

PA's (Prosthodontic Associates) Women in Dentistry- Dr. Effie Habsha

Ever since I started practicing Dentistry over 15 years ago, I have always wanted to form a group geared toward fellow female colleagues in dentistry. A group formed *by* women in dentistry *for* women in dentistry. This is something I've always wanted, but just wasn't available. So I decided to form our own group with the indispensable support of Prosthodontic Associates, Janeen Kerswill, Izchak Barzilay, Mariela Gonzalez and our entire PA team. Our first meeting was held almost 3 years ago and the feedback we have received has been amazing.

You (and your male colleagues) might ask, why Women in Dentistry? What's the point? Let me try to answer that question....

Dentistry - like almost all professions out there - started as a man's profession. But - like almost all professions out there - women have joined the ranks. There are far more male dentists than female ones with a 70:30 male to female ratio. This is changing with every graduation year as females typically comprise 50% or greater of dental classes...but still, women are the minority. All dentists - men or women - share the same trends, challenges and issues regarding their profession, practices, and personal life. However, much of the profession's perspective on practices, issues and trends doesn't consider the unique point of view of women. Between our unique challenges, and the lower number of women in dentistry, it can make it hard to get the best out of our practices and our lives. Basically, our challenges are a little different, and we need a different way to approach them.

For that reason, we have created this ever evolving group, "PA's Women in Dentistry" which is dedicated to bringing women together to network, share and learn from the perspectives that are unique to us. Through regular events - and other initiatives we hope to launch (newsletters, seminars, education outreach and more) - we want to bring women dentists together and let that discussion happen. We want to mentor young women coming into the profession, so they can succeed professionally and personally. Let's have them stand on our shoulders and leverage what we know, what we've learned!

