

SOUTHERN ROOTS

PERIODONTICS:

by Marilyn Thomas

HOMEY, HOLISTIC, AND HEALTHFUL

From the introductory personal phone call to the final follow-up visit after the last procedure, every staff member of Southern Roots Periodontics: Implant & Laser Dentistry, LLC, endeavors to ensure that all of their patients have a warm, wholesome, and healing experience.



For several years now, Dr. Matt Rowe, a Lexington resident and owner of Southern Roots Periodontics: Implant & Laser Dentistry, LLC, has provided periodontal care for the greater Columbia area. Having procured an existing practice from Dr. Bill James, a highly respected, local periodontist, who recently retired. Dr. Rowe says, “I want my patients to know that, even though the practice itself has been around for 30 years, the ideals of treating patients as we would want to be treated, and respect for our patients as we would want to be treated, and respect for our patients has not changed.”

However, “A lot of improvements in technology have been added,” says Dr. Rowe. These include using cone-beam 3D imaging, digital x-rays, CO laser therapy, ceramic implants, IV and oral sedation, and platelet rich plasma to promote healing after dental surgery. Additionally, each treatment room is now outfitted with a television, salt lamps are stationed throughout to purify the air, and the coastal décor is reminiscent of a relaxing trip to a Charleston beach. “Basically, I want my patients to feel like they’re coming home,” explains Dr. Rowe, and “not going to an office.”

“I take the time to call all of my patients before I have even met them,” adds Dr. Rowe. “I will call them to introduce myself, welcome them to my practice, and offer them the opportunity to ask any questions before we meet.”

“My philosophy is that my patients will know that I do everything I can to do what is best for their health while providing them a VIP experience.”

To that end, Dr. Rowe insists that “Every single team member of my practice treat the practice with the mindset that it’s their own and go out of their way to bring a ‘Disney experience’ to each of our patients to make sure they feel welcome and comfortable.”

Charlotte Martin, the practice’s clinical

administrator, who coordinates collaborative care for Dr. Rowe’s tongue tie and sleep apnea cases says, “We have the most awesome working environment.” She describes Dr. Rowe as a “compassionate provider who definitely does go above and beyond for all of our patients.”

Since his early years, Dr. Rowe recalls having an interest in medicine, perhaps because he underwent multiple oral surgeries as a child, “but also,” he adds, “I wanted to be in a field where I was able to talk to people, get to know them, and treat them as my own family members.”

“The field of periodontics was appealing to me,” he explains “because I’d be able to take a person who was not healthy, not only orally, but systemically not healthy, and, through improving their oral health, help them become overall healthier.”

According to Dr. Rowe, “Eighty percent or more of the overall population in the world suffers from some form of periodontal disease.” Because the condition does not necessarily cause pain, its symptoms are not always noticeable, but they may include increased spacing between teeth, mobile teeth, bleeding gums, and/or an uncomfortable taste or odor in the mouth. Unfortunately, this silent menace is “linked to heart disease, stroke, diabetes, arthritis and even erectile dysfunction.” Says Dr. Rowe, “so that’s why it is so important to make sure that it is screened for and that it is treated appropriately.”

“Periodontal disease can be very easily prevented,” he says, “with adequate oral hygiene technique, avoiding tobacco use, and overall trying to live a healthy lifestyle.” He specifically recommends visiting a dentist every six months for a basic cleaning, undergoing a periodontal screening annually, having x-rays of the teeth every three to five years to monitor bone levels, flossing regularly, and brushing for two minutes at least twice each day.



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As a national lecturer and an expert leader in the field of treating ankyloglossia, a unique distinction of Dr. Rowe’s practice is that he is trained to treat patients who are tongue-tied or lip-tied. “Tongue-tie or lip-tie is basically a more common vernacular for a tight frenulum attachment, which is the little band of tissue that attaches the lip to the gums in the upper jaw or the little band of tissue that is under your tongue when you raise your tongue up.” he explains. When the tissue is too tight, the tongue’s movement is limited, and this can adversely affect a baby’s ability to nurse properly, create aversions with eating certain solid foods, and cause speech impediments, orthodontic issues,

and sleep apnea.

“A unique attribute of what we do for our patients is to closely follow their care from start to completion,” explains Dr. Rowe, “while collaborating with other medical professionals in the community.” Dr. Rowe works tirelessly to combine the fields of pediatrics, airway/sleep medicine, chiropractics, massage therapy, speech therapy, and lactation into a comprehensive mode of holistic health.

Monica Breckenridge, a local mother of six, was referred to Dr. Rowe by a lactation consultant when she began experiencing problems while nursing her fifth child. After the recommended procedure was performed, she noticed an improvement immediately. Since then Ms. Breckenridge has had almost all her other children treated by Dr. Rowe for various reasons. Ms. Breckenridge says, “He takes the time to evaluate each person. His staff goes above and beyond to make sure that everybody is comfortable with the procedure and the care that they’re providing. I have nothing but good things to say about him.”

If you have questions about your dental health, Dr. Rowe and his team at Southern Roots Periodontics are willing to help. Welcome home! ■

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L to R: The Southern Roots team: Cindy, Charlotte, Michele, Dr. Rowe, Sori-Luz and Brookes