

January 2, 2026

Dear Friends and Patients,

As I reflect on this upcoming year, it marks a meaningful milestone for me—my 40th year in dentistry and the 34th year that my dental practices have had the privilege of serving the San Marcos and Rancho Bernardo communities.

Over the past few years, many of you have asked whether I am planning to retire. While I am not retiring, I have given thoughtful consideration to how best to ensure that the level of care, trust, and excellence you have come to expect continues well into the future. With that goal in mind, I began exploring the idea of bringing in partners who share my philosophy, values, and commitment to patient-centered dentistry.



After an extensive and careful search—guided by both intention and impeccable timing, I was introduced to an exceptional husband-and-wife dental team, **Dr. Khizer Hafeez and Dr. Dariyan Ayazi**. From our very first conversations, it was clear that they shared the same diagnostic approach, ethical standards, and dedication to excellence that I have upheld throughout my career. Their clinical skill, integrity, and genuine care for patients made this decision an easy and confident one.

As of **January 2, 2026**, Drs. Hafeez and Ayazi are the new owners of both dental offices, and I will continue working alongside them. This allows for a smooth, thoughtful transition—one that prioritizes continuity of care and preserves the culture and relationships we have built together over decades.

I am truly honored to introduce you to these outstanding clinicians. Both Dr. Hafeez and Dr. Ayazi are graduates of NYU College of Dentistry and bring extensive experience across the same comprehensive scope of care I have provided throughout my career.

Dr. Hafeez has advanced expertise in cosmetic, implant, restorative, and reconstructive dentistry, while Dr. Ayazi brings strengths in restorative, orthodontic, pediatric, cosmetic, and emergency dentistry.

Both doctors are active members of leading professional organizations, including the **American Dental Association (ADA)**, **California Dental Association (CDA)**, and the **Academy of General Dentistry (AGD)**. In addition, they participate in advanced continuing education and professional affiliations related to implant and cosmetic dentistry, **including but not limited to** organizations such as the **International Congress of Oral Implantologists (ICOI)**, the **American Academy of Implant Dentistry (AAID)**, and the **American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (AACD)**. Their commitment to lifelong learning, teaching, and professional involvement reflects the same dedication to excellence and patient-centered care that I believe is essential to providing dentistry at the highest level.

I want you to know that I trust Drs. Hafeez and Ayazi completely—not only with your care, but with my own dental care and that of my family. I am genuinely excited about the future of these practices and the thoughtful enhancements they plan to introduce, all while preserving the high standards and personal touch you know and value.

Together, we will continue reviewing and completing existing treatment plans and ensuring seamless continuity of care. I am confident you will enjoy meeting and being cared for by Drs. Hafeez and Ayazi as much as I have enjoyed getting to know them through months of collaboration, discussion, and shared vision for the future.

It has been one of the greatest privileges of my professional life to serve you for the past four decades. I am deeply grateful for your trust, loyalty, and friendship, and I am proud to pass on the tradition of excellence we have built together to such capable hands.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of your lives and your health. I look forward to seeing you at your next visit and personally introducing you to Dr. Khizer Hafeez and Dr. Dariyan Ayazi.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

With Warmest Regards and Heartfelt Gratitude,

Nelson Y. Howard, D.D.S., A.A.A.C.D.