

## SOUTH BAY PERIODONTICS AND IMPLANT SURGERY

THOMAS N. SIMS, DDS, FACD  
*a professional corporation*

LINDA R. YANG, DDS

To my family of patients,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and good spirits – life has certainly changed dramatically over the past few months.

I am reaching out to you with two very important announcements.

First, South Bay Periodontics is reopening!

Our team will be contacting you shortly to schedule your next visit and explain the pre-appointment protocols prior to your arrival. If you have a dental matter that we may be unaware of and feel you need to be seen right away, please give our office a call.

The second and more difficult news to share is that, after forty-five years of practicing dentistry, I am announcing my retirement. I had no intention, until the recent virus, of retiring at this time. For a variety of reasons, it has been determined that my returning to clinical care during this time would not be a wise choice, and so I am listening to the experts. Your continued loyalty is the highest compliment you could ever pay me. Thank you so much.

I know this news will come as a surprise. Please know that I have worked diligently to ensure the practice I have poured my heart and soul into, and most importantly, the care of my treasured patients, will be in the most capable hands.

A longtime colleague and trusted friend, Dr. MariaElena “Malena” Rodriguez will carry the torch for South Bay Periodontics, and she will greatly expand the scope of care we are able to offer our patients. Malena is a well-respected and passionate practitioner with unparalleled talent in the South Bay. She practices clinical excellence, has unquestionable ethics, and cares tremendously for her patients and staff. In fact, I am pleased to announce the wonderful dental team you are familiar with at South Bay Periodontics will continue under Malena’s excellent leadership. There will be some new faces, too, which I know you will come to love.

Malena has been practicing in Torrance for nearly 20 years. As a UCLA School of Dentistry graduate, she specialized in Prosthodontics, Maxillofacial Prosthodontics and Geriatric Dentistry. In 2014, after being in private practice for many years, she again expanded her specialization by completing the internationally respected Implant Dentistry fellowship at Loma Linda University – one of only two centers in the world that offer such in-depth dental implant training. This combined training and practical experience has made Dr. Rodriguez a highly skilled dental implant surgeon and overall practitioner in her fields of expertise.

In addition to Dr. Rodriguez, you will have access to two other highly-respected clinicians; Dr. Linda Yang, and Dr. Perry Klokkevold. Linda Yang, DDS, has been a part of South Bay Periodontics for 30 plus

years, and continues to be a tremendous asset to our community. Perry Klokkevold, DDS, MS, FACD brings 25 years of clinical expertise to the South Bay Periodontics team. In addition to his private practice as a Periodontist, he is Professor of Clinical Dentistry and Director of the UCLA Periodontics Residency Program. These are the best of all possible practitioners for our practice. Please welcome them.

I am confident in the skills of Dr. Rodriguez to lead this team and care for our patients. I firmly believe that she will continue our legacy of providing dental care in the highest professional manner and know you are in good hands under her professional care.

It has been a privilege being a periodontist for the last forty-five years, and an honor to work as part of your healthcare team. This is a time of melancholy, as I have much more to give to this profession, and I will be doing so in an educational capacity, but I will miss having you in my chair.

Thank you all for the blessings you have given me.

Best regards,

Thomas N. Sims, DDS, FACD