

W O M E N I N B U S I N E S S

She put skin care for the whole family under one umbrella

By ELAINE HESSER

‘IF I can practice through a pandemic, I can do anything,” said Dr. Christina Bolante, owner of Parasol Dermatology, which opened in June. She said that supply-line interruptions were the most difficult things to deal with when it came to setting up shop in Monterey.

“Things you’d never think of would be out of stock and back-ordered,” she said.

Exam tables were in short supply, as were devices used to cauterize wounds, and medications like lidocaine with epinephrine. But if you’re managing all the aspects of a medical practice, with no logistics or finance team, you have to figure out how to adjust.

“I learned to have more flexibility,” said Bolante.

More than 20 square feet

Like many physicians, Bolante knew that was the career she wanted even when she was a youngster in Washington State. “I liked science and math, and everyone encouraged me to be a doctor,” she said. She loves kids and thought that she would go into pediatrics, but the mentor assigned to her in medical school was a dermatologist who got her interested in the specialty.

“The skin is an amazing organ,” she noted. It covers more than 20 square feet, and Bolante said that it could be affected by any of more than 3,000 possible disorders. That meant that it satisfied her need for variety. “I treat everything from acne, hair loss and melanoma, to Botox, fillers and laser treatment,” she said.

In fact, her practice’s name — Parasol — is meant to evoke protection from the sun, but also the notion that she can cover

‘I learned to have more flexibility,’ during the pandemic.

someone’s skincare needs, from youth to old age, under one umbrella. “I can see whole families. I can treat a child’s acne, take care of Mom’s Botox and do Dad’s cancer screening,” she noted.

She’s also worked as part of a burn team in Seattle — a job that’s not for the faint of heart. There was a great deal of surgery and she got a lot of experience with skin grafts, as well. “I liked being there to help. It was difficult — we saw a lot of pain, scarring and contraction,” when scarring after a burn makes it hard for someone to move. “The patients were so grateful,” she added.

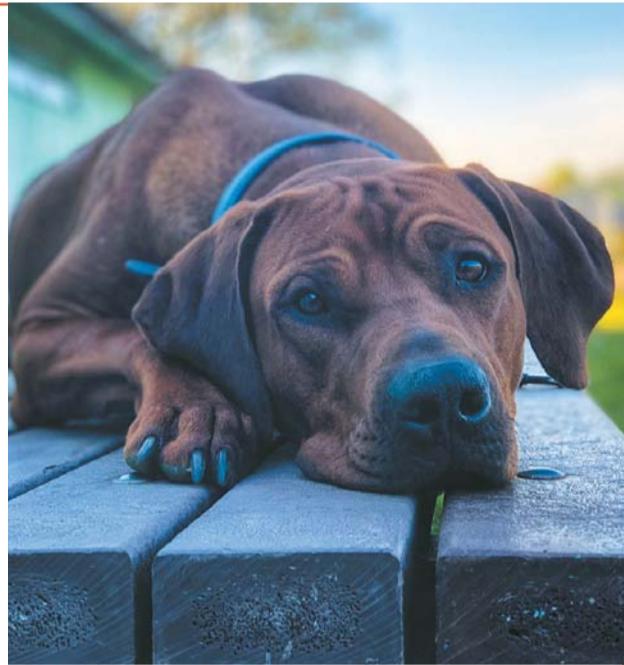
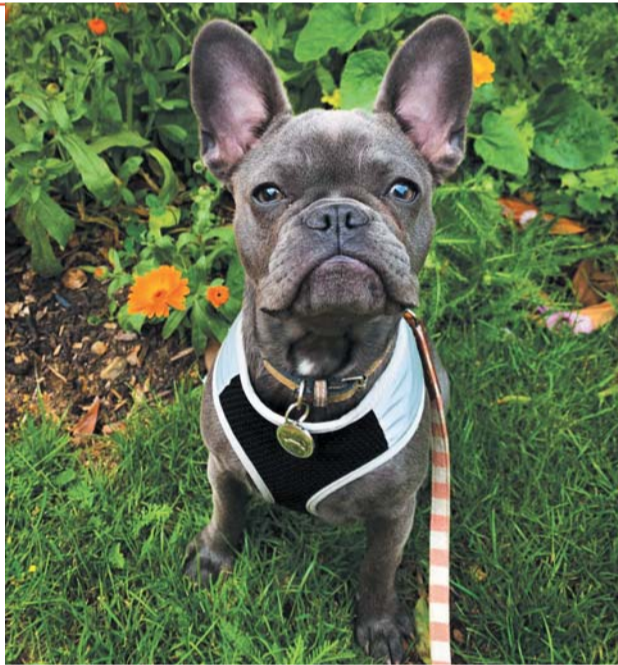
Learning curve

Bolante is no stranger to the Peninsula. She worked at the California Skin Institute for seven years before she decided to go it on her own. “It wasn’t easy, but a lot of people encouraged me to open my

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In spite of Covid, Dr. Christina Bolante decided to start her own solo practice, Parasol Dermatology. She said that she enjoys using a variety of skills to practice, and manage the office.



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