

November 5, 2006

Dr. J. A. McNamara
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Dear Jim:

Our last contact was shortly after the publication of the 1975 symposium on "An Alterable Centric Relation in Dentistry." As you know, that was thirty one years ago. The initial hue and cry that was generated in the profession by its findings have been muted over the years by the powers that be. Non-physiologic criteria for the diagnosis and treatment of dental problems have continued to be taught in our schools despite abundant evidence of unacknowledged post-treatment iatrogenics.

An active search goes on in many circles to find the true nature, cause and cure for TMD. All investigations however, begin with the same flawed premise of a genetically derived unalterable centric relation. With undue emphasis and concern of the joint proper, they are doomed to failure from the start. In any event, all such endeavors are actually attempts to reinvent an existing wheel as the successes of functional jaw orthopedists are well documented and routine for any and all who can bring themselves to look.

Jim, I have been retired for fourteen years. My efforts to bring a measure of enlightenment to the profession through the dental schools have generally fallen upon deaf ears. Moreover, the fact that basic science contributors such as yourself and the other comprising the symposium and many other earlier respected investigators are rarely referenced, confounds and astounds me.

The enclosed material tells its own story. I should mention that Dr. Sessle did not even bother to answer my letter, which is not surprising, given his position and general orientation.

Jim, my enclosed monograph is an updated version of the original from the Dental Clinics. It also follows up on the treated cases for as long as seven or eight years. I believe that figures 6 and 7 and the top paragraph of page 107 on the importance of the "As If" hypothesis represents a different way of thinking and treating than is usual for most dentists and orthodontists. It enables one to more easily envision the required mandibular posture, facial symmetry, balance and interplay of teeth, jaws, neuromuscular and TMJ, and also helps to identify the joint as a resultant stabilizing platform rather than the initiator of mandibular movements, and thus of more limited importance than is commonly perceived.

The bottom line, Jim, is that if in my lifetime or yours, physiologic treatment is to prevail, a few good people are needed to start the ball rolling. The establishment cannot continue to deny patients the benefits of available state of the art care indefinitely. Please let me know your thoughts.

Kindest regards,

Phil