

Dr. Thomas L. Ahman

After receiving his undergraduate degree in anthropology, Dr. Tom Ahman attended dental school at the Ohio State University College of Dentistry, receiving his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree in 1977. He started his dental career as the prison dentist at the Chillicothe Correctional Institute; he also volunteered and served inpatient and outpatient veterans at the VA hospital in Chillicothe. He bought the practice of a retiring dentist in his hometown of Ottawa, Ohio, where he practiced general dentistry for five years. He became involved in organized dentistry almost immediately; he was elected to be a delegate in the Ohio Dental Association House of Delegates, and eventually became president of the Northwestern Ohio Dental Association.

Dr. Ahman returned to the Ohio State University to begin his orthodontic training with his wife, Cathy, and their very young family; they had two toddlers and Cathy was expecting their third child at the time. He completed his residency and received his Orthodontic Certificate and Master of Science degree in 1985. Upon graduation, he joined the practice of Drs. Lauer, Webb, Fowler and McFarland in Lima, Ohio, where he has continued to practice for the past thirty-one years. His practice now includes two satellite offices, and he continues to practice full-time with his partners, Dr. Joe Janowski and Dr. Matt Mayers.

Dr. Ahman became involved in organized orthodontics very early in his career. Dr. Dave Hamilton, for whom this award is named, was one of the first to extend an invitation to join the board of the Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists. Dr. Ahman served on the board for ten years, and during this time he was GLAO delegate to the AAO House of Delegates, being elected chair of the delegation for three years. He was elected GLAO president in 2005.

He represented GLAO on the AAO's Council on Membership, Ethics and Judicial Concerns for eight years and was chair of this committee for two years. He was appointed to the AAO President's Committee on Practice Alternatives, and was instrumental in the development of the program that is now known as the AAO Practice Opportunities program. He served as Speaker of the AAO House of Delegates for three years, and then chaired the AAO's Governing Documents Committee that spent two years revising and updating all of the AAO's governing documents, bylaws and policies. For his service to the AAO, he received the James E. Brophy Distinguished Service Award in 2014.

In 2010, Dr. Ahman became a member of the Executive Committee of the World Federation of Orthodontists. The WFO Executive Committee consists of thirteen leaders from throughout the world, representing national and regional orthodontic organizations from over one hundred different countries. He serves in several leadership capacities and chairs the bylaws and board certification committees. He will continue in this capacity through 2020. His roles in the WFO have provided him and his

wife wonderful travel opportunities, as well as the opportunity to meet and make friends with orthodontists worldwide. Many of the issues and challenges we face as orthodontists in the U.S. and Canada are the same as those faced by our colleagues internationally, but Dr. Ahman's experiences in the WFO have made him aware of some of the very serious difficulties that orthodontists, and the specialty of orthodontics, face in some developing countries. Dr. Ahman really enjoys working with international orthodontists through the WFO, to improve the quality of care, the opportunity for education and the recognition of the specialty of orthodontics throughout the world.

Dr. Ahman is a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics and has served as a past board examiner. He was selected to be the outside reviewer as part of the accreditation process of an orthodontic program and has served on local, regional and state peer review committees. He continues to be a case reviewer for the Ohio State Dental Board. He is a past member of the American Institute of Parliamentarians and has completed a number of parliamentary procedure practicums, and has served as parliamentarian for several boards and organizations. Throughout his career he has contributed his time and efforts as United Way division chair, various positions on parish and school committees and boards, member of several civic organizations, scoutmaster and years of coaching various youth sports, including high school girl's cross country and thirteen years as junior high cross country coach.

Tom has been married to his wife, Cathy, for thirty-nine years. Together they have five children and four grandchildren. A long-time runner, some of his proudest moments include running with his ten year old grandson when he completed his first half marathon, and also completing two 200-mile running relays with his wife and all five children, their spouses and partners. Most of all, he is grateful for the friendships that organized orthodontics has made possible.