

**TAO****TEXAS
ASSOCIATION OF
ORTHODONTISTS**

About us

The Texas Association of Orthodontists is a professional organization of specialists committed to maintaining the highest standards of orthodontic care for the benefit and well-being of our patients throughout the state of Texas. As an organization, we are dedicated to advocating for our members and providing services that benefit their pursuit of professional excellence.

TAO Board Members 2024-2025

TAO is one of five components (Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas and west Louisiana) of the Southwest Society of Orthodontists (SWSO) which is a constituent of the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO). To become a TAO member, an orthodontist has to complete an AAO membership application.

Current Membership

- **1040** TAO members
- **632** active members
- **2** foreign-trained academic members
- **71** life members
- **14** service members
- **87** student members
- **234** retired members

- **President** - Dr. Enrique Cruz
- **President-Elect** - Dr. Ralph Brock II (filling vacancy until September 2024)
- **Vice-President** - Dr. Ralph Brock II
- **Secretary-Treasurer** - Dr. Meredith Scott
- **Immediate Past President** - Dr. Andrea Font Rytzner
- **Director** - Dr. John Garza
- **Director** - Dr. Hidayat Nagori
- **Director** - Dr. Ryan Reyes
- **Director** - Dr. Diana-Beatrix Velicu
- **Executive Director** - Mollie Pillman



Meet our TAO Members



Dr. Enrique Cruz - President

Dr. Enrique Cruz is originally from Juchitlan, Oaxaca, Mexico. He immigrated to the United States soon after graduating and continued his studies at the University of Indiana. In 2012, he graduated with his master's degree in Dental Sciences with a double specialization in Periodontics and Orthodontic and Dentofacial Genetics.

Dr. Cruz along with his wife Dr. Mahya Farnia, founded Sonrisas Dental Center in the Cedar Park area of Austin, TX in May of 2014. Their main focus is offering their patients amazing service and care in a multispecialty environment. He is also a professor of orthodontics at the University of Texas Health Science Center of San Antonio, where he emphasizes the importance of the relationship between Periodontics and Orthodontics to treat complex cases in an interdisciplinary way.

On weekends and in his personal time, he loves being with his family. He has two beautiful daughters and one son. He is also active in the community and encourages kids to pursue an education through the Sonrisas Foundation, which he and his wife have founded.



Dr. Ralph Brock II - Vice-President

A native Texan, Dr. Brock is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, where he received his Bachelor's degree in Chemistry. He earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN, and his Master of Sciences degree and Certificate in Orthodontics from the Texas A&M Health Sciences Baylor College of Dentistry in Dallas, TX. Dr. Brock founded his private practice in Katy, TX in 2003 and enjoys creating great smiles for great people.

In addition to his private practice, Dr. Brock is an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Orthodontics at the Texas A&M Health Sciences Baylor College of Dentistry and a Clinical Associate Professor of Orthodontics at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Dentistry. Dr. Brock is a board-certified orthodontist and diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics. A dedicated husband and father of three awesome boys, Dr. Brock actively participates in civic, fraternal, and church activities.



Dr. Meredith Scott - Secretary-Treasurer

Before becoming a practicing orthodontist, Dr. Meredith Scott received her Bachelor of Science in biomedical science from Texas A&M University, then went on to complete a Doctorate of Dental Surgery with honors at the University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston. She pursued a Master of Science in dentistry and orthodontic residency at Saint Louis University in St. Louis, MO, and since 2013 has been a part-time Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Orthodontics at Texas A&M University Baylor College of Dentistry. Dr. Scott is a board-certified orthodontist and a member of the American Association of Orthodontists. She completes continuing education courses each year through organizations such as the Graduate Departments of Orthodontics at Saint Louis University and the University of Texas. Dr. Scott also attends private study club meetings to provide the best possible treatment outcome using the most advanced techniques. She has participated in the Texas Orthodontic Study Club, quarterly meetings with Water's Edge Orthodontic Study Club, and monthly meetings with the Ninth District Dental Society.

Dr. Scott is now in private practice at Scott Orthodontics in Webster, TX. She resides in Friendswood with her husband and two kids. As a way of giving back to her community, Dr. Scott gives talks at local elementary schools and also provides booster support to patients' extra-curricular activities, and sponsors many school sports and dance teams.



Dr. Andrea Font Rytzner - Immediate Past-President

Dr. Andrea Font grew up in Palma de Mallorca, an island off the coast of Spain in the Mediterranean Sea. She graduated from dental school at the University Complutense of Madrid after finishing an exchange year at Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, Germany. Dr. Font continued her education at Case Western Reserve University where she obtained her Master's Degree and completed a three-year specialty orthodontic program.

Dr. Font is visiting faculty at Case Western Reserve University and teaches at UT Health in San Antonio's Developmental Dentistry graduate program. She is also an active member of the prestigious Angle Midwest Society.

Dr. Font's favorite hobbies include traveling, hiking, cooking, and hanging out with her little rescue dog. San Antonio weather reminds Dr. Font of her hometown in Spain.



Dr. John Garza - Director

Dr. John Garza is a native Texan from the Houston area. He attended the University of Houston and graduated with a degree in Business Management. It was there that he found his true calling in dentistry as the dental field would allow him to use his talents to help improve the lives of others.

After attending the University of Texas Dental Branch where he received his DDS degree, Dr. Garza furthered his education by completing the Advanced Education in General Dentistry Program at the same institution. Dr. Garza graduated at the top of his dental class and decided to specialize in the field of Orthodontics. He would go on to complete the Orthodontics Program at the University of Texas School of Dentistry. There he earned his Master's Degree while completing research in orthodontic pediatric devices.

Dr. Garza has a passion for teaching and has held a faculty position in the Restorative and Prosthodontics Department at the UT School of Dentistry. He is currently a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Orthodontics Department at UT. When not practicing orthodontics, Dr. Garza can be found spending time with his wife, children, and family dogs. He also enjoys spending time restoring classic cars.



Dr. Hidayat Nagori - Director

Board-certified orthodontist Dr. Hidayat Nagori graduated from dental school in India in 2006. He practiced general dentistry for a year and a half before deciding to move to the United States in 2007. He attended Cleveland State University and received his master's in public health in 2010, and then went on to graduate from an orthodontic fellowship program at the Case Western Reserve University School of Orthodontics in 2012. That same year, he joined the Jacksonville University School of Orthodontics residency program.

Dr. Nagori holds a Bachelor's degree in dental surgery, a Master's degree in public health, a Post-doctorate degree certificate in orthodontics & dentofacial orthopedics, and a Certificate in orthodontic fellowship.

When he's not in the office, Dr. Nagori enjoys playing tennis, participating in various community events, trail running, and biking. He also serves as editor of a prestigious journal and has published several articles in internationally recognized orthodontics journals.



Dr. Ryan Reyes - Director

Dr. Ryan Reyes is a proud Texan and South Texas native, as his upbringing in the Rio Grande Valley was a strong influence on his love for mariachi music and breakfast tacos. He studied chemistry at the University of Texas at Austin and was an avid trumpet player in the UT Longhorn Band, as well as the university's jazz and mariachi groups.

Dr. Reyes then attended The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, where he received both his DDS degree in 2013 and his specialty certificate in Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics in 2016. He also received a Master of Science in Orthodontics for his research in the area of craniofacial growth and development. During residency, Dr. Reyes met his wife, Dr. Alessandra Chacon – a Venezuelan native and co-resident. Together, they opened their own private practice in Dr. Reyes's hometown of Laredo – The Smile Shoppe Orthodontic Specialists. Dr. Reyes and Dr. Chacon also work as clinical faculty for UT Health San Antonio School of Dentistry's pediatric dentistry residency program at the Laredo Health Department.

When Dr. Reyes and his wife aren't creating beautiful smiles, they are spending time with their sweet, energetic, and fun-loving daughters, Sophie and Emily. Together, they enjoy RV trips, movie nights, and family hugs. Dr. Reyes is an accomplished chef and musician, and he also enjoys building computers and restoring classic video game consoles. He credits his parents and numerous local mentors for sparking his never-ending desire to pursue his dreams, and he hopes to someday inspire others in the same way.



Dr. Diana-Beatrix Velicu - Director

Dr. Diana-Beatrix Velicu is a board-certified orthodontist practicing in Plano, TX. She is originally from Lupeni, a small town in Transylvania, Romania. Dr. Velicu graduated from Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Bucharest in 2017. Right after graduation, she immigrated to the United States to continue her specialty program in Orthodontics and M.S. in Oral Biology at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) where she served as a Chief Resident, and graduated in 2021.

Dr. Velicu was involved in leadership from early on in her career. Additionally, she was named on the Forbes 30 under 30 list in Romania (2021), won the Romanian Student of the Year in North America, Best Medical Student in Romania, Best Student in Romania, and was a Finalist for the Eugene E. Gottlieb JCO Student of the Year awards.

When she's not improving smiles, Dr. Velicu enjoys alpine skiing and has even competed on the Romanian National and Olympic teams. Don't be surprised to find Dr. Velicu dining around Dallas to sample new cuisine or heading for the airport to travel to new places!



Mollie Pillman - Executive Director

Mollie Pillman has over fifteen years of professional experience in creating and communicating member and customer value. She is a passionate, resourceful leader who enjoys setting strategic direction, solving complex problems through innovation, and working collaboratively to achieve measurable results.

Mollie is the current SVP of Member Engagement at the American College of Emergency Physicians, where she is responsible for the strategic assessment, development, and implementation of programs designed to create a professional home for emergency medicine physicians. Her previous roles included SVP of Member Services at the American Osteopathic Association, Chief Membership Officer at the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Senior Director of Strategy & Transformation at the American Health Information Management Association, and additional operational leadership and project management positions.

Mollie holds an M.B.A. from DePaul University specializing in Leadership and Change Management, an M.S. in Health Systems Management from Rush University, a B.S. in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin, Lean/Six Sigma Black Belt certification, and is a Certified Association Executive. She is committed to lifelong learning and to serving as a mentor to future leaders.

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TAO Members Photos

