

September 1, 2010

Dear Referring Doctor

After 35 years of a professionally rewarding orthodontic and sleep apnea practice, I plan to transition from direct clinical care and focus on my academic teaching, research and lecturing career effective September 1, 2010. Dental sleep apnea research continues to develop very quickly and I have decided to concentrate primarily on this aspect of my professional life. One of the most exciting and rewarding research projects evaluates clinical protocols and therapeutic outcomes with oral appliances in children who have sleep disordered breathing.

Another dentist whom I respect and feel completely comfortable transferring all my sleep disordered breathing patients to has purchased the practice and will continue to work from this same office in the future. Dr. Fernanda Almeida is a full-time UBC faculty member with primary responsibilities in the area of dental sleep medicine. She has 15 years of direct experience in this unique field and has been treating patients and doing research with me at UBC for the past 10 years. Dr. Almeida has an international reputation in dental sleep medicine and is well known to many physicians in this province who work in the field. She has already seen many of my patients while I was away on sabbatical five years ago or for emergency visits on occasion when I have been unavailable.

Dr. Almeida has spent time in the practice with me to meet as many sleep disordered breathing patients as possible, to ensure continuity of patient care and to answer any questions patients might have. In addition, we have discussed and agreed on each patient's clinical progress in detail at the actual time of transfer. I am very grateful for her willingness to accept my patients and am excited that another generation of dental professionals whom I hold in high regard will continue this practice into the future.

Our office team is continuing as before and will strive to ensure that your patients will continue to receive the best care they collectively can provide. Fee structures for each patient have been reviewed in detail and current financial and treatment contracts will continue albeit with a different dentist. If you wish to speak with me further on this issue, please do so at your convenience by calling 604 822 3414.

Dr. Almeida welcomes all new referrals and would be very pleased to be entrusted with the care of any sleep disordered breathing patient you may elect to refer to the practice. If you would like to meet her personally, please call her directly at 604 351 1550 to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Thank you for support of my clinical practice in the past and for your understanding and support of this transition.

Sincerely

Alan A. Lowe  
RefDrLtrFASept10.doc