

VIEW FROM THE TOP

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If you spend any time with Lisa Kalfas, DDS, you will learn the value of a beautiful smile. While in her office, I perused before-and-after pictures of improved and giddy grins, read appreciative clients' thank you cards, and heard the passion and excitement that Lisa has for her patients and her vocation.

A native of Ohio, Lisa graduated from the University of Colorado School of Dentistry in 1987. Since 1997, she has completed several intensive, post-doctoral programs in cosmetic dentistry at the prestigious Las Vegas Institute for Advanced Dental Studies, which she said is a front-runner in cosmetic dentistry education. She was invited to join the faculty in 1999 and teaches post-doctoral courses in cosmetic and advanced dentistry to other dentists. She has been practicing dentistry in Boulder since 1989 and is a member of the American Dental Association, the Colorado Dental Association, and the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, which according to its Web site, is the largest association of cosmetic dental professionals.

Lisa's philosophical approach is multifaceted. She told me she wants to create an exceptional dental experience for her patients from start to finish. To this end, Lisa offers new services and advanced technology, employs a highly skilled and educated staff, and has a genuine concern for others and a dedication to excellence. And it shows. Sitting in the middle of a pile of thank you letters from clients, Lisa was beaming as she shared some of their comments. Her clients appreciate Lisa's high-quality work and her conscientious and meticulous approach to dental care. They also notice her professionalism and feel reassured about the procedures that they undergo, because Lisa takes the time to inform them of all the details. Clients describe Lisa as "gentle" and "empathetic." Moreover, clients said they walked away pleased with their new smile and expanded self-esteem.

Lisa's aim is to improve, restore and protect her patients' teeth. In addition to traditional dental procedures, she offers the latest in cosmetic and restorative dental services, which means everything from bleaching to neuromuscular dentistry. Among the cosmetic dental procedures that she offers, bleaching and veneers continue to gain popularity. Lisa said that bleaching is one of the simplest techniques used to improve the appearance of a smile. "My in-office bleaching procedure takes a little more than an hour and is a timely alternative to at-home systems. Veneers are ideal for improving the shape, color and size of a person's teeth. They are able to hide defects that have resulted from injury or root canal procedures, mask discolored fillings and stained teeth, and fill in gaps and chips. Veneers are a great way to create a more youthful and healthy smile," she said.

Lisa's services extend to neuromuscular dentistry, which is a growing approach that uses holistic treatments. Using the principles of neuromuscular dentistry, Lisa addresses problems that aren't traditionally associated with dentistry, including pain and noise in the temporomandibular joint, facial pain, headaches, neck and back aches, ringing in the ears, numbness and tingling in the

hands, and dizziness. She informed me, "Neuromuscular dentistry looks at the patient's jaw position and bite and considers whether that position is ideal. Poorly aligned jaws can result in worn down teeth and the physical ailments that are listed above. If the jaw is misaligned, then neuromuscular dentistry works with the muscles that control jaw position so as to align the patient's jaw and bite to a more optimal position."

Cutting-edge technology is an integral component of Lisa's dental services. Advances in equipment make regular cleanings more effective and less painful for patients. Microsonic equipment that disrupts bacteria, and dental lasers that kill bacteria are used in place of traditional metal scaling tools. To educate her patients, Lisa answers questions and relies on informative DVDs to outline

various dental procedures. Digital dental imaging has replaced traditional X-rays, resulting in less radiation exposure for patients. In addition, Lisa uses computerized jawtracking for TMJ evaluations. She stated that she has used mercury-free products since 1993 and that she only works with the finest dental laboratories. Her pursuit to keep her office fitted with the most advanced technology is one way that she can provide exceptional dental care.

Part of creating a positive dental experience is providing patients with a comfortable and relaxing environment. From the moment that clients enter Lisa's office, they are pampered. Those who arrive early can enjoy refreshments, books and magazines, and relaxing music. Furthermore, Lisa has equipped each treatment chair with a massage pad. As part of her commitment to providing exceptional care, Lisa puts a lot of effort and concern into her patients' comfort and well-being.

Lisa reaches beyond her clientele and to the greater community through her work with Give Back a Smile. A nonprofit organization associated with the AACD, Give Back a Smile provides dental care for

victims of domestic abuse. It also raises awareness of domestic violence, affords volunteers the opportunity to share their time and expertise with their community, and gives domestic violence survivors hope and confidence. As a volunteer, Lisa shares her expertise and donates her time to help those who really need her. Previously she has worked with the Boulder Dental Aid and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. She also was a member of Zonta, a women's service organization.

In discussing her work, Lisa stated that dentistry is "not just a business, it's [her] passion." It's not just about dental services, but about the experience and outcomes. Lisa demonstrates a commitment to excellence in her connected goals of increased health, boosted self-esteem, and beautiful smiles for her patients. She combines new services, advanced technology, a warm office environment, highly skilled staff, and a genuine concern for others to provide her clients with an exceptional dental experience.

To learn more about Dr. Lisa Kalfas or how she can improve your smile, contact her by calling (303) 447-9161 or e-mail her at info@lisakalfasdds.com. You also can visit her Web site at www.lisakalfasdds.com.

WE

DR. LISA KALFAS, DDS

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