

Dental Economics Rising Stars Award

When it comes to balancing clinical excellence, a thriving practice, community outreach, and a family life, Dr. Alyssa Fisher sets the standard for young dentists. She leads with empathy and compassion, and patients near and far have benefited from her kindness. We had a chance to sit down with her to discuss how she not only does it all, but does it all well.—**Pamela Maragliano-Muniz, DMD**



Alyssa Fisher, DDS
*Indiana University School
of Dentistry, 2018*

Have you endured any struggles in your journey? If so, how do you manage them or how have you overcome them?

In the wake of the pandemic, dentists all around the world faced unprecedented challenges. I had to navigate the pandemic as a dentist and new mother. My journey was marked by resilience, adaptability, and determination.

As the proud owner of Tooth Acres Dentistry, I was acutely aware of the impact the pandemic would have on my practice, my patients, and my team. Yet, armed with a steadfast commitment to excellence and a proactive approach to safety, our team rose to the challenge with grace and fortitude.

In addition to my professional responsibilities, I faced the added complexity of balancing motherhood with my role as a dental practice owner. Early in my ownership of Tooth Acres, I had two maternity leaves which presented unique challenges and opportunities for growth. Juggling the demands of caring for a newborn while overseeing the operations of a busy dental practice required flexibility, resourcefulness, and a supportive team. Together, we were able to navigate my physical absence from the office successfully, not once, but twice.

What advice would you provide to dental students and new grads?

Embarking on the journey of dentistry as a new graduate is both exhilarating and daunting. With the excitement of starting a new chapter in your career comes the responsibility of navigating the complexities of the profession and setting yourself up for long-term success. As someone who has traversed this path and emerged stronger for it, I offer the following advice to new dental graduates, gleaned from my own experiences and lessons learned along the way.



Apex Dental Partners is delighted to be the exclusive sponsor of the prestigious *Dental Economics Rising Stars in Dentistry Award*

As a renowned industry leader and one of the fastest-growing private companies in the nation, we are wholeheartedly committed to championing and backing the exceptional young dentists who play a crucial role in propelling our industry toward a brighter future.

We call ourselves Apex Dental Partners because we aren't like other DSOs; we offer a partnership model that combines the values of private practice dentistry with the support of world-class business professionals. Our innovative solution to modern dentistry is called **Private Practice Reimagined®**. Through this unique partnership approach, we are able to achieve our mission of improving the lives of our patients and the communities we serve.

In 2014, Apex was founded by Dr. Layla Lohmann, David Lohmann, and Matt Hale. Like many young practitioners, Dr. Lohmann began her career at a large corporate DSO. This group allowed Dr. Lohmann to focus on practicing dentistry without the demands and burdens of recruiting, marketing, and accounting that are so common in private practice.

However, her experience there highlighted the shortcomings of conventional DSOs. They ignored the value of long-term patient relationships, imposed highly prescriptive protocols, and mandated the utmost focus on production per visit. These strict standards motivated Dr. Lohmann to reevaluate her personal care philosophy.

In discussing this experience with David, Dr. Lohmann wondered why there wasn't a complete solution that could provide what she was looking for as a dentist—a **place that put outstanding patient care first** so she could practice with clinical independence but still feel supported in business management.

Together, Dr. Lohmann, David, and Matt launched a quality-focused dental group, blending the best attributes of private practice with the benefits of a group model. Led by a team of skilled clinicians and industry experts, Apex has become the preeminent dental partnership option, with over 100 doctors serving more than 200,000 active patients each year.

We understand the dilemma faced by young dentists who are searching for an opportunity that offers mentorship, flexibility, and support, while maintaining clinical autonomy. Apex is proud to provide the clear solution to dentists seeking such a balance. When you join the Apex family, you'll witness our united mission of service for our patients, partners, and neighbors. If you're ready to establish a practice home, we can help.



First and foremost, finding an office that offers mentorship is priceless. As a new graduate, the guidance and support of an experienced mentor can make all the difference in your transition from student to practitioner.

Equally important, make sure that the practice you enter is healthy and conducive to your professional growth. Pay attention to key indicators of practice health. Shadow the office to observe firsthand how the team works together, the patient flow, and the overall environment.

Personal finance is another crucial aspect of navigating life as a new dental graduate. While the temptation to splurge on luxuries may be strong, resist the urge to stretch your finances too thin. Keep your purchases modest and prioritize financial stability and security.

If you have the opportunity to join a professional dental organization in your area, I highly encourage you to do so. During my time of service and as a member of the Isaac Knapp District Dental Society, I was able to expand my professional network and develop friendships with others in my profession.

Lastly, recognize the importance of constantly working on yourself and being open to feedback from others. Approach each day with a spirit of humility and a willingness to learn from every experience. By committing yourself to personal and professional growth, you will become not only a better dentist, but also a better health-care provider and leader. **DE**

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