

Florida Health Care News

Florida's largest health care information publication

OPHTHALMOLOGY

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF COMMUNITY EYE CENTER



"Family doctors" for your eyes

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY REMAIN THE SAME.

That old adage is particularly apt for patients seeking quality eye care as they experience age-related changes in their vision, observes Douglas E. Radish, OD, of Community Eye Center.

"Many patients are surprised to learn that as their vision changes as part of the aging process, they can continue to see their family optometrist for the comprehensive eye care they have learned to count on over the years."

Optometrists employ the same leading-edge evaluations and advanced technologies as ophthalmologists, he points out. "We attend the same seminars to stay current with emerging research in eye care and subscribe to the same professional journals. But we have the advantage of familiarity with our patients' ocular health, so we can quickly note and evaluate subtle changes that can signal the onset of a medical condition that requires close management."

"Optometrists a generation or two ago were primarily concerned with identifying refractive errors and prescribing eyeglasses or contact lenses to correct them," explains Jon K. Batzer, OD.

"Today, we manage the full range of conditions that can affect eye health, from traditional refractive correction to ongoing evaluation and medical treatment of age-related conditions like glaucoma, cataracts, and macular degeneration. Patients who develop diabetes and hypertension often experience vision-related complications from these conditions, and we work with ophthalmic specialists and patients' general physicians to reduce the impact of these complications on their vision."

"Optometrists are the family doctors of vision care," emphasizes Jennifer Gallo, OD, who completes the optometric team at Community Eye Center. "We manage these chronic conditions for our patients, make referrals to appropriate specialists as a patients' needs change, and resume our role as primary care provider for our



- Joseph W. Spadafora, DO
- Eric R. Schaible, MD, FACS
- Ernest C. Skidmore, MD
- Jon K. Batzer, OD
- Douglas E. Radish, OD
- Jennifer Gallo, OD

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MEET OUR FAMILY

The optometric team at Community Eye Center: family doctors for your eyes.



Jon K. Batzer, OD, director of optometric services, is a Florida-certified optometrist. He completed his pre-optometric studies at Ferris State College and earned his optometric degree at Ferris State College of Optometry, Big Rapids, MI. He served a residency in eye disease at the Veterans Administration Medical Center, Albuquerque, NM. A member of the American Optometric Association, Dr. Batzer has been part of the Community Eye Center eye care team since 1987.



Douglas E. Radish, OD, director of satellite clinics, is a Florida-certified optometrist with optometric certification for therapeutics. He attended Broward Community College and Florida Atlantic University before completing his optometric degree at Southern College of Optometry, Memphis, TN. A member of the American Optometric Association, Dr. Radish joined Community Eye Center's eye care team in 1999.



Jennifer Gallo, OD, is a Florida-certified optometrist. She completed her undergraduate studies at University of Florida, Gainesville, and earned her optometry degree from Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, before completing residency training in ocular disease at Braverman Eye Center, Hallandale. Dr. Gallo is a member of the American Optometric Association and joined the eye care team at Community Eye Center in 2003.

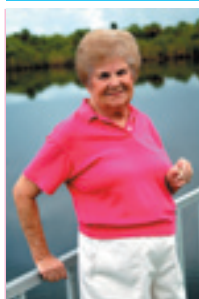
VEIN TREATMENT



Advanced treatment for varicose veins

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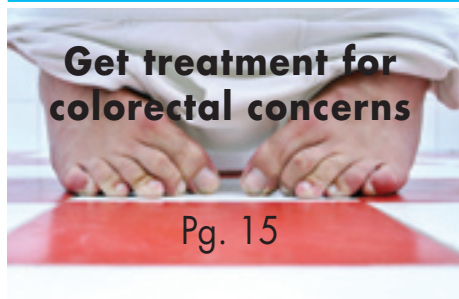
SURGERY



Moving fast to treat cancer

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COLON AND RECTAL SURGERY



Get treatment for colorectal concerns

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Florida Health Care News
Florida's largest health care information publication

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PRSR.T.STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
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Tampa, FL
Permit No. 2397

Health Care Patron

Family doctors

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patients' eye health after acute problems have been resolved."

Some acute conditions can be handled easily by a family optometrist, she adds.



“Optometrists are the family doctors of vision care. We manage these chronic conditions for our patients, make referrals to appropriate specialists as a patient's needs change, and resume our role as primary care provider for our patient's eye health after acute problems have been resolved,” says Dr. Gallo.

Patients who develop sudden eye inflammations or who have debris embedded in their eyes don't want to wait to have their pain resolved, and an ophthalmologist's schedule is often dictated by the needs of surgical patients or those with advanced disease processes. Optometrists' schedules can be more accommodating, and they have the training and expertise to treat such emergencies without delay.

Optometrists also regularly plan time to become acquainted with their patients' vision needs. A retiree whose days are spent in close work like wood-carving or embroidery will not need the same refractive correction as a patient with an identical prescription who spends most of the day playing golf. Someone considering permanent vision correction who spends a lot of time at the computer may not be satisfied with the surgical option most appropriate for someone who works outdoors. The family eye doctor has a schedule flexible enough to allow time to learn about each patient's unique situation.

Seeing an optometrist at Community Eye Center offers advantages even when a patient does require the specialized expertise of an ophthalmologist. The practice's comprehensive approach to eye care, having both optometrists and ophthalmologists on staff, allows Drs. Radish, Batzer, and Gallo to refer their patients for specialized treatments and surgeries without the delays patients might experience in trying to



Joseph W. Spadafora, DO, is the medical director of Community Eye Center. He completed his undergraduate studies at Boston University, followed by graduate work at the University of New Hampshire, Durham. He received his medical degree from the University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery, Kansas City, MO. Dr. Spadafora completed his internship at Metropolitan General Hospital, St. Petersburg, FL, and his ophthalmology residency at the Oklahoma Osteopathic Hospital, Tulsa, where he was awarded the Mead Johnson Fellowship Grant and the Burroughs Wellcome Fellowship Grant. Dr. Spadafora was also the recipient of an anterior segment fellowship in Long Beach, CA. He is assistant professor of ophthalmology at the University of South Florida, Tampa. Dr. Spadafora is a member of the American Osteopathic Association, American Academy of Ophthalmology, Charlotte County Medical Society, and the Florida Medical Association. He is affiliated with all area hospitals. He is past chair of the St. Joseph's Physicians Hospital Organization and is on the hospital's foundation board, and he serves on the Board of Governors of Prevent Blindness — Florida.



Eric R. Schaible, MD, FACS, is research director at Community Eye Center. He received his medical degree, magna cum laude, from Temple University School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA. Dr. Schaible completed his internship at Abington Memorial Hospital, a Temple University Hospital affiliate, and his residency in ophthalmology at the Storm Eye Institute at the Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, where he was chief resident and received the HELMA Award for Best Resident Research Presentation. He has published research in cataract surgery, neurosurgery, corneal surgery, and neuro-ophthalmology. He is affiliated with all area hospitals. He is assistant professor of ophthalmology at the University of South Florida, Tampa. Dr. Schaible is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons.



Ernest C. Skidmore, MD, is board certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology. He completed his undergraduate studies at the Illinois College of Optometry and the University of South Dakota and earned his medical degree from the University of South Dakota's School of Medicine. He served his internship in general surgery while on active duty as a captain in the U.S. Air Force at Wright Patterson Air Force Base and Wright State University, Dayton, OH, and completed his residency in ophthalmology at the Mason Eye Institute, University of Missouri, Columbia. Dr. Skidmore completed fellowship training in ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery through the neuro-ophthalmology department of Wayne State University's Kresge Eye Institute, Detroit, MI.

schedule first-time appointments with unaffiliated practices.

Patients' records are easily accessible to all the eye care professionals at Community Eye Center, and consultations between specialists and family eye doctors are conducted as a regular part of the clinic day, and follow-up care is accomplished seamlessly and with continual support from staff specialists and surgeons.

Drs. Radish, Batzer, and Gallo take pride in providing quality eye care to their optometric patients and invite anyone looking for a family doctor for their eyes to call Community Eye Center to schedule an initial consultation. **FHCN**—Billie S. Noakes

The eyes have it!

The doctors at Community Eye Center welcome the opportunity to help you protect and improve your eye health and achieve your best vision. Community Eye Center and St. Lucy's Outpatient Surgery Center are located at 21275 Olean Blvd. in Port Charlotte, phone (941) 625-1325. The North Port office is located at 1331 South Sumter Blvd., phone (941) 423-8137. The Punta Gorda office is located at 615 Cross St., #1109, phone (941) 637-7168.

“Many patients are surprised to learn that their vision changes as part of the aging process,” says Dr. Radish.

YES! I want to learn more about my eyes. Please send me the following FREE brochures:

- Macular degeneration
- Diabetic eye care
- Small-incision cataract surgery
- Corneal transplant surgery
- CLEAR (Clear lens exchange and astigmatic reduction)
- Flashers and floaters
- Eyelid surgery
- Glaucoma treatment

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Mail to: Community Eye Center, 21275 Olean Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL 33952, or phone (941) 625-1325



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Florida Health Care News
 215 Bullard Parkway
 Temple Terrace, FL 33617
(813) 989-1330

Winter 2007

Barry P. Levine
Executive Publisher

Teresa Jenkins
Associate Publisher

Kristi Bennett
Assistant Editor

Billie S. Noakes
 Michael J. Sahn
 Kris Kline
Staff Writers

Patricia Comeau
Production Manager

Tony Pesavento
Creative Director

Nerissa Johnson
Photography/ Graphic Design

Brian Levine
Administrative Assistant

Jeanette Cherry
 Dino Paglierani
Distribution

Contributing Editors

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 Ophthalmology

Joyce Vein & Aesthetic Institute
 Vein Treatment and Aesthetics

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