A n orthodontic education often requires role learning. Den-
stists, for whom wholeness is so uniquely important, are almost
distinctively un-whole, a remediable consequence of their training.
Perhaps dentistry attracts individualists or encourages them
to become individual in nature. Memory objectively insists that even
when the learning was without bias and restricted to a certain workload
without prejudice, it was simply more esoteric in comparison to other brain
functions. The field of orthodontics incorporates the entire human exis-
tence. Whatever the reason, it can lead to unsuccessful behavior.

Doctors are great technicians with exceptional etiquette and skill-
ful hands, but personal philosophy should be left outside the office
door like his or her shoes, which for the same reason would seri-
ously contaminate the realistic and theoretical nature of the business of
orthodontists. Amid intense appearance of professional self-respect,
there is an overriding theme: orthodontics. There is something about
beings and behavior, and only want to understand the DNA molecule or the
function of cellular metabolism as being president of the debate
team, captain of the baseball team or a spectacular interview. There is
no doubt the academicians would be right, but maybe the problem is
in getting the right candidates to apply.

Other criterion might be consid-
ered or required such as courses in
civil rights, ethics and principles of
social justice. The individuals who
should be accepted must be those who
who strive to understand human
beings and behavior, and only want
to understand the DNA molecule or the
function of cellular metabolism be-
due because it’s a tiny but impor-
tant part of the human cocktail. The
moment someone sees the DNA mol-
ecule mainly as a money- or status-
generating machine, the brakes
should go on! Orthodontics can be a
self-perpetuating geek-ocracy.

Humanities and historians are
other ascending disciplines, but
until now they have been confined
to the province of a beleaguered
minority of those who read such
epics as Victor E. Frankl’s “Man’s
Search for Meaning” rather than
those whose uncles were GPS. It
needs to be understood for its own
importance, receiving a sympo-
honic tribute from the secondary
disciplines such as physiology, neuro-
logy and cardiology.

Accreditation should demand
that doctors do not smore their
way through a day of drug-company
sponsored propaganda on new NSAsDs, but rather that they two
attend their local book club or pub-
lic interest groups. The patients’
best interests are wider than his or
her “medical” best interests, if
they should insist that in clinics
who conduct those best interest
resolves are doctors who work at
just orthodontic techniques
and their golf scores.

This is not a plea for a sniffl-
ly intellectual orthodontic salon ethos. It is not an assertion that ortho-
dontists who listen to Beethoven at Lin-
coln Center are better people than
those who listen to Gary Null over
breakfast. It is a tentative suggestion
that because Beethoven was and
Gary Null is a member of the human
race, knowledge of both of them are
indicates that the doctor is appro-
priately keeping up with the milieu
of his or her profession via the need
of the community and society.

Someser Maugham wrote, “I do
not know a better training for a
writer than to spend some years in
the medical profession.” The con-
verse of this is also true: there
are few better ways for an ortho-
dontist to appreciate the scope of
his or her subject matter than to keep
the company of musicians, art-
ists, writers and philosophers who
have struggled to understand the
nature of what homo sapiens are
about and what makes them tick.

True evidence-based orthodontics
involves consideration of all avail-
able evidence about human beings
and their place in the universe.

(End of editorial.)