When Dr. Mary Stillwell-Kuesel founded the Women’s Dental Association of the United States, she started with just 12 charter members. Admittedly, there weren’t a lot of women practicing dentistry in 1892. But the women who were wanted “a society by which they could strengthen themselves by trying to help one another.” Other similar organizations followed, and ultimately evolved into today’s American Association of Women Dentists (AAWD).

Today, according to the AAWD, the “face of dentistry is changing,” and it’s looking a lot more female. With this change comes challenge. But it’s a challenge that today’s women in dentistry are excited to meet.

In this section, you will meet some exceptional people, including Dr. Helen Jafari, who restores the smiles of immigrant women and girls in Houston, Texas. You’ll learn about Cecilia Mescain, who is AADOM’s Office Manager of the Year. Journey with Dr. Emily Letran as she recounts her escape from communist Vietnam to face new challenges in America. Read our interview with Sarah Anders, Ivoclar Vivadent’s recently promoted chief operating officer and senior vice president of North American sales. And you’ll find much more that may inspire you to evolve, learn and grow—whether you’re a woman or not.

“So come... explore with us the changing face of dentistry.

“For me it’s a way to give back to the community, and because I’m a female dentist, it’s important to me to promote the well-being, equality and education of women.” ~ Dr. Helen Jafari