

Meet Dr. Fatima Ahmed

Superior Township, MI

1) What made you want to become involved in the GLAO?

My first exposure to organized dentistry was in dental school. That is where I learned what role organize dentistry plays in our individual professions and the importance of having a unified voice to protect the best interest of the profession and our patients. I have family members who are in medicine, and there was a general consensus among them that there are too many non-physicians/non-patients that are making decisions that affect the physicians ability to practice good medicine and the patient's ability to receive good care. The potential for dentistry, and specifically orthodontics to head down the same path seemed obvious. This served as a warning sign and highlight of the importance of being involved in organized orthodontics.

After I graduated I was asked to serve on the MAO Where I gained an even deeper understanding of the importance of organized orthodontics. There's so many outside influences that affect our day-to-day practice and unless an organization is in place and ready to respond individual practitioners would be left to fend for themselves and their patients.



2) If you were not an orthodontist, what would you be and why?

I would be a vet because I love animals! However I don't think I would have the emotional stability to deal with sick animals!

3) What location is on your bucket list and why?

So so many places that I couldn't possibly list them all! On top of it I have a problem of already having visited a place before I had kids and now I want to go back with my kids, so the list just keeps getting longer! Top three right now are 1. Patagonia 2. Galápagos Islands and 3. Japan

4) What advice do you have for younger members beginning their careers?

I am lucky enough to have Jim McNamara as an instructor and mentor when I was a resident, so I will forward one of the pieces of advice he gave to me upon graduation. He said it takes 2 to 3 years after graduation to find out if you are any good as an orthodontist, so take the time to look at your debands, and evaluate them with a critical eye. The next set of patients you treat will be the beneficiaries of the time that you take to review your debands. The second piece of advice I would give is from my mom who is a working professional, who reminded me that there will never be enough time or money to start a family so if it's something that you want to do Just do it and make it work.