Fallgatter's desire to become an orthodontist. She is grateful for his mentorship during three years of orthodontic practice together. Dr. Fallgatter claims to have enjoyed drinking coffee, reading, hiking and professional chicken chasing as well as being an Unabashed Boy Momma—not necessarily in this order—while also furthering her education and commitments to a long list of endeavors that have benefited her community, colleagues, MSO and AAO.

Congratulations to Dr. Fallgatter as the recipient of the MSO's 2026 Earl E. Shepard Distinguished Service Award.

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Bismarck State College - A.S. Biology (1994)
- University of Jamestown State College - B.A. Biology (1996)
- University of Minnesota School of Dentistry - D.D.S. (2001)
- General practice of dentistry in Bismarck, ND (2001-2004)
- University of Minnesota Dept. of Orthodontics - M.S. Orthodontics (2006)

SERVICE AND RECOGNITION WITHIN THE ORTHODONTIC PROFESSION

- ABO Certification (2006)
- Delegate to the ADA House of Delegates (2010-11)
- NDDA (North Dakota Dental Assoc.) President (2012-13)
- North Dakota Board of Dental Examiners (2022 to present)
- MSO President (2020)
- MSO Delegation Chair to the AAO's House of Delegates (2020-22)
- AAO Council On New & Younger Members (CONYM)
- AAO Council On Communications (COC)
- AAO HOD Reference Committees member or Chair
- Several Governance Task Force Committees
- AJO-DO RFP Publisher Task Force
- AAO National Advocacy Liaison for North Dakota

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Young Life leader (a teen support/guidance program)
- Women's Bible Study leader
- Gateway to Science Board
- Bismarck State College Alumni Board First Impressions Team at church

