

# MIDWESTERN SOCIETY OF ORTHODONTISTS

## TOP 10 TAKEAWAY'S

### 2026 AAO Annual Session



1. More than 12,000 people including doctors, residents, guests and exhibitors attended the AAO Annual Session held earlier this month in Orlando. Hosted at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida, the conference featured speakers from around the world who provided the latest evidence-based scientific and clinical information.



2. The MSO Delegation attending the AAO House of Delegates included (pictured left to right): Dr. Bronwen Richards (Delegate); Dr. John Kittleson (Delegate); Dr. Jahnvi Rao (Delegation Vice Chair); Dr. Spencer Pope (Delegate); Dr. Melissa Bernhardt (Delegate); Dr. Mike Durbin (AAO Trustee); Dr. Emily Willett (Delegation Chair); Dr. Dennis Sommers (Alternate Delegate); Dr. Nellie Kim-Weroha (AAO Trustee-Elect); Dr. Michael LaFerla (Alternate Delegate); Dr. Jenna Walburn (Delegate); and Gwen Berlekamp (Executive Director).

3.

Dr. Mike Durbin was sworn in as the President of the AAO beginning his term at the conclusion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> House of Delegates. Durbin succeeds Dr. Steven Siegel.

The MSO Delegation presented a Courtesy Resolution to Dr. Durbin during the House of Delegates extending their sincere gratitude for his years of service, leadership, and unwavering support.



In his opening remarks to the House of Delegates, Dr. Durbin highlighted three initiatives important to him this coming year:



1. Continue the momentum in seeing legislation passed in states protecting the public and requiring an in-person exam before orthodontic treatment is started. Nine states have now passed this type of legislation.
2. Continue the implementation of AAO's Tech Transformation initiative which will reshape how the AAO communicates with our members and addresses their individual needs as members.
3. Continue to work to find solutions for the student debt crisis that affects so many of our younger members.

Dr. Durbin thanked the MSO for all their support over the years and looks forward to moving the AAO forward together this coming year.

4.

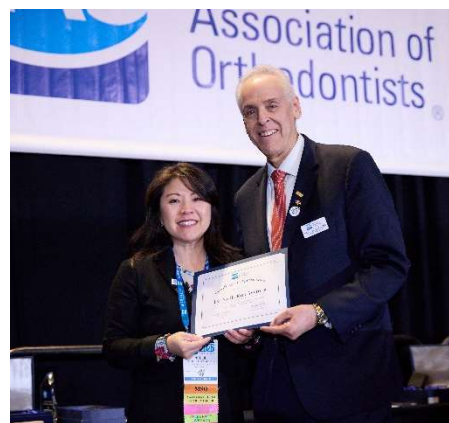
Delegates to the House of Delegates considered a total of 25 resolutions during the governance meetings. To see the resolutions and outcomes, click [HERE](#) to read more.



5. MSO member Dr. James Klarsch began a two-year term as President of the AAO Foundation. The foundation is the charitable arms of the AAO and provides support to orthodontic education programs and orthodontic research.



6. Dr. Nellie Kim-Weroha, pictured right, has assumed the role of MSO Trustee to the AAO Board. Dr. Kim-Weroha previously served as MSO President (2023-2024) and in a variety of other national positions with the AAO. During the AAO Annual Session she received a Certificate of Appreciation for serving as Chair of the AAO Committee on Conferences and Meetings (CCon).



7. Scenes from the Exhibit Hall and PAC lounge....



8. from lectures and networking .....



9. And from events!



10. Save the date and join us next year for the AAO 2027 Annual Session in Vancouver, British Columbia!!



VANCOUVER  
2027  
JUNE 4-6