



# TMD News

*A publication from the office of Bryan H. Burdette, DMD, MS*

Temporomandibular Disorders/Orofacial Pain  
Snoring/Obstructive Sleep Apnea  
Headaches

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## Reflections...Past, Present and Future

We are delighted to share the terrific news that *we have moved our office* to 13050 Magisterial Place in the Eastpoint Business Center, located in the eastern part of Louisville off Old Henry Road.

Many of you have also undertaken the daunting task of building a new office and moving your practice, so you might wonder if I'm not a bit "long in the tooth" for such an endeavor. I took the leap of faith because I love the field of orofacial pain and still have the desire to care for pain patients and strive for excellence. The voluminous research in this field is producing a consensus of diagnosis and treatment protocols that are *humane and effective*, keeping the future of orofacial pain attractive. Management of patients' physical signs and symptoms remains essential and the research evidence is continually moving us away from irreversible and aggressive dental techniques. Instead of trying to conform the patient to someone's preconceived notion of normal or ideal structure, each patient is diagnosed as an individual with unique physical, emotional and social characteristics and the treatment is tailored to their particular needs. The effectiveness of this new paradigm is fulfilling enough to keep me involved in orofacial pain for the foreseeable future.

The new facility will provide the space for our practice to manage growth. We saw more new patients in 2008 than any previous year. As you know, people in pain want and need to be seen as quickly as possible, so we have doubled the number of patient operatories and added much-needed new staff to minimize scheduling delays. We have also purchased a *cone-beam CT scan* to improve the quality of our diagnostic and treatment capabilities. This new, improved facility will provide the ideal setting for a future associate in our practice.

Please *continue to screen patients* who complain of headaches, neck pain, and/or ear pain in addition to those who complain of jaw problems, as these symptoms are often related to an underlying TMJ problem. It is this particular patient segment that is often the most frustrated by the time they reach our practice if their symptoms have gone unresolved despite multiple doctor visits and treatment attempts. As always, I welcome and encourage any inquiry you may have regarding a pain patient.

Time to get back to work,

*Bryan H. Burdette, DMD, MS*

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