

## STEVEN K. OKAMOTO, DDS, INC.

### STEVEN K. OKAMOTO, DDS & MICHELLE OKAMOTO, DDS

22330 Hawthorne Boulevard, Suite E, Torrance | 310-373-1120 | okamatodds.com

**SERVICES OFFERED:** Preventative care (exams, cleanings, X-rays), restorative, esthetic, Invisalign, Zoom, diagnosis and treatment of obstructive sleep apnea

#### Q&A

##### PLEASE GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PRACTICE.

"The dental practice of Dr. Steven Okamoto is a 2,500-square-foot, state-of-the-art center featuring advanced technology in the areas of restorative, prosthetic and implant dentistry. As part of the facility, Dental Sleep Centre of the South Bay offers treatment of sleep apnea, bruxism and other sleep disorders."

##### TELL US ABOUT YOUR BACKGROUND.

"Dr. Steve has been practicing dentistry for 30 years. He is a graduate of the UCLA School of Dentistry, where he also completed a hospital residency and advanced prosthodontics residency. Dr. Steve also practices in Newport Beach. His daughter, Dr. Michelle, is a 2013 graduate of the UCLA School of Dentistry. They both participate in extensive continuing education in dental health."

##### TELL US ABOUT YOUR STAFF.

*Dr. Steve:* "I have been blessed to work with the same individuals for close to 20 years. Having learned and grown together, we have developed a shared belief that optimum dental care results in overall good health. Knowledge is power, and each team member wants to share their knowledge and empower others by taking their expertise and contagious smiles beyond the dental chairs in this office."

##### HOW CAN DENTAL HEALTH IMPACT YOUR OVERALL HEALTH?

*Dr. Michelle:* "Most patients do not realize the close and intimate correlation between oral health and overall systemic health. The presence of oral infection and disease has a direct effect on one's cardiovascular, pulmonary and many other medical conditions. If I can help educate not only my patients but young children at elementary schools or the underserved both locally and globally, I can hopefully make a small impact."

#### OFF THE CLOCK



The doctors encourage those they work with to look for opportunities to "make a difference—big or small—in the world." This philosophy is such a strong component of the practice, there is even a dedicated team member to coordinate all community and global outreach efforts.

Over the years, this aspect of their job has become one of the greatest joys for the doctors and team. Participation in local classrooms, homeless ministries and health fairs are just a few of the ways they have volunteered individually and collectively in the community.

You will find them at CDA Cares, a volunteer dental program through the California Dental Association that provides no-charge cleanings, fillings, treatment of infection and oral health education. In addition, dental supplies and equipment have been delivered to Nepal, Cambodia, Uganda, Rwanda, Israel and Honduras. This global connection was made through patients involved in their churches, temples, universities and the Peace Corps.

While at UCLA, Dr. Michelle participated in a dental clinic in Honduras. The experience of treating those in rural and impoverished areas who have no access to dental health care was so rewarding, it prompted her and her father, Dr. Steve, to recently become members of Dentists Without Borders.

They are encouraging team members to do the same. Whether through an international organization or a local contact, Dr. Steve and Dr. Michelle—as well as their team—will have many more photos of smiles they helped create, perhaps creating a difference in this world.



"MAKE A DIFFERENCE—BIG OR SMALL—IN THE WORLD."