

DOCTOR *of* DENTISTRY

A BUSINESS AND LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE FOR DENTISTS



**How Atlanta Oral and Facial Surgery
became a landmark in its field**



Dr. Jo with Dr. Cardona and Sugarloaf office staff.

How Atlanta Oral and Facial Surgery became a landmark in its field

By Brooke Turbyfill

Atlanta Oral and Facial Surgery is the largest oral and maxillofacial surgery practice in the nation. Its 19 offices, mostly scattered throughout North Atlanta, boast a group of professionals with the broadest spectrum of dentistry and surgery offered today.

Dr. James Smouse was senior resident to Dr. Bob Wunderle and Dr. John Freihaut during their training at Emory University. When their training was completed, Drs. Wunderle and Freihaut joined Dr. Smouse in the Marietta area with additional offices in Cartersville, Marietta and East Cobb. Dr. Smouse served in the United States Air Force with Dr. Barton McGhee and Dr. Steven Levy as general dentists prior to attending the residency for oral surgery. Dr. Roger Meyer was the head of the program at Emory, and through the years following 1978, after 1978 the core of these

oral surgeons became known as Smouse, Wunderle, & Freihaut until 1997 when the name changed to Atlanta Oral and Facial Surgery Associates. It is now Atlanta Oral & Facial Surgery with 19 offices, 14 partners, and three professional employees. Dr. Chris Jo and Dr. Martin Velez are the most recent additions as partners in the group.

Dr. Louis Belinfante allowed for the practice to expand with offices in Cumming, West Cobb Galleria, and Sugar Hill by joining the practice in 2001, having been Atlanta Oral and Facial Surgery's primary competitor in Cobb County for 15 years. Dr. Louis Belinfante is still with the group as is his son, Dr. Erik Belinfante. Dr. Barton McGhee's son is serving in the USAF and intends to join the group in 2010. Dr. Wunderle's son is presently in Kentucky's dental school and may be considering oral

surgery. Dr. Nunn is the only tripled boarded oral surgeon in the country and has allowed Atlanta Oral and Facial Surgery to develop a 23-hour out-patient facility on the St. Joseph's Hospital campus. Needless to say, each surgeon offers the other surgeons recommendations based upon their clinical training, experience, and educational background; the medical and dental community is very fortunate to have such a diverse group of oral surgeons willing to serve their patients.

One such surgeon is Dr. Chris Jo. He began his residency training at Emory University under chief resident, Shahrokh Bagheri. Atlanta Oral and Facial Surgery has been able to draw surgeons with such a diverse array of specialties through the same means by which Dr. Jo came to the practice – relationships. Just as its origins started

with about seven surgeons who had trained together, the practice brings in new associates because they already know an associate or partner. In fact, the partners in the practice train residents from the Medical College of Georgia in both major hospital cases and in the office. The residents rotate with the practice 10 months out of the year, gaining

tremendous experience in the entire spectrum of oral, maxillofacial, and cosmetic facial surgery.

Dr. Jo finds it rewarding to stay involved in teaching residents in oral surgery and feels this relational tie to the Medical College of Georgia and the academic affiliation with Emory are the keys to recruiting such a

Dr. Jo finds it rewarding to stay involved in teaching residents in oral surgery and feels this relational tie to the Medical College of Georgia and the academic affiliation with Emory are the keys to recruiting such a talented, hard-working team.



Dr. Jo performs an excisional biopsy on a mucocele on Patient Quentin Kears. Later Quentin is comforted by Dr. Jo's surgical assistant, Rebecca as he recovers.



Dr. Jo checks an occlusion on a post-operative patient Virginia Hardy, after her orthognathic surgery.



Staff member, Karen gets an injection of Botox from Dr. Jo.



Dr. Jo enjoys performing the full scope of oral and maxillofacial surgery, including third molar removal, dental implants and bone grafting, orthognathic surgery, tumor and reconstructive surgery, facial cosmetic surgery, and facial trauma surgery as you can see here with the Virginia Hardy case who had a double jaw surgery to correct a severe malocclusion and facial asymmetry.

Shahrokh Bagheri, D.M.D., M.D., F.A.C.S.



Dental School: Harvard University
Medical School: Emory University
Residency: Emory University School of Medicine
Fellowship: Craniofacial trauma and facial cosmetic surgery

Surgical Interests: Facial Plastic Surgery, Maxillofacial Reconstruction, Microneurosurgery
Practice Locations: Galleria in NW Atlanta, East Cobb in Marietta, Kennestone in Marietta

Stephen A. Bankston, D.M.D.



Dental School: University of Pennsylvania
Residency: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Fellowship: Craniofacial trauma and facial cosmetic surgery

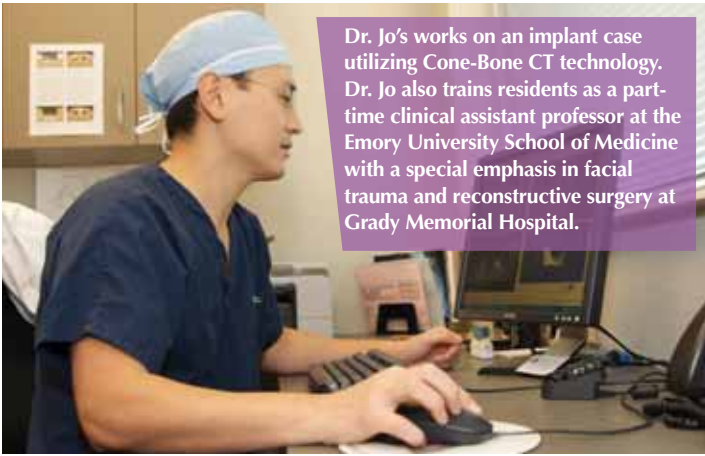
Surgical Interests: Facial Trauma, Pathology, Facial Cosmetic and Reconstructive surgery
Practice Locations: Galleria in NW Atlanta, Windy Hill in Marietta

Eric Belinfante, D.M.D.



Dental School: Boston University Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry
Residency: Catholic Medical Center, Brooklyn and Queens, NY
Fellowship: Facial cosmetic surgery, Dental Implant, and TMJ surgery

Surgical Interests: Wisdom teeth, Dental implants, Pediatric patients
Practice Locations: Sugarhill, Johns Creek in Suwanee



Dr. Jo works on an implant case utilizing Cone-Bone CT technology. Dr. Jo also trains residents as a part-time clinical assistant professor at the Emory University School of Medicine with a special emphasis in facial trauma and reconstructive surgery at Grady Memorial Hospital.

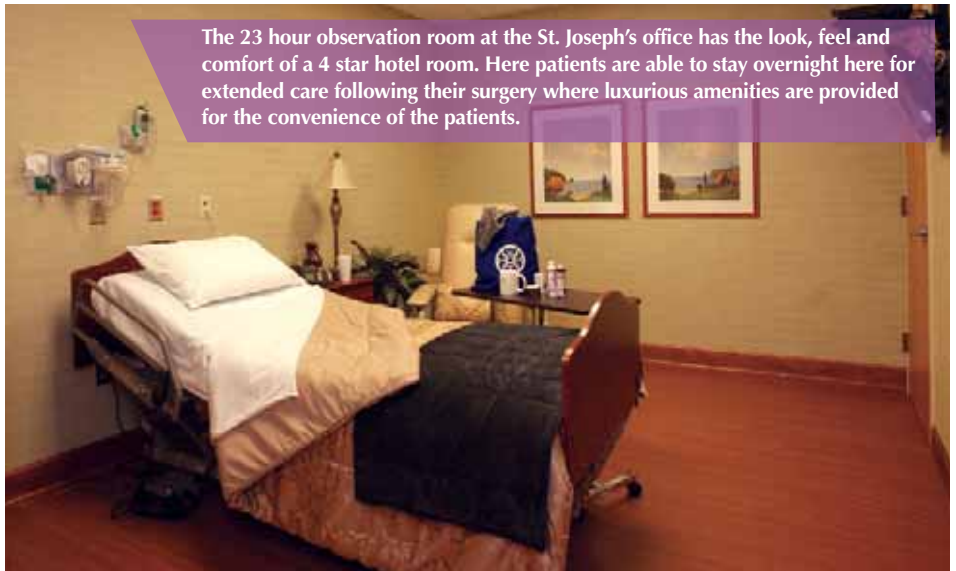


Dr. Nunn in his St. Joseph AAAHC accredited operating room with his staff, left to right Desiree Hatten, CST; Patty Wojcik, RN; Dr. Don Nunn; Jaime Braun patient coordinator; AmyLynne Carlton, ST.

talented, hard-working team. It's also what makes this practice unique – all the surgeons not only get along, but many of them assist each other in surgeries. In the operating room (for major reconstructive, orthognathic, and facial trauma surgery) we work in tandem. Noting the rarity of such a large practice, in addition to the diverse field of surgeons working well together, Dr. Jo also said the practice is built for recruiting and developing top-notch surgeons.

“Dr. Smouse really motivates and retains people in the group. You have the option of becoming a partner in the group, too,” added Dr. Jo, who did a fellowship with subspecialty training in facial cosmetic and reconstructive surgery. Several partners have fellowship training, including Drs. Shahrokh Bagheri, Stephen Bankston, Erik Belinfante, Richard Meaders, Donald Nunn, and P.J. Schaner. Dr. Jo is a member of several professional organizations, including the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons; Georgia Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons and the International Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

He is one of several surgeons in the



The 23 hour observation room at the St. Joseph's office has the look, feel and comfort of a 4 star hotel room. Here patients are able to stay overnight here for extended care following their surgery where luxurious amenities are provided for the convenience of the patients.

group that volunteers at the Ben Massell Clinic, which just opened a facility in downtown Atlanta. The clinic specializes in providing dental care for indigent populations. Dr. Jo also trains residents as a part-time clinical assistant professor at the Emory University School of Medicine with a special emphasis in facial trauma and reconstructive surgery at Grady Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Jo's former chief resident, Dr. Bagheri,

operates out of one of the practice's Marietta offices. An educator involved in various academic programs, Dr. Bagheri possesses both dental and medical degrees, and he authored a textbook with Dr. Jo as a co-author entitled *Clinical Review in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery*, a book that is now used nationally and internationally for resident training and board review. He is a graduate of Harvard University and is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Louis Belinfante, D.D.S.



Dental School: University of Pennsylvania
Residency: Boston University and Mt. Sinai Hospital
Surgical Interests: Oral and maxillofacial cosmetic surgery, dental implants, reconstructive surgery

Practice Locations: Dawsonville and Cumming

Yadira Cardona-Rohena, D.M.D.



Dental School: University of Puerto Rico
Residency: Montefiore Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Surgical Interests: Impacted wisdom teeth, dental implants, bone grafting,

facial trauma, orthognathic surgery, maxillofacial tumor and reconstructive surgery and general anesthesia

Practice Locations: Lilburn, Hamilton Mill in Dacula

Chris Jo, D.M.D.



Dental School: Medical College of Georgia
Residency: Emory University School of Medicine
Fellowship: Facial Cosmetic & Reconstructive Surgery
Surgical Interests: Third molar & dentoalveolar surgery,

Implant and Bone graft surgery, Orthognathic surgery, Tumor & Reconstructive Surgery, Facial Cosmetic Surgery, Facial Trauma Surgery.

Practice Locations: Sugarloaf in Duluth, Hamilton Mill in Dacula

Richard Paul Keim, Jr., D.D.S.



Dental School: University of Missouri-Kansas City
Residency: University of Oklahoma Health Science Center
Surgical Interests: Dentoalveolar surgery, anesthesia, dental implants and orthognathic surgery
Practice Locations: Cumming, Roswell, and Preston Ridge in Alpharetta

H. Ali Khan, M.D., D.M.D.



Dental School: University of Kentucky
Medical School: University of Miami
Residency: University of Miami, Jackson Memorial Hospital
Surgical Interests: Facial trauma, orthognathic, and reconstructive surgery
Practice Locations: Cartersville, Calhoun, Kennestone in Marietta

Steven Levy, D.D.S.



Dental School: Temple University
Residency: University of Maryland Hospital
Surgical Interests: Full-scope
Practice Locations: Canton, Preston Ridge in Alpharetta

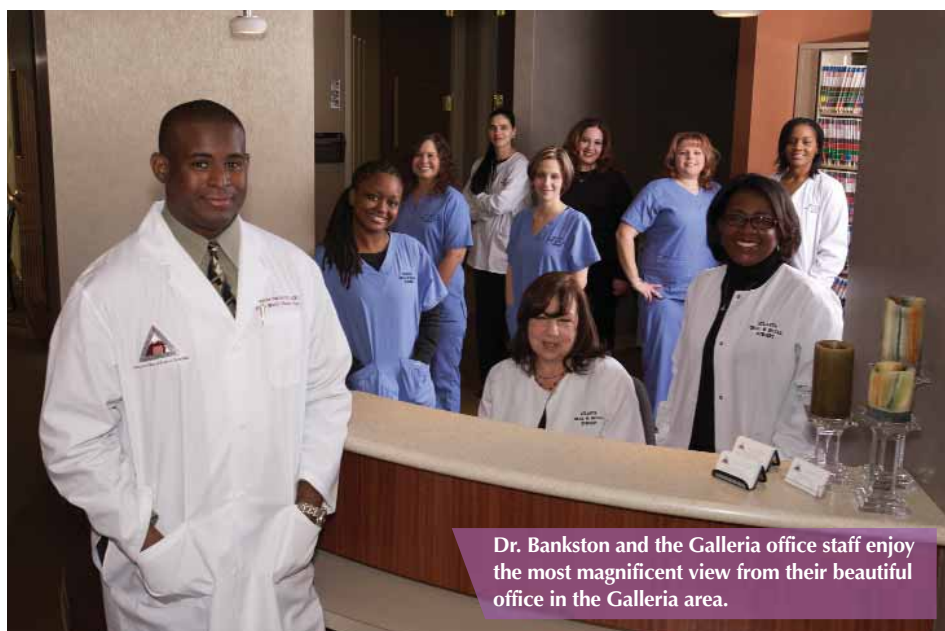
In addition to oral and maxillofacial surgery, Dr. Bagheri is a clinical assistant professor at Emory University and a clinical associate professor at the Medical College of Georgia. He specializes in microneuro-surgical procedures.

His practice emphasizes communication with patients. "To care for people, it is essential to see things from their perspective," he said. "Only then can one embark on a successful treatment."

Once a patient is referred to the surgery practice (usually by another patient or referring doctor), he meets with one of the doctors to discuss his medical history. Patients are then examined, x-rays are done and a surgical plan is devised. Sedation options are discussed with the patient, as well as treatment options, risks, benefits, alternative procedures and what to expect post-operation. Once the surgery is actually performed, follow-up is standard, and a doctor is always on call. For instance, if a patient is referred to the practice

“To care for people, it is essential to see things from their perspective. Only then can one embark on a successful treatment.”

– Dr. Shahrokh Bagheri



Dr. Bankston and the Galleria office staff enjoy the most magnificent view from their beautiful office in the Galleria area.



Dr. Nunn spends time with his patient's discussing all the treatment options available to reach desired results.



Dr. Bankston enjoys being able to work with patients of all ages. Here he performed wound care on a pediatric patient who suffered facial trauma.

Barton L. McGhee, Jr., D.D.S.



Dental School: University of Tennessee
Residency: Emory University
Surgical Interests: Maxillofacial prosthetics surgery, implant reconstruction, and surgical endodontics

Practice Locations: Canton, Woodstock

Richard A. Meaders, D.M.D.



Dental School: Medical College of Georgia
Residency: Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Fellowship: Orthognathic surgery
Surgical Interests: orthognathic and

reconstructive jaw surgery, dental implants, surgical management of impacted teeth, hard and soft tissue pathology, facial trauma and anesthesia
Practice Locations: Cumming, Johns Creek in Suwanee

Donald R. Nunn, M.D., D.D.S.



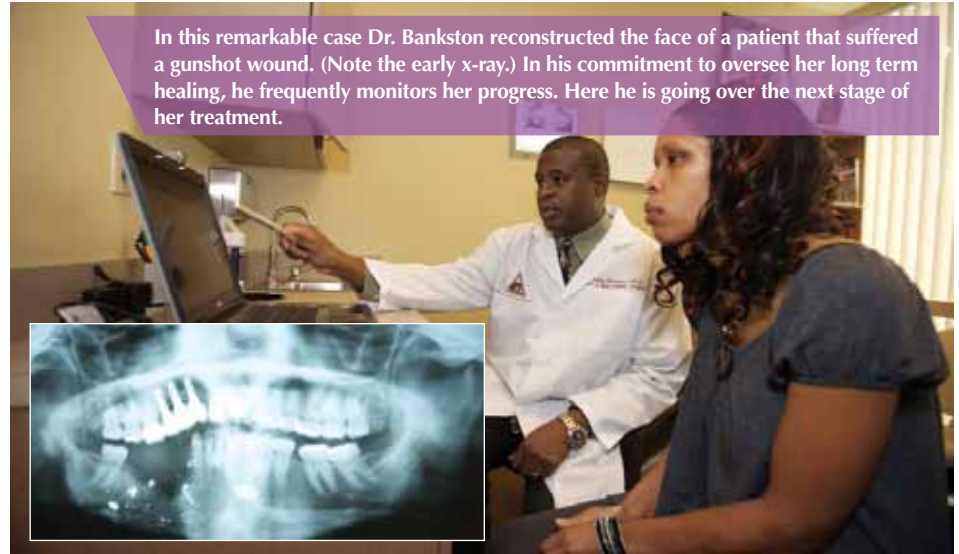
Dental School: Medical College of Virginia
Medical School: Medical College of Virginia
Residency: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (OMFS), Eastern Virginia Medical School (ENT), University of California, Los Angeles (Plastic Surgery)

Fellowship: Aesthetic Surgery, Manhattan Eye, Ear, and Throat Hospital
Surgical Interests: Plastic surgery of the face, body, and breast
Practice Locations: Due West in Marietta, St. Joseph's in Atlanta

for corrective jaw surgery, in addition to conducting his examination and reviewing treatment options with the patient, the surgeon would also confer with the patient's orthodontist. This ensures a custom treatment plan tailored to that specific patient.

The practice has surgeons who are trained in facial trauma surgery, dentoalveolar surgery, cosmetic surgery, orthognathic surgery, implants and even plastic surgery. What makes a large oral surgery practice with such diversity so unusual is that, according to Dr. Smouse, oral surgeons generally like to be autonomous.

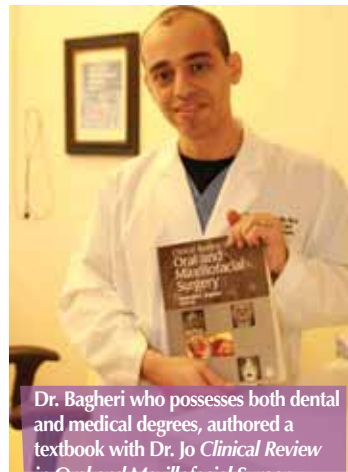
"Oral surgeons are a funny group. They like control. There are very few large practices



In this remarkable case Dr. Bankston reconstructed the face of a patient that suffered a gunshot wound. (Note the early x-ray.) In his commitment to oversee her long term healing, he frequently monitors her progress. Here he is going over the next stage of her treatment.



Dr. Bagheri and Staff at the East Cobb Surgical Center.



Dr. Bagheri who possesses both dental and medical degrees, authored a textbook with Dr. Jo Clinical Review in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. The book is now used nationally and internationally for resident training and board review.

in the country, mostly because they want to maintain that autonomy. But we have this joint effort of camaraderie and teaching each other. It comes from recruiting others who come from big programs. We recruit from existing programs from which we've already recruited – fellow residents who knew us. We've never had to advertise to get associate surgeons; they've all been

referred to us," said Dr. Smouse.

For example, Dr. Donald Nunn came to the group in 2000. He is the only triple-board certified surgeon in the country. Board certified in ear, nose and throat, oral and maxillofacial surgery and plastic surgery, Dr. Nunn has his own plastic surgery practice that operates out of St. Joseph's Hospital performing state-of-the-art full body and breast surgery, as well as

facial plastic surgery. Dr. Smouse said that Dr. Nunn's specialty is one of the areas in which he wants to see Atlanta Oral and Facial Surgery expand. "We're hoping to keep expanding on the plastic surgery with Dr. Nunn."

"We're also thinking of expanding into offering implants-over-dentures on a wide-scale basis to those individuals who have just sort of forgotten about dentistry and to those individuals who are limited in income. It's very expensive to repair dentistry that's 40 years

old," said Dr. Smouse, "so implant-over-dentures is a service that the public needs."

These avenues of future expansion are simply a continuation of Dr. Smouse's original vision to broaden the practice in its diversity. It was always his idea to recruit a field of doctors who operate in a breadth of specialties. One of the driving reasons he wanted to do that is because he

Dr. Bagheri and his staff get ready for a procedure at the East Cobb surgical center. Atlanta Oral and Facial Surgery has surgeons who are trained in facial trauma, dentalveolar surgery, cosmetic surgery, orthognathic surgery, implants and even plastic surgery.



saw how well-rounded the training was for the up-and-coming surgeons. Dr. Smouse – who went to the school of dentistry at Temple University, practiced for five years in the military and then went to Emory for the oral and maxillofacial surgery program – said he believes he received good training in his three-year program. Today, surgeons are receiving four to seven years of training. “They have a much more well-rounded education, and most people who are well-educated in this country want to share that education and experience with others. So we’ve been able to bring in people that are truly better trained than those who were not able to receive the same exposure. They like to share their training and experience with everyone in the group.”

He believes this philosophy of not owning any surgeon in the group is what has kept so many from moving on to other practices. “We tell them, ‘You just come and enjoy the field of oral surgery in the

manner you want to practice. Don’t worry about paying the bills.”

Atlanta Oral and Facial Surgery has a corporate structure with its own human resources department, accounts payable department, etc. Everything is centralized so the surgeons are not required to do any management if they so choose. The absence of such paperwork and hassle allows the surgeons to concentrate on what they enjoy most within their individual specialties – treating patients. “Probably, a sole practitioner ends up making more money if you want to look at it in financial terms,” said Dr. Smouse, “but their quality of life and time spent in surgery is not nearly as nice as it is in a group practice. These guys can do surgery all day long and not worry about the administrative headaches.”

This unique atmosphere is what attracted Dr. Stephen Bankston to the practice. As a former standout college football player at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Bankston has a unique understanding of what it means to be a team player. Bankston received both his bachelors and doctorate of dental medicine from the University of Pennsylvania. He performed his internship and residency at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and completed a fellowship in craniofacial trauma and reconstructive surgery at the

University of Miami School of Medicine, Jackson Memorial Hospital. He moved to Augusta, Georgia, to teach at the Medical College of Georgia, and that is where he learned about Atlanta Oral and Facial Surgery.

Dr. Bankston has a special interest in computer guided implantology and major reconstructive surgery. He has participated in clinical trials and lectured nationally in the cutting edge field of computer guided implantology. He also serves as director of oral and maxillofacial surgery for the Ben Massell Clinic. Dr. Bankston is one of many surgeons at Atlanta Oral and Facial Surgery who volunteer their time outside the practice. He enjoys recruiting surgeons from the practice to volunteer at the 90-year-old clinic that recently moved to 14th Street downtown. He and the other surgeons enjoy “just giving back to the community,” he added.

“This is a very unique practice in size and scope,” said Dr. Bankston. The range of services and experience offered at Atlanta Oral and Facial Surgery has allowed Dr. Bankston to build a practice that treats some of Atlanta’s top entertainers, artists, and professional athletes.

“We are a comprehensive practice. We perform the full scope of maxillofacial surgical procedures. We have surgeons from very diverse backgrounds and training. There’s not any oral and maxillofacial surgery challenge that we can’t handle within the group. I believe the biggest asset of our practice is the way we work together,” he said.

To learn more about the doctors in the practice, commonly performed procedures and patient information such as insurance needs, go to www.atlantaoralsurgery.com

Dr. Bagheri during a patient consultation.



Paul J. Schaner, II, D.M.D.



Dental School: University of Pittsburgh
Residency: Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Montefiore Medical Center
Fellowship: Facial Cosmetic and Reconstructive Surgery
Surgical Interests: Aesthetic surgery, reconstructive and

orthognathic surgery, implant reconstruction and trauma surgery

Practice Locations: Due West in Marietta, East Cobb in Marietta

James R. Smouse, D.D.S.



Dental School: Temple University
Residency: Emory University
Surgical Interests: Impacted Third Molars, Dentoalveolar, Dental Implants, and Pathology
Practice Locations: Lilburn

Martin Velez, D.D.S.



Dental School: University of Texas Health Sciences Center, Houston
Residency: Dwight D. Eisenhower U.S. Army Medical Center
Surgical Interests: Dentoalveolar, Implant, Orthognathic Surgery

Practice Locations: Roswell, Preston Ridge in Alpharetta

Robert Wunderle, D.D.S.



Dental School: Ohio State University
Residency: Emory University
Surgical Interests: Impacted wisdom teeth, office anesthesia, dental implants, treatment of oral pathology and infections, reconstructive facial surgery for treatment of congenital and traumatic deformities, cosmetic facial surgery
Practice Locations: Cartersville, Calhoun, East Cobb in Marietta

“There’s not any oral and maxillofacial surgery challenge that we can’t handle within the group. I believe the biggest asset of our practice is the way we work together.”

– Dr. Stephen Bankston

Atlanta Oral and Facial Surgery Locations

Calhoun Office

100 Wright Court
Calhoun, GA 30701
706-629-5200
cal@atlantaoralsurgery.com

Canton Office

201 Oakside Lane
Building B
Canton, GA 30114
770-479-9545
ctn@atlantaoralsurgery.com

Cartersville Office

12 Bowens Ct.
Cartersville, GA 30120
770-382-6567
cvo@atlantaoralsurgery.com

Cumming Office

1400 Northside Forsyth Drive
Suite 330
Cumming, GA 30041
770-844-7894
cmo@atlantaoralsurgery.com

Dawsonville Office

5959 Highway 53E
Suite 250
Dawsonville, GA 30534
706-265-1274
daw@atlantaoralsurgery.com

Due West Office

3770 Due West Road
Suite 200
Marietta, GA 30064
770-424-2003
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East Cobb Office

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Building H
Marietta, GA 30068
770-977-0364
ecs@atlantaoralsurgery.com

Galleria Office

200 Galleria Parkway
Suite 1810
Atlanta, GA 30339
770-956-7577
gal@atlantaoralsurgery.com

Hamilton Mill Office

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770-271-2006
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Johns Creek Office

3890 Johns Creek Parkway
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Suwanee, GA 30024
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Kennestone Office

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Marietta, GA 30060
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Atlanta Oral & Facial Surgery

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