



McLeod

magazine

Volume 40, Issue 2, 2025

Dr. Rodney Alan
Orthopedic Surgeon

UNIQUE BY LOCATION
BETTER TOGETHER

Views



Donna Isgett

The highest recognition McLeod Health can achieve is your trust in our services and our people. At the core of our mission is a dedication to the provision of health care for local people, by local people through highly experienced professionals, the widest spectrum of health services available in the region, extraordinary outcomes and cost-efficient care.

It was the tragic fall in 1899 of a three-year-old boy from a second story apartment that inspired Dr. F.H. McLeod's vision of a hospital for Florence and the region.

This vision has culminated into a thriving, comprehensive health system with eight hospitals across 18 counties in northeastern South Carolina and southeastern North Carolina, providing essential healthcare services to both urban and rural communities.

Though each McLeod Health hospital and the communities they serve is unique, together we are unified and grounded by four core values: Caring, The Person, Integrity and Quality.

Guided by these core values, McLeod Health continues to have a profound impact on healthcare in South Carolina, shaping the landscape of medical services in the region.

McLeod Health has become a leader in specialized care with a commitment to quality, often setting benchmarks for other healthcare providers in the state.

As a not-for-profit organization, McLeod Health reinvests in the communities, focusing on initiatives that support our mission of improved public health and wellness. In addition, our leadership plays pivotal roles in shaping healthcare policies and advocating for better access and quality statewide.

In the pages that follow, we pay tribute to the individuals who entrusted us with their care at their darkest moments and overcame remarkable challenges. It is because of these individuals – and you – that McLeod Health continues to strive for excellence in all that we do.

Donna Isgett
President and CEO, McLeod Health



ON THE COVER:

The cover image of this McLeod Magazine features Orthopedic Surgeon Dr. Rodney Alan, who performs a variety of orthopedic procedures at both McLeod Health Clarendon and McLeod Regional Medical Center. In addition, Dr. Alan cares for patients at McLeod Orthopaedics in Sumter, Manning and Florence. On page 4, you will find a story of how Dr. Alan's surgical expertise restored quality of life for Northern Miller, an Alcolu resident.



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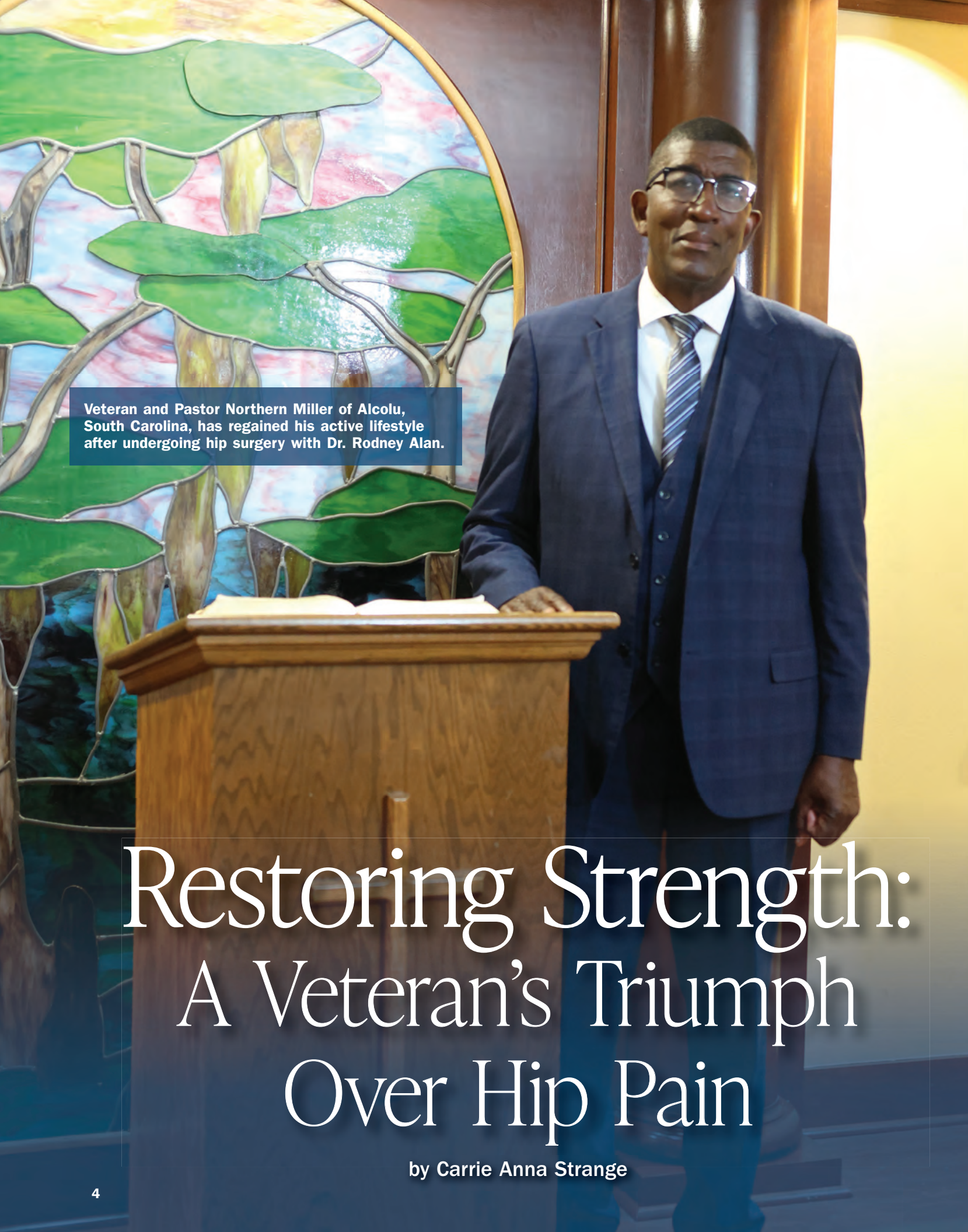
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Veteran and Pastor Northern Miller of Alcolu, South Carolina, has regained his active lifestyle after undergoing hip surgery with Dr. Rodney Alan.

Restoring Strength: A Veteran's Triumph Over Hip Pain

by Carrie Anna Strange

Northern Miller, 70, of Alcolu, South Carolina, started experiencing unbearable hip pain. "I struggled to lie down comfortably at night, and even daily movements became a challenge. I was constantly adjusting myself when lying in the bed, trying to find a way to ease the discomfort," recalled Northern.

Retired from the U.S. Army as a nuclear biochemical sergeant after 20 years of service, Northern later became the JROTC instructor at Lake City High School and retired again after 23 years in that role. He continues to serve as the pastor of Trinity Full Gospel Church in Manning. But once the hip pain became excruciating, he could no longer maintain his busy, active lifestyle.

Northern decided to meet with **Dr. Rodney Alan**, an Orthopedic Surgeon with McLeod Orthopaedics in Manning. During his appointment, Dr. Alan conducted a comprehensive evaluation, where X-rays revealed advanced osteoarthritis in Northern's right hip joint. The images showed significant wear and tear, with the cartilage almost entirely worn away, leading to bone-on-bone contact.

Initial treatments involved a series of steroid injections and topical cream, but despite these efforts, the pain gradually worsened. "I experienced physical wear and tear over the years. My active lifestyle had taken a toll on my body, and it eventually caught up with me."

Dr. Alan and Northern then discussed in detail the next treatment option - surgery. Dr. Alan ordered comprehensive pre-operative testing to ensure Northern was in good overall health and able to recover successfully from hip surgery. Once this was confirmed, Northern was scheduled to undergo total hip replacement surgery at McLeod Health Clarendon.

First, Dr. Alan made an incision in the back of Northern's hip and moved the muscles connected to the top of the thigh bone to expose the hip joint.

"Using a posterior approach allows better exposure for complex hip replacement surgeries with significant deterioration of the bone," said Dr. Alan. "During the procedure, I replace a portion of the femoral head, the top part of the thigh bone, with an artificial hip prosthesis. Then I remove the cartilage in the hip socket, or acetabulum, and reshape the socket to fit the 'cup,' also known as the acetabular component. Replacing both the 'ball' and 'socket' of the hip constitutes a total hip replacement."

Just hours after surgery, Northern took his first steps with his new hip. Walking and other forms of movement after surgery help to improve circulation and reduce swelling.

"To my amazement, I went home the same day. When I left the hospital that evening, I was able to put full weight on my leg right away," said Northern.

"I began physical therapy at McLeod Rehabilitation Clarendon shortly after surgery. Within a couple of months, I was back to doing most of the things I love, and now, I can do everything. I am 70 years old, so I remain cautious and mindful of my movements. As a pastor, I am constantly on my feet, moving around the pulpit, and staying active, so it was important to me to get back to my normal routine."

Part of that routine includes time spent at the McLeod Health and Fitness Center Clarendon, where he focuses on walking and light weightlifting to stay in good shape.

Looking back on his experience, Northern noted how refreshing it was to visit a doctor who genuinely knew him, not just as a patient number, but as a person. "Dr. Alan always greeted me by name, and it was clear he remembered my medical history without needing to constantly reference a chart," Northern said.

"That personal touch and level of care made me feel truly valued. The hip replacement surgery has truly transformed my life. Thanks to Dr. Alan, I am no longer held back by pain and can enjoy my life to the fullest. I am grateful for the care I received and look forward to what the future holds. Dr. Alan and McLeod Health Clarendon made all the difference in my recovery, and I could not be more thankful."



Dr. Rodney Alan performs joint replacement surgery at McLeod Health Clarendon and McLeod Regional Medical Center.

DETECTING AND TARGETING LUNG CANCER WITH PRECISION

by Tracy H. Stanton



McLeod Cardiothoracic Surgeon Dr. Srinivas Kolla, at center, is pictured with members of the McLeod Robotic Surgical Team, from left to right: Joyce Mate, RN; Savannah Williams, CST; Aisha Footman, RN; Yarrow Babb, PA; Diane McGee, RN; Dr. Srinivas Kolla; Brent White, CRNA; Tracey Roberts, CST; and Lavon Sherman, CST.

Lisa Cooke of Coward, South Carolina, never suspected that enlarged lymph nodes on her neck would lead to a diagnosis of lung cancer. Today, she is grateful to her Primary Care Physician **Dr. Heather Shelton**, McLeod Pulmonologist **Dr. Vinod Jona** and McLeod Cardiothoracic Surgeon **Dr. Srinivas Kolla** for detecting and treating her early-stage cancer.

When Lisa first noticed the enlarged glands on her neck in 2023 she was treated by McLeod Employee Health for an infection. “These huge lymph nodes suddenly appeared on both sides of my neck. I was prescribed a couple of rounds of antibiotics but the swelling remained. When I made an appointment with Dr. Shelton for an examination of the lymph nodes she immediately ordered a CT scan.

The scan identified a spot on my lung that they began monitoring. A follow-up CT scan of my lungs six months later detected that the lung nodule had grown in size. At that point, she ordered a PET scan to determine if this was cancer.”

Lisa learned the results of the scan on her McLeod MyChart, but she saw this as a silver lining because it gave her a couple of days to process the news before meeting with Dr. Jona.

“My husband Allan and I met with Dr. Jona on a Wednesday, I saw Dr. Kolla on Thursday, I underwent surgery on Monday, and I went home the next day.” Fortunately for Lisa, she didn’t require any additional treatment for her cancer besides surgery.

A former smoker of more than 25 years, Lisa quit in 2013. Besides the enlarged lymph glands on her neck, she had no other symptoms of lung cancer. “I was not coughing or short of breath. I’m honestly happy that those lymph nodes popped out like they did or I may have been diagnosed at a later stage rather than Stage I.”

“We are fortunate at McLeod Regional Medical Center to have the latest next generation robot installed and dedicated exclusively to thoracic surgical cases in one of our Heart and Vascular Operating Rooms,” said Dr. Kolla. “However, robotic surgery is more than just the robot and the surgeon. At McLeod, it takes a whole team of clinical staff to ensure a smooth operation and good outcomes. In addition to their many years of service, there is a unified flow among the team. Quite frankly, the McLeod Robotic Surgical team members are some of the best staff I have ever worked with. I have operated in numerous medical facilities, and none are as good as our teams at McLeod.”

Dr. Kolla explained that since joining the lung cancer program at McLeod, the comprehensive, coordinated cancer team has made major impacts in not only the detection of lung cancer, but at an earlier stage. “I looked at our diagnoses two years ago and we were diagnosing more Stage IV cancers than Stage I – Stage I being early and Stage IV being late cancers. Two years later, with our lung cancer screening program, we are now detecting cancers at a rate of three to one early versus late.

“Thoracic surgery is a component that integrates into the total coordinated care of the patient and that is how we have always approached it. The collaboration of our cancer team at McLeod and the addition of this new robot is taking the treatment of lung cancer to the next level, allowing us to provide superior care to patients. We feel that is the best way to serve our patients,” added Dr. Kolla.

Following her diagnosis, Lisa also joined a national clinical research trial currently open at the McLeod Center for Cancer Treatment and Research called the Adela CAMPERR Study. The goal of the CAMPERR Study is to support the development of a blood test to detect cancer at early stages when treatment may be more effective. The study is open to patients newly diagnosed with non-metastatic breast, colorectal, lung, prostate, esophageal, gastric and head and neck cancers who have not yet started treatment. It involves a cancer screening questionnaire and a simple blood draw before cancer treatment begins, then blood is drawn twice a year for up to four years.

Lisa is grateful to the McLeod teams who cared for her, and that her cancer was diagnosed early. Allan, who quit smoking in 2014, recently underwent a lung cancer screening, and Lisa encourages others who have smoked in the past to get screened. She adds if there is something unexplainable like the enlarged lymph nodes she experienced, “to get it checked immediately.”

COMPREHENSIVE LUNG CANCER CARE AT MCLEOD

Early detection of lung cancer is essential to improving survival rates. At McLeod Regional Medical Center and McLeod Health Seacoast, Dr. Vinod Jona, Dr. Carmen Taype-Roberts, Dr. Melissa Miara, Dr. Kevin Dineen and Dr. Abhijit Mahalingashetty utilize Ion, a robotic-assisted technology, to detect lung cancer in its earliest stages. The Ion system provides pulmonologists with navigation and guidance to areas of the lungs that were difficult to access with traditional technology. With Ion, these physicians can go deeper into the lungs to locate the much smaller lung nodules, perform a biopsy to precisely detect lung cancer and then develop a treatment plan all with improved speed and accuracy.

Advancements such as the Ion technology, robotic-assisted thoracic surgery and radiation oncology treatment, all strengthen the lung cancer care McLeod Health offers to patients in the region.



Lisa Cooke is grateful to Dr. Vinod Jona and the comprehensive lung cancer team at McLeod for being by her side after a diagnosis of lung cancer.

BREATHING HOPE: A LONG JOURNEY TO RECOVERY



Overcoming many challenges after his diagnosis with pneumonia, Van Greene shares his accomplishments in his journey to recovery with Physical Therapists Shelly Szabo and Lisa Swift, and Rehabilitative Services Supervisor Jessica Jackson.

by Sarah Miles

In late summer 2023, Van Greene had a cold, or so he thought. After a few days of not feeling well, he began experiencing breathing difficulties and struggled to catch his breath. Van decided to visit the Emergency Department at McLeod Health Seacoast, where his health rapidly declined.

“At that point, everything became foggy; I don’t remember anything once I entered the hospital,” Van explained.

He was quickly diagnosed with bacterial pneumonia, and his condition deteriorated further.

“The pneumonia progressed into acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and septic shock. Both are high-mortality illnesses that lead to multiple organ failure,” explains **Dr. Kevin Dineen**, a Critical Care Physician with McLeod Health Seacoast.

ARDS is a life-threatening lung injury that allows fluid to leak into the lungs and keeps the lungs from filling with enough air, which means less oxygen reaches the bloodstream and deprives the organs of oxygen.

Admitted on August 31, 2023, Van was placed in a medically-induced coma, which meant he was put on a ventilator, underwent a tracheostomy and received a feeding tube. He spent the following two months in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) under the care of Dr. Dineen.

Emerging from the coma in the ICU at McLeod Health Seacoast marked a significant milestone in Van’s recovery journey. It did not take long for him to realize the long road ahead.

“I had never been sick or hospitalized; I was always on the go. In that moment, however, I found myself unable to eat, sit up, stand or walk,” he reflected.

Van then began physical and occupational therapy in his ICU room. He worked with therapist Shelly Szabo for weeks before moving to the Progressive Care Unit. Ultimately, he would spend more than two months in the hospital.

“It’s really hard to be in the hospital for an extended time, so Shelly took me outside to feel the sunlight and the breeze, and we sat by the pond together. That moment gave me hope and strength, and made me ready to walk again,” recalled Van.

To be discharged from the hospital, Van had to reach specific goals. “Once I realized what was going on and what I needed to do to get out, I was ready.” Van finally returned home on November 3, 2023.

He recalls the moment when he learned he was being discharged, saying, “It was a relief. I was excited.” Van left the hospital in a wheelchair and began his outpatient therapy at McLeod Health Seacoast.

Outpatient physical therapist Lisa Swift, along with her supervisor Jessica Jackson, created a treatment plan for Van. The initial treatment plan focused on stretching, endurance and resistance training three times a week while carefully monitoring his oxygen levels.

Gradually, Van regained his strength, balance, and coordination, transitioning from a wheelchair to a walker for his physical therapy sessions. As he progressed, Lisa and Jessica adapted his treatment plan to incorporate aqua therapy.

“In the pool, he could work in a safe space and not worry about falling. The water also provided resistance training to help in his recovery,” explained Lisa.

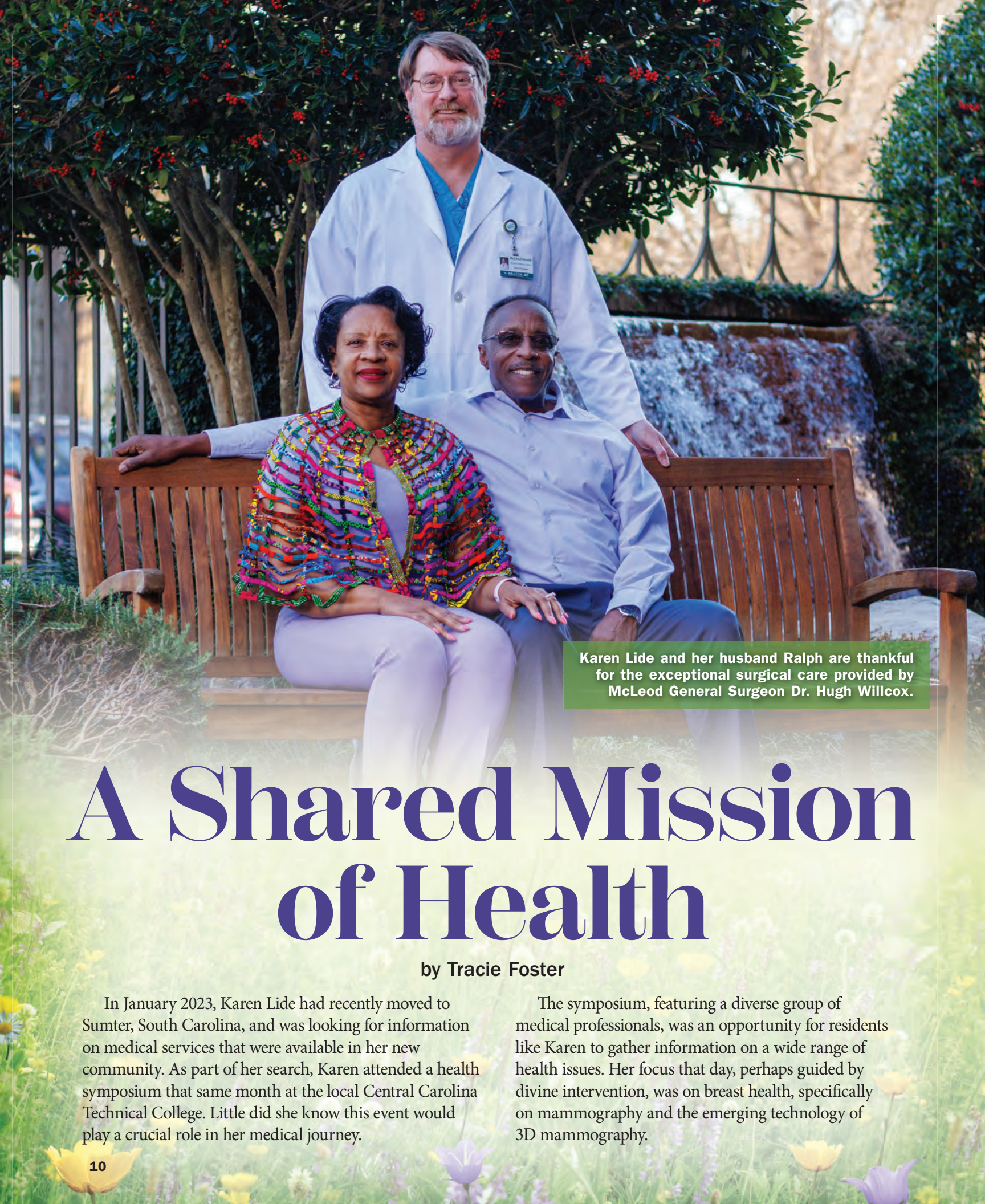
With the support of his dedicated medical team and the love of his family, Van fought through the pain and uncertainty.

“Van recovered because of the dedication and work he put into it,” says Dr. Dineen.

“Van is such a great success story. I love to see him still so full of life considering the many challenges he has faced throughout his health journey,” says Shelly.



Van Greene is so grateful for the dedication and continuing care he receives from the physical therapists at McLeod Health Seacoast.



Karen Lide and her husband Ralph are thankful for the exceptional surgical care provided by McLeod General Surgeon Dr. Hugh Willcox.

A Shared Mission of Health

by Tracie Foster

In January 2023, Karen Lide had recently moved to Sumter, South Carolina, and was looking for information on medical services that were available in her new community. As part of her search, Karen attended a health symposium that same month at the local Central Carolina Technical College. Little did she know this event would play a crucial role in her medical journey.

The symposium, featuring a diverse group of medical professionals, was an opportunity for residents like Karen to gather information on a wide range of health issues. Her focus that day, perhaps guided by divine intervention, was on breast health, specifically on mammography and the emerging technology of 3D mammography.

Just over a year later, in April 2024, Karen received a diagnosis that would change her life forever — breast cancer. She recalled a pamphlet from that 2023 symposium about breast cancer and knew exactly where it was. Going through her pile of medical paperwork, she retrieved the pamphlet and called the number listed.

To Karen’s relief, the call was answered by a calm, kind, and knowledgeable Nurse Practitioner who walked her through the next steps, referred her to the right specialists, and offered the support she desperately needed.

Karen was referred to McLeod General Surgeon **Dr. Hugh Willcox**, with Pee Dee Surgical Group, who would perform her mastectomy.

Karen’s first appointment with Dr. Willcox was reassuring. He explained the procedure and mentioned that he would collaborate with McLeod Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon **Dr. Dustin Eck**, who would handle the breast reconstruction. “I never felt rushed or unheard,” says Karen. “That sense of respect and care continued throughout my entire treatment.” She was particularly struck by the collaborative approach, as her case was not just Dr. Willcox’s responsibility but a shared mission among several specialists, all working together to create the best possible plan.

“The day of my surgery, I arrived at McLeod Regional Medical Center feeling nervous,” Karen recalls. “But from the moment I walked through the door, I felt a sense of peace. The pre-op process was seamless. I met with the radiologist, the anesthesiologist, and the nurse who would be in the operating room with me. Everyone took the time to explain what would happen and answered all my questions. That really helped put me at ease.”

“When it was time for my surgery, Dr. Willcox came in to visit me,” she continues. “He reassured me about the process and reminded me that both he and Dr. Eck would be in the operating room throughout the surgery.

“The procedure lasted about two hours,” Karen adds. “When I woke, I was in the recovery room. My nurses were there, and they informed me that everything had gone smoothly.”

In addition to the physical care, the emotional support Karen received was invaluable. The team’s empathy and attentiveness made all the difference during a time that was filled with uncertainty. She was treated not only as a patient but as a person.

“Our focus goes beyond just performing a surgery,” says Dr. Willcox. “We are committed to supporting each patient through every stage of their care, ensuring that they feel heard, understood, and cared for, both physically and emotionally, from the moment they are diagnosed all the way through their recovery.”

Reflecting on her experience, Karen says the word that best describes her treatment journey is “compassion.” From the initial phone call to Dr. Willcox’s and Dr. Eck’s skilled surgery, Karen has felt nothing but respect and compassion from everyone involved in her care.

“The seamless coordination between specialists was a testament to the team-oriented approach that made my experience so positive. It is not just about the medical procedures or the success of the surgeries,” says Karen, “it is about how you feel as a person throughout the process. In the face of a cancer diagnosis, everyone I encountered made me feel as though I was the only patient being treated. For that, I am forever grateful.”



“In the face of a cancer diagnosis, everyone I encountered made me feel as though I was the only patient being treated. For that, I am forever grateful.”
- Karen Lide

MCLEOD CAROLINA FOREST OPENS A NEW SURGERY CENTER

by Jennifer Hulon



Orthopedic Surgeon Dr. Jeremy McCallum performs a minimally invasive arthroscopic shoulder surgery, a procedure that typically does not require an overnight hospital stay.

The largest surgery center in Horry County, McLeod Carolina Forest Surgery Center has four operating rooms, two procedure rooms, and 17 pre- and post-op procedure rooms. Various specialty services are offered, including urology; gastroenterology; plastic surgery; orthopedics; ear, nose, and throat; and pain management.

“The McLeod Carolina Forest Surgery Center provides convenient access to exceptional surgical care close to home,” said Dr. David Atkinson, McLeod Carolina Forest Surgery Center Medical Director. “I am pleased patients and their family members have the opportunity to experience the high level of care that comes from our devotion to quality and personable service.”

The McLeod Carolina Forest Surgery Center is on the first floor of Building 3 on the McLeod Health Carolina Forest campus.

“Our surgeons and staff are highly trained medical professionals who are committed to providing their patients with the best possible care,” said Beth Hicks, Chief Nursing Officer of McLeod Carolina Forest.

As Horry County continues to experience rapid population growth, access to high-quality healthcare services becomes increasingly critical. A state-of-the-art hospital is under construction on the McLeod Health Carolina Forest campus, scheduled to open in summer 2026. With more than 110,000 patient visits at the Carolina Forest campus over the past year, McLeod Health recognizes the importance of having a dedicated inpatient facility conveniently located nearby.

The new McLeod Carolina Forest Hospital will house operating suites, diagnostic imaging and laboratory services, providing complete medical capabilities. The Carolina Forest campus already includes outpatient buildings offering primary care, specialty care and emergency services.

“Both the new surgery center and hospital enhance our ability to provide exceptional care to more individuals and generate valuable job opportunities within our local area,” said McLeod Carolina Forest and McLeod Loris CEO Scott Montgomery. “By expanding our services and creating new employment, we are investing in the health and economic vitality of our community.”

Surgery centers are healthcare facilities that complement hospital services, providing patients with access to high-quality surgical services in an outpatient setting. These facilities are equipped with advanced technology and skilled medical teams, ensuring that urgent procedures can be performed efficiently and safely. Patients treated at these centers do not require an overnight hospital stay and may go home the same day as their surgical procedure to recover in the comfort of their home.

McLeod Health continues to fulfill the promise of delivering exceptional and convenient health services with the opening of the new McLeod Carolina Forest Surgery Center, located on the McLeod Health Carolina Forest main campus on International Drive. “We are not a healthcare operating company,” said Donna Isgett, President and CEO of McLeod Health. “We are a mission-driven, not-for-profit healthcare system invested in caring for the communities we serve.”

As the largest Outpatient Surgery Center in Horry County, the McLeod Carolina Forest Surgery Center provides access to same-day surgical procedures at a convenient location.

The Next Generation



EXPANDING CANCER CARE, INSPIRING HOPE FROM THE MIDLANDS TO THE COAST

For more than 40 years, the McLeod Center for Cancer Treatment & Research in Florence, SC, has delivered expert, personalized care across the region with the latest technology and therapies — providing not just treatment, but hope.

Now, we have expanded with a new, state-of-the-art Cancer Center on the campus of McLeod Health Seacoast in Little River, SC, bringing our **nationally accredited** care to Horry County and beyond.



Florence



Little River

Located in Florence and Horry Counties • McLeodCancer.org

in Cancer Care



At the McLeod Centers for Cancer Treatment & Research, you can expect the highest level of expertise and care. But beyond the medicine, what truly sets us apart is our unwavering support and focus on you — every day, every step of the way.

Specialist Expertise

Our team of highly skilled specialists in oncology and hematology, and radiation oncology deliver the advanced cancer care you deserve — close to home.

Patient Support

At McLeod, every patient matters. With our unparalleled support, no one walks this journey alone.

Latest Treatment Options

- Stereotactic Radiosurgery (SRS)
- Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT)
- Immunotherapy & Chemotherapy
- Interventional Radiology
- Surgery & Robotic-Assisted Surgery

Leading-Edge Technology

- Ion Robotic System
- Next Generation Thoracic Robot (Florence)
- TrueBeam Linear Accelerators
- PET/CT Scanners
- 3D Mammography

Clinical Trials

Research Trials are available for the prevention and treatment of a variety of cancers.



McLeod Centers for Cancer Treatment and Research



OUR COASTAL CANCER SPECIALISTS

Top Row: Dr. Jordan Gaaney | Dr. Dustin Eck | Melissa Bradley, FNP
Bottom Row: Dr. Kerolos Rizk | Dr. Donny Huynh | Dr. Virginia Clyburn-Ipock

MORE EXPERTISE WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

When it comes to cancer, experience and expertise matter. At McLeod Health, our team of Oncologists and Hematologists, Radiation Oncologists, Surgeons, and Advanced Providers deliver extraordinary care — from early detection to treatment and ongoing support — all close to home.

McLeod Oncology & Hematology Associates at Seacoast

*a Department of
McLeod Regional Medical Center*
3781 McDowell Lane, Suite 200
Little River, SC
843-366-3891

McLeod Oncology & Hematology Associates

*a Department of
McLeod Regional Medical Center*
401 East Cheves Street, Suite 201,
Florence, SC
843-777-7951

Palmetto Radiation Oncology

3781 McDowell Lane,
Little River, SC
843-390-8110

MRMC Radiation Oncology

401 East Cheves Street,
Florence, SC
843-777-2014

McLeod Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery at Myrtle Beach

115 McLeod Health Blvd,
Building 3, Suite 201
Myrtle Beach, SC
843-646-8430

McLeod Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

401 East Cheves Street,
Suite 302
Florence, SC
843-777-7255



Located on the McLeod Health Seacoast campus in Little River, our state-of-the-art Cancer Center will provide advanced care, all in one location, to Horry County and beyond.

MCLEOD OPENS CANCER CENTER IN HORRY COUNTY

McLeod Health celebrates the opening of the first Comprehensive Cancer Center in Horry County where all treatment services are located under one roof. This new Cancer Center is a continuation of professionalism, expertise, and commitment established five decades ago at the McLeod Center for Cancer Treatment and Research in Florence.

Will McLeod, CEO of McLeod Regional Medical Center, stated, “As the tertiary care center for the region, our vision is to serve as the Choice for Medical Excellence. The opening of the McLeod Center for Cancer Treatment and Research in Horry County continues our 120-year tradition of improving the well-being of our 18-county service area. We are pleased to offer patients and families, both present and future generations, with a place of hope, caring, and survival, and the guiding touch of a medical team ready to take on this challenge with them.”



Scan the QR code to see videos from the opening celebration.

McLeod Centers for Cancer Treatment and Research

A Passion for Neurology

by Tammy White

As an Interventional Neurologist, Dr. Edgard Pereira diagnoses and treats neurological disorders using minimally invasive techniques.

When a patient experiences a stroke, a clot blocks a blood vessel to the brain, severely limiting the oxygen and blood it needs. This situation quickly becomes very dangerous and life-threatening, so time is of the essence to restore blood flow back to the brain.

Dr. Edgard Pereira is a McLeod Interventional Neurologist whose skills include the ability to remove the stroke-causing clot from the brain to reestablish blood flow.

Interventional Neurology is a medical specialty that employs the use of minimally invasive, image-guided techniques to treat a multitude of complex conditions of the brain, spine, head and neck. As an Interventional Neurologist, Dr. Pereira treats such conditions as brain aneurysms, brain tumors, brain vascular malformations, and acute strokes by navigating tiny catheters and instruments inside the blood vessels, a procedure known as Thrombectomy.

“Minimally invasive means the procedures can be performed with a tiny cut or incision,” said Dr. Pereira. “Many of the procedures are also endovascular, meaning inside a blood vessel, and often use radiology imaging to help me see inside the part of the body being treated.”

At McLeod Regional Medical Center, these catheter interventional procedures are performed in the dedicated Neurointerventional Bi-plane X-ray Suite.

“The Bi-plane X-ray Suite is designed for the treatment of patients with neurological vascular conditions, and is equipped with advanced medical imaging technology, including two rotating cameras, one on each side of the patient, to take images simultaneously,” explained Dr. Pereira. “The cameras’ rotation allows us to study the blood vessels from multiple angles and see them in 3D.”

The inspiration to pursue a career in medicine began early for Dr. Pereira. He grew up in the South of Brazil. While recovering from surgery to remove an inflamed appendix at the age of 13, his father brought him medical magazines to enjoy. The young Pereira’s father, a local dentist, was encouraging his son’s dream of being a physician.

Dr. Pereira went on to complete medical school at the Foundation Federal Faculty of Medical Sciences of Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil.

His training to become an Interventional Neurologist began with the completion of his Residency in Neurology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, New York, followed by an Interventional Neurology Fellowship at New York University Medical Center in New York, New York.

“My desire for this field grew from a lecture I attended in residency on complex vascular problems in the brain. What interventional cardiologists do for the heart with catheterizations, I believed I could do for the brain and decided to pursue this field,” said Dr. Pereira.

“I was trained in a prominent institution by a world-renowned mentor who inspired me to be the physician I am today. I love what I do, and I am here to provide my patients the best of care above anything else.”

Dr. Pereira uses catheters and radiologic imaging to perform procedures in the Neurointerventional Bi-plane X-ray Suite at McLeod Regional Medical Center.

In Trusted Hands

by Jaime Hayes



As part of the Hospitalist team at McLeod Health Dillon, Dr. William Goldstein and Dr. Nicholas Wallace provide excellent medical care to hospitalized inpatients.

Hospital admissions can stir many emotions for patients, such as fear, apprehension, and uncertainty. At McLeod Health Dillon and throughout McLeod Health, our hospital-based teams are uniquely trained to care for patients at these vulnerable times.

Hospitalists are medical doctors whose primary professional focus is the medical care of hospitalized patients. Their time is devoted solely to caring for hospitalized patients, day and night, from admission to discharge.

Hospitalists partner with the patient's primary care physician, notifying them when their patient has been admitted to the hospital, providing routine updates and offering recommendations for recovery. For patients who do not have a primary care physician, the Hospitalist team can assist them with choosing one to fit their needs. In some cases, the patient's primary care physician may also not be located nearby.

McLeod Dillon currently has four Hospitalists: Dr. Nicholas Wallace, Dr. Benjamin Mitchell, Dr. Alto Odin, and Dr. William Goldstein, all long-time McLeod Health Dillon physicians.

Dr. Wallace reviews discharge information with a patient preparing to return home.



They spend their days evaluating and managing short-term and long-term illnesses and diseases.

The expertise of these physicians is a result of diverse training, including

Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Geriatrics, Pulmonary Diseases and Nephrology, with their primary focuses being Internal Medicine and Family Medicine.

"The Hospitalist is a key advocate for the patient's well-being," said Dr. Nicholas Wallace, McLeod Dillon Hospitalist. "They provide individualized care based on the patient's complete medical needs while they are in the hospital. Hospitalists also have access to resources, such as diagnostic testing, and specialists for specific consultations to assist in patient care."

Prior to discharge, the McLeod Hospitalist team provides patients with a follow-up care plan, which can include a referral for a physician specialist. When a patient requires a prompt follow up appointment with a neurologist, for example, their Hospitalist physician can quickly call on the specialist for support.

Hospitalists also provide educational information that the patient or their caregivers may need at home about their condition.

"Our goal is to not just help the patient recover, but also teach them how to avoid hospitalization in the future," adds Dr. William Goldstein, McLeod Dillon Hospitalist.

Tammy Lowery, RN, Nursing Director of the Medical Surgical Unit at McLeod Health Dillon, says the hospital is fortunate to work with such an extraordinary team of physicians. "Our Hospitalists make a meaningful difference in the lives of our patients," she said. "We are blessed to have all four of them on our team. In addition to nurturing their patients, our Hospitalists have strong bonds with our entire staff."

"It's all about the human connection," said Dr. Wallace. "The Hospitalist can establish a close relationship with the patient, and the patient, in turn, trusts their Hospitalist. Compassionate care leads to healthier patients."

The McLeod Hospitalist team is dedicated to providing safe, high-quality care to each patient they care for in the hospital. Their greatest reward is helping patients overcome health challenges and return to their homes and lives.

"We are here to listen to your concerns, to piece together your story, and to make sure you receive the very best care," adds Dr. Goldstein.



Dr. Goldstein reviews a patient chart with Nissa Bethea, RN.

MCLEOD LORIS AND MCLEOD SEACOAST CELEBRATE 75/25 ANNIVERSARIES

by Jennifer Hulon

As McLeod Health continues to transform the healthcare landscape for patients living in Horry County, two hospitals are celebrating significant milestones in 2025. These milestones, representing both a tradition of providing superlative care and a future of growth and expansion, would not have been possible without local people desiring health care within their communities.

McLeod Health Loris marks its 75th "Diamond" Anniversary and McLeod Health Seacoast celebrates its 25th "Silver" Anniversary of caring for patients in the communities served.

In May 1950, Loris Community Hospital, which later became Loris Healthcare System, opened its doors with 23 patient beds, a handful of physicians and a small but dedicated staff. At that moment, Loris Community Hospital's mission was born.

As the population along the coast grew, the expansion of emergency and inpatient care became a necessity. Plans for Seacoast Medical Center were unveiled, and construction began in August 1998. Seacoast Medical Center, initially a comprehensive outpatient facility providing outpatient surgery, diagnostic services and 24-hour emergency care, opened in October 2000.

Established as Loris Community Hospital (at right) in 1950 with 23 patient beds, McLeod Health Loris (below) has grown into a fully accredited acute care facility with more than 50 licensed beds.

In early 2011, Loris Healthcare System signed a letter of intent establishing the framework for a partnership with McLeod Health. Both organizations shared similar missions and values, a not-for-profit structure, a commitment to quality, and an established history of collaboration. In January 2012, McLeod Health Loris and McLeod Health Seacoast were newly named hospitals within the McLeod Health system.

Today, McLeod Health Loris is a fully accredited acute care facility with 50 licensed beds, offering a wide range of inpatient and outpatient services. McLeod Health Loris specializes in dialysis access, women's services, urological surgery and rehabilitation (physical, occupational and speech therapies). Its 24/7 Emergency Department, medical/surgical inpatient beds, intensive care unit (ICU), and advanced diagnostic imaging provide significant community benefits by offering access to essential hospital care.

One of the key services offered is the Dialysis Access Center (DAC). Dialysis is a life-sustaining treatment for many who suffer from kidney disease, and this center helps prevent delays in dialysis treatment due to complications with access.



Established in 2000, Seacoast Medical Center began as a comprehensive outpatient facility providing outpatient surgery, diagnostic services and 24-hour emergency care (at right). Today, McLeod Health Seacoast (above) has expanded to 155 beds with access to emergency services; general, vascular and orthopedic surgery; as well as cardiology and cancer care.



The DAC is one of only two dedicated centers in South Carolina, established to serve patients needing medical repair of their dialysis access areas. Patients within a 200-mile radius utilize the Dialysis Access services provided at McLeod Loris.

The most recent hospital upgrade included the addition of an operating room to accommodate growing surgical volumes.

In 2025, McLeod Pediatrics Loris opened their new practice, offering more pediatric care for the community.

"The rich history and development of McLeod Health Loris is a testament to the impact of a local hospital caring for local patients," said Scott Montgomery, CEO of McLeod Health Loris. "This incredible milestone fuels our unwavering commitment of continued growth and vision for generations to come."

In July 2011, McLeod Health Seacoast underwent its first major expansion, adding 50 hospital beds.

In May 2016, a multi-year expansion launched, beginning with a new Emergency Department as part of the first phase in a comprehensive construction plan. McLeod Health Seacoast opened its new patient tower in September 2018. This addition increased beds, and expanded ORs, radiology and lab capabilities. This expansion increased community access to both emergent and elective surgical care, including advanced robotic surgery.

In June 2019, McLeod Health Seacoast completed construction on new diagnostic cardiac catheterization and electrophysiology labs to meet the growing cardiac needs of the community. In April 2023, the hospital established a percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) to treat emergent and elective patients with narrowed or blocked coronary arteries. This service provides emergency heart care to the residents of the community.

In 2024, two additional labs were opened for catheterization and electrophysiology to support the growing demand for these services since the initial launch. This expansion reflects the trust patients place in McLeod Health for their specialized care. The McLeod Health Center for Cancer Treatment and Research, a department of McLeod Regional Medical Center, opened in May 2025 and is the first comprehensive cancer center in Horry County. Located on the main campus of McLeod Health Seacoast, this new center provides advanced treatments, including medical oncology, infusion services, radiation oncology and breast surgery, all under one roof. This comprehensive cancer care facility offers preventive medicine, and cutting-edge technology.

Today, McLeod Health Seacoast provides 155 beds, ensuring that both permanent residents and visitors to our community have access to high-quality healthcare services such as general, vascular and orthopedic surgery as well as cardiology and cancer care.

"McLeod Health promised the residents of Horry County that we would deliver the services they supported, and the expansion of our facilities and services is the fulfillment of our promise," said Monica Vehige, CEO of McLeod Health Seacoast. "We look forward to continuing to serve our community as we strive to be the choice for medical excellence."

McLeod Health's ongoing commitment to technology, education and specialized care demonstrates its dedication to improving the health and well-being of the communities it serves.

Where Learning Meets Lifesaving

by Jessica Wall



Earlier this year, the Clinical Education team ran a simulation at McLeod Health Cheraw. In this scenario, the “patient” collapsed in engineering and was rushed to the Emergency Department, where Family Medicine Residents, nurses and care teams worked to determine a diagnosis and treatment plan. In the photo, Dr. Gabe Simpson (at left), Medical Director of Emergency Medicine for McLeod Health Cheraw, provides instruction during the simulation.

With a relentless dedication to quality and safety, McLeod Health continues to strive for excellence in the delivery of patient care. One of the ways this is accomplished is through the McLeod Health Clinical Education team.

Composed of clinical educators serving both the health system at large as well as each McLeod Health campus, this team oversees a variety of programs aimed at ensuring nurses and healthcare workers alike are trained and prepared to provide the high-quality care our patients expect and deserve.

The McLeod Health Clinical Education department encompasses four areas – the Nurse Residency Program, American Heart Association (AHA) Class Certifications, Nurse Orientation and Simulation.

Nurse Residency

To assist newly licensed nurses in the transition from nursing school to clinical practice, the McLeod Nurse Residency Program uses specific tools, experiences and classes to help nurses both grow and succeed.

Nurses with less than one year experience of caring for severe or urgent health conditions, known as acute care, are automatically enrolled upon hire for the Residency designed for their specialty unit. The program specialties offered include critical care, emergency department, medical/surgical, women’s services, neonatal intensive care, or pediatrics. These seminars are taught by experts in their fields.

Programs combine instructional teaching, case studies, hands-on skills and simulations in the Immersive Clinical Exploration (ICE) Lab.

In the two years since its inception, the Nurse Residency program has graduated more than 300 nurses.

AHA Classes

The McLeod Health Clinical Education team provides structured classes for American Heart Association (AHA) certifications for healthcare workers throughout the region.

Certifications currently offered include Basic Life Support (BLS), Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), Advanced Cardiac Life Support with Obstetric Focus (ACLS OB), and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS).

Classes take place in the McLeod Health AHA Training Centers in Florence and Little River, and are open to all healthcare professionals. Approximately 3,500 certification cards are issued annually.

Nurse Orientation

Nurses joining the McLeod Health team participate in a two-day orientation, during which they learn about the culture – including the mission, vision and core values – of the hospital system.

Orientation provides education in a variety of formats, including interactive simulation and hands-on skills, to accommodate all learning styles.

“Nursing orientation sets the standard for safe, patient-centered care across the McLeod Health system,” says Julie Surles, Director of Clinical Education for McLeod Health.

Simulation

Healthcare simulation is the imitation of a real-world situation to create a safe learning environment for healthcare providers to practice and assess their skills. Simulation improves staff confidence and competence in providing safe, quality patient care through repetition, communication, critical thinking, prioritization and teamwork across multiple disciplines.

Simulations involve all healthcare providers, including, but not limited to: nurses, nursing students, medical staff,



Thanks to generous donors of the McLeod Health Foundation, the Clinical Education team was able to purchase a manikin and transport van to establish a mobile simulation lab.

medical students, medical residents, respiratory therapists, medical technicians, physical therapists and high school students.

The Clinical Education team has six lifelike human models, referred to as “manikins,” located in both Florence and Little River, ranging from newborn to geriatric.

In addition to running simulation in the ICE Lab, the McLeod Health Clinical Education team offers a mobile simulation lab to bring education wherever participants provide care, thanks to generous donors of the McLeod Health Foundation.

The mobile simulation lab allows the Clinical Education team to provide ongoing immersive clinical experiences at McLeod facilities for employee training as well as career fairs and healthcare events.

To date, the mobile simulation lab has visited every McLeod Health campus and continues to partner with McLeod Workforce Development and Pee Dee Area Health Education Center (AHEC) to support local and regional training.

As McLeod Health continues to expand its footprint, the Clinical Education team remains committed to ensuring new and current healthcare staff are trained and prepared to deliver excellent patient care.



The McLeod Health Clinical Education team consists of (left to right): Laura Bolella, MSN, RN, CNE; Deanna Parrott, BSN, RN, CCRN; Ester Thomas, MSN, RN; Katie Lloyd; Candace Sellers, RN; Korina Banks, DNP, RN; Tara Montgomery, RN; Amy Perugini, RN; Julie Surles, MSN, RN; Allen Denham, BSN, RN, CCRN; Terri Greene, RN; Jeanine Crosby, MSN, BC-RN; Emily Anderson, BSN, RN; Joan Jackson-Meekins, BSN, RN, CWOCN; Myranda Myers, MSN, RN, CLS; Laura Hay, MSN, RN, CCRN; Ranesha Stuckey-Adams, MSN, RN; and Ashley Godwin, BSN, RN. Not Pictured: Karen Hazzard, MSN, RN, NEA-BC and Laura Pusser, RN.



Pictured at the Yahnis Company, brothers Jimmy and Byron continue their family's legacy as supporters of the McLeod Heart and Vascular Institute.

A FAMILY HISTORY OF CARE & A LEGACY OF SUPPORT

by Lauren Snipes

For brothers Byron and Jimmy Yahnis, appreciation for the McLeod Heart and Vascular Institute began with the exceptional care their late father, Chris Yahnis, received in the early 1990s.

"Dad trusted McLeod, and he made sure we knew we should trust it, too," the brothers explained. "He also taught us the value of giving back as we witnessed his support for the McLeod Health Foundation."

Both Byron and Jimmy, co-owners of the Yahnis Company in Florence, had relatively uneventful medical histories themselves.

However, in 2024, Jimmy began noticing that something was a little off.

After a few days of playing golf, he felt a bit lightheaded. Weeks later, he began feeling dizzy and unusually fatigued.

Upon recommendations from friends in the medical field, Jimmy decided to see **Dr. Brian Wall**, an Interventional Cardiologist with McLeod Cardiology Associates. Though Jimmy lives in Murrells Inlet, he recalled his late father's advice and chose to drive to Florence for his consultation.

Early tests revealed nothing abnormal, but Dr. Wall was adamant something was wrong.

"Dr. Wall would not stop searching for the problem and would not release me until he figured out what was going on," Jimmy recalled.

After an exploratory heart catheterization, Dr. Wall gave Jimmy some sobering news—he needed double bypass surgery.

"I made it my whole life with no big health issues," Jimmy remarked. "This news was a real shock to hear."

At 69 years old, the same age his father had triple bypass surgery, Jimmy underwent his own double bypass surgery.

Dr. Cary Huber with McLeod Cardiothoracic Surgical Associates performed the surgery. Jimmy spent the following days recovering in the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit at McLeod Regional Medical Center.

"The entire experience was just seamless," Jimmy reflected. "I could not have gotten through it without the amazing care from the nurses and my wife, Patti, who was there for me every step."

Soon after the surgery, Jimmy and Byron decided to express their gratitude through a gift supporting cardiac services at McLeod.

"We want to give back through our company to support excellent healthcare in our region," Jimmy explained. "Because of the care I received, I'm getting my life back. I get to watch my grandson grow up and have a little fun with the time I have left. I'm grateful."

"We want to give back through our company to support excellent health care in our region."

-Jimmy Yahnis

Hope for the Future: A Survivor Gives Back

by Leslie Mikell

Peggy Skudera's life seemed perfect in every sense – a loving family and partner, a home on the scenic South Carolina coast, and a fulfilling job. That is, until she received a devastating diagnosis of breast cancer.

The news came as a shock and left Peggy in a “deep black hole.”

“My first thoughts were, how am I going to tell my children, how am I going to tell my partner, Kevin, and why me?”

A native of The Jersey Shore, Peggy relocated to Little River, eight years ago after three decades in a healthcare career. Peggy bravely stepped into this new chapter of life with hope and possibility.

After traveling each day for radiation treatment during her cancer journey, Peggy Skudera is now a dedicated supporter of bringing McLeod cancer treatment close to home.

Peggy drove by McLeod Health Seacoast regularly and every time, she thought to herself, ‘I will work there someday as the Volunteer Manager.’

The following year, Peggy was hired at McLeod Health Seacoast. A few years later, true to her prediction, she became the Volunteer Manager. Peggy worked diligently and rapidly increased the number of volunteers at McLeod Health Seacoast from 41 to 320, greatly benefiting patients and families.

In 2024, at the age of 70, Peggy received the shocking news she had breast cancer.

Thankfully, she was seen quickly for an ultrasound and biopsy, and soon after, met with a McLeod Breast Surgeon. She underwent a lumpectomy, six weeks of daily radiation and started a hormone blocker.

Peggy only missed one day of work - the day she had surgery.

“I beat cancer by surrounding myself with the most positive people and because of the amazing physicians and staff who took care of me.”

Peggy's cancer journey taught her some tough lessons about the state of cancer care in the region. With radiation only available in Myrtle Beach or Florence, Peggy had to drive long distances every day for treatment. She also noticed how others with cancer, including some of her own volunteers, faced even more difficult journeys.

This motivated Peggy to make a generous commitment to the Hope and Healing Campaign supporting the McLeod Center for Cancer Treatment and Research on the campus of McLeod Health Seacoast.

“I am invested in the new Cancer Center because of my story,” Peggy explains. “I want people to understand the importance of annual mammograms and have access to early detection. Now, women can receive the excellent McLeod cancer care they need, from diagnosis to treatment, right here in Little River.”

Peggy Skudera, with McLeod Seacoast Volunteer dog, Cali-Bash, share a moment together at a volunteer appreciation luncheon.

“I beat cancer by surrounding myself with the most positive people and because of the amazing physicians and staff who took care of me.”

- Peggy Skudera

To watch Peggy's video testimonial, please scan this QR code.



Make the Most of Your McLeod MyChart

IMPROVING YOUR HEALTH BY LISTENING

We are improving health and care by doing an even better job of listening. Every person is unique. Use MyStory to tell us about your care preferences and what matters most to your health. You can help us better serve you and others in our community!



HOW IT WORKS

You use MyStory to safely share stories about yourself, your health, and your care. Based on the information you share, MyStory creates the insight summary, an at-a-glance view to help your entire care team know what's important to you as a person.

BENEFITS



PERSONALIZED
Focuses on your views, in your words.



EASY TO USE
Easy to use and can be updated with additional information at any time.



CONNECTED
Summarized in your medical records for easy access by your care team.



CONFIDENTIAL
Secure online platform



FAMILY ACCESS

If you have access to your family members' medical records, you can view most of their information.

If you're a parent, you have full access to your child's record through age 16. After age 16, you need to be granted proxy access to view your child's medical records.

ACCESS A FAMILY MEMBER'S RECORD

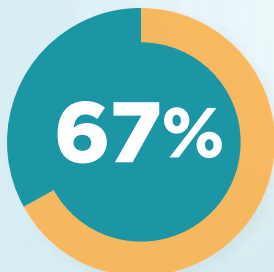
After you've received permission, you can view a family member's records by clicking the photo or name for that family member in MyChart.
After you read the proxy access disclaimer, **click Accept** to continue to your family member's chart.

INVITE SOMEONE TO ACCESS YOUR RECORD

- 1 Go to **Health > Share My Record** and select **Friends and Family Access**.
- 2 On the Friends and Family Access page, click **Invite Someone** under the Who Can See My Record? section.
- 3 Enter that person's name and email address, confirm the level of access, and click **Send Invite**. The invitation then appears as Pending at the top of the page.
- 4 After you send the invite, the recipient receives an email to notify them that you've invited them to have access to your account. From this email, they can click a link that takes them to a page where they must enter your date of birth to confirm that they know you and accept the invitation.
- 5 After the person you've invited accepts the invitation, you'll receive a tickler message to let you know, and the Pending label is removed next to that person's name on the Friends and Family Access page. You can return to this page at any time to edit or revoke that person's access.

McLeod MyChart

BY THE NUMBERS



of McLeod Health patients have activated a McLeod MyChart account



of McLeod Health patients with three or more encounters have activated

Since its launch in 2022, thousands of patients have utilized McLeod MyChart to take greater control of their health, streamline communication with their McLeod Health providers, and easily access important medical information, empowering them to make more informed decisions about their care.

McLeod News

Soura Named Chief Financial Officer for McLeod Health



Christian L. Soura

Christian L. Soura has been named Chief Financial Officer with McLeod Health. Since joining the McLeod Health family in 2024, Christian served as Vice President of Corporate Financial Operations. In his new role, Soura oversees the areas of Accounting and Finance, Business Operations, Corporate Financial Operations and Supply Chain. Soura spent six years with the South Carolina Hospital Association serving as Executive Vice President. He also led the transition of a Medicaid managed care plan out of a joint venture and into fully South Carolina-based ownership. Soura served as the Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff (Budget and Policy) from 2011 to 2014, after which he was

the Director of the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services until 2017. During his final year in that role, Soura was also President of the National Association of Medicaid Directors. Beginning in 2001, Soura held a range of appointments in the executive and legislative branches of Pennsylvania state government, including as Secretary of Administration and Chairman of the Pennsylvania Employee Benefit Trust Fund. Soura holds master's degrees from Pennsylvania State University and the University of Illinois, along with a graduate certificate in public budgeting and financial management. "It is my privilege to be a member of the McLeod Health team, and I am honored and humbled to have been selected as the Chief Financial Officer for this remarkable health system," said Christian. "McLeod Health is an amazing organization, full of truly dedicated caregivers and professionals, a culture of caring and more than a century of outstanding service to the community."

McLeod Medication Access Team Receives Best Practice Award

The McLeod Medication Access Team recently received the "Practice Advancement Initiative - Best Practice Award" during the South Carolina Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists Conference. This society only recognizes one program with this honor each year. The award aligns with the overall American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists (ASHP) Practice Advancement Initiative 2030 that provides 50+ recommendations to advance healthcare, patient outcomes and pharmacy practice. The Medication Access Team works with system clinics to proactively address and remove barriers to getting patients started on complex, expensive medication therapies. This team offloads workload from our system's clinic teams, reduces delays in getting patients started on treatment, helps retain patient care within the McLeod Health system and helps identify measures to assist patients with affording their medications.



Pictured from left to right: Ashley Green, Medication Access Coordinator; Kinsley Hagans, Medication Access Coordinator; Karla Williams, Case Manager Extender; Eric Chmielewski, Pharmacy Services Business Director; Ariel Ocasio, Medication Access Coordinator; Kayla Pepper, Medication Access Coordinator; and Jenna Swindler, Vice President of Pharmacy Services for McLeod Health.

McLeod News

McLeod Team Members Receive Mentor Appreciation Award

Four members from the McLeod Health Facilities Management Team were the recipients of the 2025 Harbor Freight Fellows Youth Skill Trades Summit Mentors of the Year Award. Receiving the award were: Lee Burris, Director of Construction; Mike Defee, Central Energy Plant Manager; William (Bill) Maul, Facilities Project Manager; and Woodrow McCall, Plumbing Medical Gas Manager. These individuals serve as mentors to the participants of the Industrial Maintenance Youth Residency Program at McLeod Regional Medical Center. The Youth Residency Program is a partnership between Harbor Freight Fellows Initiative, Big Picture Learning, and McLeod Health, whose goal is to increase support and investment in skilled trades education through apprenticeship experiences for youth. "This award is an expression of our deep gratitude and appreciation for the mentorship that these skilled members of the McLeod family have shown our Harbor Freight Fellows in the Industrial Maintenance Program," said Charlie Plant, Harbor Freight Fellows Initiative National Coordinator.



Pictured left to right: Octavian McKnight, McLeod HVAC Mechanic; William (Bill) Maul, Facilities Project Manager; Mike Defee, Central Energy Plant Manager; and Woodrow McCall, Plumbing Medical Gas Manager. Not pictured: Lee Burris, Director of Construction.

In addition, Octavian McKnight, a McLeod HVAC Mechanic, was presented the 2025 Harbor Freight Junior Fellow of the Year Award. "Octavian was a 2024 participant of the Industrial Maintenance Youth Residency Program," said Charity Gerald, Director of McLeod Workforce Development and Recruiting. "Octavian earned his HVAC certificate in high school through a dual credit program with Florence-Darlington Technical College. The Residency Program then helped him gain hands-on experience. His mentors were pleased with his work, and he was offered his current position with McLeod. We are proud of Octavian's accomplishments." McKnight was invited to be a guest speaker at the summit, offering words of encouragement to the attending youth. For more information about the Industrial Maintenance Youth Residency Program email workforcedevelopment@mcleodhealth.org.

McLeod Health Recognized in SC Best in Business Awards

SC BEST IN BUSINESS 2024 WINNER

MCLEOD HEALTH: WINNER IN 10 CATEGORIES

We thank you for voting for McLeod Health in the 2024 SC Best in Business awards. We appreciate your trust and support, which fuels our unwavering commitment to serving the well-being of our communities.

Best Company of the Year (500+ Employees) McLeod Health	Best Urgent Care Center McLeod Urgent Care Centers	Best Home Healthcare Agency McLeod Home Health
Best Hospital McLeod Health	Best Fitness Centers/Gym McLeod Health and Fitness Center	Best OB/GYN Practice McLeod OB/GYN Associates
Best Chief Executive Officer Donna Isgett, CEO	Best Physical Therapy/Rehabilitation Center McLeod Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Center	Best Primary Care Practice Medical Plaza Family Medicine
Best Human Resources Officer Octavia Williams-Blake, Chief Human Resources Officer		



McLeod Health

McLeod Health was honored to be the winner in 10 categories for the SC Best in Business Awards. The community's trust and support fuels our unwavering commitment to provide the highest quality of health care services available. The SC Best in Business Awards program celebrates the best South Carolina companies in more than 150 business-to-business categories. Readers of *Greenville Business Magazine*, *Charleston Business Magazine*, *Columbia Business Monthly*, and *B2B The Grand Strand* choose the winners. Integrated Media Publishing uses this platform to ask its readers – the business leaders of South Carolina – who they trust to provide the best products and services for businesses.

McLeod Health Welcomes New Physicians



Jessica Brown, MD
Obstetrics & Gynecology
McLeod Women's Care at Magnolia



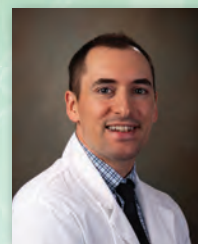
Latasha Burgess, MD
Family Medicine
McLeod Internal & Family Medicine Associates



Catherine Carlson, MD
Critical Care Intensivist
McLeod Regional Medical Center



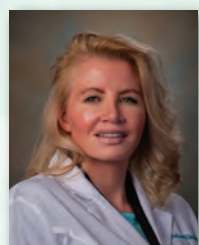
Victor Collier, MD
Internal Medicine
McLeod Regional Medical Center



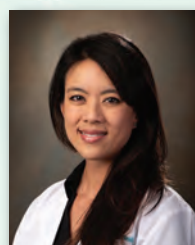
Christopher Cordeiro, MD
Hospitalist
McLeod Loris Seacoast



James Cox, DO
Orthopedics
McLeod Orthopaedics Cheraw



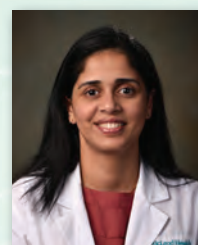
Amy Davidson, MD
Anesthesiology
McLeod Regional Medical Center



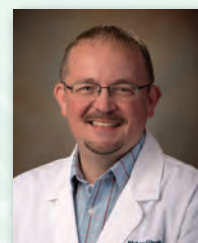
Lillian Fong, MD
Pediatrician
McLeod Pediatrics Loris



Frances Hardaway, MD
Neurosurgery
Florence Neurosurgery and Spine at McLeod Health



Simy Joseph, MD
Hospitalist
McLeod Regional Medical Center



Kenneth Jostock, MD
Hospitalist
McLeod Loris Seacoast



John Lohlun, MD
Vascular Access
McLeod Dialysis Access - Loris



Lorie Loreman, DO
Pulmonology
McLeod Pulmonary & Critical Care Associates



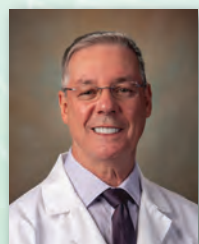
Karyn Markley, MD
Obstetrics & Gynecology
McLeod Women's Care at Magnolia



Tracy Nelson, MD
Obstetrics & Gynecology
McLeod Women's Care at Magnolia



Bhavani Papudesi, MD
Hospitalist
McLeod Regional Medical Center



Edgard Pereira, MD
Interventional Neurologist
McLeod Regional Medical Center



Daniela Smith, MD
Anesthesiology
McLeod Loris Seacoast



Scan this QR code to learn more about each physician.

— SPRING 2025 —

RATED



IN PATIENT SAFETY



McLeod Health Scores Straight A's

McLeod Regional Medical Center

McLeod Health Cheraw

McLeod Health Clarendon

McLeod Health Dillon

McLeod Health Seacoast

McLeod Health Loris

Every McLeod Health Hospital earned a Grade "A" from The Leapfrog Group, a national nonprofit hospital rating group. This honor recognizes our commitment to top-tier patient safety.

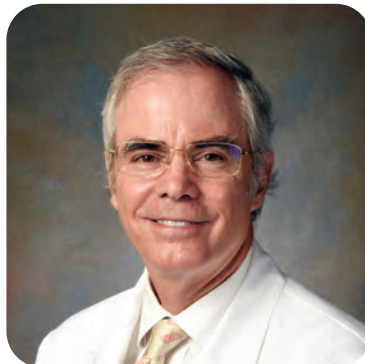
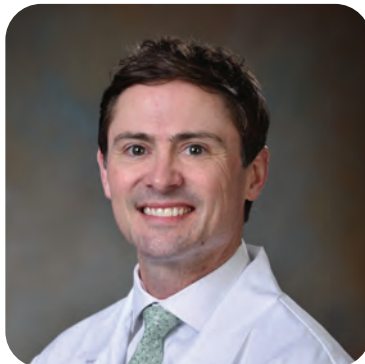
McLeod Health

McLeodHealth.org

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