



Bond, FAO Bond.

# LICENSE TO LEAD

FAO Annual Session // March 5-7, 2026  
Renaissance Tampa International Plaza Hotel

# MISSION BRIEFING



Join your orthodontist colleagues March 5-7, 2026 at the Renaissance Tampa International Plaza Hotel for a thrilling, James Bond-themed weekend of education, connection, and celebration! You have special clearance to view the intelligence about this event across the following pages. Please review the agenda, speakers, and activities ... and accept the mission.

## The name's Bond. FAO Bond.

### LICENSED TO LEARN. BONDED FOR LIFE.

Whether you're perfecting the art of bonding brackets or building stronger bonds with your orthodontic team and colleagues, this year's FAO Annual Session promises to be a mission worth accepting. Expect dynamic sessions designed to enhance collaboration, and explore the latest tools and tech from industry leaders to elevate your practice.

### OPERATIVES OFFERING INTELLIGENCE

Every special agent (that's you!) relies on a team of operatives to arm them with the knowledge and tools needed to complete the mission. The FAO Annual Session is packed with speakers offering up to 10 hours of Continuing Education to help you build a better practice and better serve your patients.

### SWANKY SOIREEES GALORE



#### Thursday, March 5: License to Network

Networking event with exhibitors and attendees at the Renaissance. Details, page 7.

#### Friday, March 6: Exhibit Hall Happy Hour

After a full day of CE, it's time to relax, grab a cocktail, and enjoy some well-earned downtime. Connect with our amazing exhibitors and catch up with friends and colleagues from 4:30-5:30 pm.

#### Friday, March 6, 2026: Dinner & Awards

Join us for an unforgettable evening at the University Club in Downtown Tampa, featuring a stylish cocktail hour, elegant dinner, and our highly anticipated award presentation, where we

will honor the incomparable Dr. Andy Brown. Ladies, channel your inner Bond girl and dazzle in your finest evening wear. Gentlemen, it's time to suit up—think tuxedos, sharp suits, and spy-worthy swagger. Transportation will be provided, so all you need to bring is your best Bond attitude. Dress to kill. Celebrate in style. And prepare for a night of glamour, intrigue, and celebration.



## Registration is Open!

Scan the QR code or visit us online at [faortho.org](http://faortho.org) to register!

THANK YOU  
GOLD SPONSOR



## Meeting Details

Your registration fee includes up to 10 hours of continuing education, access to the exhibit hall, plus meals and networking events listed in the agenda. Fees:

- **Active Members:** \$400.00, everything included, when you register before February 20, 2026. (\$450.00 after)
- **Spouse/Guest Fee:** \$175.00 includes Thursday networking & Friday dinner
- **1st & 2nd Year Members:** \$0.00
- **Faculty:** \$175.00
- **Residents:** \$0.00 — If residents do not attend the meeting and do not cancel before the preregistration date of February 20, 2026, they will be charged a \$50.00 no show fee.
- **Retired Members:** \$175

**Hotel:** The FAO discounted room rate at the Renaissance Tampa International Plaza Hotel is \$255. The hotel is adjacent to International Plaza and is just minutes from downtown Tampa Bay, Raymond James Stadium, historic Ybor City, and the airport. Located at 4200 Jim Walter Blvd, Tampa, FL 33607. Hotel phone: (813) 877-9200.

### Pre-Registration & Late Fee:

You can register online and access the link to book your hotel at [www.faortho.org](http://www.faortho.org), or by scanning the QR code. It is the policy of the Florida Association of Orthodontists to charge an additional \$50.00 fee after the pre-registration date, which is one week prior to the meeting, on February 20, 2026.

### Refund and Cancellation Policy:

All requests for refunds or cancellations must be made in writing to the FAO prior to the pre-registration deadline, February 20, 2026. No refunds will be given if cancellation is received after the pre-registration deadline.

**Badges:** All pre-registered attendee badges will be available at meeting registration at the FAO registration desk.

### Questions:

Contact FAO's central office at 813-903-8811 or email [info@faortho.org](mailto:info@faortho.org).



# The Schedule

## Thursday, March 5, 2026

7:00 pm

Registration Opens

7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

License to Network Event

## Friday, March 6, 2026

7:30 am – 8:30 am

Registration, Exhibits and Coffee

8:00 am – 9:00 am

*Mastering the Brain Algorithm for Intentional Living and Success*

Mr. Neo Positivity

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

*The Broken Bracket: Building Strong Teams and Stronger Practice*

Dr. Enrique Cruz

12:00 pm – 12:30 pm

FAO Business Meeting

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

Lunch

1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

*What is Pediatric Sleep Disorder Breathing, and Why Should We Care?*

Dr. Michael K. DeLuke

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Exhibit Hall Happy Hour

6:30 pm

Transportation to the University Club

7:00 pm – 10:30 pm

Dinner at the University Club

## Saturday, March 7, 2026

7:30 am – 9:00 am

Coffee and Exhibits

7:30 am – 9:00 am

Expanded Duties Meeting

9:00 am – 10:00 am

*Strategy, Adaptability and Charisma: Leadership Lessons from Spies*

Dr. John Metz

10:15 am – 11:15 am

*Chairside Direction for Digitally Guided Ortho*

Mr. Paul Gange Jr.

11:30 am – 12:30 pm

*The Art of the Conversation: Becoming the Patient Detective (Mastering Conversations, Not Consultations)*

Mrs. Shelley Bostrom

12:30 pm – 1:00 pm

Lunch

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

*Risk Management for Orthodontists*  
Ms. Elizabeth Franklin



## Mission: Success

No hero does it alone. We assembled a terrific team of professionals who are ready to deliver the information, intelligence and analysis you need to succeed.

### Mastering the Brain Algorithm for Intentional Living and Success

Mr. Neo Positivity

Friday March 6, 8:00 am – 9:00 am

In this transformational keynote, Neo Positivity reveals the mindset structure that powers every breakthrough. Drawing from



real-world experience and brain science, he shows how to identify and reprogram the mental algorithms behind your daily decisions, actions, and results. This isn't about motivation or hype, it's about doing the internal reps that rewire your thinking, strengthen your belief in what's possible, and sustain real change from the inside out.

You'll learn how to proactively shift from lack to abundance, stress to clarity, and self-doubt to certainty regardless of your current circumstances. These techniques aren't just for you; they create a ripple effect. By becoming the example of what's possible, you'll empower your team, your clients, and even your family to upgrade their thought processes too.

Whether you lead a team, sell a product, or manage both a career and a household, this keynote gives you the internal tools to elevate every area of your life and stay elevated.

### The Broken Bracket: Building Strong Teams and Stronger Practice

Dr. Enrique Cruz | 2.5 CE hours

Friday March 6, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Every orthodontic practice experiences its "broken brackets," the setbacks, stress points, and daily challenges that test the strength of your team. In this presentation, Dr.



Enrique Cruz shares how turning those challenges into opportunities can transform both culture and business outcomes.

This course will explore practical strategies for hiring the right team members, developing and retaining talent, and creating a culture of trust and collaboration. Attendees will learn how to strengthen team bonds, foster accountability, and align everyone toward shared goals that drive both clinical excellence and practice growth.

While the focus is on team culture and business management, Dr. Cruz will also highlight how thoughtful use of social media can support practice branding and staff engagement without overwhelming teams and make it easy for doctors.

Orthodontists will leave this session with a roadmap for transforming the "broken brackets" in their own practices into powerful opportunities for growth, unity, and long-term success.



## What is Pediatric Sleep Disorder Breathing & Why Should We Care?

Dr. Michael K. DeLuke | 2.5 CE hours  
Friday, March 6, 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Pediatric sleep-disordered breathing (pSDB) sits at the intersection of airway physiology and craniofacial growth—squarely within the orthodontist's scope. In this evidence-based lecture, Dr. DeLuke explains what pSDB is, why nasal breathing matters, and how chronic mouth breathing can alter growth and function and, ultimately, lead to obstructive sleep apnea (OSA). Attendees will learn what to look for chairside and on imaging (cephalometric and CBCT patterns), how to interpret studies within their limitations, and why AHI should not be the sole determinant of disease presence or severity in children. Common comorbidities—neurocognitive/behavioral, cardiovascular-metabolic, and dentofacial—are tied back to practical decision-making and timing.

The course emphasizes early detection and treatment, a streamlined in-office screening workflow, and clear referral pathways to dental, medical, and myofunctional therapy colleagues. Dr. DeLuke also reviews indications and timing for orthodontic interventions—such as transverse maxillary expansion in the early mixed dentition—as one component of coordinated, interdisciplinary care aimed at supporting nasal breathing, improving airway patency, and decreasing the likelihood that a child will develop obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) in the future. Multiple references and real-world cases illustrate how timely diagnosis and collaboration can change the trajectory of our preadolescent patients' health and development.

## Strategy, Adaptability and Charisma: Leadership Lessons from Spies

Dr. John Metz | 1 CE hour  
Saturday, March 7, 9:00 am – 10:00 am

What can the world of espionage teach us about leadership in an orthodontic practice? A lot more than you'd think. In this engaging, unconventional lecture, Dr. John Metz will draw practical insights from two famous cinematic spies: Mission Impossible's Ethan Hunt and the legendary Bond, James Bond. Their personal styles are decidedly different, and their individual approaches to the mission at hand are distinct. Yet, each saves the day in the end. While orthodontics and espionage may seem worlds apart, both demand calm under pressure, precise planning, adaptability and influence—all of which are essential in operating a thriving practice. As we compare Bond with Hunt, you'll learn what it means to lead with strategy, manage complexity, and make confident decisions. Great leaders don't just manage—they inspire, adapt and lead with purpose.



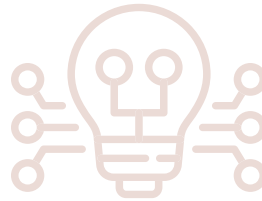
## License to Network

Thursday, March 5, 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm  
La Fuente, at the Renaissance Hotel

The Florida Association of Orthodontists invites you to an unforgettable night of style, sophistication, and strategic connections at **License to Network**, a James Bond-themed networking event designed for orthodontic professionals and exhibitors hosted in the center courtyard at the Renaissance Tampa International Plaza Hotel.

Step into the world of 007, where clinical excellence meets covert charm, and join fellow doctors, industry experts, and leading exhibitors for an evening filled with high-level conversation, collaboration, and of course — Bond-worthy elegance.

Whether you're here to explore the latest innovations in orthodontics or simply connect over a martini (shaken, not stirred), this event promises to be equal parts professional and playful.





## SPECIAL OPERATIVES

2026 Annual Session

### Chairside Direction for Digitally Guided Ortho

Mr. Paul Gange Jr. | 1 CE hour  
Saturday, March 7, 10:15 am – 11:15 am

Indirect bonding is arguably the most effective way to reduce chair time; throw in the most recent technology of digitally guided IDB and now we're talking EFFICIENCY. Printed metal appliances? No separators? Not just magic in production, but magic in reducing labor and chairtime. How far are you willing to commit to the digital revolution? With most recent concerns about labor shortages in the Ortho office, reducing chairtime is of paramount concern. Achievable in both digitally guided and "old school" in-house IDB - this lecture will serve as an all encompassing review of both custom and clean base indirect bonding protocols. Combining his clinical chairside experience and extensive knowledge of proper tooth preparation - Paul has organized a thorough road map to navigate the world of IDB!



- Attendees will leave with a thorough understanding of the pros/cons of clean vs. custom base IDB
- Attendees will gain insight as to the most popular techniques in IDB from lab work to the digitally guided revolution
- Attendees will achieve a better understanding of the workflows in IDB when presented with bonding to non-enamel substrates
- Attendees will thoroughly comprehend the intricacies of bonding to artificial substrates while incorporating the digital processes

### The Art of the Conversation: Becoming the Patient Detective (Mastering Conversations, Not Consultations)

Mrs. Shelley Bostrom | 1 CE hour  
Saturday, March 7, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Shelley Bostrom will deliver an insightful session on how to transform every new patient interaction from a scripted consultation into a genuine conversation built on trust and connection. The most successful Treatment Coordinators and doctors think like detectives—gathering clues, asking the right questions, and personalizing every step of the journey to convert shoppers into confident, committed patients. The presentation explores four key phases designed to elevate the new patient experience from the very first impression:



- **Pre-Consultation Sleuthing:** Success begins before the patient walks through the door. Learn how to use the initial phone call and intake process to uncover interests, motivations, and decision factors that shape the experience and mindset.
- **The New Patient Experience:** Personalization builds confidence and trust. Shelley shares strategies to create "wow" moments through thoughtful details that make every visit memorable and unique.
- **The Consultation Conversation:** Move away from pitching braces or aligners. Use detective-style questions to create a collaborative dialogue where patients feel part of the mission and outcome—making it easy to say "yes."
- **Overcoming Objections with Ease:** Decode hesitation with empathy and insight, positioning yourself as a solution creator rather than a salesperson.

Attendees will leave equipped to master human psychology, deepen patient connection, and transform first impressions into lasting relationships that drive practice growth and boost conversion well above industry standards.

### Risk Management for Orthodontists

Ms. Elizabeth Franklin | 2 CE hours  
Saturday, March 7, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Orthodontists work hard to create beautiful smiles and give their patients healthy teeth. When something goes wrong, when a patient or parent is dissatisfied and files a malpractice claim or regulatory complaint, it is discouraging and stressful to the doctor. Attend this program to learn which areas of practice/treatment currently cause the greatest risk and how to make changes that will minimize exposure. This risk management program is sponsored by The American Association of Orthodontists Insurance Company (RRG). The speakers will be Dr Chris Roberts, the chairman of the AAOIC Claims Committee and Elizabeth Franklin, AAOIC claims manager. Both speakers have significant experience handling, evaluating and settling orthodontic malpractice claims.



\*AAOIC (RRG) insureds will earn a 10% Professional Liability premium discount for two years by attending this entire session.

#### Learning Objectives:

- Learn to create good quality and detailed orthodontic records that will enhance patient care and provide maximum defense if a claim is filed
- Learn why obtaining informed consent is critical to your defense if a claim is filed. See the multiple informed consent documents available to achieve that protection
- Learn how effective communication helps to achieve patient/parent satisfaction and how to communicate effectively with patients/parents, staff and other treating practitioners to minimize or prevent malpractice allegations

## Registration is Open!



Scan the QR code or visit  
us online at [faortho.org](https://faortho.org).

# LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR MEETING SPEAKERS

## **Mrs. Shelley Bostrom**

Shelley Bostrom, owner and founder of Align My Practice, is deeply passionate about empowering doctors and their teams to not only excel in their roles but to truly thrive—both personally and professionally. Her mission is to cultivate a culture where passion meets purpose, where exceptional patient care merges seamlessly with operational excellence, and where sustainable practice growth becomes the natural result. Working primarily with private orthodontic practices, Shelley also partners with pediatric and general dentistry offices seeking to integrate orthodontics, clear aligner systems, or airway-focused treatment modalities into their services. Her tailored consulting, training, and coaching programs are designed to assess each practice's current standing, amplify its strengths, and collaborate with teams to elevate their standards. Whether through onsite coaching or virtual training, her approach helps practices build patient loyalty, strengthen community presence, and ignite growth from within.

## **Dr. Enrique Cruz**

Dr. Enrique Cruz is a dual-trained specialist in orthodontics and periodontics based in Austin, Texas, where he practices with his wife, Dr. Mahya Farnia. He completed a six-year residency at the Indiana University School of Dentistry. Dr. Cruz is a part-time faculty member in the orthodontics residency program at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. He is the past president of the Texas Association of Orthodontists and past member of the Communications Committee of the Southwest Society of Orthodontists. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of the American Association of Orthodontists, advocating for the profession. With over 2 million followers on social media, Dr. Cruz actively engages with the public, promoting dental health and orthodontic care.

## **Dr. Michael K. DeLuke**

Dr. Michael K. DeLuke obtained his DDS from SUNY Stony Brook, where he graduated as class valedictorian and was inducted into Omicron Kappa Upsilon. He obtained his Certificate of Proficiency in Orthodontics and Master of Dental Science (MDS) from the University of Connecticut, serving as Chief Resident in his final year. Dr. DeLuke is a Diplomate of the American

Board of Orthodontics, served as the orthodontist on the prestigious Cleft Craniofacial Team at Albany Medical Center, served as a clinical professor at Ellis Hospital, the University of Connecticut, and Nova Southeastern University, and is currently a visiting professor at Montefiore School of Dental Medicine in the Department of Orthodontics. Dr. DeLuke founded, owned, and operated DeLuke Orthodontics in Upstate NY from 2005–2023, and launched DeLuke Orthodontic Coaching in 2022 with the mission of helping his colleagues succeed both personally and professionally. Dr. DeLuke has lectured at numerous regional and national meetings over the past 20 years, has published articles in multiple orthodontic journals, and sits on the editorial board of Orthotown Magazine. He is the creator and host of The DOC Podcast.

## **Ms. Elizabeth Franklin**

Elizabeth Franklin is the claims manager at AAO Services, Inc. She and her staff handle the orthodontic malpractice claims for AAOC. She has worked in the property-casualty insurance claims field for more than 35 years; she has managed orthodontic malpractice claims for AAOC for over 20 years. During her claims-handling career, litigation has significantly escalated. The population's claims-consciousness and penchant to sue has precipitated some of the myriad risks faced by professionals who are attempting to run a successful and claim-free practice. Because her specialty is orthodontic malpractice, she is uniquely qualified to relate current trends and to observe the practice situations that appear to expose doctors to the claims and lawsuits that are being filed.

## **Mr. Paul Gange Jr.**

Paul Gange Jr. is the Vice President of Reliance Orthodontic Products. He has become a leader in resolving difficult technical bonding issues through countless chair-side hours training clinical staff. His passion for research and development has created 12 new Reliance products over the past 10 years and aided numerous research projects. Paul is a published author, lectures internationally at numerous universities, study clubs, constituent meetings as well as the AAO for the past 9 years. His greatest fulfillment comes from hands-on training for doctors and staff in private offices.

## **Dr. John Metz**

Dr. John Metz runs a successful orthodontics practice in Land O' Lakes, where he helps kids, teens and adults achieve their best aesthetic and functional smiles. He currently teaches at the University of Florida (UF) College of Dentistry as a Courtesy Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Orthodontics, where he is proud to give back to his alma mater, having served as UF's Chief Resident during his 3-year orthodontic residency. He is passionate about sharing his knowledge with new orthodontists and is committed to a lifetime of learning and involvement in professional organizations where he has been consistently selected to serve in leadership roles. He served as president of the Florida Association of Orthodontists for 2023-2024, and president of the West Pasco Dental Association from 2014-2015. He is currently part of the Southern Society of Orthodontists Committee on Annual Meeting Planning, having served as its chairman from 2022-2024, and served on the AAO's Council on Orthodontic Health Care from 2016-2022. He earned his Doctorate of Dental Medicine degree, and his Master of Science degree in Dental Sciences with a concentration in Orthodontics at UF. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Indiana University.

## **Mr. Neo Positivity**

Neo Positivity is an international award-winning keynote speaker, mindset coach, and founder of the Thoughts Become Things movement. Trained by Hall of Fame speaker Dr. Delatorro McNeal II, who also mentored Les Brown, Neo specializes in helping people reprogram the brain's automatic thought patterns to improve confidence, clarity, and performance. He's helped professionals across industries experience real change through practical mindset tools that stick. In a short time, in dentistry, his work contributed to a historic drop in suicide and depression rates, proving how powerful his methods can be in the real world. Neo has been featured on more than 200 podcasts, over 2000 live stream interviews, hosted 13 virtual summits, and has produced 5 Super Bowl rings. His message leaves audiences inspired, equipped, and thinking differently long after the mic drops.