**Sit down and settle in**

If there’s one thing you can be sure of when you attend an AAO Annual Session, it’s that the quality of the learning experience will be top-notch, and this year is no exception.

On hand this weekend are renowned lecturers addressing traditional topics, such as Class II and Class III treatment, biomechanics, anchorage/TADs and esthetics. Other lecture series will cover newer and diverse topics, such as 3-D printing/in-house aligners, finishing, sleep apnea, retention/lingual orthodontics and impacted canines/missing teeth.

Highlights will include the 2019 Salzmann, Angle and Mershon lectures as well as one special lecture being held as a memorium.

**Jacob A. Salzmann Lecture**
Dr. Hugo De Clerck will present the 2019

**Director Ron Howard to headline 2019 Excellence in Orthodontics Awards**

Howard has created some of Hollywood’s most memorable films, from the critically acclaimed dramas “A Beautiful Mind” and “Apollo 13” to the hit comedies “Parenthood” and “Splash” and holiday favorite “How the Grinch Stole Christmas.” His work includes “Cinderella Man” starring Oscar winner Russell Crowe, for which Howard earned an Oscar for Best Director and which also won awards for Best Picture, Best Screenplay and Best Supporting Actress.

Many of Howard’s other films have also received nods from the academy, including “Backdraft,” “Parenthood” and “Cocon,” the last of which took home two Oscars.

Howard began his career in film as an actor, first appearing in “The Journey” and “The Music Man,” then as Opie on the long-running television series “The Andy Griffith Show.” He later starred in the popular series “Happy Days” and drew favorable reviews for his performances in “American Graffiti” and “The Shootist.”

(Source: American Association of Orthodontics)
If I Don’t Sleep No One Sleeps

- Snoring
- Nightmares
- Bed Wetting
- Sleep Issues
- ADD / ADHD
- Difficulty in School
- Dark Circles Under Eyes
- Swollen Adenoids / Tonsils
- Sleep Issues
- Restless Sleep
- Crowded Teeth
- Delayed Growth
- Mouth Breathing
- Overbite / Overjet
- Aggressive Behavior
- Daytime Drowsiness

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Orthodontist burnout

By Dennis J. Tartakow, DMD, MD, EdD, PhD, Editor in Chief, Ortho Tribune, U.S. Edition

According to Boyers (2012), education is the single greatest catalyst for lasting change in our society, and the author suggests committing ourselves, as well as helping others gain access, to quality education. It is one of the best ways for sustained personal and professional success.

However, it is no secret that orthodontists’ job dissatisfaction is soaring to unprecedented levels as a result of removable aligner therapy from general dentists guided by laboratories, now even the patient directs and controls his/her orthodontic treatment from over-the-counter marketing companies without any professional supervision. Peck (2018) so adroitly stated: “It makes a retired orthodontist with a long memory wonder, when did we go astray as a learned, university- and hospital-affiliated, clinical scientific group, and why? Also, what have we missed along the way? Why is the orthodontic industry now doing a lot of our thinking? Did we do it to ourselves or have we been subtly manipulated into a changed perception?” (p 672)

The practice environment is becoming more difficult to provide compassionate, high-quality care for patients (Van Dyke, 2019). There appears to have at least six symptoms of orthodontists’ burnout: (a) feelings of contempt, (b) loss of zeal, zest and enthusiasm for work, (c) increasing competition, (d) passive pressure from social media comments, (e) excessive documentation and (f) general feelings of malaise.

The doctor-patient relationship becomes more threatened by the insurer and/or employer-provider relationship. Contempt is difficult to elude and circumvent as employers change insurers, insurers change physician groups and patients are required to change physicians as a result of insurer-employer renegotiations. This often results in doctors having to accept reduced fees for services. All this leads to motivation, which can also contribute to what is driving clinical burnout in orthodontics. Norton (2018) noted: “... autonomy, mastery, and purpose to be drivers of intrinsic motivation. But we also experience the human factors, friction, and uncertainty in a highly complex delivery and reimbursement structure. This reality demands grit and resilience to sustain the high standards of excellence and compassion necessary for delivering personalized care.” (p 3)

Retaining such valued resources as improved patient care and appreciated, high-valued staff is also waning.

The realization that these workload pressures have a direct contribution to clinical burnout is apparent (Tartakow, 2010). The proliferation of imperfect treatment performance is also quite obvious, which is not peripheral to patient care but rather the bullseye of the target. Less clear is how to successfully address this raging epidemic. Promoting an ethical practice environment is omnipotent. A holistic approach to care that ensures the orthodontist, as well as the patient and family have a voice in the treatment plan, is underlying in resolving ethical conflict. Maybe it is time and necessary for a “third-party” to help sort out what appears to have become not only a basis for clinical burnout but, in some instances, an underlying ethical dilemma.

Emergent policies, regulations and possibly legal intervention are necessary to solve what has become an ethical and moral crisis in our profession. We cannot change what history has already written; we can only change ourselves and begin with unsure hands to write a new chapter.

As Peck stated: “... all this may help assure the best destiny for the specialty of orthodontics. And for those of us who care deeply about it, that will mean a lot.” (p 674)

References


An anthropologist with a PhD degree, Buschang is regents professor and director of orthodontic research at Texas A&M University Baylor College of Dentistry. He has published more than 260 peer-reviewed articles, numerous book chapters and several books.

John Valentine Mershon Lecture

The 2019 Mershon lecture will be given by Dr. Gregg Huang, a professor and chair of the orthodontic department at the University of Washington School of Dentistry. Huang will present “Results from the National Dental PBRN Adult Anterior Openbite Study,” at 2:10 p.m. today in Room LACC 150/151.

Huang led the AAO Practice Based Research Network Committee, formed in 2013 to encourage orthodontic research in network settings. The adult anterior openbite study was the first project to be approved, and the AAO began recruiting member participants in 2015. Huang’s lecture will include results of the study.

In memorandum

Following the recent passing of Dr. William Proffit, the 2019 Annual Session Planning Committee designated the lecture period during which Proffit was to speak as the William R. Proffit Memorial Lecture (10:20 a.m. Sunday in Room LACC 409). Dr. Kevin O’Brien of Manchester, United Kingdom, has accepted an invitation to give the lecture and will present, “Standing on the Shoulders of a Giant: A Retrospective on Bill Proffit.”