



ORTHO2

President's Perspective

The State of Orthodontics

Orthodontics is such a great profession. We are constantly thrilled to be associated with it. As our name Ortho2 suggests, our foundation is orthodontics. Your interests are our interests, and we succeed when you do. But we also recognize that evolutionary pressures are having a negative and potentially lasting impact on the profession. In our 33-year history, we have witnessed several trends that brought predictions of harm. But nothing, in our opinion, has warranted the level of concern that we see, and share, today. The purpose of this article isn't to list or discuss these pressures – you are likely well aware of them. We just want to make this clear: We stand with orthodontists and will assist in the ongoing mission to convey the orthodontic difference by sharing with the public the advantage of trusting a trained orthodontist with their, and their loved ones', tooth alignment care.

Toward this end, we have created a free app for you and, if you wish, your patients or prospective patients. It includes a compelling "Introduction to Orthodontics" video as well as other educational animations from our Edge Animations module. In addition, if you already use Edge Animations, you can register the app to access our full video library! Download this app on your Apple or Android device today by searching the app store for "Ortho2 Edge" and selecting "Edge Animations".

We are confident that together we will make a difference that leads to a better future for the orthodontic profession!

And now for something completely different:

Our Artificial Intelligence Overlords

Not really worried about a robot rebellion? Perhaps you should be. UC Berkeley researchers currently have robots that learn motor skills through trial and error. Google's DeepMind plays Atari video games better than humans, and it taught itself to play. Knowing that this is just the

beginning, what will tomorrow bring?

Fear about artificial intelligence may seem silly. But researchers at Oxford University include it on their list of risks to human civilization. And dozens of top scientists and technology leaders recently signed an open letter warning of the potential dangers of uncontrolled AI. Stephen Hawking says it could spell the end of the human race. Elon Musk calls it our biggest existential threat. Even Bill Gates says, "I am in the camp that is concerned about super intelligence."



Why all the concern? Consider an intelligence scale with a spider near the bottom and you near the top. What if the scale extends upward again as far as you are from the spider? And what if we create a self-learning AI program that reaches that point? Our ability to understand what this suggests is roughly the same as a spider's ability to understand you. Can we presume to believe that we would retain control?

One cautionary tale describes an AI system designed solely for the purpose of creating simulated handwritten notes. It asks a handler for brief access to the Internet in order to gather handwriting examples. Shortly thereafter, humans everywhere start to die. Why? The program understands that in order to fulfill its mission long-term it must self-preserve. And since it knows that humans could choose to reprogram or shut it down, it logically addresses this potential threat. The Internet gives it the means to manipulate scientists into creating and releasing the instrument of our own demise. (Remember, it's WAY smarter than we are!)

But rest assured, we at Ortho2 pledge to never unleash human subjugating artificial intelligence upon the planet!

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For a long, but interesting layman's analysis of this issue see
waitbutwhy.com > Archive > "The AI Revolution". 



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