

“It seems to him there are a thousand bars; and behind the bars, no world”



Werner Schupp

A year of the Journal of Aligner Orthodontics has gone by. We have been able to publish four issues that have made it possible for our readers to study articles on various subjects.

First, I would like to thank you for reading, as without a reader, we would not be in need of a journal. Furthermore, I would like to thank all authors and co-authors, and of course the reviewers. Without you, peer-review would not be possible. With his unstoppable dedication, Professor Miethke has tremendously enriched our journal and published summaries of literature in every single issue. My thanks also go to the Quintessence team and the Editorial Board.

My appreciation for all of you is closely connected with an invitation to keep up the good work and herewith make the next issues of JAO possible. At the same time, I am kindly asking you, dear reader and dear colleague, also to submit your articles in order to enhance our journal with interesting topics.

The discipline of aligner orthodontics is still young. There are many new additions in this field and much is developing. Not all changes are in our favour. The number of companies that ship aligners directly to the consumer is increasing. This irresponsible behaviour will certainly bring a significant number of second treatments into the orthodontist office in the future. Please make sure you document these treatments carefully.

Luckily, the quality of digital software for virtual treatment planning is continuously improving. Therefore, we are able to do more in our orthodontic office by ourselves: plan the treatment, print the set-up models and produce the

aligners. The ongoing digital development is comparable to the development of different materials for aligners. I hope that this matter especially will be discussed in new articles in 2019. Methods for direct aligner printing will certainly be another interesting topic for next year.

The continued study of our journal is worthwhile. There will be many more developments in aligner orthodontics that we would like to pursue. In the wide world of orthodontics, the discipline of aligner treatment is surely experiencing the fastest development. Even as exclusive aligner therapists, we are often not able to keep up with all the new knowledge all of the time. Don't we all feel like the panther in Rilke's poem sometimes? *“It seems to him there are a thousand bars; and behind the bars, no world”*¹.

This motivates us to guide you through the jungle of existing knowledge and find articles that are helpful in both science and daily practice.

Dear colleagues, I wish you a good start to 2019.

Werner Schupp
Editor-in-Chief

Reference

1. Rilke RM. Der Panther: Im Jardin des Plantes. Paris, 6 November 1902.