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Interdisciplinary Concepts Corner

Editor's Note: The Journal will be highlighting certain programs offered that feature Roth Williams or related treatment ideas and concepts, emphasizing interdisciplinary cases. In this first Interdisciplinary Concepts Corner, we are featuring the FACEtx program, courtesy of RWISO members Dr. Straty Righellis and Dr. Doug Knight. We hope you enjoy this feature and your feedback is welcome.

Functional and Cosmetic Excellence: FACEtx

Functional and Cosmetic Excellence (FACE Tx™) is an approach to orthodontic treatment that establishes measurable treatment goals for six elements that form the basis of comprehensive, interdisciplinary, high-quality orthodontic care. These are:

- functional occlusion;
- TMJ health;
- facial balance;
- optimal dento-gingival esthetics (smile design);
- periodontal health and
- stability.

For each of these goals, the originators of the FACE Tx™ discipline have defined specific elements that create a framework for the systematic evaluation of the esthetic and functional needs of each patient and a method to assess treatment results. These treatment goals are supported by reputable studies published in well-respected, peer-reviewed journals. Sharing these goals and the means to achieve them with an interdisciplinary team—the orthodontist, the dentist and/or other specialist(s)—provides an orthodontist an opportunity to work with colleagues to create outstanding results.

Developing the skillsets required to manage and function within FACE Tx interdisciplinary treatment teams increases the complexity of cases one can treat. The collaborative interaction with experts in their respective fields (prosthodontists, periodontists, cosmetic and general dentists and surgeons), who ascribe to the same principles of tooth positioning and jaw function, creates a knowledge base to treat to predictable, on-time, optimal results while meeting and/or exceeding patients' expectations.

Worldwide Program of Instruction

FACE Tx offers one of the world's only postgraduate interdisciplinary continuing educational programs. Offered in numerous countries to university-trained orthodontists, it provides didactic instruction and hands-on experience. Through a series of 5 to 7 one-week sessions, a team of established educators and practitioners convey this unique curriculum.

The FACE Tx teaching staff builds on each participating clinician's knowledge base. The full-time faculty—Drs. Jorge Ayala (Santiago, Chile), Renato Cocconi (Parma, Italy), L. Douglas Knight (Kentucky, USA), Domingo Martin (San Sebastian, Spain), Jeffrey McClendon (New York, USA), Straty Righellis (California, USA), and Carl Roy (Virginia, USA)—all manage active private practices and have extensive educational and clinical experience. The teaching faculty combines considerable years of skills and knowledge to formulate the FACE Tx approach to diagnosis, treatment planning and execution.

Defining Functional Occlusion, Smile Esthetics and Facial Balance

A number of orthodontic disciplines specify functional occlusion as a primary treatment goal, but few articulate criteria for its measurement or, for that matter, incorporate gnathological measurement protocols. Dr. Domingo Martin defines functional occlusion by what it is as well as what it is not.

Functional occlusion is not a definition of tooth position but rather describes a dental and articular position. The criteria for an optimal occlusion is to have even and simultaneous contacts of all possible teeth when the mandibular condyles are in their most superoanterior position, resting against the posterior slopes of the articular eminences with the discs properly placed; that is, when the teeth and the joints are in harmony. The mutually protected occlusion is a centered condyle in the jaw joint, maxillary lingual cusps seated into corresponding mandibular fossae and at least 3 to 4 mm of incisal overbite.—Dr. Domingo Martin

While functional occlusion serves as the foundation for the FACE Tx approach, the discipline further differentiates itself by integrating facial balance with dento-gingival esthetics for a comprehensive approach to diagnosis, treatment

planning and execution. Dr. Renato Cocconi and surgeon Dr. Micro Raffaini, have analyzed the standards for optimal facial balance and dento-gingival esthetics and have quantified the relationship of the inclination of the upper incisors with the alar base and the pedestal of the nose. These elements are important diagnostic findings for the development of specific treatment goals and metrics to assess the esthetic quality of treatment results. Dr. Jorge Ayala has quantified the range of optimal facial balancing elements of various ethnicities, which is essential to strengthening our ability to apply the highest standards of care across various cultures. From this data, he developed the first VTO- and STO- based orthodontic and orthognathic surgery treatment planning systems that incorporate soft tissue. From this research and these practicing orthodontists, along with the other clinicians in the group, comes a refreshing approach to lifelong learning that is not only didactic, but clinically realistic. It can be readily applied to one's day-to-day practice.

CASE NL

Straty Righellis, DDS
Oakland, CA

Case NL illustrates FACE principles that address goals for functional occlusion, facial balance and dental esthetics with the ultimate goal to provide dental stability, long-term health to the periodontium and TMJs.

The keys in this collaborative interdisciplinary case are an accurate periodontal diagnosis, careful orthodontic tooth position detailing, and a dentist who managed pontic shape to carefully to develop the interproximal papillae.

The case images presented focus on the relationships amongst the periodontist, orthodontist, and the prosthodontist. The orthodontic component was very simple as there were no TMD concerns. The key teaching point with this case is the inclusion of the periodontist for an accurate periodontal diagnosis prior to orthodontic care and a prosthodontist who could manage the pontic shape to create the papillae.

For full Case presentation, click here.
(Requires Adobe Acrobat.)

Dr. Righellis graduated from UCLA Dental School and received his orthodontic specialty certification from University of California, San Francisco. He maintains a private practice and serves as an associate clinical professor at the University of the Pacific and University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Righellis is a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics, is on the editorial review board for the American Journal of Orthodontics *and lectures domestically and internationally on excellence in clinical orthodontics.*