

## FROM THE EDITOR IN CHIEF

Dr. Dennis J. Tartakow reflects on the new ABO scenario-based certification examination.

► page 4



## SCENES FROM THE AAO

Catch an educational presentation or two, and try your hand with some new products.

► pages 8 & 9



## TIME FOR SHOPPING

Heading to the AAO exhibit hall? Here are a few products you should check out while you're there.

► pages 10 & 11



# Everyone can be a superhero!



Wearing Wonder Woman and Superman T-shirts and handing out buttons with fun sayings on them, the folks at topsOrtho (booth No. 1933) get into the company's superhero theme. To find this booth on the show floor, just look for the vortex! Photo/Courtesy of topsOrtho

By Fred Michmershuizen,  
Ortho Tribune staff

With their ability to create happier, healthier smiles, it can be said that orthodontists are superheroes.

Here in Washington, D.C., at the 2018 Annual Session of the American Association of Orthodontists, one company in particular is embracing this particular theme. Representatives from topsOrtho (booth No. 1933) are wearing superhero T-shirts and passing out buttons with heroic sayings on them. They are particularly excited about their new Lightning Cloud high-performance cloud storage system. The company prides itself on its three great super powers — offering practice management that is “fast, easy and reliable.”

Of course no orthodontic practice would be able to deliver super results to patients without the most innovative

► See SUPERHERO, page 6

## Get your thinking cap on straight

By Fred Michmershuizen,  
Ortho Tribune Staff

There is plenty of education available to orthodontists here at AAO's 2018 Annual Session.

“Our meeting will offer you many opportunities to expand your knowledge of the latest science produced by our specialty, and to gain knowledge and insights into the current state of business

and technology applications in our field,” said Dr. Nahid Maleki, president of the AAO, in a welcome letter to attendees.

In the classrooms, offerings include lectures and hands-on courses.

In the exhibit hall, many companies are offering in-booth presentations led by thought leaders today through Tuesday.

Check your program guide or download the AAO app for times and locations.



Orthodontic professionals attend an educational presentation Saturday morning at the Invisalign iTero booth (No. 501). Photo courtesy of Invisalign iTero



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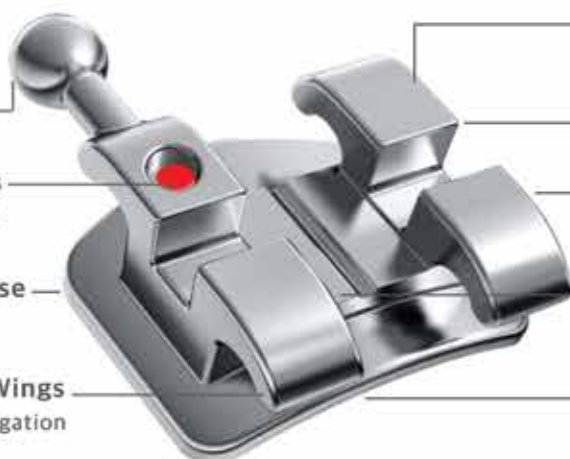
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# Changes in ABO certification: A scenario-based format

## Part two of two

By Dennis J. Tartakow, DMD, MEd, EdD, PhD, Editor-in-Chief

Today, orthodontic education and orthodontics in general as an industry is suspect and may well have lost some of the unique trust and luster that it has held since the late 1940s. The cries for accountability, affordability and accessibility are the mantra for professional and educational reform. Many of our educators, clinicians and researchers are ill-equipped to deal with such unexpected and unanticipated challenges. The universal trust that was given by the American public to medicine and dentistry probably no longer exists; working together, we must find ways to rebuild that trust.

The ABO's mission is to establish and maintain the highest standards of clinical excellence in orthodontics. Its mission statement clearly defines four objectives:

1. Evaluate knowledge and clinical competency of graduates from accredited programs;
2. Re-evaluate clinical competency of a diplomate's career through recertification;
3. Contribute to the development of quality graduate, postgraduate and continuing education programs in orthodontics; and
4. Contribute to certification expertise throughout the world.

In 2007, the ABO certification process went through many significant changes in criteria: (a) the number of cases required for presentation; (b) specific malocclusions; (c) precise time when a case can be presented; (d) the Initial Certification Examination was offered for the first time to orthodontists graduating in 2007 from a CODA (Commission on Dental Accreditation) accredited orthodontic program and who have successfully passed the ABO written examination; (e) for current board-eligible orthodontists, the Option I and II pathways were to be completed by 2008 but if this was not possible, there would be a transition pathway available; and (f) a recertification process, that was both voluntary and involuntary.



Board certification was based upon the highest standards of knowledge and clinical skill, and all diplomates were expected to maintain and enhance such standards. According to the board, 38 percent (or more than 3,000) of active AAO members from the United States and Canada were board certified. In its 76 years of existence, the ABO has never exceeded 28 percent, averaging approximately 24 percent as board-certified members of all AAO orthodontists.

In 2017, the ABO elected to research and observe other dental and medical specialty boards to ensure adherence to best practices. Currently, clinical examinations of four American Dental Association's dental specialty boards are completely scenario-based. While creating a degree of expertise and proficiency that all orthodontists should aspire to attain, the ABO believed it was essential and imperative to conduct an "up-to-date" certification examination.

According to Chung, Tadlock, Barone, Pangrazio-Kulbersh, Sabott, Foley, Trulove, Park and Dugoni: "The board's extensive evaluations, combined with research of best practices, support the decision that a new design is needed to give an examination that is fair, valid and reliable, while increasing accessibility. To facilitate the development of a new examination design, the ABO contracted with Castle Worldwide (Castle), a certification and licensure testing company with 30 years of experience in the science of psychometrics and training development" (2018, p. 322).

The new scenario-based examination format is not intended to make it easier; it's standards will remain the same high quality. "The ABO believes that in today's climate a shift is needed to develop

an examination that facilitates participation by all, while creating a measure of proficiency and expertise that most specialists should aspire to attain" (Chung, Tadlock, Barone, et al., p. 322).

The new examination will no longer require patient cases but will include four sections: (a) Data gathering and diagnosis, (b) Treatment objectives and planning, (c) Treatment implementation and management, and (d) Critical analysis and outcomes assessment. It will also continue to examine case outcomes of the scenario-based examination by taking into account cast and radiograph evaluation, case management form, the discrepancy index and cephalometric superimpositions and analysis.

The written examination will not change; it will use the same layout and design of multiple-choice questions based upon clinical and biomedical sciences, in addition to orthodontics. Once the examinee has successfully completed a CODA-accredited orthodontic program of at least 18 months duration, he or she will be eligible to take the ABO written examination. The recertification process will remain the same, requiring a commitment to lifelong learning, continued clinical improvement, proficiency and self-evaluation.

Change is never easy; it is, however, vitally important for the survival of our profession and the integrity of each one of us. It is only through education that civilization can be advanced and problems solved. There are no teachers ... we are all learners. Once we begin to compromise our thoughts and become complacent, we become a product of mediocrity. Epistemic access to the future has unending possibilities. As the 17th century French philosopher René Descartes stated: "... under your velvet glove ... Cogito ergo sum" is roughly translated as "I think therefore I am."

The directors of the American Board of Orthodontics are a beacon of elegance and grace. They deserve much credit for their perseverance while swimming upstream in a sea of complexity with no shallow end but indeed, some unpopular opinions and resistance ... my hats off to all the directors!

References are available from the publisher.

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## ◀ SUPERHERO, Page 1

products and services, which can be found in aisle after aisle of the exhibit hall at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. Many companies are launching new products or updating existing offerings.

Ormco Corp. (booth No. 1017) is showcasing an extensive selection of product innovations, including its new Symetri Clear and Insignia twin appliances, the latest developments in the Damon System, advancements in retention technology and more.

At a news conference held in the company's booth Saturday morning, members of the industry press received an overview, learned about the various thought leaders who are on hand here in Washington to share their expertise with meeting attendees and had the opportunity to take part in hands-on demonstrations.

According to Ormco, Symetri Clear is the next generation of esthetically pleasing twin brackets made with advanced ceramic manufacturing technology. Backed by several years of dedicated research and development, Symetri Clear is made of polycrystalline-alumina and is designed for strength to withstand

forces applied during treatment. It features a low profile, and a proprietary laser-etched pad for reliable bonding and easy, non-destructive single-piece removal, the company said.

Also available from Ormco is Insignia, an award-winning platform that allows orthodontists to combine their treatment preferences with the precision of computer-aided smile design. Coming soon to the conventional twin market, Insignia provides improved predictabil-

ity, precision, efficiency and consistency, the company said.

At Henry Schein Orthodontics (booth No. 1401), meeting attendees can learn about the new Carriere SLX 3D self-ligating bracket system, which was created by a team of engineers and world-renowned practitioners Dr. Luis Carriere, Dr. Lou Chmura, Dr. Dave Paquette and Dr. Jep Paschal. According to the company, the new system offers beauty, comfort and extraordinary performance.

When it comes to optimizing a practice's performance, OrthoSynetics has a number of teams in place to help with marketing, consulting, procurement, patient insurance and collections, and financial analysis. You can stop by the company's booth (No. 2137) to pick up a free practice "boost box."

These are just some of the many offerings available on the show floor. The trade show is open today, tomorrow and Tuesday, so you still have plenty of time.



Matt Turner, president of Ormco Corp. (booth No. 1017), speaks to members of the industry press Saturday morning during a news conference. Photo: Courtesy of Ormco Corp.

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# Scenes from Saturday



Josh Somogyi, left, and Dan Elkin of Allure Ortho (booth No. 1552).



Kelly Baker, left, and Andrei Kovacs of Myofunctional Research Co. (booth No. 2052).



Rich Hofmann, left, and Adam Winik of Planmeca USA (booth No. 2233).



The gang at OrthoSynetics (booth No. 2137).



Jeanne Hyatt, left, and Heather Ten Broeck of Bracket Ears (booth No. 2348A).



The Walter E. Washington Convention Center is filled with orthodontic professionals Saturday morning, at the beginning of the 2018 AAO Annual Session.



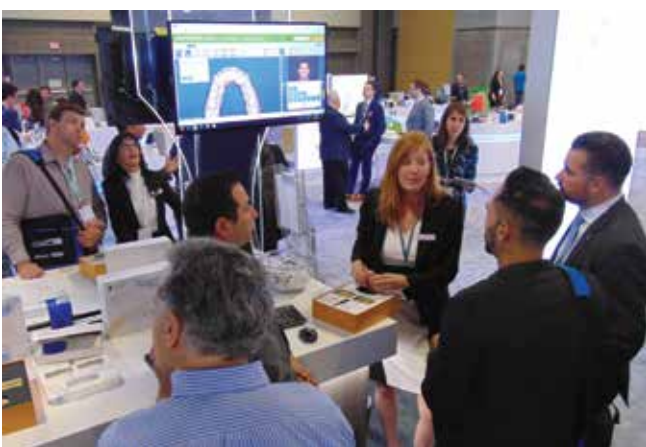
Dr. Dave Paquette offers a presentation on the digital ortho workflow Saturday morning at the Henry Schein Orthodontics booth (No. 1401).

**Photographs courtesy  
of the companies depicted**





From left: Lauren Smith, Dr. Amanda Wilson and Jason Gooden of Ortho-Tain/Healthy Start (booth No. 311).



Meeting attendees get more information about the SureSmile aligner system at the Dentsply Sirona Orthodontics booth (No. 901).



Scott Hudson, left, and Paul Gange of Reliance Orthodontic Products (booth No. 2221).



Lisa Hull, left, and LeAnn MacDonald of Shofu Dental Corp. (booth No. 324).



Salvatore Rayca, left, and Karyn Bena of Propel Orthodontics (booth No. 1915).



After courses let out Saturday morning, AAO attendees come down the escalators to the exhibit hall.



Dr. Mark Sanchez of topsOrtho (booth No. 1933)



Meeting participants attend an educational presentation at PracticeGenius (booth No. 2333).



Brett Kowald, left, and Suzanne Wilson of Ormco (booth No. 1017) demonstrate the company's new Symetri Clear brackets — which are so easy to debond that an Ortho Tribune editor can do it!