

AS SEEN IN

southbay **HEALTH**

HEALTH PROFILES 2015

STEVEN K. OKAMOTO, DDS & MICHELLE OKAMOTO, DDS

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

SERVICES OFFERED: Preventative, restorative, esthetic, implants, ZOOM and custom take-home teeth whitening, Invisalign, diagnosis and treatment of obstructive sleep apnea

Q&A

TELL US ABOUT THE STAFF AT YOUR PRACTICE.

Dr. Steve: "Patients spend more time at their dental office than some other medical offices, so to have the opportunity to invest in our patients is something we do not take for granted. Our team holds themselves to the highest standards, making all of our patients comfortable and treated like family. Each of us frequently takes continuing education courses to provide our patients with the most comprehensive care."

TO WHAT DO YOU ATTRIBUTE YOUR PRACTICE'S GROWTH?

Dr. Steve: "Our team, plain and simple. Many of these dental professionals have been a part of this practice for 20 years, and patients recognize that consistency of quality care. Patients appreciate a friendly, familiar face and team members who take the time to discuss questions regarding their care—or a personal milestone. As a family practice, a patient's care often changes as they go through the different stages of aging."

WAS THERE A DEFINING MOMENT THAT GUIDED YOU TO WHERE YOU ARE NOW?

Dr. Michelle: "Growing up there were many summers and weekends spent at the office learning the 'ins and outs' of a dental practice. As I grew older, I knew I had a passion for science, which led me to receiving my bachelor's degree in biology at Pepperdine. After more and more time working side-by-side with my father and being exposed to the world of dentistry, I realized this is exactly where I was supposed to be."

WHAT'S MOST REWARDING ABOUT YOUR WORK?

Dr. Michelle: "I am so grateful to be in a career that allows me to help and educate others on a daily basis, to be creative and artistic with the treatment I provide, to interact and invest in my incredible patients, and to hopefully make some sort of an impact (big or small) at the end of each and every day. And to top it all off, I get to work with an incredible mentor who also happens to be my father."

SHARED TIP

We offer a free dental implant consultation to answer questions on your unique situation. Often it is difficult to determine the right course of action over the phone. Having a thorough understanding of how dental implants can improve your life is the first step in restoring your smile.

OFF THE CLOCK WITH DR. MICHELLE



When she is not in the office, Dr. Michelle enjoys spending her time outdoors. Walking any of the South Bay beaches and hiking local trails are two of her favorite ways to enjoy her weekends. And if she can do so with some of her friends—even better! Recently she was able to do just that—visiting with long-time friends in San Francisco and meeting up with UCLA Dental School colleagues at Crater Lake.



"TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO INVEST IN OUR PATIENTS IS SOMETHING WE DO NOT TAKE FOR GRANTED."

PRACTICE SPECIALTY

Dr. Steven Okamoto completed a three-year residency in prosthodontics at the University of California, Los Angeles. The residency included lectures, seminars and intensive laboratory and clinical experience in fabricating crowns, bridges, veneers, inlays, complete and removable partial dentures and dental implants. He received extensive training in diagnosing and treating temporomandibular disorders (TMD) of the jaw, traumatic injuries to oral structures, and congenital or birth anomalies such as cleft palate, and oral cancer reconstruction. He also became qualified to manage bruxism and sleep apnea disorders such as snoring. It is because of this additional education and training that Dr. Okamoto is an expert in the diagnosis, treatment planning and restorative procedures needed to restore your oral function and improve the esthetic appearance of your smile.

