

August 15, 2010

Dear Patients and/or Parents

After 35 years in this orthodontic practice, I wish to inform you that I plan to retire from clinical practice effective September 1st, 2010 and focus only on my academic and lecturing career. I am extremely grateful for your trust in my professional skills and have carefully planned a transition sequence for each of my patients. Dental sleep apnea research is developing very quickly and I have decided to concentrate more on this aspect of my professional life in the remaining years before I retire completely. One of my most exciting research projects that I am undertaking at UBC evaluates clinical protocols and therapeutic outcomes with oral appliances in children with sleep disordered breathing.

Two dentists whom I respect and feel comfortable transferring my patients to have purchased the entire practice and will continue to work from this same office location in the future. The orthodontic patients in my practice have been transferred to Dr. Ben Pliska, an experienced and skilled Certified Specialist in Orthodontics, who has is a full-time UBC faculty member in Dentistry with primary responsibilities in the graduate orthodontic training program. Dr. Fernanda Almeida, another full-time UBC faculty member, has accepted all snoring and sleep apnea patients. Dr. Almeida has 15 years of experience in this unique field and has been treating patients and doing research with me at UBC for many years. She has an international reputation in dental sleep medicine and is very well known to sleep physicians in this province and may have already seen many of you while I was away on sabbatical five years ago or for emergency visits on occasion if I have been unavailable.

Both Drs Pliska and Almeida will spend time in the practice with me to directly introduce as many of you as possible, to ensure continuity of your care and to answer any questions you might have. In addition, we will discuss your clinical progress in detail at the time of transfer. I am very grateful for Dr. Pliska and Almeida's willingness to accept my patients and am excited that another younger generation of dental professionals whom I respect will continue this practice well into the future.

Our office team will strive to ensure that you continue to receive the best dental care they collectively can provide. All fee structures for each patient have been reviewed in detail and current financial and treatment contracts will continue exactly as before with no anticipated changes except that a different dentist will oversee and deliver your care. If you wish to speak with me further on this issue, please do so before the end of August. Thank you for being one of my patients and for your understanding and support during this transition and I anticipate that you will welcome and appreciate the new practitioners.

Sincerely

Alan A. Lowe
PtLtrAug10.doc