

## Retirement Letter

Dear Patient:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your trust and confidence in permitting me to take care of your dental needs through the years. It is with mixed emotions that I am announcing my necessary retirement from dentistry.

I understand how frustrating it must be to not receive answers from the staff when asking about my condition and return. The bottom line is nobody knew when I might be healthy again or able to return to the office. To summarize, on July 1, 2022 my diabetes medication quit working and my blood sugar went dangerously high causing me to blackout, fall and slam my hand into the tile floor. A visit to the emergency room diagnosed me with pancreatitis, which was extremely painful preventing me from going to the office. I could no longer eat meals and get nutrition and within the next twelve months I had lost 90 pounds. I was determined to find out what was going on and went to 20 of the top medical specialists in the County. I had eight MRIs, six CT Scans and multiple biopsies and still no diagnosis of what was causing the problem. After going with malnutrition for the prior twelve months, I had a series of TIAs causing me to lose half of my usable vision. In January 2023, I was told my vision loss was permanent and irreversible that I would not practice dentistry again, that I would not drive a car again and probably lose my ability to do photography. It was not until June 2023, when I was finally diagnosed with stage IV pancreatic cancer with metastasis to the liver, that I elected to start chemotherapy immediately to extend my survival up to twelve months.

Because I want to be certain that my patients continue to receive the best possible care, I have carefully evaluated a number of candidates who were interested in assuming my practice. I have selected Dr. Hollie Paschke whom I believe possesses the highest qualifications and is extremely well skilled in all phases of dentistry. Dr. Paschke earned her Doctor of Dental Medicine degree from LECOM School of Dental Medicine and is a Fellow for the practice of implant dentistry. Dr. Paschke married her high school sweetheart and has three little boys of her own. She is grateful to continue growing her roots in her husband's hometown with the support of their family in the same community.

Dr. Paschke will resume my legacy of compassionate care while utilizing advancements in microscope dentistry. I will be mentoring Dr. Paschke during this transition and we have the support of my existing team to assure that our patient's will have the continuity of care that they deserve.

Thank you again for your loyalty through the years and for your confidence in my selection of Dr. Paschke. I will miss you all but assure you that you will be in the best of hands with Dr. Paschke.

Sincerely,

*Michael F. Hughes*

Michael F. Hughes DDS