



# FORT WORTH PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

BRUCE H. WEINER, D.D.S. • JANELL I. PLOCHECK, D.D.S.

LORIA GUIATAS, D.D.S.

DIPLOMATES OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

*Happy Holidays!*



**TERRIFIC TEAM:** *Our talented trio of Pediatric Dentists wish you - our patients, parents, colleagues and friends - a happy and healthy holiday season. Dr. Janell Plocheck (left) has been with the practice for almost ten years. Dr. Bruce Weiner (center) founded the practice thirty years ago. Dr. Loria Guiatas (right), a former patient of Dr. Weiner's, has been an associate of the practice for nearly three years.*

## BURLESON OFFICE TO OPEN THIS MONTH

Good news for patients who live south of the city and make the long drive to Fort Worth for dental appointments. We are opening a satellite office in Burleson. The staff is scheduling patients there on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The office is located at 240 SW Wilshire Boulevard. Please call to schedule an appointment.

We will be sharing this office with our long-time colleague Dr. Lester Kuperman, an exceptional

orthodontist who sees patients in that office on Mondays and Wednesdays. This office-sharing arrangement is an excellent opportunity for the patients and the doctors to use this facility more effectively and will offer many of our patients an opportunity to cut down on gas consumption.

All three of our doctors will see patients in this new location. The Fort Worth office will maintain its normal schedule of patient care.



**WE ARE FAMILY.** *Flexible hours allow many of us to job-share so that we may spend time with our families and pursue college degrees. Front Row (kneeling, left to right): Amanda Richardson, Cecilia Saldivar, Kristen Hudson, Valerie McLendon. Middle Row (seated, left to right): Sherry Reaves, Dr. Plocheck, Dr. Weiner, Dr. Guiatas, Leticia Ortega. Top Row (standing, left to right): Stacey Larkin, Erin Taylor, Shalise Coleman, Lillian Awbrey, Amy Steele, Diana Dobson, Elizabeth Williams, April Rosales, Sonia DeLeon, Heather Bartko, Julie Dusza, Veronica Copeland, Lou McDowell, Anne Ferguson.*

## ALL IN THE FAMILY

Being a staff member at Fort Worth Pediatric Dentistry is like being part of a large extended family. Together, we celebrate birthdays, graduations, marriages, and newborns. Together, we have also mourned the passing of one another's parents and partners. We function like one big support group.

Two members of the staff (Lillian Awbrey and Dr. Guiatas) grew up here as patients. Another pair of us (Heather Bartko and Roni Copeland) arrived as high-school students in work-study programs and gradually grew into larger positions. Lillian and Heather job-share the clinical coordinator position. Two of our staff (Cecilia Elizondo and Shalise Coleman) arrived as interns or recent graduates of Tarrant County College's dental assisting program.

The two staff members with the most longevity (office manager Sherry Reaves and dental hygienist Anne Ferguson) started working for Dr. Weiner more than 25 years ago. This office has been at the center of their adult lives.

Ten of us have gone on maternity leave (once, twice, and even three times!) and then returned to work. At present, two employees are "in a family way." (Roni is expecting a baby in May; Sonia DeLeon is expecting a Christmas baby.) Many of us job-share, splitting hours and responsibilities so that we can enroll in college classes, take time off for maternity leave, or spend extra

hours at home with our children. Jessica Kuntz and Shalise Coleman have just finished at Tarrant County College. In January, Jessica plans to take junior-level political-science courses at Texas Wesleyan University. Shalise will enroll at either TWU or UTA and major in psychology.

All of the dental hygienists job share. Lisa Englehart, who has been with our office the past decade, teaches three days a week at Texas Woman's University and is working on her Masters degree in Dental Hygiene. When Roni has her baby in May, the other hygienists—

Lou McDowell, Valerie McLendon, Stacey Larkin, and Anne Ferguson—will increase their hours until Roni returns to the office.

There has been lots of job sharing at the front desk, too. Julie Dusza, an office veteran of eleven years, injured her ankle in a car wreck six years ago. Subsequently, she has gone through a dozen surgeries, requiring time off to recover. Leticia Ortega's daughter, Destiny, 11, is a team player with the Dallas Junior Wheel Chair Mavericks basketball squad. Recently, due to a family emergency, Leticia became temporary guardian for her half-brother and half-sister. Her single-parent household now includes four children under the age of 12. The rest of the staff quickly helped Leticia out with groceries, new clothes for the kids, and flexible hours at the office. Reflecting on her 12 years with Fort Worth Pediatric Dentistry, Leticia said, "I feel blessed."



*Adrienne Elizondo, 12, daughter of dental assistant, Cecilia Saldivar, displays medals won in Judo tournaments across the country, including the USA Judo National Junior Olympics.*



*Destiny Ortega, 11, poses with her mother, Leticia, at a Dallas Junior Wheel Chair Mavericks basketball game in North Carolina.*

## **DR. PLOCHECK VOLUNTEERS PROFESSIONALLY FOR DENTISTRY AND LOCALLY FOR MAYFEST**

Dr. Janell Plocheck spends her spare time helping her profession and her community.

In Fort Worth she is a board member of the Fort Worth District Dental Society and serves on its Peer Review Committee. She gives presentations on oral health to parents, schoolchildren and professional associations. These groups include the Incredible Infant & Terrific Toddler classes at Harris Methodist Southwest Hospital and the Fort Worth Dental Hygienists' Society.

On the national level, Dr. Plocheck is a member of the Examination Committee of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry (ABPD), administering oral boards to pediatric dentists striving to achieve "diplomate" status. Within the ABPD she serves on the Renewal of Certification Committee, devising guidelines to insure that board certified pediatric dentists remain current in their field.

At home in Fort Worth, Dr. Plocheck is active in the Junior League of Fort Worth where she serves as Grounds Committee Chair for Mayfest. This important branch of Mayfest's Central Committee oversees items most festival goers take for granted such as tents, trailers, electrical hook ups and porta-potties. This year, Dr. Plocheck and her committee are instituting recycling at Mayfest. Working with the City of Fort Worth's Environmental Management Department, they will see to it that aluminum cans, plastic containers and vendors' cardboard boxes are recycled rather than sent to area landfills. Last year, Dr. Plocheck was Mayfest's assistant treasurer.

## **DR. WEINER LECTURES LOCALLY, NATIONALLY, INTERNATIONALLY**

Dr. Weiner journeyed to South Africa in September as a delegate with an American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry People-to-People professional exchange. The delegation visited dental schools in Johannesburg, Pretoria and Cape Town. During the visit Dr. Weiner lectured the South African Paedodontic Society on clinical pediatric dentistry and infant oral health. In South Africa pediatric dentistry is not a recognized specialty, but an increasing number of that country's dentists are pushing for its establishment. The AAPD delegation was happy to be able to offer its assistance and support in this endeavor.

Dr. Weiner also spoke at the annual American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry meeting in Washington, D.C. His subject was dental-staff management. Next on Dr. Weiner's professional calendar is the winter meeting of the South West Society of Pediatric Dentistry in Whistler, British Columbia. For the second consecutive year, Dr. Weiner has served as chairman of this popular weeklong, continuing education conference, which features prominent speakers, academicians and practicing pediatric dentists from across the U.S. and Canada.

Locally, Dr. Weiner was honored with the 2007 Distinguished Service Award from the Fort Worth District Dental Society. Dr. Weiner was also featured in AAPD's magazine, Pediatric Dentistry

Today, with a photo and full-page interview recognizing his contributions to the AAPD Foundation.

Last but not least, many of you have asked about Dr. Weiner's health. We have good news. He has completely recuperated from back and hip surgery. He is back on skis and stays in shape by bicycling along the Trinity River Trails.

## **DR. GUIATAS COMPLETES NATIONAL PEDIATRIC BOARDS**

Dr. Loria Guiatas has completed the rigorous tests for becoming a board-certified pediatric dentist. This elevates her to the rank of "Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry." Nationwide, less than half of all eligible children's dentists achieve this status. Dr. Weiner and Dr. Plocheck are also among this select group of specialists.

Completing the boards is not a requirement. It is entirely voluntary and is a measure of high professional standards. Board certification awards pediatric dentists' expertise once they are in practice.

To become an ABPD Diplomate, Dr. Guiatas, who graduated from Baylor Dental College and completed her pediatric dental residency at the University of Maryland, completed a daylong written examination. The next phase was the "orals." These were conducted in Dallas, where two national examiners quizzed her about everything from the latest research in the field of pediatric dentistry to her recommendations for treating eight individual patients.

For the latter, she was shown a series of computer screens with pictures of eight patients, including their dental X-rays and health histories. Dr. Guiatas studied each case and told the examiners the questions she would ask the family and the child as well as her diagnosis and treatment recommendations. For two hours, Dr. Guiatas was inundated with questions. Without the luxury of a "life line" or reference books to substantiate her recommendations, Dr. Guiatas responded. She passed with flying colors. She completed her boards in the shortest time-frame possible following her residency. Dr. Guiatas, formerly a patient in our dental practice, attended All Saints Episcopal School and Arlington Heights High and completed her undergraduate work at the University of Texas at Arlington, where she was a summa cum laude graduate. While attending high school and college, she worked in our office part-time. She joined the practice full-time in 2006.

## T-LINK: ONLINE ALL THE TIME

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For your convenience in this high-tech age, Fort Worth Pediatric Dentistry is equipped with T-Link. This system allows patients to access appointments and account information 24 hours a day via a secure Internet connection, or by telephone. T-Link provides appointment reminders via e-mail and also allows for online payments. A new feature offered by T-Link is text messaged appointment reminders. If you have activated your account with T-Link through our website, simply log in to your account and click the SmartText icon – then just follow the easy sign-up instructions. If you have not yet activated your on-line account, our staff will be happy to assist you either by phone or at your next office visit.



## DIGITAL RADIOGRAPHY

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Our office has been using digital X-rays for the past several years. We have recently upgraded our system to better serve our patients and can now download our images virtually instantaneously. Digital radiography allows us to take these necessary pictures without the chemical waste that is a byproduct of conventional X-ray processing.

### DENTAL HYGIENISTS JOB-SHARE.

Our talented team of licensed dental hygienists, pictured above, are all part-time employees who have collectively accumulated sixty-six years of dental hygiene experience in our practice.

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*On behalf of the entire staff, we wish you and your family a very  
Happy Holiday Season and extend our best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year.*

[www.FWPediatricDentistry.com](http://www.FWPediatricDentistry.com)

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