

Melissa Disse is an orthodontist in Hilversum and Purmerend, the Netherlands and has a private clinic on the island Curaçao (the former Dutch Caribbean) with special interest in cleft lip and palate (CLP) and craniofacial anomalies.

She started her undergraduate qualification at the Catholic University, Leuven, Belgium where the late Frans van der Linden introduced her to orthodontics which resulted in a special course of 1.5 years in orthodontics which finalized with a Master Thesis in CLP (2001). In 2002 she commenced her four-year orthodontic postgraduate education at ACTA, Amsterdam, the Netherlands under the supervision of Professor Birte Prahm-Andersen. She was an associate professor and head of the Free University (VU) CLP clinic in Amsterdam until 2019 and was also involved with teaching of dental therapists as well as under- and postgraduates.

In addition to her work as an orthodontist, Dr Disse has been one of the driving forces behind the RTS (Dutch Dental Specialists Registration Committee). As a past president and now vice president she participated in implementing the mandatory revalidation system for the specialisms dental maxillary orthopaedics and maxillofacial surgery. She has also been the president of many quality visitations of the orthodontic specialty programmes in the Netherlands.

Since 2010 she has been the Dutch delegate and later council member for EFOSA and was elected president in June 2021.