

*For my friend Orlando
and the dear residents in Brazil
I send you my love.*

DIAGNOSIS & RETENTION

Introduction

If you approach this series of lectures, which is about as diverse as you'll ever experience, like a prospector panning for nuggets, I'm sure your life will be enriched when faced with the occasional puzzling problems that we all experience in practice. So, if you will allow me to be a part of that stream of knowledge, I'm sure, somewhere along the line, you will be rewarded.

As you will discover, my presentations and thoughts do not come from textbooks and do not favor one author over another, or one appliance over another, but rather they are a compendium of knowledge gained and experience earned after almost half a century on the firing line of clinical practice.

And now on a serious note, let us talk a little bit about this course. Our discussions will be open, frank and hopefully illuminating. On occasion we will be honored by the input of other faculty members, any of whom are invited to participate. The topics chosen for discussion are those that have primarily been requested by residents, both past and present. We will try to touch on all the areas that are sometimes troublesome. If there is any specific topic you would like presented, please let me know and we will make sure that subject is covered sometime during the course.

It is not the intent of this lecture series to scrutinize the entire spectrum of all of the perplexities that can occur in the practice of Orthodontics, nor to present spurious concepts that can be misconstrued as absolute dogma, but rather to keep you focused on the many intangibles that on rare occasions can mystify the imagination and create delirium when faced with an unforeseen provocation. A thorough understanding of all of the intricacies of your professional endeavors is absolutely essential to be able to practice in a resolute and forthright manner.

I have indeed been blessed and honored to have served on the faculty these many years. Each day it has been my sincere endeavor to perform my teaching duties to the best of my ability and to fulfill the mission of assuring the very best possible education for our residents.

On a personal note, may I say how wonderful it is for me to be associated with such a grand bunch of young people. You all have my deepest respect and love. May I also say how terribly sad it is for me when a few months down the line I will have to say goodbye. And yet, may I say how proud I will be knowing that I have played a small part in your lives.

In closing, may I say that I hope you enjoy the course. I will do my best to make it an enjoyable as well as enlightening experience for you. If ever I can be of any help to you, please do not hesitate to let me know.


Gus G. Sotiropoulos

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