

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



DR. MELISSA THOMAS DURAND

LANIER DENTAL PARTNERS
NORTHERN DISTRICT DENTAL SOCIETY



Dr. Melissa Thomas Durand is a general dentist at Lanier Dental Partners. After attending North Georgia College, she earned her dental degree at the Medical College of Georgia. Dr. Durand stays current with dental technology and techniques by actively participating in top continuing education programs and dental societies.

1. FUN FACT

Dr. Durand applied to dental school after completing just two years of college and meeting the necessary prerequisites, and she was lucky enough to be accepted without an undergraduate degree!

2. DENTAL GAME CHANGER

The biggest transformation in her practice hasn't been technology—it's relationships. A mission trip reminded her that skill, compassion, and adaptability matter more than equipment. Real impact comes from meaningful human connection.



3. BEST ADVICE FOR A DENTAL STUDENT

Success isn't just academic. Prioritize balance, relationships, communication, and integrity. Stay humble, curious, and build a life—not just a career.

4. WHAT DOES BEING A DENTIST MEAN TO YOU?

Dentistry is more than a career for her—it's a calling. It allows her to connect with patients, support her community, and grow both personally and professionally. She loves building relationships, helping people smile confidently, and serving both in and outside the office. Her purpose includes being a dentist, mom, wife, volunteer, and friend—it all matters.

5. DID SOMEONE INSPIRE OR MENTOR YOU?

"A family friend and local dentist, Dr. Bob McGuinn, greatly influenced me early on. I shadowed him in high school and worked alongside him after dental school. Many of his patients are still part of my practice today—a testament to the lasting relationships that define this profession."

Flying to

Realistically, the mountains, but in a dream, Australia and New Zealand



Also a Member of:

- 🦷 American Society of Implant and Reconstructive Dentistry
- 🦷 Academy of General Dentistry
- 🦷 Hinman Dental Society
- 🦷 Academy of Dentistry International