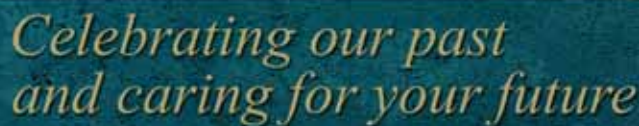


Volume 31, Issue 4, 2016



Views



Rob Colones

As we conclude our celebration of 110 years of Medical Excellence, we stand at a remarkable moment in the journey of McLeod Health. When most organizations cease to exist in the years following the leadership and vision of their founder, McLeod has exceeded the boundaries of superlative patient care, continuing to be led by our physicians, healthcare professionals and dedicated people since its establishment in 1906.

From the beginning, our founder, Dr. F. H. McLeod, was led by a passion to comfort or cure. He initiated a movement dedicated to a mission of improving the lives and well-being of others, demonstrated through the four core values of Caring, a respect for the Person, and a commitment to Quality and Integrity.

According to the U.S. Census, less than one-half of a percent of all the businesses in the country today have existed for more than 100 years. And yet, McLeod Health this year turns 110 years old, more than half a century after the death of Dr. F. H. McLeod, steadfast through both challenging times and progressive change.

I believe we survived because we have extraordinary people. I believe we continue to survive because of our mission, one that is worthy of our life's effort. It is my hope that we continue to uphold the values of this movement, focused on serving patients and providing excellence to those who entrust us with their care. It is our cause, our calling, our purpose, and our intent to be compassionate servants.

We appreciate the confidence our patients have in us to relieve their pain and suffering. We pledge to support their healing and hope. We remain dedicated to the provision of the best in medical care for the century ahead.

Robert L. Colones

Rob Colones
President, McLeod Health

On this Page:

The watermark on this page is a visual of the original McLeod Infirmary, at right, that opened in 1906. Caring for patients and families in the region was the vision of founder Dr. F. H. McLeod, at left. Today, our excellence extends beyond those boundaries but our mission to improve the health and well-being of the people we serve continues.



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CELEBRATING OUR PAST AND CARING FOR YOUR FUTURE

At McLeod Health, it is a privilege to serve the patients and families who entrust us with their care. The commitment of McLeod Health represents more than paper or a plan, more than bricks and mortar. It's an expression of Servant Hearts working together to improve lives and relieve suffering. The organization has grown through the century, from an infirmary to seven hospitals, more than 90 physician practices and quality care for the health of residents from the midlands to the coast.



In 2016, McLeod Health observed a year-long celebration of 110 years of providing care to the region with two events in downtown Florence: a Historical Marker Dedication Ceremony at the Florence County Museum, and a Commissioned Choral Symphony presented at the Francis Marion Performing Arts Center.

During the celebration, a marker from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History was unveiled on the 100 Block of West Cheves Street at the site of the original McLeod Infirmary in 1906. The facility was a result of the compassion and vision of **Dr. F. H. McLeod**. His dream was the catalyst to improve medical options, superlative treatments and provide access to the best in medicine for the benefit of our patients in the past, present and for decades to come. The two-sided marker bears the inscription:

McLeod Medical Center

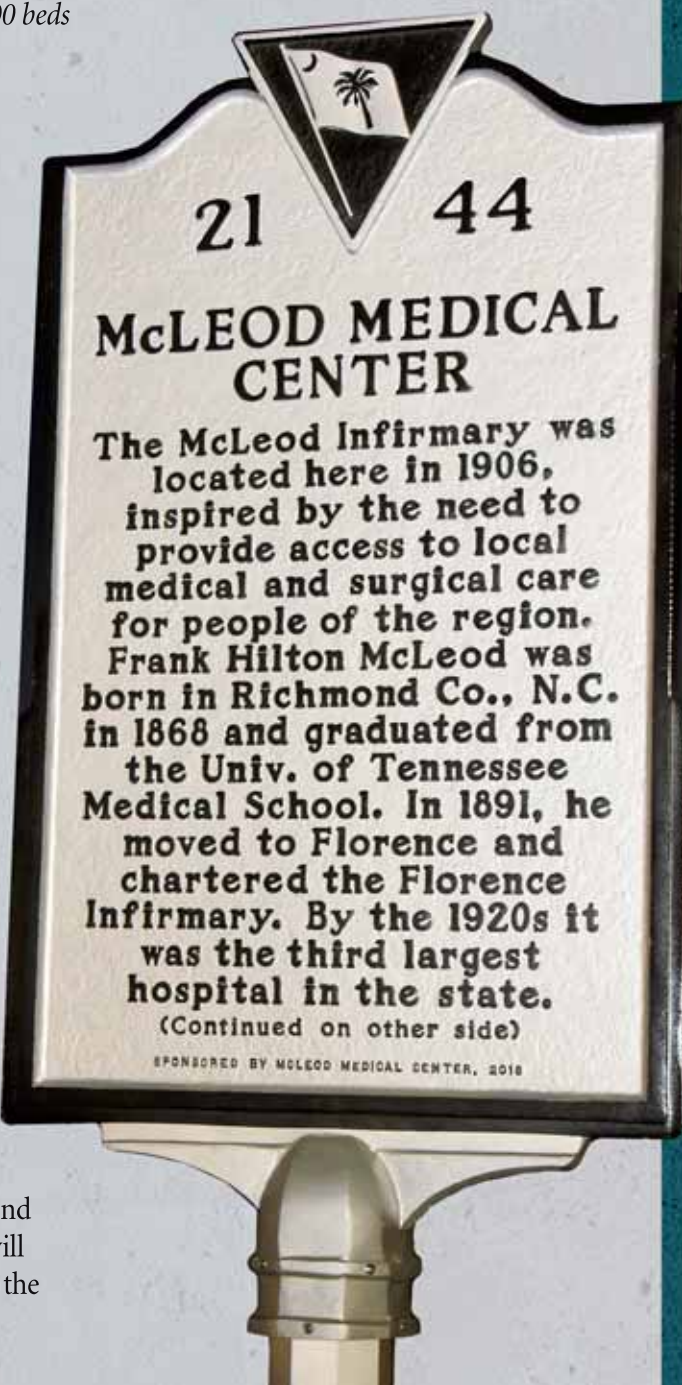
The McLeod Infirmary was located here in 1906, inspired by the need to provide access to local medical and surgical care for the people of the region. Frank Hilton McLeod was born in Richmond County, N.C. in 1868 and graduated from the University of Tennessee Medical School. In 1891, he moved to Florence and chartered the Florence Infirmary. By the 1920s it was the third largest hospital in the state. In 1930, with the assistance of the Duke Endowment, McLeod Infirmary became a non-profit institution. A new building opened in 1935 and expanded capacity to 190 beds. Renamed McLeod

Memorial Hospital in 1971, expansion continued when 14 blocks of Urban Renewal land were acquired just east of this location. The McLeod Regional Medical Center opened in 1979 with over 300 beds and improved acute care facilities.

This marker is the first to be placed in the core of the revitalization of downtown Florence.

After the historical marker unveiling, the Florence Symphony Orchestra, The Masterworks Choir, and Soloists presented "It Is Well - A Healing Suite," a commissioned choral symphony at the Francis Marion Performing Arts Center. Composed by Dr. Brandon D. Goff, Professor of Music at Francis Marion University, the four movement work featured familiar hymns with texts centered on healing and comfort: *There Is a Balm in Gilead, Abide With Me, Stand By Me, and It Is Well with My Soul.*

The symphony was conducted by Dr. Terry Roberts and included soloists Roger Kirby, Gracie Myers, and Rebecca Thompson. Keith Best performed a portrayal of Dr. F. H. McLeod. To commemorate the event, a bound copy of the commissioned work will be on display in perpetuity within the McLeod Health Mission Gallery.



1906 | 1916 | 1942 | 1966 | 1971 | 1976 | 1979 | 1980 | 1981 | 1983 | 1985 | 1986



Dr. F. H. McLeod establishes the Florence Infirmary.



The Florence Infirmary grows and expands to 100 beds.



Dr. James C. McLeod becomes superintendent of the hospital.



Dr. Conyers O'Bryan helps establish the first cardiac unit in the region.



The name of the hospital changes to McLeod Memorial Hospital.



Construction of McLeod Regional Medical Center begins.



The hospital moves four blocks down to the new regional medical center.



The McLeod Family Medicine Residency Program is established.



Oncologist Dr. Michael Pavy arrives and expands McLeod's cancer program.



McLeod establishes a heart catheterization lab and begins a Cardiac Rehabilitation program.



McLeod Regional Medical Center installs its first MRI.



McLeod Cardiothoracic team performs the region's first open heart surgery.

IN THEIR WORDS

At the unveiling of the historical marker to honor the McLeod 110th year, remarks were made by Florence City Councilman Frank J. “Buddy” Brand, II, Jeannette C. Glenn, Dr. Alva W. Whitehead and Dr. C. Dale Lusk.



Frank J. “Buddy” Brand, II
McLeod Health Board of Trustees
Florence City Councilman

and near the original business district of Florence, South Carolina, his intention was to establish a hospital to serve not only the Florence vicinity but also the Pee Dee region of South Carolina. At first, when Dr. McLeod’s hospital was one of the few health care facilities in northeastern South Carolina, the infirmary provided primary service over a broad area. In later years, as other hospitals emerged, the McLeod hospital supplied primary care in Florence and nearby communities and served as a referral hospital for the broader Pee Dee section.

Today, McLeod is recognized nationally for its quality initiatives and methodology, and bears a reputation for dedication to its patients and their

families. McLeod is constantly seeking to improve its patient care with efforts that are physician led, data-driven and evidence-based. The 15-county area McLeod serves, from the midlands to the coast, has a population of more than one million including those who live in Southeastern North Carolina.

McLeod Health currently operates seven hospitals, including McLeod Regional Medical Center in Florence, McLeod Health Cheraw, McLeod Health Clarendon, McLeod Darlington, McLeod Dillon, McLeod Loris and McLeod Seacoast. McLeod also operates Urgent Care Centers in Florence and Darlington, along with more than 90 medical practices throughout the 15 counties in the McLeod Health service area.



Jeannette C. Glenn, RN, BSN, MSN
McLeod Leader and Educator

“It is an honor to be a part of the erecting of this historical marker in celebration of McLeod’s 110th Anniversary. On this very site the proud tradition of recruiting and training of professional nurses occurred from 1947 to 1964 in the McLeod Infirmary School of Nursing. It was a movement to provide excellence in patient care, as well as recruit and maintain local talent by

fostering superlative training through clinical experiences.

My personal journey with McLeod began in the late forties when, as a very small child my most favorite person in the whole world, my Daddy, had an accident and was admitted to the McLeod Infirmary, then Colored Ward. I was so worried about him and worried Mamma about seeing him, so she took me to visit him. I will always remember seeing him being taken care of by nurses who were kind and caring to him. Wow, I left feeling that Daddy would be okay and coming home all well. For me, there was just something special about that place and those nurses. As a teenager, instead of going to the movies on Sundays, I would come to visit patients here at McLeod. You see my life-long dream beginning as a very small child was to become a nurse and teacher.

I have had the great privilege of fulfilling my dream and professional calling to serve others, beginning in 1966 as a graduate nurse employed at then McLeod Infirmary. I had the extraordinary opportunity to fulfill

many roles: staff nurse, head nurse, nurse educator, associate vice president and Vice President of Education and Training and the last 20 years of my 45 years of service in this phenomenal organization as the Senior VP of Human Resources, Educations and Training. It was an awesome experience being a part of this dynamic organization as it changed from McLeod Infirmary, to McLeod Memorial Hospital, to McLeod Regional Medical Center and to McLeod Health furthering its great mission of service.

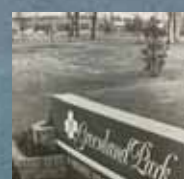
Throughout the many years on my journey with McLeod common threads continually were found and polished. As so very many before me, we fulfilled our calling as we learned responsibility, were continually opened to new and best practices, and in partnership with the medical staff we advanced our knowledge and broadened our medical skills. Most importantly, we learned to lift high the standards of our profession in the culture of caring at McLeod -- the foundation of McLeod’s core values which remains the model for all today.

“The first McLeod Infirmary opened its door to receive patients in 1906. It was started as a vision to provide comfort and cure. Dr. F. H. McLeod’s dream was born out of compassion and service. The reality has been sustained through commitment and courage.”

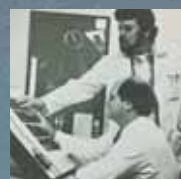
– Frank J. “Buddy” Brand, II



1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1989 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1997 | 1999



McLeod expands psychiatric services with the opening of Greenland Park.



Radiation Oncology expands with the addition of Dr. T. Rhett Spencer.



McLeod HeartReach, a cardiac care transport unit, hits the road.



An advanced diagnostic system for nuclear cardiology is installed.



Cardiologist Dr. Alan Blaker unveils new Transesophageal Echocardiography Unit.



Pediatric Intensivist Dr. Gerald Atwood joins McLeod.



The McLeod Women’s Pavilion opens.



McLeod establishes an Electrophysiology Lab.



Wilson Hospital and Clinic becomes McLeod Darlington.



The Guest House at McLeod opens for patient’s family members.



Saint Eugene Hospital becomes McLeod Dillon.



The McLeod Health and Fitness Center opens.



Dr. Alva W. Whitehead
McLeod Physician and Leader

“In his speech, ‘Fifty year hence, 1931 Winston Churchill spoke:
‘The great mass of human beings, absorbed in the toils, cares and activities of life, are only dimly conscious of the pace at which mankind has begun to travel. We look back a hundred years and see that great changes have taken place. We look back at 50 years and see that the speed is constantly quickening. This present century has witnessed an enormous revolution in material things, in scientific appliances, in political institutions, in manners and customs.’ ‘What is it that produced this new prodigious speed of man? Science is the cause....The further back we look, the farther forward we can see.’

We look back today. Further back than 1931. Back 110 years, but what can we see ‘farther forward’ as Churchill suggested.

What will our descendants see in another 50 or 100 years? Likely the buildings we now use will be gone. The treatments we give will be obsolete. All the providers, the nurses, the doctors, the administrators, the support staff may be replaced by some type of automation.

The change is inevitable, however that which has not changed in the past 110 years MUST remain. That it will remain is our responsibility. The tension of maintaining virtue and values in an environment with ever-increasing knowledge, speed and power is not for feeble souls.

What then is our challenge for the next 100 years? Relentlessly to preserve and enhance the values of McLeod Health: Caring, the Person, Integrity and Quality.

Churchill goes on to say, ‘No material progress, even though it takes shapes we cannot now conceive, or however it may expand the faculties of man, can bring comfort to his soul.’

Indeed we must ‘improve the science’ but simultaneously we must relentlessly ‘improve the character’ of medicine. We must bring comfort to the souls we serve.

Otherwise, we have no right to be here in another 110 years.

The path is before us. The sign posts well marked. The trip is arduous. The victory is sure.”



Francis Marion University Professor and Chair of the Department of Fine Arts, Keith Best portrays Dr. F. H. McLeod during the 110 Year McLeod Health Celebration.



Dr. C. Dale Lusk
Chief Medical Officer
McLeod Regional Medical Center

“Dr. F. H. McLeod (1868-1944) was born in Richmond County, North Carolina, and graduated from the medical school of the University of Tennessee by the age of 20. In 1906, Dr. McLeod founded the Florence Infirmary, the catalyst in the development of the healthcare organization now known as McLeod Health.

As a physician, it is a privilege to perpetuate this legacy of quality and caring as we celebrate 110 years of McLeod Health, an enduring promise of excellence and service.

Dr. Julian Price, considered the father of pediatrics at McLeod once wrote about his friend and colleague, ‘Dr. McLeod was endowed with those traits which make for greatness. A keen intellect, a retentive memory,

“As a physician, it is a privilege to perpetuate this legacy of quality and caring as we celebrate 110 years of McLeod Health, an enduring promise of excellence and service.”

– C. Dale Lusk, MD

indefatigable energy, boundless enthusiasm, integrity and earnestness of purpose -- all of these blended to make him what he was. But the outstanding feature of this man which endeared him to his colleagues, his friends and his patients was his greatness of heart. He was never too busy or too tired to minister to one who was sick. He was

known as the Doctor’s Doctor and his colleagues in the profession sought his counsel at every turn. He was truly a disciple of the Great Physician.’

We are thankful for those whose footprints have come before and lead us on a path to support healing and hope.”



Descendants of Dr. F. H. McLeod are pictured with the historical marker, from left to right, Dewey Ervin, Fletcher Bateman, Florence McLeod Ervin, Patsy McLeod and Octavia McLeod.

2000 | 2005 | 2006 | 2008 | 2010 | 2011 | 2013 | 2016 | 2016 | 2016 | 2016 | 2016



McLeod receives the South Carolina Governor's Quality Award.



McLeod opens the Hospice House for patients in need of acute inpatient, respite or residential care.



The McLeod Center for Advanced Surgery opens as part of the Pavilion expansion.



The McLeod Mobile Mammography Unit goes on the road.



McLeod Health receives the American Hospital Association's Quest for Quality Prize.



Loris Community Hospital and Seacoast Medical Center join the McLeod Health System.



The McLeod Center for Cancer Treatment & Research opens.



Chesterfield General Hospital becomes McLeod Health Cheraw.



McLeod Seacoast Emergency Department Expansion opens.



Clarendon Hospital System joins McLeod Health.



McLeod Health receives 24 top honors from Healthgrades.



Rendering of the McLeod Health Carolina Forest campus.



Dr. Elwood Owens was the first Cardiothoracic Surgeon to perform open heart surgery at McLeod in 1986.



McLeod Cardiothoracic Surgeon Dr. Scot Schultz now serves as the Medical Director of Cardiothoracic Surgery.

A Legacy of Superlative Heart Surgery

by Tammy White

Thirty years ago, **Dr. Elwood Owens** and **Dr. Michael Lancaster**, founders of the cardiac surgical program at McLeod, performed the first open heart surgery at McLeod Regional Medical Center.

In November of 2016, the two physicians returned to McLeod to visit with former co-workers and meet the current staff of the McLeod Heart and Vascular Institute. The reunion for Dr. Owens and Dr. Lancaster included many hugs and handshakes from the heart team as the pair walked the hallways that they once knew so intimately.

McLeod serves a region that boasts one of the highest incidences of cardiovascular disease in the country. This is a statement that was true 30 years ago, and remains so today. Prior to 1986, patients who needed open heart surgery were required to travel outside the area to receive this level of care.

McLeod recruited Dr. Owens, the region's first cardiothoracic surgeon, to lead the open heart surgical team. **Dr. Conyers O'Bryan**, now retired from his internal medicine practice, served as part of the search committee for the right candidate.

"Dr. O'Bryan and I met in an airport for my interview," said Dr. Owens. "At the time, I was in a cardiothoracic surgical practice in Sioux City, Iowa."

Dr. Owens then recruited Dr. Lancaster, a cardiac anesthesiologist, to join him to be a part of the pioneering surgical team. "The cardiac anesthesiologist plays a critical role in the operation by keeping the patient sedated and breathing," he explained. "It is crucial for an open heart surgical team to have an

outstanding cardiac anesthesiologist, which is why I invited Dr. Lancaster to accompany me. His expertise allowed us to have a flawless surgical case record."

"Dr. Owens and I worked together for six years in Sioux City before McLeod recruited him," said Dr. Lancaster. "I was happy to join this brilliant surgeon and help him build a new program."

In addition to Dr. Owens and Dr. Lancaster, the original cardiac team also consisted of nurses and surgical technicians as well as perfusionists who operate the heart lung machine. This machine is designed to take over the function of the heart and lungs during the heart surgery procedure.

Deborah Baccus was one of the surgical technicians on the first team and continues to serve today as a vital member of the open heart surgical staff. Dr. Owens praises her, saying she is "one of the best surgical technicians in the world."

Prior to Dr. Owens arrival, McLeod built a state-of-the-art operating suite and an intensive care unit dedicated to the care of open heart surgery patients.

Staffed by nurses trained to care for all types of open heart procedures, the intensive care unit featured a round design with the nursing station in the middle. This unique design allowed the nurses to see every patient bed in the unit from the centrally located station.

"Prior to the first surgery case, the

team performed several practice runs, simulating a surgery to learn how to work together smoothly and efficiently," said Dr. Lancaster.

On October 2, 1986, Dr. Owens and his team performed the first open heart surgery in Northeastern South Carolina. It marked another medical milestone for this region and McLeod.

In the first four months, Dr. Owens and Dr. Lancaster performed nearly 100 open heart procedures that included valve replacements and coronary artery bypass grafting.

"We worked numerous late night hours," said Dr. Lancaster. "There were many patients in need of open heart surgery."

Staff from the new open heart surgery program also provided assistance for other heart procedures such as heart catheterizations, which involved angioplasty -- the use of tiny balloons to open clogged arteries. For cases that required surgical back up, Dr. Owens recalls his team being on standby whenever cardiologists performed these procedures.

"With only one cardiothoracic surgeon on staff, if a situation arose during a catheterization that required emergency surgery, you did not want to have that surgeon in the middle of an operation," said Dr. Owens. "Fortunately, today there are several cardiothoracic surgeons on staff, which alleviates this problem."



McLeod recruited Dr. Elwood Owens, the region's first cardiothoracic surgeon, to lead the open heart surgical team. Dr. Conyers O'Bryan, now retired from his internal medicine practice, served as part of the search committee for the right candidate.

Today, the McLeod Heart & Vascular Institute is recognized in the top 5 percent nationally.



Dr. Michael Lancaster and Dr. Elwood Owens visit with Surgical Technician Deborah Baccus in the Heart and Vascular Intensive Care Unit, where open heart surgery patients have been cared for since the program began 30 years ago.

In 1995, new technology in heart care included stents, which are tiny, metal scaffolds that keep the artery propped open. Prior to the arrival of stents, the common method for treating heart blockages involved balloon angioplasty. However, many times the newly opened artery closed up again. The placement of the stent in the heart artery helped to reduce this problem.

“The addition of the stents benefitted many patients,” said Dr. Owens. “The success of the stent in keeping the artery open meant that less patients required open heart surgery.”

In 1999, Dr. Lancaster retired from practice, and in 2001, Dr. Owens followed suit as well to begin a second career as a lawyer. By the time of their retirement, the growth of the McLeod Open Heart Surgical Program included three open heart operating suites and four cardiothoracic surgeons on staff.

Today, the program continues to excel

under the leadership of four cardiothoracic surgeons: **Dr. Michael Carmichael, Dr. S. Cary Huber, Dr. Samantha Kwon and Dr. Scot Schultz.**

Dr. Schultz joined the McLeod Heart and Vascular Institute in 2013. He serves as the Medical Director of Cardiothoracic Surgery. Under Dr. Schultz’s guidance, this program has achieved the highest national recognition possible by the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS), reserved for programs performing in the top ten percent in the nation.

In his first three and a half years with McLeod, Dr. Schultz has worked closely with Jack O’Conner, Vice President of Cardiovascular Services, to build the cardiothoracic surgery program to its current status while bringing new technologies to McLeod for improving patient care.

One of those advancements, transcatheter aortic valve replacement or TAVR, will begin in early 2017. TAVR

targets patients with aortic valve stenosis, a condition that results in the narrowing of the main valve that allows the blood to exit the heart causing blood to back up in the lungs.

TAVR will be offered to patients considered high risk for traditional aortic valve replacement surgery. Performed through very small incisions, and in some cases needle punctures, this procedure inserts a new valve without removing the old, degenerated valve.

TAVR procedures will be performed in the new, state-of-the-art Hybrid Operating Suite. The second hybrid suite at McLeod, the operating room combines the medical expertise of interventional cardiologists and the surgical expertise of the cardiothoracic surgeons with the most advanced heart technology available to perform TAVR.

“The focus of the new Hybrid Operating Suite is radiologic imaging,” said Dr. Schultz. “It is fully equipped with state-of-the-art equipment, including fluoroscopy, which makes it possible to visualize precise structures of the heart. The primary users of this new hybrid OR will be our Vascular Surgeons **Dr. Christopher Cunningham, Dr. Carmen Piccolo, Dr. Eva Rzucidlo and Dr. Gabor Winkler** as well as Interventional Cardiologists **Dr. Fred Krainin and Dr. Brian Wall** and myself for the TAVR procedure. Additionally, we will all work very closely with the specialized anesthesiologists, just as Dr. Owens did with Dr. Lancaster at the inception of the open heart program.

“We want to continue to serve as the premier cardiac facility for our region that began 30 years ago,” said Dr. Schultz. “Our recent 18 heart and vascular recognitions from Healthgrades, and our highest possible 3-Star cardiac surgery rating with STS validates the dedication and hard work by our team of physicians, staff and administration who strive to provide and support the highest quality cardiac care to all of our patients.”

McLeod Health: Leaders in Heart and Vascular Care

The McLeod Heart and Vascular team, through a collaborative effort with McLeod specialists and primary care physicians, has achieved nationally recognized cardiac and vascular outcomes demonstrating their dedication to improving patient care.

Since 2014, the McLeod Regional Medical Center Open Heart Surgery program has received top recognition by the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS). Dr. Scot Schultz, Medical Director of McLeod Cardiothoracic Surgery explains, “This recognition, based on eleven process and outcome measures, places McLeod in the top ten percent of heart surgery programs in the entire country.”

STS is an international, not-for-profit organization that governs cardiothoracic practices. Cardiothoracic surgeons participating in the STS Adult Cardiac Surgery database voluntarily report surgical outcomes to promote transparency for consumers and help engage patients and their families in shared decision making.

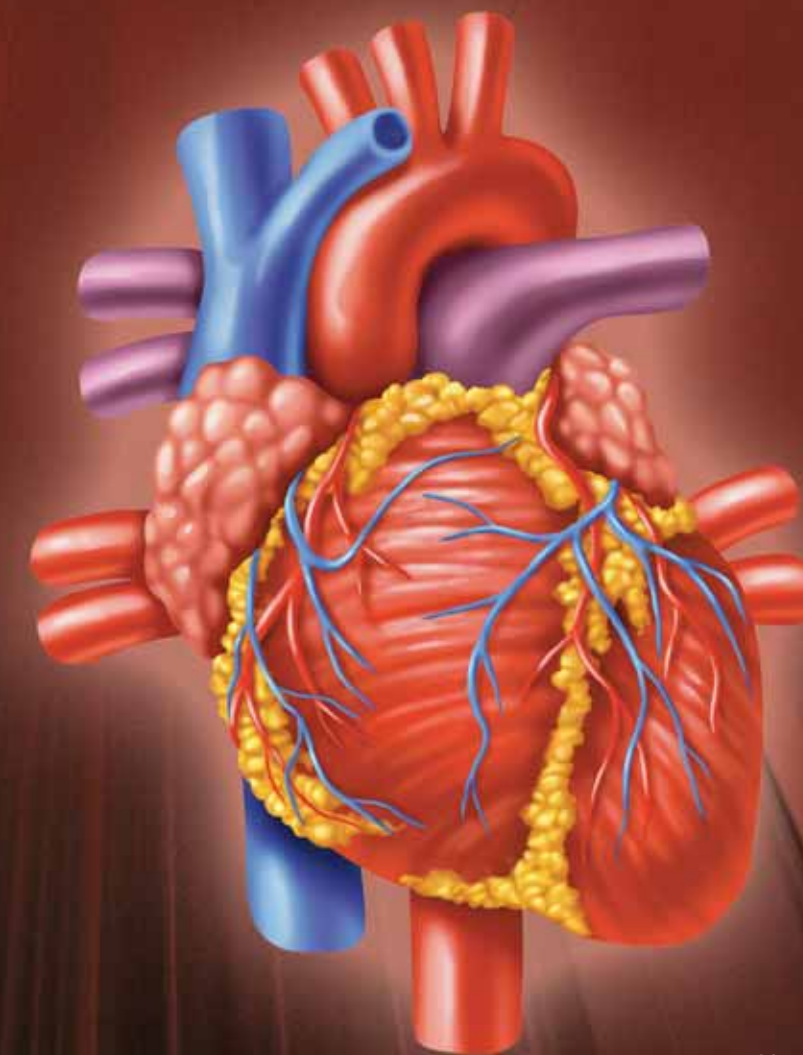
In addition, McLeod was recently honored by Healthgrades, the nation’s leading independent healthcare ratings company, with 18 top honors in heart and vascular care.

“We are honored that our efforts have resulted in McLeod receiving these distinctions,” said Dr. Christopher Cunningham, Medical Director of Vascular Services. “We compare ourselves to the nation’s best in achieving measurable results and continuously strive to improve everything that relates to the care of the patient.”

Healthgrades Heart and Vascular Awards received by McLeod in 2016 include:

- One of America’s 100 Best Hospitals for Cardiac Care
- One of America’s 100 Best Hospitals for Coronary Intervention
- Recipient of the Cardiac Care Excellence Award
- Top 5% in the Nation for Cardiology Services
- 5-Star Recipient for Treatment of Heart Attack and Heart Failure
- Vascular Surgery Excellence Award
- One of America’s 50 Best Hospitals for Vascular Surgery
- Recipient of the Vascular Surgery Excellence Award
- Top 5% in the Nation for Vascular Surgery

Combined, the Healthgrades honors and STS recognition distinguishes the cardiovascular surgical program at McLeod Regional Medical Center as one of the highest quality programs in the nation and in the region.



Myrtle Beach Cardiologists Join McLeod Health

by Jennifer Hulon

McLeod Health recently announced the addition of four established Myrtle Beach Cardiologists to the McLeod Cardiology Associates team.

Board Certified Cardiologists **Dr. Vaishali Swami**, **Dr. William Jackson**, **Dr. Anne Everman** and **Dr. Neil Trask, III**, joined McLeod Health in October of 2016, expanding the McLeod Cardiology Associates group. Currently located at 945 82nd Avenue in Myrtle Beach, plans are in place to relocate the practice to the McLeod Health Carolina Forest campus off of International Drive and Highway 31 in Fall of 2017.

These cardiologists continue the expansion of heart care on the coast that began in the late 1990s when McLeod Cardiology Associates expanded from Florence to Horry County with the

opening of an office in Loris. The practice has since grown to include offices in Little River, Sumter and now Myrtle Beach as well as clinics in Cheraw and Manning.

Today, McLeod Cardiology Associates includes 20 experienced cardiologists caring for patients across the McLeod Health system. The addition of the McLeod Cardiologists in Myrtle Beach also means patients living in the southern area of the Grand Strand now have access to the McLeod Heart and Vascular Institute for their cardiac care needs.

As the first female Board Certified Cardiologist in Horry County, Dr. Vaishali Swami has proven she is an asset to the community. With 21 years of experience, Dr. Swami is a valuable addition to the McLeod Health family. She received her medical degree from the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, and completed her residency at Bowman Gray School of Medicine at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She completed her fellowship at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana.

"I enjoy taking care of patients, listening to them share their goals and helping them achieve them," said Dr. Swami. "I chose to join McLeod Health because of their high level of integrity, quality and commitment to the local community."

Dr. Swami specializes in Women's Cardiovascular Health.

Spending her childhood in Orangeburg, South Carolina, Dr. Swami considers the state her home. She and her husband, **Dr. David Bjerken** of McLeod Vascular Associates, reside in Myrtle Beach. One of her favorite pastimes is traveling.

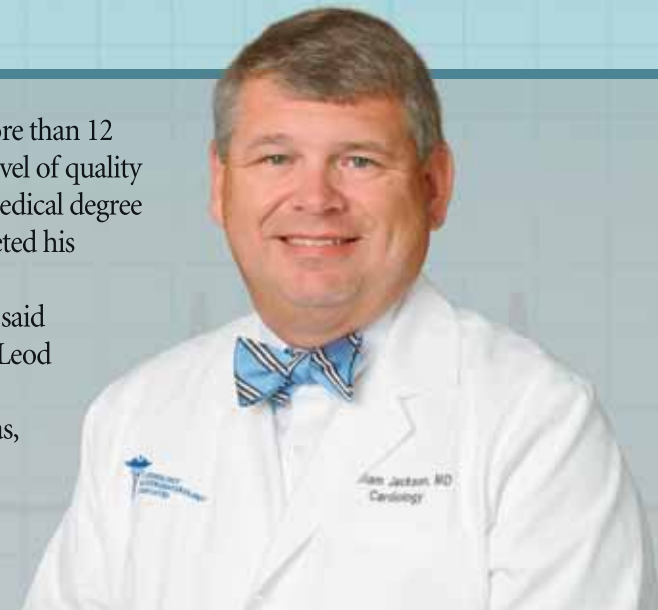


Dr. William Jackson has been practicing cardiology on the Grand Strand for more than 12 years. A native of Bennettsville, South Carolina, Dr. Jackson understands the high level of quality McLeod Health offers. Staying true to his Carolina roots, Dr. Jackson received his medical degree from the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, where he also completed his internship, residency and fellowship.

"I want my patients to feel their physician truly cares for them and their family," said Dr. Jackson. "I chose to practice medicine because I enjoy taking care of people. McLeod Health shares my same vision of quality patient care."

Dr. Jackson specializes in the treatment of Congestive Heart Failure, Arrhythmias, Cardiovascular Health and Valvular Heart Disease.

Dr. Jackson and his wife, Celeste, reside in Myrtle Beach with their five children: Emie, 17; Braedyn, 14; Will, 13; Carly, 10; and Duncan, 6.



Dr. Anne Everman is truly dedicated to her patients. She received her medical degree from the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond, Virginia, and completed her residency and fellowship at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston.

"I chose the medical field because I wanted to meet people, and possibly have an opportunity to get to know them and help them at the same time," said Dr. Everman. "With ongoing developments of new treatments and innovations, I knew the field of cardiology would be challenging, but it would also allow me the chance to help others make best life decisions."

Dr. Everman specializes in the treatment of Valvular Disease, Atrial Fibrillation, Cardiovascular Health, Women's Cardiovascular Health and Coronary Artery Disease.

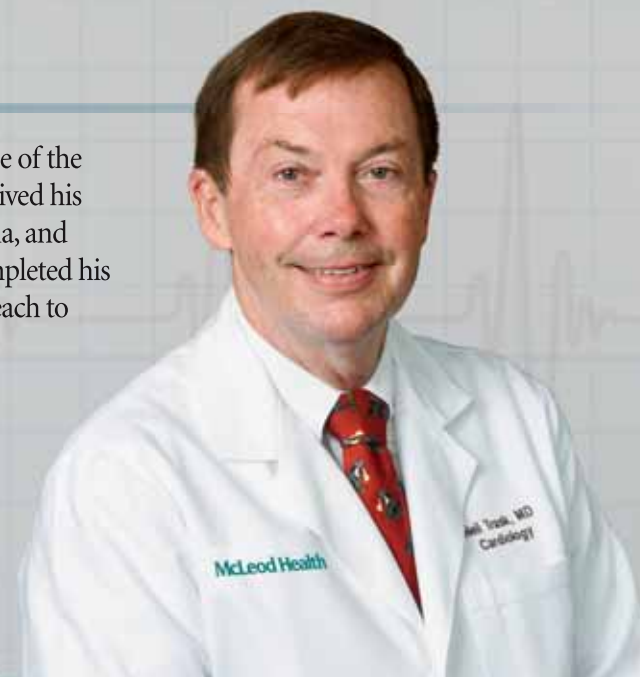
Dr. Everman and her husband, **Dr. David Everman**, reside in Myrtle Beach with their two children, Gabriel, 9, and Jocelyn, 8.

The first Board Certified Cardiologist in Horry County, Dr. Neil Trask, III, was one of the original physicians in the Myrtle Beach cardiology/gastroenterology practice. He received his medical degree from Duke University School of Medicine in Durham, North Carolina, and completed his internship and residency at Parkland Hospital in Dallas, Texas. He completed his fellowship at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia, and moved to Myrtle Beach to care for patients.

"I chose the medical field for the combination of caring for patients and applying the latest medical science procedures," said Dr. Trask. "Since I began practicing medicine, my goal has been to provide the best care possible and improve the availability of services in this area."

Dr. Trask specializes in the treatment of Congestive Heart Failure, Coronary Artery Disease, Arrhythmias, Device Management, Atrial Fibrillation, Women's Cardiovascular Health, Valvular Heart Disease, Lipid Disease and Hypertension.

Dr. Trask and his wife, Donna, reside in Myrtle Beach.



Reflecting on their history of care in Myrtle Beach, Dr. Trask says the addition of cardiology on the Grand Strand would not have been possible without the late **Dr. Fred Nigels**, founder of Cardiology Gastroenterology Associates.

"More than 57 years ago, Dr. Nigels, an internist with a special interest in cardiology, opened a medical practice in Myrtle Beach. Over the next few decades, his practice grew with the addition of physicians trained in internal medicine, gastroenterology and cardiology. Because of his desire to provide excellent healthcare, the treatment of patients with heart conditions has evolved to our existing team. Today, we continue his vision as we expand the mission of McLeod Health along the coast."

A 'WATCHMAN' for STROKE CARE

by Tammy White

Retirement for Lelia Smith did not mean slowing down. After working alongside her husband, Carlyle, in their family-owned business Latta Heating and Cooling for 35 years, Lelia was not ready to retire completely. She kept active for seven more years by serving as a school crossing guard for the Latta School District -- until her health began to fail.

With the end of the 2013 school year approaching, Lelia could tell something was not right. She felt overly tired and could occasionally feel her heart racing.

One evening in June, an episode of faintness came on her suddenly. Having dinner with friends in Dillon, Lelia wanted to be taken home. However, once in the car, she realized she really needed medical attention and requested to be taken straight to the McLeod Dillon Emergency Department.

In the Emergency Department, the medical staff monitored Lelia's heart which was racing with a heart beat over 200. Lelia's heart was in atrial fibrillation.

Atrial fibrillation defines a heart condition where the upper chamber of the heart beats too fast. This causes blood to pool and form clots in an area of the heart called the left atrial appendage, a small pouch located on the top of the heart. If a blood clot does form, it can travel through an artery to the brain and cause a stroke.

People with untreated atrial fibrillation are often at greater risk for stroke than people with normal heart rhythms. Medical professionals believe this condition results in the majority of stroke-causing blood clots.

Stroke is the most common and perhaps the most feared complication of atrial fibrillation.

Lelia needed to be under the expert cardiac care of the McLeod Heart and Vascular Institute. McLeod HeartReach,

a critical care ambulance, transported Lelia to McLeod Regional Medical Center. McLeod Interventional Cardiologist **Dr. Alan Blaker** attended to Lelia after she arrived at the hospital.

"Dr. Blaker was my husband's cardiologist," said Lelia. "He took such good care of him. I saw Dr. Blaker going over my medical file before he came into my hospital room. I was so comforted to know that he would be taking care of me."

Dr. Blaker recommended Lelia also be seen by McLeod Electrophysiologist **Dr. Rajesh Malik**. An electrophysiologist is a physician who specializes in the electrical system of the heart or electrophysiology, a study of the electrical impulses of the heart.

Part of Lelia's treatment plan included the insertion of a pacemaker by Dr. Malik. A pacemaker, a small device implanted inside the chest, helps control abnormal heart rhythms. The pacemaker uses low-energy electrical pulses to prompt the heart to beat at a normal rate.

Patients who are diagnosed with atrial fibrillation are prescribed anti-coagulate medicine, also known as blood thinners, to help prevent the build-up of blood clots.

In January 2014, seven months after her hospitalization, Lelia developed blood in her kidneys, a side effect of the anti-coagulate medicine. She had to stop taking the drug.

Lelia tried another

brand of anti-coagulate medicine, but it also had side effects that prohibited her from using it. Her only choice to help prevent the blood clots was a daily aspirin.

Lelia's inability to take anti-coagulate medicine meant close monitoring by Dr. Blaker and her primary care physician **Dr. James Wallace** with Dillon Internal Medicine.

"Whenever she had an appointment with Dr. Blaker he would express his concern about Mama's high risk of having a stroke," said Lelia's daughter, Jane Dew.

"Lelia had a five times greater risk of a stroke than someone with atrial fibrillation who takes anti-coagulate medication," explained Dr. Blaker.

In January of 2016, Dr. Blaker told Lelia about a new device he believed would resolve her stroke risk -- the WATCHMAN device.

"Dr. Blaker informed us about a new procedure at McLeod that he wanted me to consider," said Lelia. "He was very transparent and honest. I had no concerns. If this could help reduce my stroke risk, I was ready to try it."

Implanted in the left atrial appendage of the heart, the WATCHMAN closes off this small section and prevents blood clots from entering the blood stream and potentially causing a stroke. The device, a one-time implant, remains permanently in the heart.

"By closing off the left atrial appendage, the source of more than 90 percent of stroke-causing blood clots, the risk of stroke may be reduced and over time patients potentially can be weaned off their blood thinning medications," said Dr. Malik.

Lelia met with Melissa Battles, a Physician Assistant with McLeod Cardiology Associates. Melissa explained the procedure to Lelia and informed her that she would need to be on anti-coagulate medication for six months following the procedure.

"My past experience with anti-coagulate medication caused me concern, but Melissa said since I would only be on them temporarily she could help manage any side effects," said Lelia.

Lelia had the WATCHMAN device implanted on March 1, 2016, by Dr. Malik. To perform the WATCHMAN procedure, Dr. Malik guides the device via a catheter inserted through a vein in the upper leg. Once in position in the left atrial appendage, the device is deployed open -- similar to the opening up of an umbrella.

After the procedure, nurses monitored Lelia overnight in the hospital, and she was discharged home the next day.

In early November, Lelia discontinued the anti-coagulate medication. Now, she only takes a daily dose of baby aspirin, which makes Lelia, her family and her physicians very happy with the WATCHMAN device as it guards her from suffering a stroke.

"Mama has always been a very energetic person," said Jane. "Now, thanks to the care from Dr. Blaker, Dr. Malik and McLeod her energy level has returned and she is back to walking every day."

Dr. Alan Blaker and Dr. Rajesh Malik, partners in the care of Lelia Smith's atrial fibrillation, worked together to ensure that she received the WATCHMAN device to prevent a stroke.



Now that her atrial fibrillation is under control, Lelia Smith walks one mile daily, which includes a trip through the Latta Veteran's Park.



Blessed to MAKE MUSIC AGAIN

by Carrie Anna Strange

A customer support representative for Medicine-On-Time, a medication management company, Martha Jenkinson constantly uses her hands typing on a computer. She is also a guitarist and pianist and leads a praise band at Summerton Baptist Church.

Two weeks after surgery, Martha Jenkinson played lead guitar during worship service at Summerton Baptist Church.

Experiencing pain and tingling in her left hand, Martha made an appointment to see her primary care physician. After examining her hand and listening to Martha explain her symptoms, her physician referred her to McLeod Health Clarendon for radiology scans. The images revealed that Martha had carpal tunnel syndrome in both of her hands.

One of the most common conditions affecting the nerves of the hand, carpal tunnel syndrome results from compression of the median nerve as it travels through the wrist at the carpal tunnel. The median nerve is responsible for supplying sensation to the thumb, index and long finger. It also controls some small muscles in the hand. The main symptoms are pain, numbness and tingling in the thumb, index finger, middle finger, and the thumb side of the ring fingers. In more than half of carpal tunnel cases, both hands are affected.

Martha's husband, Marion, had previously undergone hand surgery several times at a hospital located out of town. However, Martha did not want to have to travel for surgery if it could be performed close to home. She had also heard great things about **Dr. Lawrence Conley** in the community, and she wanted to have the surgery at McLeod Health Clarendon.

Martha was referred to Dr. Conley with McLeod Orthopaedics Clarendon for a consultation. A board certified Orthopedic Surgeon, Dr. Conley treats disorders of the hand, wrist and elbow such as carpal tunnel, hand arthritis, tendonitis, fractures, sprains and lacerations.

Martha explained to Dr. Conley that the pain in her left hand had caused her to lose the ability to perform normal tasks. Upon examination of her hand and review of Martha's scans, Dr. Conley determined that she needed carpal tunnel release surgery, which is the release of the transverse carpal tunnel ligament.

Understanding that this was Martha's first surgical experience, Dr. Conley explained the surgery in great detail and told her what she should expect after surgery.

"Before having the surgery, I was unable to sleep at night or perform normal tasks due to the pain. I was also not able to play the guitar at times, or I would have to stop in the middle of playing," said Martha.

Immediately after surgery, Martha said the tingling was gone. "I was amazed at what a difference I could tell following my surgery at McLeod Health Clarendon. Having this surgery has made my life normal again."

Two weeks after surgery, Martha said she was able to play the guitar again pain free. She is also planning to have

Dr. Conley perform the surgery on her right hand soon.

Lawrence Conley, D.O.
McLeod Orthopaedics Clarendon

Dr. Conley began his career in healthcare while in the U.S. Air Force as a Staff Sergeant, Medical Technician. After an Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Air Force, he received his doctor of osteopathic medicine from Des Moines University in Des Moines, Iowa. Dr. Conley completed an Orthopedic Surgery Residency at Genesys Regional Medical Center, in Grand Blanc, Michigan. For more information, or to schedule an appointment with Dr. Conley at McLeod Orthopaedics Clarendon, please call (803) 433-3065.

"I was amazed at what a difference I could tell following my surgery at McLeod Health Clarendon. Having this surgery has made my life normal again."

– Martha Jenkinson

Dr. Lawrence Conley examines Martha's hand to see how well it has healed during a follow-up visit.

A Surgeon at Work

by Jaime Vance Hayes

As the summer months of 2015 came to an end, Lisa Johnson moved into the fall season unaware of the medical challenges lying ahead of her.

A resident of Dillon County and a Registered Nurse at McLeod Dillon, Lisa had struggled with bouts of Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) for years, but nothing prepared her for the indescribable, excruciating abdominal pain she would experience that September. Her first instinct was to self-treat her pain with over-the-counter medication.

But after a week and with no true relief, Lisa was unable to stand upright. She knew it was time to see a doctor for some type of medical intervention that would offer a cure.

"I've gone through childbirth without medication," Lisa explained. "But, the pain I felt during childbirth was nothing compared to the pain I was experiencing."

Lisa sought the help of **Dr. Mamdouh Mijalli** at McLeod General Surgery Dillon.

She defined her symptoms as intense, sharp, radiating pain accompanied by nausea and vomiting.

"I told Dr. Mijalli that I felt like my insides were rupturing," recalled Lisa.

Recognizing the severity of the

situation, Dr. Mijalli promptly ordered a CT scan. The scan confirmed Dr. Mijalli's suspicion that Lisa had a perforated bowel, diverticulitis and an abscess. She was immediately hospitalized for more scans, tests and antibiotics.

Lisa was in shock. "I could not believe that I was in this shape without recognizing the symptoms," she said. "But looking back, the symptoms were there, I just ignored what my body was telling me and tried to self-treat my condition."

Following her discharge from the hospital, Lisa underwent more diagnostic testing, including a barium enema and a colonoscopy. After careful consideration, it was determined that Lisa would need a sigmoid colon resection.

"A sigmoid colon resection was necessary to alleviate Lisa's condition, and prevent any further damage to her bowels," said Dr. Mijalli. "This procedure involves the surgical removal of the left, or sigmoid, portion of the colon."

Lisa's surgery was performed on November 4, 2015, at McLeod Dillon. Dr. Mijalli removed the diseased portion of the bowel and the abscess.

"I remember waking up in the intensive care unit and thanking God for what Dr. Mijalli was able to do for me," said Lisa.

Dr. Mijalli told Lisa that the abscess he removed during surgery could have been fatal if it had not been contained.

Regarding her hospital stay at McLeod Dillon, Lisa said, "I believe everyone who enters McLeod Dillon receives VIP care. I have seen it as an employee, and now I have experienced it as a patient. Our community is

"I remember waking up in the intensive care unit and thanking God for what Dr. Mijalli was able to do for me."

– Lisa Johnson

fortunate to have such excellent physicians, including Dr. Mijalli, and a medical facility offering McLeod's highest quality care right here."

During the next eight weeks as Lisa recovered, she received follow up care from Dr. Mijalli and his team.

"Dr. Mijalli and his office staff, Casi Crowley and Cindy Herring, each called me on a regular basis to check on me in between my follow up visits," Lisa said. "The care, compassion and support I received from everyone at Dr. Mijalli's office was second to none."

Lisa was also moved by a framed print that hangs on the wall in Dr. Mijalli's office. Titled "The Great Physician," the print portrays the control of God's hand over a surgeon at work.

"To me, this work of art spoke volumes about the care I received from Dr. Mijalli," Lisa said. "He credits his faith and God's grace for allowing him to be a surgeon that offers healing to others. I remember him telling me that he gives God all the glory, and these words will forever be imprinted on me."

Mamdouh Mijalli, M.D., F.A.C.S.
McLeod General Surgery Dillon

Dr. Mijalli received his medical degree from Cairo University in Egypt, graduating Excellent with Honors. He also received his Master Degree in Surgery from Cairo University. Dr. Mijalli completed a General Surgery Residency at Cairo University Hospital, and a Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship at Yale-New Haven Hospital, in New Haven, Connecticut. Dr. Mijalli also completed a General Surgery Residency at Yale-New Haven Hospital, and served as Chief General Surgery Resident at Maine Medical Center in Portland, Maine. Dr. Mijalli is Board Certified in General Surgery and has cared for patients for nearly a decade at McLeod General Surgery Dillon. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, please call (843) 841-3846.

McLeod Dillon OB Nurse Lisa Johnson is thankful for the skilled hands of her Surgeon, Dr. Mamdouh Mijalli.

THE GREAT PHYSICIAN

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go. ~PSALM 32:8A

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths.

~PROVERBS 3:5-6

Pictured at right is the framed Christian art entitled "I Will Instruct You" by Nathan Greene. The work reminds patients and their loved ones to find strength in His care when they are most vulnerable.



OUR MISSION

The mission of McLeod Cancer Services is to provide holistic, high-quality and service-oriented care, education and research to oncology patients and their families in a safe and efficient manner.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

We believe that each person is a unique individual, entitled to clarity, dignity, honesty and respect. As part of our commitment to quality, we conduct clinical research and reach out to the community we serve. We recognize the intricacies of a cancer diagnosis, and understand that an individual with cancer is not only being treated for the disease itself, but is a complex human being whose diagnosis impacts the whole person, physically, emotionally and spiritually, as well as the entire family and support system. Our goal is to provide care, education, and avenues of support to address these complex needs in a professional, yet comforting, environment. We are dedicated to compassionately serving all those who come to us and believe not only in the power of knowledge, but also in the power of perseverance and hope.



Rajesh Bajaj, MD

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN
OF THE McLEOD CANCER COMMITTEE

As Chairman of the Cancer Committee for McLeod Regional Medical Center, I am pleased to share with the community our 2016 Cancer Report based on 2015 statistics.

Last year, 1,422 patients were newly diagnosed and treated at McLeod Regional Medical Center. The top five cancer sites were breast cancer (298 patients), lung cancer (282 patients), prostate cancer (203 patients), colorectal cancer (112 patients) and bladder cancer (95 patients). Additionally, 35 percent of patients were from Florence County, 18 percent from Darlington County and more than 45 percent were from 14 other South Carolina counties. A substantial number of our patients travel more than 30 miles to receive treatment.

McLeod remains a leader in the care of breast cancer in our region. Unfortunately, one in nine women will develop breast cancer in their lifetime, and it remains one of the most common cancers diagnosed in the country and our region. Survival depends not only on the stage at diagnosis but also on many biological factors. Some breast cancers are slow growing and indolent while others are much more aggressive. One particular type, triple negative breast cancer, is much more aggressive. It occurs more commonly among African American women and is commonly diagnosed in our region.

The past few years have been very exciting in cancer research and care. Treatment options for many types of cancer have exploded as scientific research has helped us understand the biology and origins of cancer. We are now in the beginning of the era of precision

medicine. Treatment is now tailored and individualized more than ever to the specific patient based on the genomic make-up of the cancer. Our new drugs are increasingly targeted more precisely and can minimize side effects. Another major breakthrough in cancer treatments has been in the field of immunotherapy. Several of these drugs are in a class called Immune Check Point Inhibitors that are used in the treatment of advanced cancers. These medications stimulate our own immune system to fight a variety of cancers.

Surgical techniques to treat cancer have also continued to evolve, and increasingly, minimally invasive surgery improves the recovery process. Additionally, robotic-assisted surgery has been available at McLeod for prostate and kidney cancer for the past few years. Now this technique is being used for the surgical resection of lung cancer. State-of-the-art radiation treatment has always been available at McLeod. The addition of stereotactic radiation has ensured that we have the latest advancement in technology to treat patients with even more precise radiation.

Most importantly at McLeod, we have a highly dedicated and skilled team who take care of patients in a compassionate, healing atmosphere. Their hearts and minds are driven by the unique relationships they form with patients and news of cancer advancements that will make substantial improvements in care. Each one of our patients continue to be our inspiration to serve them better, and we do not take the trust they place in us lightly.

Giving HOPE to Those in Need

“Cancer is no stranger to me,” says Audrey Gilbert, who lost her mother and father to the disease, as well as “many good friends in between.”

The greatest blow, however, came in 2010 when Audrey’s husband of 43 years, John H. Gilbert, passed away after a battle with multiple myeloma.

“John was such a kind, giving person,” Audrey reflected. Known affectionately as ‘Treetop’ due to his height, John volunteered at the Department of Juvenile Justice, Wilson High School, and even became the first director of the Florence Boy’s Club in 1965.

“His other nickname was ‘Mr. Fix-it,’” Audrey said of her husband, who would come home from a long day’s work as a

UPS driver and immediately begin helping friends, family, and neighbors.

Today, Audrey continues John’s legacy of helping others by volunteering for the McLeod Center for Cancer Treatment and Research and McLeod Hospice. She has also served as a member of the Helping Oncology Patients Everyday (HOPE) Fund Advisory Committee since its inception in 2014. Audrey advocates for the HOPE Fund in the community and helps determine how to most effectively address the many needs of McLeod’s cancer patients.

“My favorite definition of the word ‘hope’ is that little voice in your head that, while the whole world around you is saying ‘no,’ is whispering ‘maybe,’” explained Audrey.

The HOPE Fund allows donors to designate their gifts to the services essential for cancer patients and their families.

These services include transportation to treatments, assistance with medication for pain and nausea, educational supplies for the newly diagnosed, assistance with wigs and head coverings, as well as an immediate needs fund to assist individual patients with specific needs.

“These services may not mean much to others,” said Audrey, “but they mean a great deal to cancer patients.”

Audrey added that she has been very encouraged by the HOPE Fund’s progress over the last two years and the various ways it has impacted the lives of McLeod cancer patients.

PORTRAITS OF HOPE:

The 17th Annual *An Evening of Hope* to benefit the McLeod Center for Cancer Treatment and Research was held in September. Thanks to the generosity of many donors and sponsors, the event raised a record breaking \$100,000 to help support the HOPE Fund. During this evening of inspiration, cancer survivors and family members shared their personal journeys.



Audrey Gilbert



Rev. Kathy Campbell



Carolyn Gary



Leon Rogers



Adriane Poston



John Miller



Kay Davis



Wes Fowler



Patricia Nero



A.V. Thompson



Allyn Thompson



Roxanna Tinsley



Ann Gamble

To watch these encouraging testimonials, visit www.McLeodHope.org.

Here to Guide You, Care for You and Fight for You



The McLeod Center for Cancer Treatment & Research is the region’s only center approved as a Comprehensive Community Cancer Program by the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons. This is a distinction that McLeod has maintained for more than 35 years.

In addition, the McLeod Breast Health Center is accredited by the National Accreditation Program of Breast Centers (NAPBC). The McLeod Breast Health Center is also designated as a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence by the American College of Radiology (ACR).

Additionally, the McLeod Radiation Oncology Department holds national approval of its program. Achieving the American College of Radiology

accreditation demonstrates that the McLeod Radiation Team provides the highest level of image quality and radiation safety to patients.

In 2015, McLeod became designated as a Lung Cancer Screening Center by the American College of Radiology. McLeod is the only ACR designated Lung Cancer Screening Center from the midlands to the coast in South Carolina.

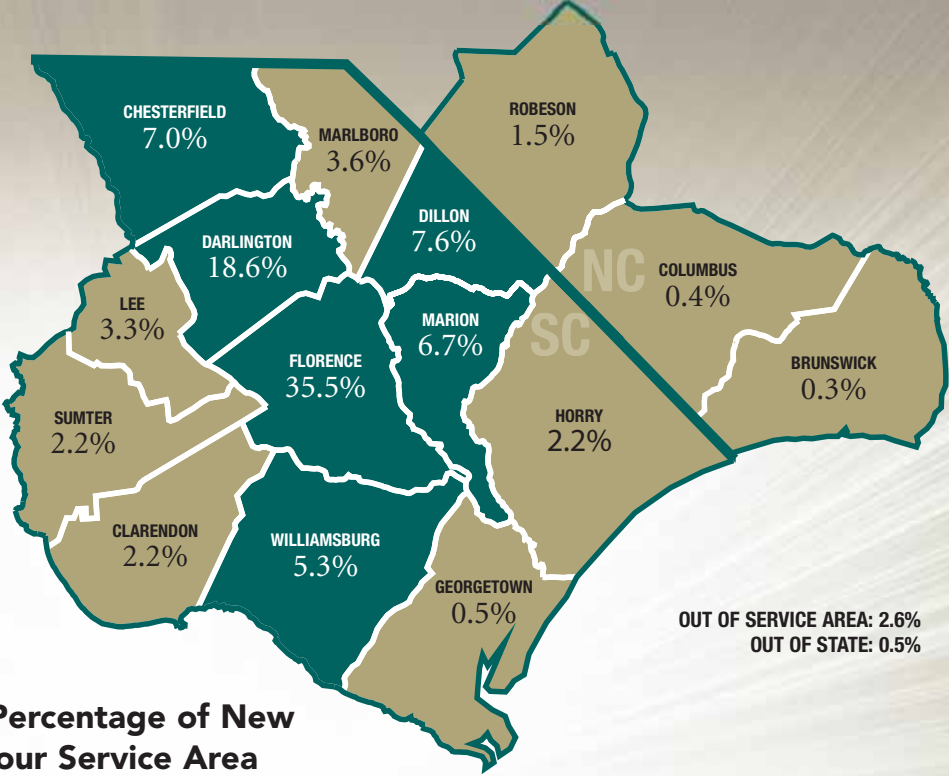
Annually, the McLeod Cancer Registry Department produces a Cancer Report containing up-to-date statistics of various cancers diagnosed at McLeod Regional Medical Center during the previous year. This data provides the Cancer Center with invaluable information to track and trend outcomes for patients and the public.

In 2015, more than 1,400 new cancer cases were diagnosed at McLeod. Cancers of the breast, lung, prostate, colorectal areas and urinary system accounted for nearly 1,000 of all cancer cases diagnosed in 2015.

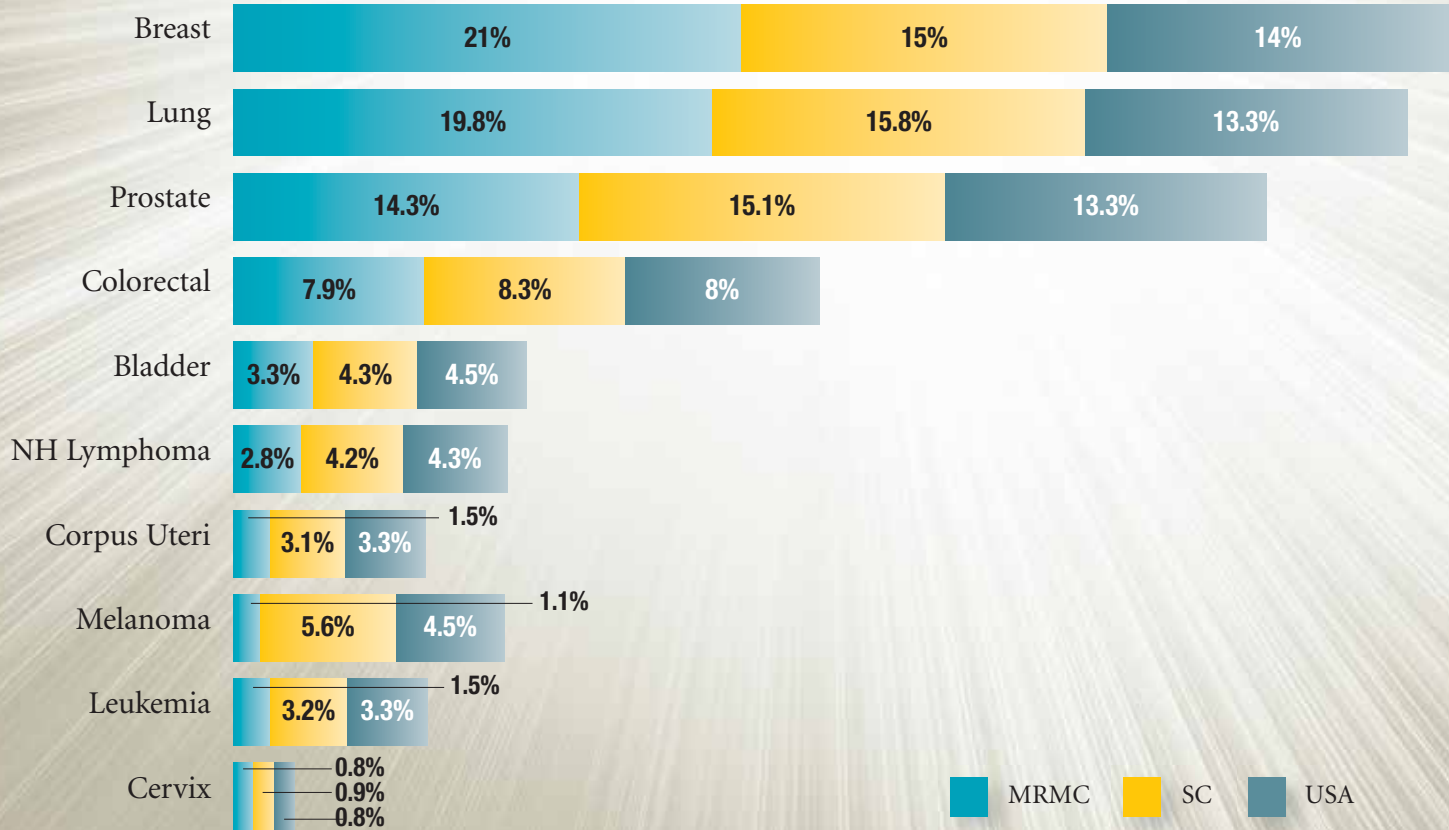
The following page provides a statistical analysis of the cancer cases by distribution of the five leading analytical sites diagnosed at McLeod, distribution of incidence by county, and a comparison of the ten most prevalent cancer sites diagnosed at McLeod, in South Carolina and in the United States based on the American Cancer Society’s “Cancer Facts and Figures 2015.”

If you would like to receive a copy of the 2016 McLeod Health Cancer Report, please call the McLeod Public Information Office at (843) 777-2592.

Five Leading Cancer Sites	
Diagnosed at McLeod in 2015	
Site	Cases
Breast	298
Lung	282
Prostate	203
Colorectal	112
Urinary System	95
Total Cases: 990	



10 Most Prevalent Cancer Sites Source: American Cancer Society “Cancer Facts and Figures 2015”



Expanding Excellence: ONCOLOGY CARE on the Coast

by Jenna Falls Cox

McLeod Health recently announced the arrival of **Dr. Stewart A. Sharp** to McLeod Oncology and Hematology Seacoast, in the movement of growing oncology services to the coast. With more than 30 years of experience, Dr. Sharp joins McLeod from Harrington Cancer Center in Amarillo, Texas.

Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Medical Oncology and Hematology, Dr. Sharp values creating critical relationships among the patient, their families, and referring doctors.

"My goal is to relieve my patients' suffering and provide as much support and comfort to them and their family members as I can. I want to provide guidance to the cancer services staff and help create and grow a successful cancer program at McLeod Seacoast," explained Dr. Sharp.

Prior to his service in Texas, Dr. Sharp founded a practice in Danville, Virginia, and served as Chairman for the Department of Medicine and President of the Medical Staff for Danville Regional Medical Center.

"I chose to come to McLeod Health because it is a not-for-profit healthcare organization whose mission is to ensure the health and well-being of the members of the communities that it serves."

McLeod Oncologist
Dr. Stewart Sharp looks forward to helping create and grow a successful cancer program at McLeod Seacoast.



Dana Tyree, RN, and Tonya Housand, RN, care for a patient in the new infusion suite at McLeod Seacoast. Each infusion bay offers privacy and comfort, only steps away from the nursing team.

Dr. Sharp and his wife, Clarice, have three daughters: Amber, Victoria and Kathryn. "My wife and I were eager to return to the coast where our hearts are tied," said Dr. Sharp. "We love the people, the pleasant climate and the general civility of life. We also believe in the power of contribution and look forward to our work here."

At the time of Dr. Sharp's arrival, McLeod Seacoast expanded its infusion services suite from four infusion chairs to 11. Infusion therapy involves medicine, nutrients or special fluids delivered through a needle directly into the body, such as chemotherapy. Infusion therapy can be performed through a blood vessel, under the skin or into a muscle. The new dedicated wing in the Same Day Services suite has been added to meet the needs of the growing community that McLeod Seacoast serves, and offers convenience and access to infusion care for patients.

"The new infusion suite at McLeod Seacoast allows our facility to offer more patients the opportunity to have access to outpatient treatments such as chemotherapy," said Sharon Simmons,

Director of Same Day Services. "Our infusion team provides therapeutic phlebotomy, infusion of antibiotics, hydration, blood products, chemotherapy, injections and implantable port flushes, along with a wide array of other infusions. It is an honor and privilege to care for our patients during a difficult time in their lives, and having the additional chairs in the infusion suite helps us continue to offer quality care."

The expanded infusion suite reflects only one of many construction projects underway at McLeod Seacoast. The hospital is in the midst of a \$110 million dollar expansion project that includes six new operating rooms scheduled to be completed in the coming months and the new concourse, a thoroughfare for visitors and patients. In addition to the concourse, construction on a new bed tower has also started. Once completed, the bed tower will add 50 inpatient beds to McLeod Seacoast.

Dr. Sharp welcomes new patients by referral, and same day consultations may be available. Call (843) 366-3891 for an appointment.

Why I Chose to Give the HOPE Bell

by Jenna Falls Cox

As a McLeod Health employee and contributor to *McLeod Magazine*, I have been fortunate to meet and interview patients and their loved ones over the years, and hear first-hand about their battle with cancer and other illnesses. Hearing their inspiring stories and making connections with these patients made me want to do more, because I, too, have experienced the cancer journey through my grandmother and aunt's diagnoses.

The HOPE Bell is a special part of a cancer patient's journey. It marks the completion of chemotherapy, and the start of a new beginning. I have the privilege every day to work alongside staff who give their all for patients. I see their hard work and believe in them. My faith in the mission of McLeod Health has also allowed me to see how lives can be changed for the better.

My husband and I chose to give to the HOPE (Helping Oncology Patients Everyday) Fund in memory of my grandmother and aunt, because it helps cancer patients with medications, transportation to treatments, and nutrition assistance. Patients at McLeod Health are winning the battle against cancer. We wanted to be a part of their medical journeys in an encouraging way.



Wendi Parnell, a patient at McLeod Seacoast, is pictured with her infusion care team (from left to right) Pharmacist Chad Huggins; Vicki Hill, PRN; Tonya Housand, RN; and Lisa Brown, RN. Wendi was the first patient to ring the HOPE Bell on Friday, September 30, 2016. She was diagnosed with Lymphoma in April of 2016 and completed her chemotherapy in September. Wendi helped the hospital start this tradition at McLeod Seacoast, which inspires others who are undergoing cancer treatment.

Miracles Can Happen

by Jennifer Beverly

All of her life, Patricia Antonoplos dreamed of being a mother. She wanted to experience the miracle of birth, breastfeed and forever show her child unconditional love and support. But when it was time to start planning a family, Patricia realized that it was going to be more challenging than expected.

Patricia and her husband tried to conceive a child for a year and a half. Unfortunately, they were unsuccessful and her physician could not pinpoint a reason as to why it was taking so long. Physically, Patricia was healthy with the exception of being overweight, so she decided to make a change. In 2010, Patricia underwent gastric bypass surgery to help lose the unwanted pounds and determine if this was the reason she was unable to become pregnant.

"I wanted to have the surgery for myself," said Patricia. "I needed to rule out everything that could be causing my infertility."

After the surgery, Patricia moved to Conway, South Carolina, to be closer to family. She continued trying to have a baby but was still unsuccessful. Patricia sought the expertise of a local OB/GYN physician to discuss fertility issues, but she felt the doctor was not interested in finding a solution.

Patricia and Nick are grateful for the support they received from McLeod OB/GYN Seacoast and McLeod Loris during the pregnancy and delivery of their daughter Carrie.



"This physician offered me 'cookie cutter' answers and no guidance," said Patricia. "By this time, I had done everything possible that I knew to do for my infertility issues."

Patricia then chose to make an appointment with another OB/GYN physician, who referred her to a reproductive endocrinologist in Charleston, South Carolina.

"Finally, I found a physician who was willing to help me," said Patricia. "I was excited and relieved. I prayed that the specialist would provide some answers."

Through fertility treatments, Patricia conceived twice; however, both pregnancies ended in early miscarriages.

"There was physically nothing wrong with me," said Patricia. "I was devastated, so I decided not to continue with the fertility treatments. I needed a break."

Patricia quit her job as a special education teacher and decided to focus her attention on animal rescue. A few months later, she became pregnant again without the help of fertility treatments. She was excited and nervous at the same time.

Early in the pregnancy, Patricia began spotting and knew she needed to see a physician right away. She made an appointment to see **Dr. Merritt King** with McLeod OB/GYN Seacoast.

"I told the receptionist that I was going to be a difficult patient," said Patricia. "I explained my previous experiences, and she assured me that Dr. King was a great choice."

Patricia saw Dr. King immediately for an examination. The baby was growing, but there was a large blood clot on top of the amniotic sac.

"There was a subchorionic hemorrhage, with concern for a spontaneous miscarriage in progress," said Dr. King.

In September of 2014, Patricia began bleeding excessively and was rushed to the McLeod Loris Emergency Department. At 12 weeks, she miscarried for a third time.



Dr. Merritt King and the McLeod Loris Labor & Delivery staff provide exceptional care to all patients and family members.

"It was the worst day of my life," said Patricia. "I carried this baby longer than any of my other babies. Dr. King was very caring and sat and talked with us after the miscarriage."

The stress of trying to conceive a child finally took a toll on Patricia's marriage. "I was certain that I was not going to have a child," said Patricia. "I had been on an emotional rollercoaster, and I was ready to do something for myself." At this same time, Patricia and her husband decided it was best for the both of them if they went their separate ways.

Patricia underwent a personal journey of introspection and reflection. She made emotional and physical improvements and later began a relationship with Nick Townsend, with whom she fell in love.

Some time later, Patricia began feeling sick. After three miscarriages, she knew exactly what was going on in her body -- she was pregnant. Patricia took a home pregnancy test, and the result was positive. She immediately called McLeod OB/GYN Seacoast to make an appointment with Dr. King.

On the day of her appointment, the nurse tested Patricia's urine, and the result

was negative. Patricia insisted on having the nurse draw her blood to test for the pregnancy, and the result was positive.

"By now, I know my body well and I knew I was pregnant," said Patricia. "I had a little spotting throughout the pregnancy, but Dr. King saw nothing alarming."

At 36 weeks, Dr. King told Patricia that the baby was breech. As much as Patricia wanted a natural birth, both she and Dr. King agreed that it was best that the baby be born through a cesarean section.

"As a physician, I am not going to compromise a baby's safety during birth, so the best decision was for Patricia to have a C-section," explained Dr. King.

On February 17, 2016, Patricia delivered a healthy baby girl, Carol "Carrie" Rebecca Antonoplos Townsend. She weighed eight pounds and measured 20 inches long.

"Carrie is our miracle baby," said Patricia. "We cannot thank Dr. King enough for all he has done for our family. He is the most compassionate physician, and he treats his patients with respect and dignity. The labor and delivery staff was a great comfort during our stay. McLeod Loris is simply the best."

Lending a Helping Hand

by Arielle Williams

Dr. Reginald Bolick, a McLeod General Surgeon for 40 years, lends a helping hand to assist Dr. Salim Ghorra, who has been the only General Surgeon for McLeod Surgery Cheraw for more than a decade.

There are many advantages to living in a small town -- ask anyone that lives in one. Tight-knit communities create a sense of comfort and southern hospitality that many find charming.

One perceived inconvenience to living in a rural community, however, is the lack of medical care that is available in larger cities. Fortunately for those living in Chesterfield and Marlboro counties, access to care has been expanded through the mission of McLeod Health.

The commitment to that access is present and growing in the care of patients needing general surgery. A team of highly skilled general surgeons, **Dr. Salim Ghorra** and **Dr. Reginald Bolick** of McLeod Surgery Cheraw, along with **Dr. Henry Jordan** of the recently opened practice McLeod Surgery Bennettsville, provide experienced surgical services at McLeod Health Cheraw.

For 13 years, Dr. Ghorra has been the only physician performing advanced surgeries at McLeod Health Cheraw. He has a proven track record of taking the utmost care of his patients.

In July of 2016, McLeod Health Cheraw supported surgical services by enlisting the assistance of Dr. Bolick, a 40-year surgical veteran with McLeod Regional Medical Center, to lend a hand to Dr. Ghorra and the surgery team.

"Dr. Ghorra is the primary surgeon here and he has done a remarkable job being here by himself, all day, every day for the more than ten years," said Dr. Bolick.

"I have a new respect for what he does in this hospital and for this community," Dr. Bolick continued. "I am happy that I have the opportunity to help him care for the increasing number of patients and their needs."

After practicing for 40 years with Pee Dee Surgical Group and McLeod Regional Medical Center in Florence, Dr. Bolick decided to retire earlier this year.

"You are never too old to do what you love even after you retire," said Dr. Bolick. "I think it is rare for anyone to truly give up on their passion. I found myself reading articles about surgical advancements and new technologies, and I could not help but to immerse myself back into the world of surgery."

"I decided shortly after entering retirement that I wanted to keep my skills current, so I made the decision to come and help here at McLeod Health Cheraw," explained Dr. Bolick.

Dr. Bolick works at McLeod Health Cheraw on the weekends and days that Dr. Ghorra is off. He averages about two or three weekends a month.

Having a second surgeon as back up helps everyone involved in patient care, including Dr. Ghorra. "He does an excellent job, and I hope I relieve some of the stress and pressure on him as an assisting surgeon," said Dr. Bolick. "When two people are performing surgery, you can talk things out during the operation, and it simply helps to have some support."

Dr. Ghorra appreciates the assistance of Dr. Bolick. "He is a very good surgeon with a great deal of experience, which is always helpful. It is nice to have him here at McLeod Health Cheraw," said Dr. Ghorra.

Dr. Bolick sees McLeod Health Cheraw as a breath of fresh air for the surrounding communities, with many opportunities for growth.

"I am pleased that I have been able to practice for four decades as a McLeod Surgeon. I have also been blessed to witness how our hospitals provide the exceptional level of care that is standard throughout all of our facilities," said Dr. Bolick. "Being a part of McLeod Health has definitely made me a better doctor and a better surgeon."

Dr. Bolick adds that no matter which of the McLeod Health hospitals you visit, there is the same feeling of unity, teamwork and compassion, and it shows in the patient outcomes.

The same goes for McLeod Health Cheraw. "Everyone I have met here seems eager to do their job to the best of their ability and to put the patient's needs above everything else," said Dr. Bolick.

"I am pleased that I have been able to practice for four decades as a McLeod Surgeon. I have also been blessed to witness how our hospitals provide the exceptional level of care that is standard throughout all of our facilities."

- Dr. Reginald Bolick

A little over a year after joining the McLeod Health system, the hospital has flourished and continues to expand services in Cheraw and the surrounding rural communities.

Because of the resources and support of a healthcare system like McLeod, Chesterfield and Marlboro county residents now have more options to choose from when it comes to receiving quality healthcare.

“The growth rate is astounding with the addition of Orthopedic Surgeon **Dr. Ronald Benfield** and OB/GYN **Dr. Michael Hoffman**, who rotates between practices in Cheraw and Bennettsville,” explained Dr. Bolick.

“We also have a new General Surgeon

Dr. Henry Jordan, who practices at McLeod Surgery Bennettsville and **Dr. Janice Miller**, a new Family Medicine Physician, who cares for patients at McLeod Primary Care Bennettsville,” said Dr. Bolick.

Dr. Bolick truly feels that McLeod Health has been a real asset to the community. “I can see it, and people within the community have even told me how important this hospital is to them,” he added.

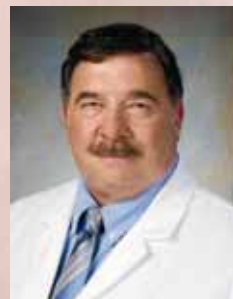
Greater access to care and the addition of expert physicians are not the only changes that have taken place for the hospital. The adoption of the McLeod Health culture is evident throughout every aspect of patient care.

“The attitude of the entire hospital staff has changed to match the McLeod standard since the transition,” said Dr. Bolick. “This results in several positives for the community such as enhanced patient experiences on every level of care. From physicians, administration and nutrition services to housekeeping, everyone that you encounter during your visit is on board together.”

Thanks to Dr. Ghorra, Dr. Bolick and Dr. Jordan working together as a team at McLeod Health Cheraw, professional and compassionate surgical care is a reality for area residents. Their combined years of experience offer patients the confidence of knowing that they are truly in good hands.

McLeod Welcomes New Physicians in Cheraw and Bennettsville

As part of our commitment to growing services within the region, McLeod Health welcomes these new physicians accepting patients in Cheraw and Bennettsville:



Ronald W. Benfield, MD
Orthopaedics
McLeod Orthopaedics Cheraw
710 Chesterfield Hwy
Cheraw, SC 29520
Phone: (843) 537-0010



Henry S. Jordan, MD
General Surgery
McLeod Surgery Bennettsville
1076 Marlboro Way, Suite 6
Bennettsville, SC 29512
Phone: (843) 454-7677



Michael R. Hoffman, MD
Gynecology and Obstetrics
McLeod OB/GYN Cheraw-Bennettsville
1040 Marlboro Way, Suite 7
Bennettsville, SC 29512
Phone: (843) 777-9140



Janice S. Miller, MD
Family Medicine
McLeod Primary Care Bennettsville
1040 Marlboro Way, Suite 1
Bennettsville, SC 29512
Phone: (843) 479-5890

McLeod News



McLeodHealth.org
Excellence Re-imagined.

McLeod Health continues to live out our mission of excellence with the launch of our new website. The completely re-imagined look comes alive with captivating video, patient stories and immersive graphics. Whether browsing on your laptop, phone or tablet, it delivers an exceptional user-experience that engages you at each level.

- Expanded search function
- Enhanced "find a doctor" functionality
- Simplified navigation
- Inclusion of new medical library
- Responsive mobile design
- Engaging images

New McLeod Health website launches January 2017.

McLeod News

MCLEOD HEALTH: KEEPING OUR COMMITMENT TO CAROLINA FOREST



An aerial view of the new McLeod Health Carolina Forest Campus, conveniently located at the corner of Highway 31 and International Drive in the heart of Carolina Forest.

At McLeod Health, our commitment is to our patients, their family and their community.

We wanted to give our neighbors in the Carolina Forest area an update on expanding health care services. McLeod Health broke ground November 17, 2015 on a 43-acre complex at the intersection of Highway 31 and International Drive.

After many requests for additional health services, this site was selected for its central location in the community and for your convenience.

Nearly a year has passed and we believe you deserve a progress report.

As you can see from the photos on this page, work on the first building is nearly complete in what we expect to be a seven-building, 280,000 square foot complex. McLeod commits itself to providing treatment, services and health care that's important to you -- just as we have in the other communities -- stretching from the Midlands to the Coast -- served by McLeod Health.

We'll soon open the doors of the McLeod Carolina Forest Complex for patients looking for primary care and family physicians, as well as other programs and services.

Expansions with various specialties, such as cardiology, vascular and neurology,

among others to follow. We'll expand to meet the growing needs of children, adults and families, who chose Carolina Forest and the surrounding area as their home.

At McLeod Health, commitment represents more than paper or a plan. It's a clear statement, signed in steel and sealed in bricks and mortar.

We are here. And McLeod Health intends to be an important part of your community and your lives for a long time to come.



The first medical office building on the McLeod Health Carolina Forest is scheduled to open in 2017.



A rendering of the new outpatient services center and medical office building at McLeod Health Carolina Forest.



Leaders In Healthcare Excellence*

McLeod is excited to share our achievements in the most recent hospital ratings by Healthgrades®, the leading online resource for comprehensive information about physicians and hospitals. With **24 top honors**, McLeod is simply your region's most honored healthcare team. Together, our nationally recognized team continues to provide medical excellence with one goal: your good health and well-being.

TOP HEART & VASCULAR HONORS

- One of America's 100 Best Hospitals for Cardiac Care™ – 2016
- One of America's 100 Best Hospitals Coronary Intervention™ – 2016
- One of America's 50 Best Hospitals for Vascular Surgery™ (2015 – 2016)
- Recipient of the Cardiac Care Excellence Award™ – 2016
- Recipient of the Coronary Intervention Excellence Award™ – 2016
- Recipient of the Vascular Surgery Excellence Award™ (2010 – 2016)
- Named Among the Top 5% in the Nation for Cardiology Services – 2016
- Named Among the Top 5% in the Nation for Coronary Interventional Procedures – 2016
- Named Among the Top 5% in the Nation for Vascular Surgery (2013 – 2016)
- Named among the top 10% in the Nation for Overall Cardiac Services – 2016
- ★★★★★ Recipient for Coronary Interventional Procedures – 2016
- ★★★★★ Recipient for Treatment of Heart Attack (2014 – 2016)
- ★★★★★ Recipient for Treatment of Heart Failure (2014 – 2016)
- ★★★★★ Recipient for Treatment of Stroke (2013 – 2016)
- ★★★★★ Recipient for Repair of Abdominal Aorta – 2016
- ★★★★★ Recipient for Carotid Surgery (2011 – 2016)

TOP SURGERY HONORS

- One of America's 100 Best Hospitals for General Surgery (2014 – 2016)
- Recipient of the General Surgery Excellence Award (2013 – 2016)
- Named Among the Top 5% in the Nation for General Surgery (2014 – 2016)
- ★★★★★ Recipient for Esophageal/Stomach Surgeries (2014 – 2016)
- ★★★★★ Recipient for Treatment of Bowel Obstruction (2014 – 2016)

TOP ORTHOPEDIC HONOR

- ★★★★★ Recipient for Total Knee Replacement – 2016

TOP CRITICAL CARE HONOR

- ★★★★★ Recipient for Treatment of Respiratory Failure – 2016

TOP PULMONARY HONOR

- ★★★★★ Recipient for Treatment of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (2009 – 2016)

McLeod Health
McLeodHonors.org

*Distinctions listed represent McLeod Regional Medical Center

McLeod Health

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