

# This is Where I Belong

## A Doctor Across Borders

Although you might not know it when you encounter her in the stands at Rider High School, watching her son play basketball or at the ballet studio with her daughter, Sandra Vergara is an anomaly amongst oral surgeons. Originally from Cali, Colombia, and trained at Vanderbilt University, she has been practicing for over 16 years. “When I was training at Vanderbilt, I was the only woman in the program,” she shrugs, as if it’s not a big deal. The surgical training program at Vanderbilt University is one of the most rigorous in the country and, given Sandra is a single mother of two, one wonders how she had time to sleep and still keep

pace with the most demanding surgeons in the country.

Additionally, Dr. Vergara left a successful practice in Colombia, where, as the wife of a high profile politician she feared the civil unrest would affect her children. “It was difficult, but I had help from family and friends. By the will of God, I made it through and was able to bring my children to Wichita Falls. This is where I belong.”

Thirteen years later, not only is she the only female oral surgeon in the greater Texoma area, but she owns her own practice and is the proud mother of two Raiders, Juan Pablo and Maria Alejandra Varela.







Guatemala mission trip 2013

## FINDING HOME

Dr. Vergara began her career in Bogotá, Colombia, at El Bosque University School of Dentistry, earning her DDS and completing four years of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency. To expand upon the training she received in Colombia, Dr. Vergara augmented her skills at Parkland Memorial in Dallas completing a fellowship in surgical treatments specifically dealing with the temporomandibular joint. Back in Colombia, she ran a successful private practice and joined the Rafael Uribe Hospital in Cali as a clinical attending physician and professor.

Since moving to Wichita, Sandra has become active in the church and recently took part in a medical mission to rural Guatemala where she provided medical education and performed surgical procedures. In addition, she is a partner in education at two public schools, where she volunteers her time giving lectures to health classes and participates with the AR Program rewards for students. She also supports several non-profit organizations, such as Patsy's House and the Wichita County Child Welfare Board.

## A SURGEON

Dr. Vergara opened the Oral Surgery and Dental Implant Center in June 2006; an independently owned facility which she founded with the support of her sister and brother-in-law, Drs. Liliana and Brad Samuelson, who own the adjacent Cardiovascular Imaging Center. She works with many of the local dentists and has been successfully practicing the full scope of oral surgery and offers the latest in surgical technology and advanced surgical procedures. Her practice was the first to offer the innovative All-on-4 implant solution to the Wichita Falls area. She also provides IV sedation for procedures, allowing the patients a safe and comfortable experience. In addition to her private practice, she has hospital privileges at Kell West Regional Hospital and Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas.

Dr. Vergara's mission is to serve the oral surgery needs of the Wichita Falls community with honesty, expertise and compassion.



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