



Dr. Zahra Najirad

Over the years, one of the most important things I have learned is that being experienced does not mean always having the answer. In complex cases, I may start with a strong opinion, but I have learned to listen carefully, question my own assumptions and change my position when another perspective or new information leads to a better decision for the patient. That is the approach I would bring to RCDSO Council. I have practised orthodontics for more than 14 years and have taught dental students at the University of Toronto since 2016. My work involves children and adults, complex interdisciplinary care, and close collaboration with other dental professionals. I have also taught and worked in different countries and educational systems, which has given me an appreciation for how differently people can approach the same problem. Teaching has probably shaped me as much as clinical practice. Students ask questions, challenge ideas and force you to explain why you believe something. It has made me a better listener and has reminded me that good decisions come from thoughtful discussion, not simply from the most confident voice in the room. I am interested in serving on Council because public trust matters. Regulation should be fair, thoughtful, evidence-informed and accountable, while continuing to evolve with health care and the needs of the public. I would bring clinical judgment, curiosity, an academic perspective and a collaborative approach to Council. I am comfortable asking difficult questions, equally comfortable listening to the answers, and willing to change my mind when the evidence or another perspective shows me a better path.