

Are you not concerned?

In response to Prof Moskowitz letter (BDJ 10.1038/sj.bdj.2010.454). The aetiology of malocclusion must be the most fundamental of all the unexplained areas in orthodontics, and without it we lack a scientific foundation upon which to build our philosophy. Orthodontists and many of the dental profession have made the assumption that malocclusion is predominantly genetic in origin. There is much evidence to suggest that this should be challenged and I feel that a debate would provide a level playing field to do this.

Is no one within the profession concerned that we are treating malocclusion without knowing the cause or showing an interest in finding out? More than a year has passed since my guest editorial 'A Black Swan?' (BDJ 10.1038/sj.bdj.2009.325) without any action, and repeated approaches to the GDC and BOS have been spurned.

May I request that the orthodontic speciality converses with me in these pages, which also provides a level playing field. It need not be circus like or divisive, we have an editorial board and we should act professionally. Ultimately we will be judged by our words. Lack of engagement in an open conversation is lack of engagement in science, and this should be a quest for the truth; the mission of this journal and of all scientists.

I would appeal to the whole profession, regardless of your opinion on the cause of malocclusion; if you feel that this subject should be investigated could you please send me your views (mikemew@gmail.com).

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