

CREATING LONG-TERM *relationships*



In the treatment of such diverse digestive and liver conditions such as gastroesophageal reflux disease, gastrointestinal malignancy, inflammatory bowel disease and hepatitis, the members of the Center for Digestive and Liver Health proudly serve the residents of coastal Georgia and South Carolina. The physicians are on the staff of Memorial University Medical Center as well as Candler and St. Joseph's Hospitals in Savannah. Their goal is to provide university-level gastroenterology care in a personalized community setting. Dr. Ryan Wanamaker, who has practiced at the center for the past 12 years, emphasizes the personalized care that he and his colleagues provide. "The most important interaction in life is relationships. I am lucky to have the additional privilege of having long-term, rewarding relationships with my patients. Being able to smile and laugh with my patients and their families every

day is what makes medicine fulfilling. That is truly the art of medicine."

Founded in 1994 by Drs. Mark E. Murphy and Edward Rydzak, the practice opened The Endoscopy Center, its in-office endoscopic procedure suite, in 2003. Today, with nine Board-certified gastroenterologists and five mid-level providers, the CDLH is the largest gastroenterology practice in the state of Georgia outside of Atlanta. The group focuses on providing state-of-the-art care for patients with digestive and liver disease. Its physicians hold leadership positions in the medical community of south Georgia and teaching faculty positions with Mercer University School of Medicine and the Medical College of Georgia. The CDLH physicians have access to cutting-edge clinical trials, as well, further enhancing their ability to deliver the best-quality care. The group previously introduced

such new technologies as endoscopic ultrasonography, Botox injection for achalasia, Barrx ablation therapy and wireless capsule pH monitoring to coastal Georgia, among others. This year, the group performed the first successful endoscopic mucosal resection of an esophageal cancer in coastal Georgia, a complete removal of a cancer without incisional surgery.

Half of the doctors in the CDLH have been selected for "Best Doctors in America" recognition, a physician-selected honor bestowed on less than 5% of the doctors in the United States. Their fellowship training in gastroenterology comes from places as diverse and well-recognized as The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, The University of Michigan, the University of Virginia and George Washington University Medical Center, among others.

The Endoscopy Center, the group's state-of-the-art four-room procedure suite, is fully accredited by AAAHC. It also recently received special recognition from the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy for the quality of its care. Only three other centers have received similar commendation in the entire state of Georgia.

"My general advice to patients is to be 'vested' and be an owner of your health," Dr. Wanamaker explains. "Whether (it's) exercise, diet, education or prevention - make it an important focus of your life. It is easy to get overwhelmed with the responsibilities that we face every day. A 'time-out' is often needed for both our physical and mental health."

Gastroenterology is a field which entails a wonderful balance of primary disease prevention, problem-solving and myriad opportunities for discovery. The team at the Center for Digestive and Liver Health is excited to use their extensive education and collaboration for problem solving to provide each of their patients with the highest level of care. "We strive to bring the qualities of academic medicine, including those that are evidence-based, and quality metrics to the practice of gastroenterology," says Dr. Wanamaker.

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