

## Tendencies in Romanian orthodontics

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Before 1990, the orthodontic practice in our country took place in University Clinics and in the dental centers of the Ministry of Health Network. Treatments were almost exclusively done with removable appliances, which were quite cheap and accessible. After 1980, specialty courses were organized but only for foreigners.

After 1990, new trends appeared in Romanian orthodontics. In 1993, at the initiative of the much-regretted lecturer Dr. Mihaela Campeanu, the College of Edgewise for fixed Orthodontics was founded in Cluj. On this purpose, yearly courses were organized, on which occasions, well-known specialists from abroad held lectures. The Journal of the Edgewise College was published beginning with that year, and in 2001 it reached the 8<sup>th</sup> issue.

In 1994, the Romanian National Association of Orthodontics (ANRO) was founded under the presidency of Prof. Dr. Gheorghe Boboc from Bucharest. Presently, the Association is affiliated to the EOS and to the World Federation of Orthodontics. Beginning with 2000, the Association publishes the Journal of Orthodontics and Dento-facial Orthopedics at the initiative of Prof. Dr. Valentina Dorobat from Iasi. The journal appears twice a year, enjoying the collaboration of valuable doctors from the country and abroad.

The most important achievement is, anyway, the introduction of the residency examination in orthodontics in order to prepare specialists. Due to this fact, 150 orthodontists are working at present in Romania.

Another aspect that must be underlined is the editing of specialty books. If, before 1990, orthodontics books could be counted on the fingers of one hand, now, there is a rich specialty

literature. I would like to mention only some titles: *Orthodontics* (authors - D. Stanciu and Valentina Dorobat, 1991), *Orthodontics* (Ovidiu Grivu, 1998), *Introduction to The Straight Arch Technique* (Irina Zetu and Mariana Pacurar, 1998), *Practical Orthodontics* (D. Stanciu and Lidia Boboc, 1999), *Orthodontics and Dento-facial Orthopedics* (Viorica Milicescu and al., 2001), *Fixed Orthodontic Appliances* (Elvira Cocarla), *Orthodontics* (A. Fratu, 2002) and *Handbook Of Practical Orthodontics* (C. Amariei, Cristina Nuca and D. Totolici, 2002).

Once the private offices were set up, a dangerous tendency also appeared: some dentists were tempted to practice orthodontics without having the necessary qualification, taking advantage of the lack of a clear sanitary legislation. Of course, the results were accordingly: important therapeutic mistakes. Unfortunately, this situation is not fully corrected at present. A clear legislation should be elaborated, as it is, for instance, in Germany: Orthodontics is practiced only by specialized doctors, who do not practice other treatments in their offices, while the general dentists are not allowed to practice orthodontics.

A deficiency that persists is the weak material endowment of specialty clinics, which lack the necessary equipment for complementary investigations.

Leaving aside the reminded problems, we can assert that, in the last decade, Romanian orthodontics has made remarkable progress, more than in 50 years of communism, being set on a road which, in time, will help us get closer to western levels.

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