

# INTERVIEW Q&A

atWork

DOCTOR  
**PATRICIA  
PAVLOS** DDS PA



COSMETIC &  
FAMILY DENTISTRY

**FINE:** Where were you born, where did you grow up? What were your hometowns like?

**DR. PAVLOS:** I was born in Washington D.C. and lived in Arlington, VA until 4th grade. We moved to Rockville, Maryland after that. We lived outside the city but were used to fast paced city life and lots of traffic.

**FINE:** How big was your family? Do you have any family members who are dentists?

**DR. PAVLOS:** There were five in our family. I have two younger sisters, the youngest born when I was 15 years old. No one in my family has worked in the dental field.

**FINE:** Where else have you lived in the United States or abroad?

**DR. PAVLOS:** I have lived on the coast of Virginia Beach, Virginia, and Ocean City, Maryland. I have always loved the beauty and calmness of the shore areas.

**FINE:** When did you first realize that you wanted to go to Dental School? Was it something that you always wanted to do? Where did you go to school?

**DR. PAVLOS:** I always wanted to be a dentist! I knew I was going to be a dentist since 7th grade! I enjoyed going to my dentist's office. He always made his work seem effortless and he would joke and talk with the patients and staff. I wanted to have the same "fun" and provide a service to make the patients not fearful of coming to the dentist.

**FINE:** There are many different types of dental specialties, what made you pick cosmetic dentistry? How many years of school did that specialty require?

**DR. PAVLOS:** Dentistry has changed and made great advances in cosmetic dentistry over the last 20 years. I take great pride in providing a service of transforming a smile to meet the cosmetic wishes of a patient. Cosmetic dentistry is an art and although many of us take continuing education classes to learn new skills, it takes an artist and perfectionist to place cosmetic restorations that look natural and feel great. Our office was one of the first in Naples to provide one visit, on-site "CEREC" porcelain restorations. Our training and years of experience are evident from the minute you enter our office. We strive for excellence and realize that changing a person's smile can change their life, and we take great pride in being a part of that process.





interview by Brian Ritz

## INTERVIEW Q&A

**PATRICIA PAVLOS**  
COSMETIC & FAMILY DENTISTRY

organization  
is the key

**FINE:** Did you ever think about other professions, or was it always Dentistry?

**DR. PAVLOS:** Dentistry was the best fit for my personality. I am a perfectionist with a creative eye. I am very patient and a very good educator. I make it my personal mission to explain all the procedures so my patients can understand what is wrong, why it happened, and all the different restorative options that are available to them. Together, we come up with what best serves the patient's individual needs.

**FINE:** Where did you first begin to practice out of school? How was that experience?

**DR. PAVLOS:** I graduated from Dental Hygiene School with my Bachelor of Science from the University of Maryland Dental School in 1988 with High Honors. I worked for 1 year as a dental hygienist to ensure that I wanted to complete another 4 years of school to become a dentist. I graduated from Dental School in 1993 and immediately practiced in Gaithersburg, Maryland. I immediately had a large practice because I had grown up near that area.

**FINE:** When did you first move here to Naples and why? When did you open your own practice?

**DR. PAVLOS:** My husband and I moved to the Naples area in 1995 after my husband got a transfer with his job. We both always dreamed of living in beautiful Naples because we used to vacation here on Spring Breaks and holidays. My husband actually proposed to me on Pelican Landing's private beach! We both felt that Naples paradise was the perfect place to start our lives. I had to rebuild



my practice where I knew no one and where I had no family. It was exciting and very challenging at the same time! I ended up purchasing an existing practice after I arrived in 1995 when there were not many female dentists in town. We spent 10 years in the Bed, Bath & Beyond plaza on Airport Pulling Road.

**FINE:** You have a very nice building and office. Was the building already there or did you design and build it?

**DR. PAVLOS:** We pride ourselves in our current state-of-the-art dental facility. We actually designed the entire layout and built the office in 1995. We searched for a location that would be close to our existing office. We took a lot of time to carefully plan every aspect of this facility with a close eye on attention to detail. We wanted to create a very clean, comfortable environment that would give our patients the feeling of being at home. Come and see for yourself!

**FINE:** How many dental hygienists do you employ? Roughly, how many patients to you currently have?

**DR. PAVLOS:** We employ two full time, caring dental hygienists. I also have two full time dental assistants, a receptionist, and an office manager. I feel blessed to have such an excellent and devoted staff. We are like family and their dedication to our patients has made us so successful. We are a team and almost all of us have worked together for over 10 years. We currently have approximately 10,000 patients and continue to get about 25 new patients per month from referrals and word of mouth.

**FINE:** What makes you and your dental office different from other ones? What do you feel are the secrets to your success here?

**DR. PAVLOS:** Our dental practice is successful because each of us will go above and beyond for any of our patients. We care about them like they are part of our family. We pride ourselves in making each patient feel comfortable and confident in an environment that most people dread. We have had the same patients since the beginning of our practice and there is very little turnover or patient transfers. We offer our patients the best care in a beautiful environment. We also always take new patients and if there is a patient emergency, they are seen the same day they call with a concern.

**FINE:** Being a Mom and a professional, how do you manage work and family? How do you find that balance?

**DR. PAVLOS:** Organization is the key, but that is easier said than done! I will not sugar coat the fact that juggling a busy practice and playing supermom is a huge challenge! When I had my first child she was 6 weeks premature and I only had a 2-week maternity leave. I thought it was really something when I took a 3-week maternity leave with my second child. Now, I have a 15 year old and a 12 year old. I look back at the blur of to-dos and can't believe I survived! I never missed a game or an event! Many lunch breaks were spent grocery shopping or getting school project supplies. I chose to not open the office on Fridays so that I could regroup and keep my family organized. I feel that being a mother makes me a better boss because I know how hard it is to do both. I offer help with childcare as a benefit to those employees that need it. My staff and I have juggled 11 pregnancies, deaths, marriages, illness, and nothing has ever stood in the way of us taking care of every one of our patients. My staff can accomplish anything together and I feel blessed to work with such a wonderful team.

**FINE:** What rewards you most in life?

**DR. PAVLOS:** My family life is the most important thing to me! My greatest joy in life comes from caring for others. I love transforming a life by changing their smile or seeing someone smile because I could help make them feel special. I am a perfectionist who demands only the best for those who walk through my door.

**FINE:** What are some of your favorite family things to do in Naples? Any favorite family restaurants? Any favorite places to shop? Any places you and your husband like to go as a couple without kids?

**DR. PAVLOS:** I have very little free time with after school activities, weekend sports, and homework! We all love going to the beach and the guys in our family love to fish. Some of our favorite restaurant spots are **Pei Wei** and **Bokampers**. If my husband and I ever get time to ourselves, we like to rejuvenate at the **Hyatt Coconut Point** – we love the relaxing atmosphere there! My husband also loves to go to **Flemings** and **Season's 52** for a great steak or just a great dinner!

**FINE:** Why do you think Naples is a special place to live? Why do you call this home?

**DR. PAVLOS:** Naples is a special place to live because of the beautiful weather. The sun always makes everything better. The surf is so close and the sunsets are picturesque. Naples is where everyone wants to vacation and visit. Why wouldn't you choose to live in a place that feels like a vacation? I feel lucky that we reached for our dreams and made them a reality in Naples, FL.

**FINE:** What advice would you give to other Moms, business owners or entrepreneurs?

**DR. PAVLOS:** The best advice I could give other Mothers or Mom Entrepreneurs, is to ask for help and surround yourself with employees or people who care. With God's help we can accomplish amazing things!

**FINE:** Do you have any favorite local charities?

**DR. PAVLOS:** I love to donate to Helps Outreach. They are a local charity that helps families in need. I participate every year in the Project Feed the Hungry. Over 100,000 meals are packaged in one day and distributed in Naples to those in need.

## PATRICIA PAVLOS COSMETIC & FAMILY DENTISTRY

6622 Willow Park Dr., Naples, FL 34109  
239.298.3032

