

McLeod

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Magazine

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A LASTING PROMISE.
FOR ALL TIME.



Views



Donna Isgett

This year, McLeod Health celebrates 120 years of service, coinciding with our nation's 250th anniversary. This anniversary is not only a tribute to our legacy but also an inspiration for the future, reinforcing our enduring commitment to those we serve.

From humble beginnings in 1906, when Dr. F.H. McLeod founded a small infirmary in Florence driven by a passion to comfort and cure, McLeod Health has grown into the region's premier healthcare system of seven hospitals serving more than one million people with unwavering excellence.

Our story is written in the lives of the patients, families and communities we've served. Guided by our timeless core values — Caring, a respect for the Person, Quality, and Integrity — we've evolved through innovation, compassion, expertise and community involvement, always putting patients first.

In this commemorative issue of the *McLeod Magazine*, we invite you to journey with us as we honor our past, celebrate our present and look ahead to a bright future of remarkable patient outcomes and advanced medical innovations.

The highest recognition we can achieve is your trust in our services and our people. Together we are better. Together we will ensure a healthier future for generations to come.

Medicine may change. Technology evolves.

But McLeod's values continue to guide and inspire.

McLeod Health.
120 years of trusted care.
For life's most meaningful moments.
Not just for today.
Not just for tomorrow.
For all time.

Donna Isgett
President and CEO, McLeod Health



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ON THE COVER:

For 120 years, McLeod Health has cared for the people of northeastern South Carolina and southeastern North Carolina. Moving forward, McLeod Health remains committed to delivering on a lasting promise for all time to be The Choice For Medical Excellence. On the cover are three images representing both our legacy and future. From Dr. James Carlisle McLeod and Dr. Clarence A. Kinney performing surgery in 1943, to McLeod establishing its first Heart Catheterization Lab in 1983, to McLeod Cardiothoracic Surgeon Dr. Srinivas Kolla performing a robotic-assisted thoracic surgery along with Physician Assistant Yarrow Babb, McLeod Health strives to provide patients with the innovative, personalized care they deserve.



THE STORY OF MCLEOD HEALTH

A HISTORY OF CARE.
FOR ALL TIME.

It was not yet spring, but the brisk winds were signaling a change of season from the bitter cold. The young mother welcomed the hint of warmer months to come and opened the window of the second story apartment in the downtown hotel. The breezes still were chilly, but it seemed to cleanse the air and atmosphere within the rooms, Mrs. Barringer thought. Her small son Rufus, a fair, curly-haired, bright-eyed little boy of three, echoed her delight in the fresh air with chattering enthusiasm. His voice seemed to compete with the sounds of business and bustling that could be heard all the way up from the street.

Then, what was never supposed to happen, possibly every mother's nightmare, became a reality for this young woman. In a matter of seconds, Mrs. Barringer watched as her toddler ran to the open window to sneak a peek at the activity below. But before she could react, she watched as her child lost his balance and fell from the window to the pavement more than twenty feet below.

Recognizing the seriousness of the accident, someone who had witnessed his fall below quickly sought emergency care for Rufus, whose whimpering was becoming lower

and lower and whose skull was badly crushed by the blow of hitting the street. But where would the child be taken for care and whom should be called to help?

There was no 911 or emergency line to access. In fact, there were many folks without phone service in the community or even motor vehicles available for transporting the injured.



Major's grave site

Rufus Barringer's grave site

Rufus Barringer's accident occurred on March 8, 1899, more than a century ago. Central Hotel, located on Evans Street at the turn of the century, stood only yards away from the current home of McLeod Regional Medical Center.

According to a historical sketch about McLeod, *The History of the Development of a Medical Center* by Dr. Larry E. Nelson, related newspaper articles about the tragic incident on microfilm and family recollections, Rufus Barringer was the beloved son of J.L. and M.L. Barringer of Florence, born on December 1, 1895.

Immediately after his plunge to the street, a passerby picked up the boy and rushed him to Palace Drug Store, owned by Dr. Furman P. Covington and Dr. Frank Hilton McLeod, Physicians and Surgeons, proclaimed the signage.

"Dr. Lawrence Y. King, a well-known physician in the city, happened to be in the store at the time and quickly attended to the boy. Seriously hurt, the lad cried a little, but soon lapsed into unconsciousness," and the other physician hurriedly summoned was Dr. F. H. McLeod.

Since he was fond of children, the situation must have been troubling to him, according to Dr. Nelson's pen. Perhaps he knew Rufus because the stricken boy's father had a place of business in the same building as Dr. McLeod's medical office, at 209 Evans Street, located on the same end and side of the block that the historic old Florence Post Office stands on today.

Feverishly, Dr. McLeod and his colleagues "devoted their energies to saving the little life." However, examination revealed Rufus had a severely fractured skull, and the prognosis was poor. His short life ended three days after the incident on March 11. A small gray headstone marks the youngster's resting place in a local cemetery, commemorating the life of a child who lived "three years, three months and 10 days."

And buried at his feet, with an even smaller stone marker helping to identify the significance was "Our Boy's Dog, Major 1897-1914."

Rufus' memory was honored a decade after his passing, as his was the only family pet allowed to be interred in those grounds.

The tragedy of Rufus Barringer affords a rare glimpse into the early practice of Dr. F.H. McLeod, who became the foremost physician of the Pee Dee region of South Carolina. As a young man, he obtained a medical education. He attended schools in Georgia and Tennessee. He studied at two different locations before establishing his medical practice in Florence in 1891.

In 1906, Dr. McLeod established the Florence Infirmary. In 1929 it was renamed McLeod Infirmary and began its career as a nonprofit community institution.



Dr. F. H. McLeod establishes the Florence Infirmary in 1906.



1906

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



1907

The McLeod School of Nursing begins.



1916

The Florence Infirmary grows and expands to 100 beds.



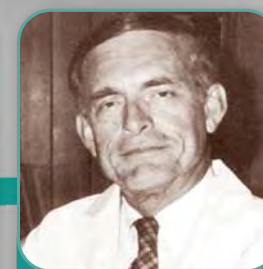
1935

A new, more modern hospital is constructed in Florence.



1940

Dr. James C. McLeod, son of founder, becomes Superintendent of the hospital.



1966

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



1971

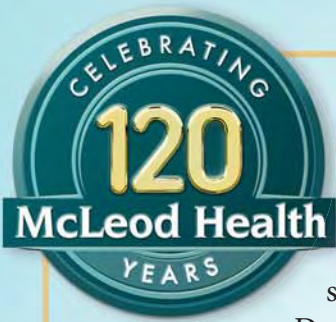
The name of the hospital changes to McLeod Memorial Hospital.



1976

Construction of McLeod Regional Medical Center begins.

A HISTORY OF CARE. FOR ALL TIME.



Dr. McLeod became active in matters of professional medicine and acquired an enviable reputation for his surgical skills. In the words of a colleague, Dr. McLeod was “a born surgeon.”

Specialties within medicine were not clearly differentiated in that era, and anyone with a medical license, regardless of educational preparation, could consider himself a surgeon. Dr. McLeod, however, sought specialized training in surgery to augment his general medical education and natural talent.

His reputation as a surgeon spread rapidly and his surgical practice grew quickly. His care of the acutely ill and severely injured became almost legendary in the region.

As the McLeod Infirmary grew into the largest, most modern hospital in the region, Dr. McLeod became concerned with assuring that it would continue to serve the people of the Pee Dee region after his lifetime. That had always been his intention.

Transforming the McLeod hospital into the regional medical center was a logical culmination of the long-standing tradition at the McLeod hospital of service to the Pee Dee section, says Dr. Larry Nelson.

But long before there was talk about a McLeod on the scale of today’s regional medical center, Dr. McLeod began to take those steps toward its future. He made sure that he had the highest-caliber staff and equipment available at the time.



A new, more modern hospital is constructed in 1935.

In 1918, he became a leader in the state by participating in an American College of Surgeons program to upgrade the quality of hospital care in the nation. Three years later, his hospital was the only one in the region and one of three in the state that met those standards.

By the 1920s, the McLeod Infirmary was the third-largest general hospital in the state, with facilities for radiation treatments for cancer and an electrocardiograph machine for examining the hearts of Pee Dee-area citizens.

In his quest to provide medical care for the young, Dr. McLeod invited Dr. Julian Price to join the medical staff and establish a department of Pediatrics. Thus, the department of Pediatrics at the Florence Infirmary was established in 1928.

Dr. 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, 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.”

Using guidelines from the American College of Surgeons, Dr. McLeod began recruiting doctors with varying specialties. His training school for nurses had been operating since the hospital opened in 1906. In the 1950s, when there was a shortage of nurse anesthetists, the hospital trustees expanded the school. It became the only school of anesthesia in South Carolina accredited by the National Association of Schools of Nurse Anesthetists.

Dr. McLeod’s son James began to take over more and more administrative duties as his father’s health declined. A board of trustees continued to oversee operations. Dr. F.H. McLeod retired in 1940, and the board of trustees named his son superintendent. Dr. F.H. McLeod died in 1944. Dr. James McLeod suffered a heart attack and died in 1947.

With the deaths of the McLeods, the trustees took a more active role in the operation of the hospital, which continued to be the largest in the region and one of the largest in the state.

In 1962, the trustees commissioned a master plan for the hospital’s next 20 years.

In 1971, the trustees approved a motion by Dr. F.H. McLeod’s grandson, James C. McLeod, Jr., to change the name to McLeod Memorial Hospital.



The name of the hospital changes to McLeod Memorial Hospital in 1971.



1979

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



1979

South Carolina Governor Dick Riley delivers the address at the 1979 dedication of McLeod Regional Medical Center.



1980

The McLeod Family Medicine Residency Program is established.



1981

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



1983

McLeod establishes a Heart Catheterization Lab and begins a Cardiac Rehabilitation program.



1985

McLeod Regional Medical Center installs the region’s first MRI.



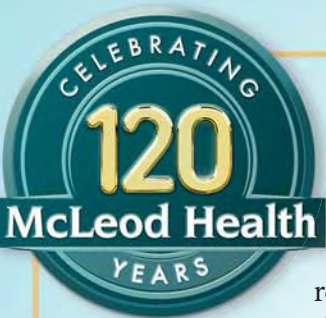
1985

The first annual “A Light for Someone You Love” Hospice Tree Lighting Ceremony takes place.



1986

The McLeod Foundation is established.



A HEALING PLACE. FOR ALL TIME.

Elected chairman of the McLeod Board of Trustees in 1975, Givens Young became the driving force behind the effort to expand McLeod into a regional medical center.

On November 16, 1979, McLeod Memorial Hospital took a sentimental journey four blocks down the road and transformed itself into a major regional medical center.

That day, nearly 800 employees made the move from the old seven-story McLeod Memorial Hospital to the modern McLeod Regional Medical Center. By 1 p.m. that day, all the patients — 71 adults and 20 infants and children — had been moved.



The hospital moves four blocks down on Cheves Street to the new regional medical center in 1979.

Patients were transported smoothly by local emergency service vehicles, area rescue squad back-up vans and a school bus. Patient families helped by moving patients who were mobile, nurses and staff worked overtime to lend a hand in the move, and later, T-shirts proclaiming, "I moved McLeod November 1979," were distributed as mementos of the event.

Fraternity members from Francis Marion College, who had moved equipment every day during the week, were still there lending support and muscles. A bus from the college was used to transport mothers and their babies and children and patients from the McLeod Annex on Highway 52.

McLeod Regional Medical Center, dominated by bright, cheerful colors, skylights, and new equipment, was a 300-bed hospital with all private rooms to serve the 12 counties of the Pee Dee. New nursing techniques, equipment for patient care, and the advanced building system were all intended to provide high-quality care. At the McLeod Regional Medical Center dedication ceremony on the front lawn, South Carolina Governor Dick Riley delivered the address.

In November 1979, neurosurgery was first performed in the Pee Dee at McLeod Regional Medical Center.

Shortly after, the McLeod Regional Medical Center opened its Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, the first and only Level III NICU in eastern South Carolina.

In May 1980, the McLeod Family Medicine Residency Program accepted its first class of physician residents, beginning a tradition of medical training that increases community access to medical services.

The development of the cancer program began to take shape in July of 1981 with the arrival of Dr. Michael D. Pavy, who came to McLeod after completing a fellowship in Medical Oncology at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland.

and the hospital added hospice care and an apheresis program. As medical director, Dr. Pavy set about building upon existing services and establishing many new ones to form the McLeod Cancer Center that now exists.

Having a passion for research, Dr. Pavy also started the cancer research program at McLeod in the mid-1980s. The McLeod Cancer Research Department continues to offer national state-of-the-art cancer research trials for the prevention and treatment of cancer to eligible patients in the northeastern region of South Carolina.

In 1985, the first annual "A Light for Someone You Love" Hospice Tree Lighting Ceremony took place at McLeod Regional Medical Center.

Soon after, in 1986, the McLeod Foundation was established, with a mission to generate philanthropic support to perpetuate medical excellence at McLeod Health, and a vision to help provide the very best healthcare resources.



The McLeod Family Medicine Residency Program is established in 1980.

After Dr. Pavy began caring for patients at McLeod in the early 1980s, cancer research efforts were developed, a support system for patients and their families strengthened with hospital social workers assigned to cancer patients,

In October 1986, open heart surgery was performed for the first time in the Pee Dee at McLeod Regional Medical Center. The opening of the McLeod Heart Institute ushered in a new era in the care and treatment of heart disease.



1986

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



1989

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



1989

An advanced diagnostic system for nuclear cardiology is installed.



1991

Cardiologist Dr. Alan Blaker unveils new Transesophageal Echocardiography Unit.



1993

The McLeod Women's Pavilion opens.



1993

McLeod establishes an Electrophysiology Lab.



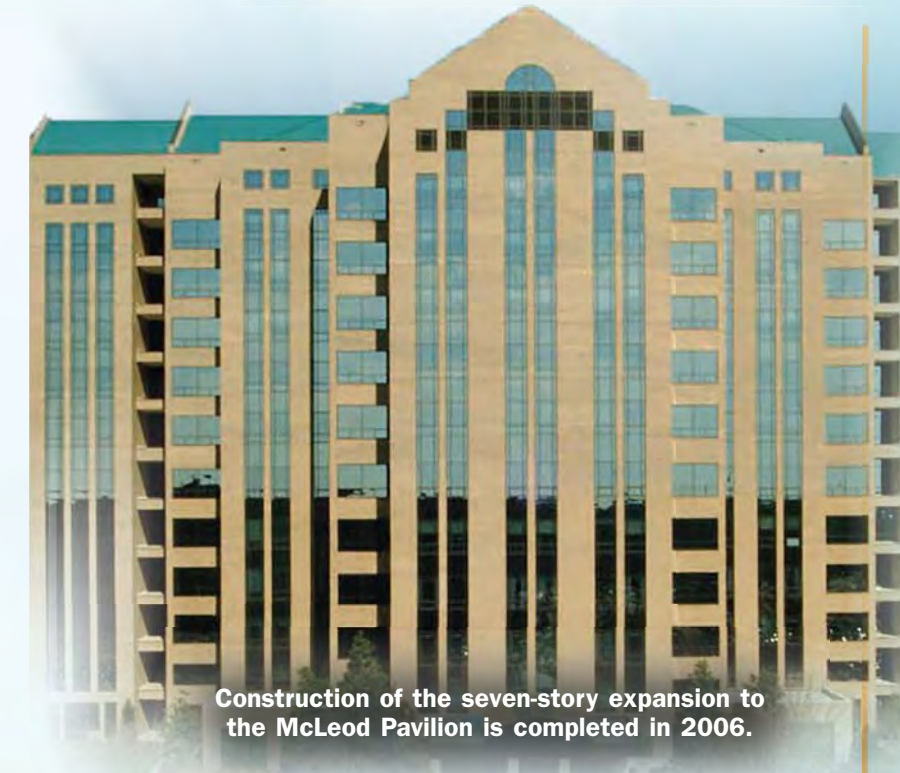
1994

McLeod opens the region's only Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.



1994

Wilson Hospital and Clinic in Darlington, SC becomes part of McLeod.



Construction of the seven-story expansion to the McLeod Pavilion is completed in 2006.

A second meditation garden was also created adjacent to the additional patient rooms to offer patients and families an area of respite. The project was funded through philanthropic support. The McLeod Hospice House is currently the only inpatient hospice facility in the region.

In 2006, a century after Dr. McLeod brought a new era of health care to patients when he opened the region's first hospital, yet another new era dawned with the opening of the expanded McLeod Pavilion.

In September 2003, McLeod Regional Medical Center opened the first and only permanently based Positron Emission Tomography (PET) imaging center in the Pee Dee. With this addition, physicians could better diagnose different types of cancer to determine the most beneficial treatment for patients. The technology also allowed for faster, more comfortable exams and better image quality, reducing radiation and patient claustrophobia for more detailed cancer and organ function assessments. This marked a significant imaging milestone for the state and community, providing local access to crucial diagnostic tools previously requiring travel, enhancing early disease detection, and improving patient care.

In 2004, the McLeod Breast Health Center was established to ensure rapid diagnosis, education and emotional support for women facing a diagnosis of breast cancer. Twenty years later, this team of providers continues to promote a continuity of care by offering the full spectrum of breast services from prevention and diagnosis to treatment and support. In 2010, the McLeod Breast Health Center was accredited by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), a prestigious acknowledgement of the quality of care it offers to breast cancer patients. The Center is also a Designated Comprehensive Breast Imaging Center by the American College of Radiology.

McLeod Health opened a 12-bed Hospice House to provide hospice care close to home in 2005. Since its opening, the McLeod Hospice House now offers 24 inpatient rooms, two family comfort areas and a chapel.

McLeod Health has always been dedicated to good stewardship, and due to increased access of these services locally, operations of McLeod Health Darlington were closed down in 2025.

In late 1997, Saint Eugene Community Hospital in Dillon became part of McLeod, expanding the scope of services available in the Dillon community and surrounding areas.

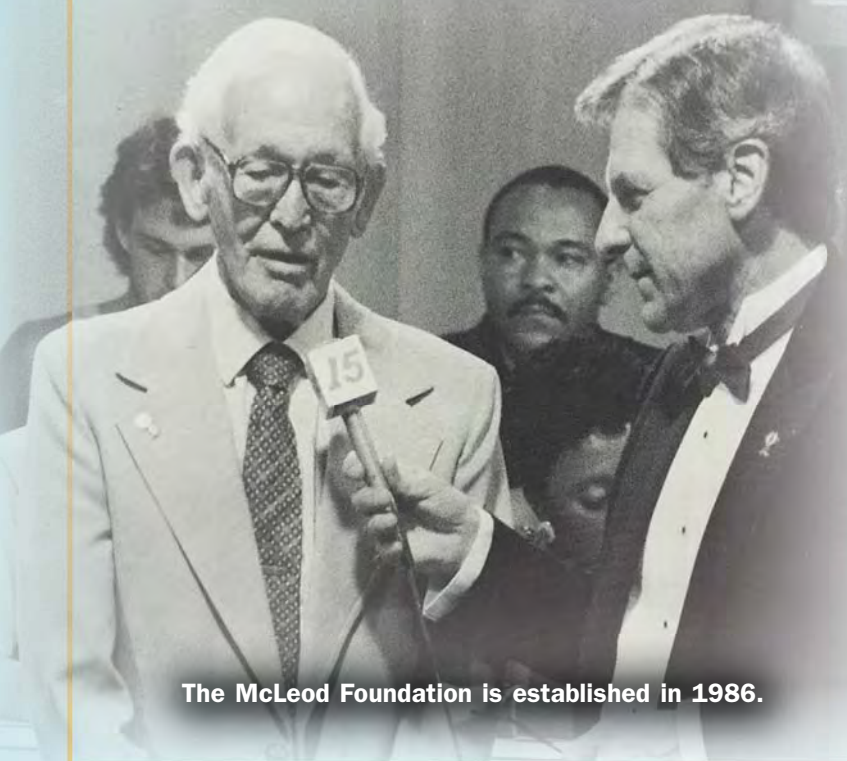
To unify its affiliates into a comprehensive, regional system, in 1998, McLeod announced a new corporate identity – McLeod Health. This new identity signified the organization's commitment to amplify the stability and tenacity of an organization that has focused on its people and the well-being of our community.

In a significant recognition of its commitment to high-quality healthcare, McLeod Regional Medical Center received the prestigious South Carolina Governor's Quality Award in 2000, highlighting the dedication to high standards in patient care and operational excellence.

Then, in 2001, McLeod was selected as one of only seven hospitals and health care organizations in the nation to lead improvements in health care quality. Pursuing Perfection: Raising the Bar for Health Care Performance was a \$21 million initiative sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI). McLeod Health has been recognized numerous times for its outstanding work in quality care, best practices and clinical outcomes as well as its physicians' dedication to quality improvement. McLeod is constantly seeking to improve its patient care with efforts that are physician-led, data-driven and evidence-based.

As demands increased for hospital-to-hospital critical care transport, the McLeod HeartReach ambulance went on the road in 1990, bringing cardiac patients from outlying hospitals to McLeod for life-saving cardiac care.

Wilson Clinic and Hospital of Darlington was purchased by McLeod Health on May 1, 1994. The following year, an 18-bed Skilled Care Unit was dedicated in honor of Dr. Wilson and his contributions to the community of Darlington.



The McLeod Foundation is established in 1986.



1994

New high-energy linear accelerator makes McLeod the largest cancer therapy center in the state.



1995

The Guest House at McLeod opens for patients' family members.



1997

Saint Eugene Community Hospital becomes McLeod Health Dillon.



1999

The community's premier center for fitness and health education, the McLeod Health and Fitness Center, debuts in 1999.



2000

McLeod receives the South Carolina Governor's Quality Award.



2001

McLeod was selected as one of seven hospitals in the nation to lead improvements in health care quality as part of Pursuing Perfection.



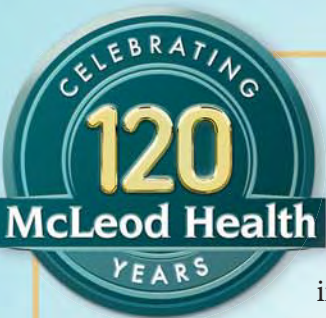
2003

McLeod installs the region's first and only fixed base Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scanner.



2005

The McLeod Hospice House opens.



The seven-floor addition to the McLeod Pavilion housed the McLeod Center for Advanced Surgery, an institute designed to ensure patients have access to surgical services using the newest technology in an environment focused on safety and quality results.

Included as part of this center were: OR Suites, Anesthesia Care Units, Central Sterile Processing, Trauma Surgical Care Unit, Surgical patient rooms, Orthopedic/Neurosurgical patient rooms and a Rehab Gym.

The Operating Room of Tomorrow ensured patients had access to surgical services using the newest technology in an environment recognized nationally for safety and quality results.

In 2008, McLeod Health unveiled the McLeod Mobile Mammography Unit, the first of its kind for the northeastern region of South Carolina and the first digital mobile mammography unit in the state. Each week the Mobile Mammography Unit travels to businesses, industries, healthcare facilities and health fairs to improve access to screening mammograms.

The McLeod Mobile Mammography Unit is part of the continued commitment of McLeod Health to women from the Midlands to the Coast. Accredited by the American College of Radiologists, the unit was purchased by the McLeod Health Foundation through funds donated by generous supporters.



Launched in 2008, McLeod Health unveiled a new, updated Mobile Mammography Unit in 2023.

To meet the needs of the growing community and increase access to healthcare services, the McLeod Urgent Care Centers opened its Florence location in 2008 and the Darlington location in 2013.

In 2010, McLeod Health received the American Hospital Association-McKesson Quest for Quality Prize, awarded annually to one hospital in the country. McLeod was the first hospital in South Carolina to receive this prestigious honor since the inception of the national Quest for Quality Prize in 2002. Among decades of recognition, this was a premiere designation for McLeod Health.

In 2011, McLeod Health expanded into Horry County with the addition of Loris Community Hospital and Seacoast Medical Center as part of the healthcare system.

In 2013, the McLeod Center for Intensive Care opened in Florence, increasing the total number of intensive care beds to 97. The two identical curved, seven-story buildings are nestled between the McLeod Tower and McLeod

Pavilion, and include the trauma surgical care unit for serious accidents or complicated surgery recovery; medical intensive care unit for acute illness recovery; coronary care unit, specially equipped to treat serious heart conditions; and the hemodialysis unit for treatment of chronic kidney disease and acute renal failure and telemetry for monitoring patient heart activity.

As “the cancer hospital” for the region, the oncology team was pleased McLeod Health made the commitment

to unify and improve upon the care of their patients by opening the McLeod Center for Cancer Treatment & Research in Florence in late 2013.

The Cancer Center serves as a focal point for the next generation of cancer care in our region, providing patients and their families with the highly sensitive, sophisticated and personal care they expect and deserve.

It offers additional space with the patient’s comfort in mind, expanded access to preventative medicine, individualized treatment focusing on each patient’s diagnosis, care and recovery, as well as state-of-the-art technology.

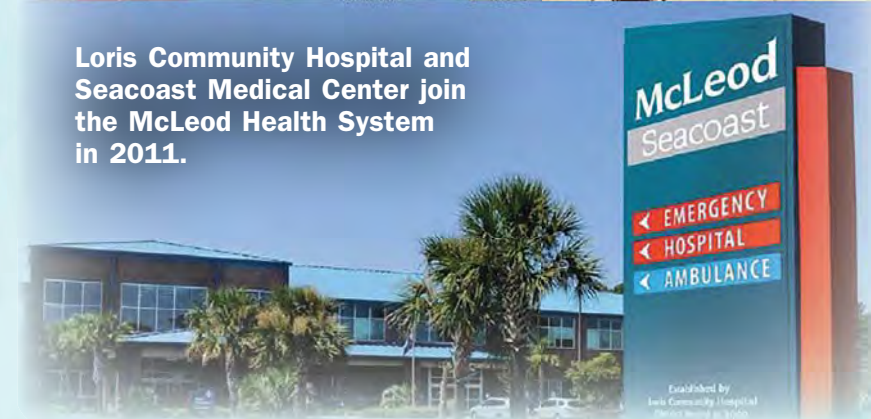
After the hospital underwent a series of ownership changes, Chesterfield General Hospital officially started operating as McLeod Health Cheraw in mid-2015. Now serving Chesterfield, Marlboro and surrounding counties, McLeod Health Cheraw continues adding new services and specialists while continuing to offer excellent patient-centered care.

In a continuing effort to support high quality and accessible regional health services, McLeod Health and Clarendon Health System announced an agreement to affiliate and operate Clarendon Health System in Manning, SC on May 25, 2016.

The organization has grown throughout the century, from an infirmary to seven hospitals, more than 1,000 physician practices and quality care for the health of residents from the Midlands to the Coast.



Loris Community Hospital and Seacoast Medical Center join the McLeod Health System in 2011.



2006

Construction of the seven-story expansion to the McLeod Pavilion is completed.



2006

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



2008

The McLeod Mobile Mammography Unit goes on the road.



2008

McLeod Urgent Care Centers open in Florence and later expanded to Darlington in 2013.



2010

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



2011

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



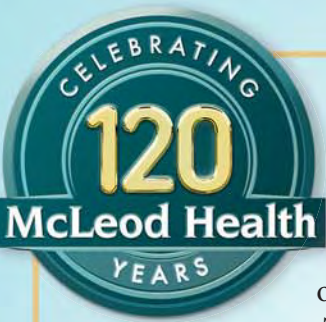
2013

The McLeod Center for Intensive Care opens to meet the critical care needs of patients in the region.



2013

The McLeod Center for Cancer Treatment & Research opens, moving cancer services under one roof for patient convenience.



In 2016, 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:

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.

On March 29, 2017, McLeod hosted an open house and ribbon cutting at the new McLeod Health Medical Office Building at Carolina Forest. This installment signified the hospital's commitment to provide treatment, services and health care to the people of Horry County.

This facility was the initial phase of development of the McLeod Health Carolina Forest campus.

On April 28, 2017, McLeod Cardiology Associates expanded to Sumter. An open house and ribbon cutting was held in conjunction with the Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce.



First Medical Office Building opens on the McLeod Health Carolina Forest Campus in 2017.

On January 2, 2018, McLeod Health opened a Medical Park in Hartsville, located at 1319 South Fourth Street. Services at this location include McLeod Orthopaedics, McLeod Cardiology Associates, McLeod Vascular Associates, McLeod Sports Medicine and McLeod Rehabilitation Services.

McLeod Health expanded its nationally recognized surgical program to include robotic-assisted surgery in 2017. Surgery, like all fields of medicine, is forever changing. There are choices for patients: traditional open surgery, minimally invasive laparoscopic surgery or robotic-assisted surgery. Robotic-assisted surgery is a form of minimally invasive surgery. It allows the surgeon to perform many types of complex procedures with more precision, flexibility and control than is possible with traditional techniques.

In all surgical cases, superlative outcomes are based on the skills and expertise through the hands of a great surgeon.

In 2017, a new Electrophysiology Laboratory opened at McLeod Regional Medical Center for Electrophysiology studies and procedures. McLeod Electrophysiologists can capture 3D images of the heart, examine the heart's electrical system and detect heart rhythm irregularities while offering patients the lowest possible radiation dose and excellent image quality.

In 2018, McLeod Medical Park Five opened on the campus of McLeod Regional Medical Park, home to McLeod Orthopaedics, the McLeod Outpatient Surgery Center and OrthoNOW.

McLeod Health Seacoast opened its new patient tower in September 2018 following the completion of a \$110 million expansion that more than doubled its patient capacity, transforming the delivery of medical care to the community.

The expansion of the patient tower allows McLeod Health Seacoast to increase its bed capacity and create a hospital experience designed for the patient and their families. The building also meets new sustainability standards and increases modern efficiencies. The expansion added 55 beds, bringing total capacity to 105 beds.

Six new operating rooms escalated the total operating room capacity to 10 rooms. Other significant improvements included a new Outpatient Pharmacy, Outpatient Rehabilitation Department, diagnostic Cardiac Catheterization Lab and Electrophysiology Lab.



New dedicated Electrophysiology Lab opens at McLeod Regional Medical Center in 2017.



2015

Chesterfield General Hospital becomes McLeod Health Cheraw.



2016

McLeod Health expands the McLeod Health Seacoast Emergency Department.



2016

Clarendon Hospital System becomes McLeod Health Clarendon.



2017

First Medical Office Building opens on the McLeod Health Carolina Forest Campus.



2017

McLeod Cardiology Associates opens a new location in Sumter.



2017

New dedicated Electrophysiology Lab opens at McLeod Regional Medical Center.



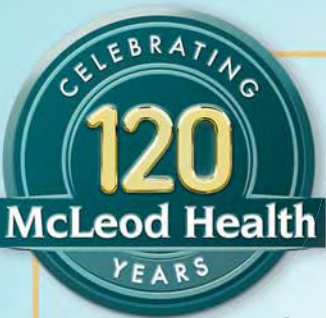
2018

McLeod Health opens medical park in Hartsville.



2018

McLeod Medical Park Five opens, home to McLeod Orthopaedics, the McLeod Outpatient Surgery Center and OrthoNOW.



AN ENDURING MISSION. FOR ALL TIME.

Expanded outpatient services included a Women's Breast Health Center with 3D mammography and stereotactic breast biopsy capabilities.

In 2020, McLeod Regional Medical Center received a \$750,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), to develop new rural residency programs. McLeod Regional Medical Center, the only grant recipient in the state of South Carolina, would also achieve accreditation of its program through the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

The result was the establishment of the McLeod Family Medicine Rural Residency Program with sites in the rural South Carolina communities of Cheraw and Manning. This program expanded much needed access to physicians, enhanced recruitment efforts and afforded physicians the opportunity to practice medicine in a small community setting.

In 2021, McLeod Regional Medical Center opened McLeod Pavilion East, located between the McLeod Pavilion Tower and Medical Park East.

McLeod Pavilion East is home to the new McLeod Regional Medical Center Emergency Department, Advanced Endoscopy and Recovery

area, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), and Postpartum and Gynecological Services.

In May 2022, McLeod Health unveiled a historical marker in front of the home of its founder, Dr. F.H. McLeod.

As the new and very fitting remodeled home for the McLeod Health Foundation, this site represented more than just a reflection of the past. Our location for the vital services and support of the Foundation underscores our McLeod Health commitment to the community of Florence and investment in the downtown area.

The two-sided historical marker, coordinated with the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, bears the inscription:



A historical marker is unveiled at the F.H. McLeod House, home to the McLeod Health Foundation in 2022.

The Frank Hilton McLeod home was constructed in 1919 during the expansion of the Florence Infirmary. McLeod founded the Infirmary in 1906 on West Cheves Street, adjacent to his personal residence. To allow for the expansion McLeod moved his wooden frame home to this site.

He and his wife Carolina Nelson McLeod (1878-1952) lived in the frame house where it stood until the brick residence was completed here at the corner of Palmetto and Dargan Streets.

While living here, F. H. McLeod oversaw the Infirmary's growth into one of the largest hospitals in the state, serving patients from around the Pee Dee. The residence was sold in 1940 and reacquired in 1999 by McLeod Regional Medical Center, the successor to the Florence Infirmary.

In January 2024, the McLeod Heart and Vascular Institute combined the skills of Structural Heart Cardiologists Dr. Ravi Parikh and Dr. Brian Blaker with Cardiothoracic Surgeon Dr. Srinivas Kolla to repair a patient's severely leaking aortic heart valve. This surgery, as it was performed, was a first-time procedure in South Carolina. Structural heart procedures emphasize a team effort. This particular case could not have been accomplished without the physicians and staff working together for the benefit of the patient.

All of the team members bring their experience and expertise for the best care of the patient.

McLeod Health, a leading healthcare provider in the region, celebrated a momentous occasion on April 22, 2024, as it unveiled plans for the new state-of-the-art hospital at the McLeod Health Carolina Forest Campus.

The groundbreaking event marked the beginning of construction for a four-story, 48-bed facility that will serve the growing population of Horry County and the Grand Strand area. This will be the first new hospital built in Horry County since McLeod Health Seacoast opened in 2011.



McLeod physicians repair a patient's heart valve in a structural heart procedure performed for the first time in South Carolina in 2024.



2018

The new patient tower at McLeod Health Seacoast opens.



2019

William H. Johnson Street Connector opens.



2019

The McLeod Health Carolina Forest Emergency Department opens.



2020

The McLeod Family Medicine Rural Residency Program was established.



2021

COVID Remembrance Walls honor McLeod Health staff and patients during the COVID Pandemic 2019-2021.



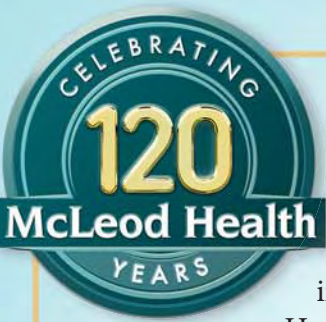
2021

McLeod Pavilion East opens, home to a new Emergency Department, Endoscopy Lab, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and Postpartum Unit.



2022

A historical marker is unveiled at the F.H. McLeod House, home to the McLeod Health Foundation.



The Carolina Forest campus is envisioned to offer a wide range of health services that will provide the emergent, primary, specialty and inpatient care that patients need. McLeod Health will be the only healthcare system building a continuum of care, with specialty services at all three Horry County hospitals – McLeod Health Seacoast, McLeod Health Loris and McLeod Health Carolina Forest. Together, these campuses seek to provide quality care at a convenient location for patients in Horry County.

In 2025, McLeod Health announced the opening of a new office location for McLeod Primary Care Lake City,

continuing McLeod Health’s commitment to Lake City and lower Florence County.

McLeod Primary Care Lake City was established in October 2022 and continues to deliver the highest-level care to patients and the Lake City community with access to the extensive services of McLeod Health.

McLeod Health continued its Horry County expansion with the opening of the McLeod Health Carolina Forest Surgery Center on Tuesday, April 1, 2025. The McLeod Health Carolina Forest Surgery Center is in Building 3 on the McLeod Health Carolina Forest campus near the intersection of International Drive and Highway 31.

The new 20,000- square-foot facility is the largest outpatient surgery center in Horry County. This marks a significant milestone in the development of a new hospital on the McLeod Health Carolina Forest campus, which is expected to be completed by fall 2026.

May 2025 was a pivotal moment in the McLeod Health Cancer Program with the opening of the first Comprehensive Cancer Center in Horry County,

where all cancer 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.

The state-of-the-art facility has been designed to prioritize convenience for patients and their families while providing the advanced cancer care they need. Services in the new Cancer Center include medical oncology, chemotherapy/immunotherapy treatment, radiation oncology, genetic testing and research.

McLeod Health continued its expansion of physician residency programs with the establishment of the McLeod Internal Medicine Residency Program and McLeod Internal Medicine Residency Center in 2025.

This new physician practice expands access to internal medicine care across our region and will

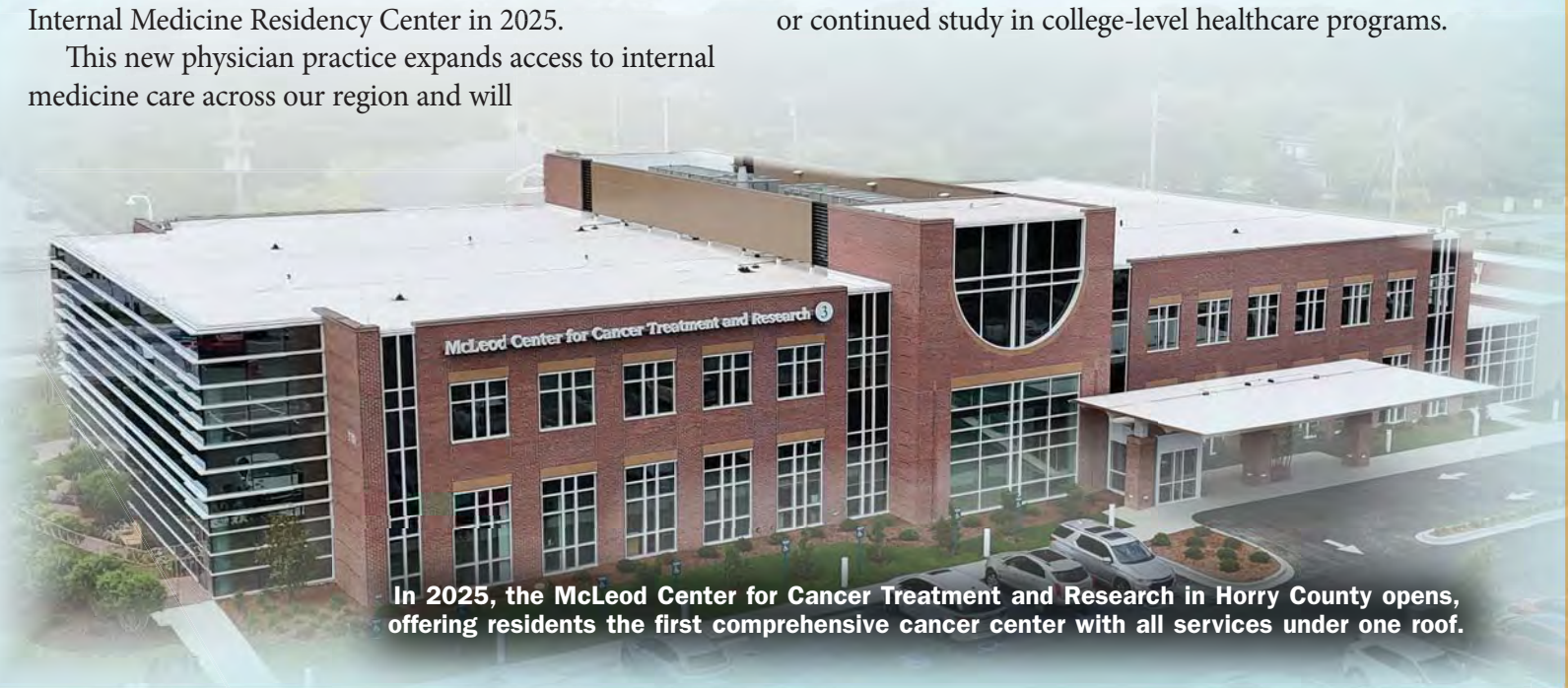
serve as the training ground for the McLeod Internal Medicine Residency Program, which will welcome its first class of residents in July 2026.

On December 11, 2025, a ribbon cutting and open house for the Poynor School of Healthcare Innovation was held. The new School of Innovation, a partnership with McLeod Health and Florence 1 Schools, is designed for high school juniors and seniors interested in pursuing healthcare careers.

Located in the newly reopened historic Poynor Building in downtown Florence, the program provides students with hands-on healthcare education and training that prepare them for immediate career opportunities after graduation or continued study in college-level healthcare programs.



The McLeod Health Carolina Forest Surgery Center opens in 2025.



In 2025, the McLeod Center for Cancer Treatment and Research in Horry County opens, offering residents the first comprehensive cancer center with all services under one roof.



2024

McLeod physicians repair a patient’s heart valve in a structural heart procedure performed for the first time in South Carolina.



2024

McLeod unveils plans for the new, state-of-the-art hospital in Carolina Forest.



2025

A new McLeod primary care office opens in Lake City.



2025

The McLeod Health Carolina Forest Surgery Center opens.



2025

McLeod unveils new Life Reach ambulances.



2025

The McLeod Center for Cancer Treatment and Research in Horry County opens, offering residents the first comprehensive cancer center with all services under one roof.



2025

The McLeod Internal Medicine Residency Program is established, welcoming the first class in June 2026.



2025

A Ribbon Cutting and Open House for the Poynor School of Healthcare Innovation was held on December 11.



On January 30, 2026, McLeod Health unveiled plans for a new state-of-the-art hospital with a groundbreaking at McLeod Health Cheraw. The hospital is designed to expand the delivery of high-quality health care in Chesterfield and Marlboro counties and reinforces McLeod Health Cheraw as the model and destination for inpatient acute care and outpatient services in the region.

In Spring 2026, McLeod Family Medicine Kingstree and McLeod Primary Care Myrtle Beach moved to new facilities, designed to provide convenient, high-quality

primary care to both the Williamsburg County and Grande Dunes communities.

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 120 years old, more than 70 years after the death of Dr. McLeod, steadfast through both challenging times and progressive change.

With the simple seeds of quality, compassion and innovation, a surgeon sowed what has grown to become the region's premiere medical center.

Serving more than 1,000,000 people across 18 counties in South Carolina and North Carolina, McLeod Health spans seven hospitals and more than 100 physician locations.

McLeod Health's growth is a testament to the unwavering dedication of our people – more than 18,000 team members; 1,700 medical providers; and 3,800 licensed nurses.

Every innovation, every milestone and every life touched has been made possible by those who serve with compassion, skill and integrity.

McLeod Health stands tall as a trusted and enduring place of healing.

Not just for today. Not just for tomorrow. For all time.



McLeod Health expects to complete construction of the McLeod Health Carolina Forest Hospital in 2026.

McLeod Health continuously strives to fulfill Dr. McLeod's vision of excellence by following his early examples and focusing on his simple, yet undying values. We think he would have been pleased.



McLeod Health commences construction on a new state-of-the-art expansion of McLeod Health Cheraw in 2026.



2026

McLeod Health celebrates 120 years of service.



2026

New practice locations open for McLeod Primary Care Myrtle Beach and McLeod Family Medicine Kingstree.



2026

McLeod Health commences construction on a new state-of-the-art expansion of McLeod Health Cheraw.



2026

McLeod Health expects to complete construction of the McLeod Health Carolina Forest Hospital.



18,000+ team members

7 Hospitals



945 licensed beds

18

Counties SC & NC

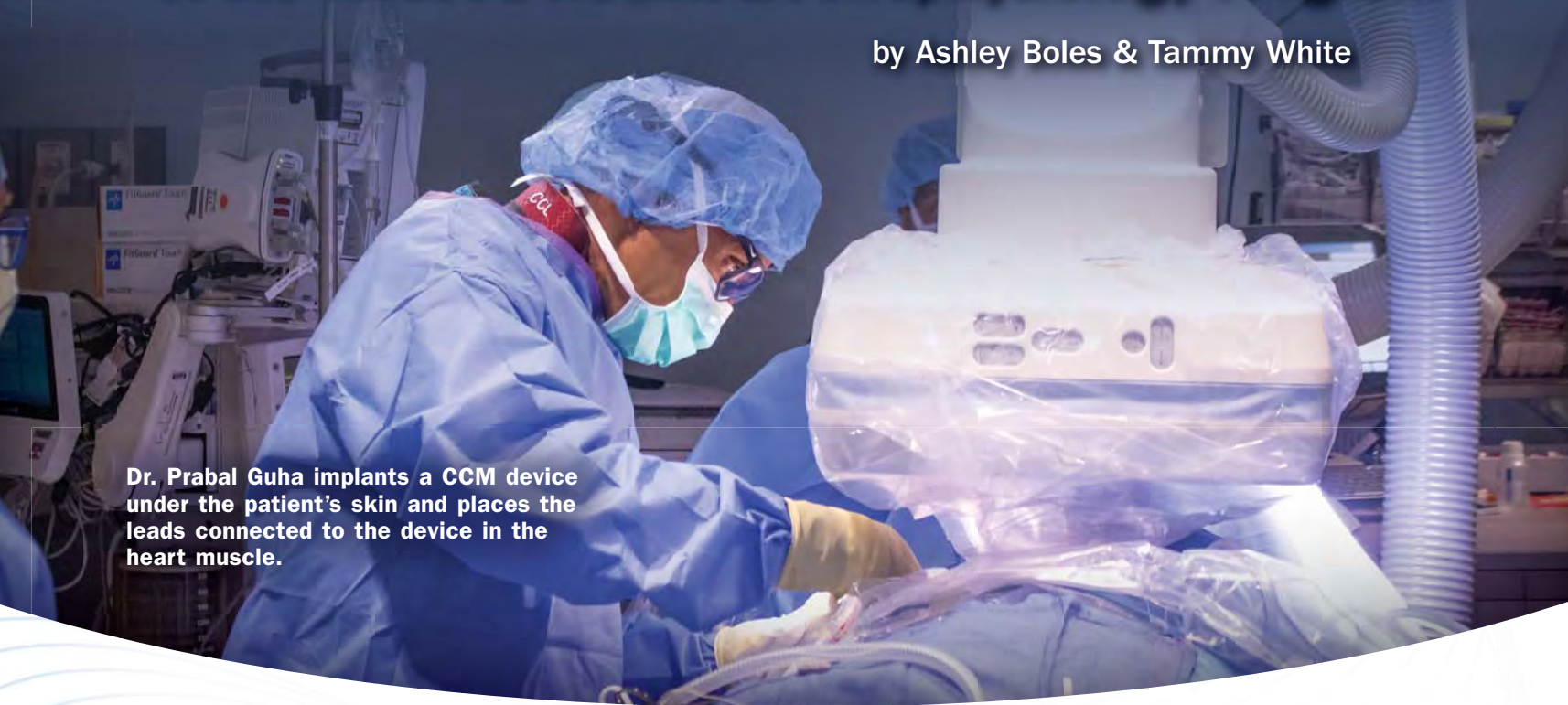


1,000,000+ people served

Our Story By The Numbers

The Electrical Activity of the McLeod Health Electrophysiology Program

by Ashley Boles & Tammy White



Dr. Prabal Guha implants a CCM device under the patient's skin and places the leads connected to the device in the heart muscle.

McLeod Health Electrophysiologists bring a diverse blend of skill and expertise – including designing part of the Playstation 3, Xbox and supercomputers – to the patients they serve.

Dr. Prabal Guha and **Dr. Cyrus Kocherla** at McLeod Regional Medical Center and **Dr. Yuxuan Mao** at McLeod Health Seacoast are Electrophysiologists who specialize in evaluating the abnormalities of the heart's rhythm. Their focus is on the heart's electrical system and how it impacts overall cardiac function.

McLeod offers a broad range of advanced electrophysiology services, including leadless pacemakers, defibrillators, internal loop recorders, ablations with 3D mapping, and the left atrial appendage closure device (also known as the WATCHMAN™ Implant).

Two newer offerings further expand treatment options: cardiac contractility modulation (CCM) and the concomitant procedure.

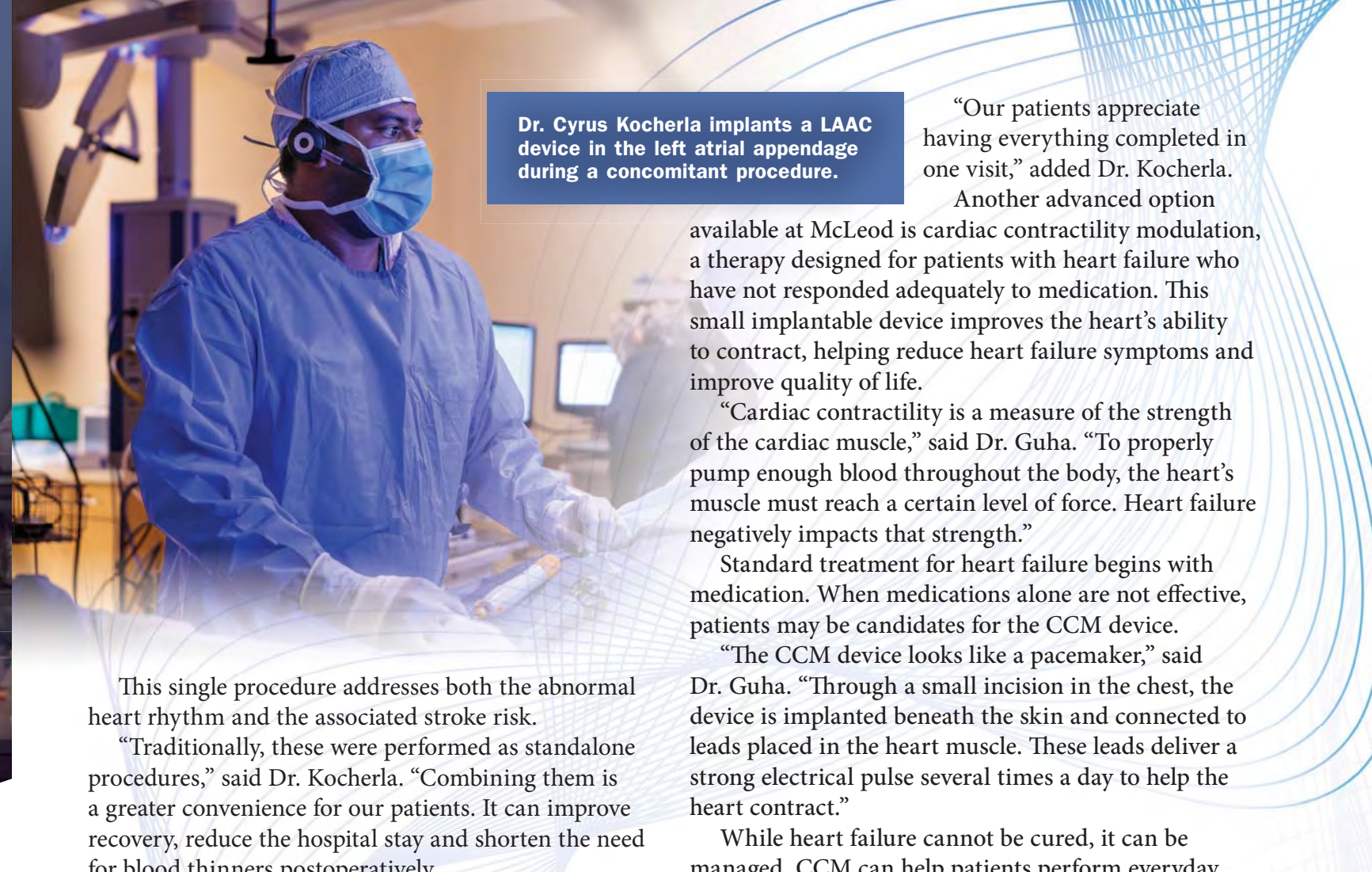
Electrophysiology plays a critical role in diagnosing and treating atrial fibrillation, a heart condition in which the heart's upper chamber beats irregularly.

Initial treatment may include medication or an electrical shock to the heart to restore heart rhythm. When these methods are unsuccessful, an ablation may be performed. This catheter-based procedure reroutes abnormal electrical signals in the heart.

At McLeod Health, Drs. Guha, Kocherla and Mao perform ablations using the FDA-approved pulsed field ablation (PFA). This procedure uses brief electrical pulses to treat abnormal rhythms while minimizing impact on surrounding tissue.

Atrial fibrillation can also cause blood to pool in the left atrial appendage, an area of the heart where clots commonly form. These clots may travel to the brain and cause a stroke. To reduce this risk, McLeod offers the left atrial appendage closure (LAAC) device, which is implanted at the opening of the left atrial appendage to prevent blood clots from entering the blood stream.

For patients who need both an atrial fibrillation ablation and the LAAC device, McLeod now offers a combined approach known as a concomitant procedure.



Dr. Cyrus Kocherla implants a LAAC device in the left atrial appendage during a concomitant procedure.

"Our patients appreciate having everything completed in one visit," added Dr. Kocherla.

Another advanced option available at McLeod is cardiac contractility modulation, a therapy designed for patients with heart failure who have not responded adequately to medication. This small implantable device improves the heart's ability to contract, helping reduce heart failure symptoms and improve quality of life.

"Cardiac contractility is a measure of the strength of the cardiac muscle," said Dr. Guha. "To properly pump enough blood throughout the body, the heart's muscle must reach a certain level of force. Heart failure negatively impacts that strength."

Standard treatment for heart failure begins with medication. When medications alone are not effective, patients may be candidates for the CCM device.

"The CCM device looks like a pacemaker," said Dr. Guha. "Through a small incision in the chest, the device is implanted beneath the skin and connected to leads placed in the heart muscle. These leads deliver a strong electrical pulse several times a day to help the heart contract."

While heart failure cannot be cured, it can be managed. CCM can help patients perform everyday activities more comfortably, such as walking short distances or climbing stairs, with less fatigue.

This single procedure addresses both the abnormal heart rhythm and the associated stroke risk.

"Traditionally, these were performed as standalone procedures," said Dr. Kocherla. "Combining them is a greater convenience for our patients. It can improve recovery, reduce the hospital stay and shorten the need for blood thinners postoperatively.

"It is safe to have both procedures performed at the same time, and the data shows no increase in complication rates.

Dr. Yuxuan Mao joined the Electrophysiology team at McLeod Health Seacoast in August 2025.

Dr. Mao didn't have a typical introduction to medicine. After earning his undergraduate degree, he spent several years working for IBM in Raleigh, North Carolina.

"I had the good fortune to work on some amazing projects like designing part of the PlayStation 3, Xbox, and supercomputers. But I felt something was missing and wanted a more meaningful vocation. I found that in medicine. Electrophysiology allows me to use my engineering know-how to serve patients in need and allows me to utilize the latest technology to potentially cure someone's disease," said Dr. Mao.

Dr. Mao performs radiofrequency and pulsed field ablations for patients with atrial fibrillation, supraventricular tachycardia (SVT), and premature ventricular contractions (PVC). He also works with patients with atrial fibrillation who take blood thinners but experience bleeding complications, offering implant-based solutions that may allow them to discontinue those medications.

"I love coming to work every day because we all share the same mission – to make a positive difference in our patients' lives, and provide much needed access to Electrophysiology care," said Dr. Mao. "I look forward to bringing the latest and most advanced treatment techniques to the people of Horry County and beyond."



When Trust Becomes Treatment

by Tara McCormick

For every mother, there is one nightmare more terrifying than all the rest; the moment your child is in danger, and you're powerless to stop it.

For Brittany Parker, that nightmare became her reality in an instant.

One ordinary morning preparing for work turned into a scene she will never forget as her five-year-old son, EJ, stood before her with blood pouring from his arm, glass shattered at his feet, and the horrifying realization setting in that she might lose him, or at least a part of him, before her eyes.

Just minutes earlier, EJ Locklear had been playing with his 12-year-old sister, Alayla. Their game led them toward an old glass door inside the house.

Trying to catch his sister who was already on the other side, EJ pushed on the glass instead of the doorframe. With force, his small arm went straight through the panel, slicing deeply into both the upper and lower arm.

Brittany heard her daughter crying first, "Mama, it's EJ!" before walking into a scene she could hardly comprehend: her son drenched in blood.

"I just froze," Brittany recalled. "I was so scared. I didn't even think. I just grabbed a towel, wrapped his arm, and ran. I even left the house without my shoes."



Smiles that say it all, marking a remarkable recovery and a bond formed between EJ and his physician Dr. Amid Hamidi when seconds mattered most.

With young Alayla keeping pressure on EJ's wound in the back seat, Brittany drove straight to McLeod Health Dillon, praying silently the entire way.

By the time they arrived, blood was already soaking through the towel. Brittany, in shock, remembered only pleading, "Please help him," as she rushed him inside.

Hearing her pleas, McLeod Dillon Emergency Department Physician **Dr. Amid Hamidi** stepped in.

After assessing EJ's injuries, he gave Brittany news no mother ever wants to hear: waiting for a surgeon to arrive from Florence might cost EJ his arm. The blood loss was too extensive; the lacerations were too deep.

"He told me that if we waited, EJ might have to have his arm amputated," Brittany said. "I told him to do whatever he needed to do. I trusted him completely. I didn't want my baby to lose his arm."

In a race against time, and with EJ's blood loss increasing by the minute, Dr. Hamidi prepared to perform the necessary repair.

"This was a severe wound, and the case required me to call in an extra provider to cover the rest of the ER while I focused on closing up his arm," Dr. Hamidi recalled. "It was all hands on deck, and it took 83 minutes to close the wound. This was a real surgery."

For Brittany, those 83 minutes felt like a lifetime. "I held him the entire time. I don't think I stopped crying," she said.

But through everything, it was Dr. Hamidi who anchored Brittany's hope. "He told me he would treat EJ like he was his own son. And I believed him. I put all my trust and faith in him," she recalled.

Around her, a team of seven nurses worked seamlessly to stabilize EJ and assist Dr. Hamidi.

Once EJ's arm was successfully repaired, a nurse brought him a small teddy bear with a red bow. This is now one of EJ's most treasured possessions.

During the next several weeks, Brittany brought EJ back to McLeod Health Dillon every two days for wound checks.

For nearly a month, Brittany balanced work and childcare, and helped her daughter, Alayla, navigate the guilt she felt from the accident.

Meanwhile, EJ formed an undeniable connection with the physician who saved his arm.

"He didn't want anyone else to touch his arm," Brittany said. "Only Dr. Hamidi."

EJ's grandmother even made custom Spiderman arm sleeves to cover the healing scars, which he wore faithfully until he was ready to look at his arm again.

Today, EJ has full use of his arm. No pain. No limitations. Just a scar, a brave story and a childlike resilience that continues to amaze his mother. "It's like it never happened," Brittany says.

EJ still sleeps with the teddy bear given to him by the nurse, and each time the family drives past McLeod Health Dillon, he asks if they can stop inside to visit his friend, Dr. Hamidi.

"EJ would run down the hall to find him during our check-ups," Brittany said. "He would always give him the biggest hug every time."

When reflecting on the experience, Brittany had this to say: "I want to tell every single person who helped us thank you from the bottom of my heart. They saved my son, and they were there for me every step of the way. As for Dr. Hamidi, God put him there that day for a reason, and we are so very thankful."



After facing every mother's worst fear, Brittany holds her son EJ close, grateful for the care that helped bring him home healed.

Early Detection Made the Difference

by Carrie Anna Strange

A nurse with more than three decades in healthcare, Delinda Coan, a resident of Laurinburg, North Carolina, had assisted with countless colonoscopies during her career. She knew the routine and knew the preparations required. But, like many people, even those who work in healthcare, she did not truly believe she needed a colonoscopy.

“I just didn’t think it was necessary,” Delinda said. “I really didn’t believe in them.”

After a routine Cologuard® test ordered by her primary care physician came back positive, she was advised to follow up with a colonoscopy. With no symptoms and no family history of colorectal cancer, she was not concerned and put it off for almost a year.

One of Delinda’s friends in Manning, South Carolina, encouraged her to see **Dr. Devonne Barrineau** at McLeod Surgery Clarendon in Manning. Delinda was between travel nursing contracts, with only a short window of time available to schedule her colonoscopy.

Although Dr. Barrineau had originally planned to be on vacation, he adjusted his schedule and Delinda’s colonoscopy was performed just days after her first appointment with him. Reluctant but determined to get it over with, she went through with the procedure and returned home the same day.

As a nurse, Delinda reviewed her paperwork afterward and noticed something that concerned her. She recognized that a finding had been documented. A few days later, Dr. Barrineau personally called her and stressed the importance of keeping her follow-up appointment. He wanted to speak with her directly.

Delinda was so impressed by her experiences working and receiving care at McLeod that she transferred her primary care to McLeod Primary Care Clarendon.

When they met, Dr. Barrineau took time to sit down with Delinda and carefully explain what he had found. The colonoscopy had revealed cancer. He discussed her options, answered her questions, and made sure she understood what the course of treatment would involve. That personal approach immediately built trust.

“I explained to Delinda that during the colonoscopy, I found a lesion in her sigmoid colon that was too large to be removed during the procedure,” said Dr. Barrineau. “Internally, I marked the area of the lesion on the outside of the colon so it could be easily located if surgery were required, and sent a sample to the pathology laboratory to be biopsied. The results indicated she had colon cancer.”

“I trusted him,” Delinda said. “He took the time to explain everything, and I felt confident in his care.”

In the fall of 2025, Delinda underwent a colon resection at McLeod Health Clarendon. Dr. Barrineau removed a portion of her sigmoid colon along with nearby lymph nodes to ensure the cancer had not spread. She spent four days in the hospital and describes the experience as overwhelmingly positive despite having been recently diagnosed with cancer.

“The nurses were wonderful, and the care I received was exceptional.”

Because her cancer was caught at an early stage, Delinda did not require radiation or chemotherapy. “Early detection through cancer screening is so important,” said Dr. Barrineau. “Younger people are being diagnosed with colon cancer more frequently. Many believe 50 is the age to begin screening, but the American Cancer Society now recommends colonoscopies begin at age 45, or earlier if a person has symptoms or a family history of colon cancer.”

“I tell people all the time, even if you have no symptoms, get screened. By the time you have symptoms, your cancer may have already become advanced,” said Delinda.



McLeod General Surgeon Dr. Devonne Barrineau performs a procedure at McLeod Health Clarendon.

Pathology confirmed that the cancer had been fully removed and had not metastasized. Delinda returned to work six weeks later and remains under close follow-up care, with yearly colonoscopies planned.

Now working as a hospice travel nurse, Delinda sees firsthand what advanced cancer can do to patients and their families. That experience makes her even more grateful that her cancer was caught early.

“Cancer doesn’t discriminate,” she said. “I almost didn’t go. If you are putting off a colonoscopy, don’t. It saved my life. The polyp Dr. Barrineau found was flat, which made it harder to see that it was cancer. If I had waited any longer, the outcome could have been very different,” added Delinda.

Having worked in healthcare at many other hospitals, Delinda recognized the difference in the level of attention and compassion she received. So impressed by her experience with McLeod, she transferred her primary care to McLeod Primary Care Clarendon, a decision she says reflects the trust she now has in the care she received.

With no symptoms, no family history, and every reason to believe she was healthy, Delinda never expected a cancer diagnosis. Now, she openly shares her story with others.



Scott Rudolph and his wife Debbie were overcome with emotions walking back into the Cardiac Catheterization Lab at McLeod Health Seacoast. They were both eager, however, to take a picture with Dr. Bruce Kowalski and Dr. Joseph Marmora and say “Thank you” to the men who helped save Scott’s life.

COOKING UP A COMEBACK

by Ashley Boles

Self-proclaimed “cardio-junkie” Scott Rudolph is always on the go. The 58-year-old husband and father of three grown children owns the local restaurant chain Bar-B-Que House. He took over the business in Oak Island, North Carolina, in 2007 and opened two additional locations, one in North Myrtle Beach in 2009 and one in Surfside Beach in 2010.

When he’s not at one of the restaurants, he’s biking, riding his scooter, or playing basketball, tennis or golf. Hailing from Baltimore, Maryland, Scott learned his entrepreneurial skills from selling lemonade on the Ocean City boardwalk. College brought him to North Carolina, and he called the Greensboro area home for 27 years.

In 2022, Scott and his wife Debbie moved to North Myrtle Beach to live the “semi-retired dream.”

“There is good and bad in everything in life. But I surround myself with good people, and that makes all the difference,” said Scott.

While Scott is typically healthy, he fell ill after returning from a European river cruise in late December 2024. After two rounds of antibiotics, he still wasn’t feeling like himself. Ultimately, he started experiencing chest pain.

“Imagine if you were to lay on the ground and someone put a 15- or 20-pound weight on your chest, and when you stand up, the weight is still there,” said Scott.

The pain continued for months and became so intense in early April that his friend, a practicing physician, advised Scott to get to the ER as soon as possible.

“I had lunch plans that afternoon and thought it would be a quick in-and-out visit in the morning,” said Scott. “Debbie also had an upcoming hip replacement scheduled with Dr. Christopher Walsh, and I wanted to be ready to support her recovery.”

After arriving at the McLeod Seacoast Emergency Department, Scott was quickly triaged and soon met McLeod Health Cardiologist Dr. Bruce Kowalski, who was initially puzzled by Scott’s EKG and blood test results.

“Typically, when a patient comes in with chest pain, we will order an EKG to see if we can diagnose any heart conditions.

“I’m only here by the grace of God and the incredible doctors and nurses at McLeod Health Seacoast. I have my life back, and I couldn’t be more thankful.” - Scott Rudolph

“Scott’s EKG was normal, but his blood work showed an elevated troponin level, which is a protein found in the heart muscle,” said Dr. Kowalski.

An elevated troponin level is concerning because it indicates damage to the heart muscle, with the most common cause being a heart attack.

Dr. Kowalski said the elevated troponin level alone wasn’t enough to send Scott to the Cardiac Catheterization (Cath) Lab, but observing Scott gave him pause.

“When practicing medicine for a long time, you know when people are in pain. Scott was receiving morphine through an IV and still felt uncomfortable, so I talked with our Interventional Cardiologist and my partner, Dr. Joseph Marmora, and we took Scott to the Cath Lab to get a better visualization of any potential blockages. There, we could intervene with a stent if needed,” said Dr. Kowalski.

That decision ultimately saved Scott’s life.

“We found a 100% blockage of the left anterior descending (LAD) artery,” said Dr. Kowalski.

Debbie learned this news from Dr. Kowalski in the same-day surgery waiting area with her and Scott’s eldest son, Noah.

“After they took him back to the Cath Lab, we were told we would hear something in less than 40 minutes. Right at the 40-minute mark, Dr. Kowalski came out and told us about the total blockage, and Noah became very emotional. I’ll never forget Dr. Kowalski looking at him and saying, ‘Son, your dad is going to be okay,’” recalled Debbie.

Scott went home the next day. His first stop after leaving McLeod Health Seacoast was his North Myrtle Beach restaurant to show his staff members he was on the mend. He now has a stent and takes a daily aspirin along with a beta blocker.

“I’m only here by the grace of God and the incredible doctors and nurses at McLeod Health Seacoast. I have my life back, and I couldn’t be more thankful,” added Scott.

World-Class Performance Meets Local Expertise

by Jaime Hayes

CLUB

Home To The Worlds Fastest

Practice • Train • Race

Located in the South Carolina Sandhills region in Chesterfield is ClubMX, a world-renowned, full-service motocross training facility. Spanning more than 200 acres, ClubMX has become an international destination on the motocross training circuit.

Motocross is a high-adrenaline, off-road motorcycle sport that combines speed, skill, endurance and technical precision. Riders compete on dirt tracks featuring sharp turns, jumps, and elevation changes, requiring exceptional balance, physical conditioning and bike control.

The sport demands quick reflexes and strategic decision-making as riders navigate unpredictable terrain at high speeds. Motocross is one of the most physically demanding sports in the world.

Training facilities like ClubMX provide structured programs where athletes refine techniques such as cornering, throttle control, jumping form, and race strategy, helping riders elevate their performance in this intensely competitive discipline.

Brandon Haas, owner and head coach of ClubMX – and an accomplished motocross racer himself – found this jewel of a property a decade ago and immediately noticed a valuable feature: a perfect blend of sand and clay.

“The combination of sand and clay is ideal for motocross,” he said. “It allows us to build and maintain a variety of tracks for different methods of training.

“Finding this combination within the same property is very rare,” Brandon added.

Established in 2010, the facility features eight national-caliber motocross, supercross and arenacross tracks. Its structured program is led by a multidisciplinary staff which includes motocross and supercross specialists, a nutritionist, fitness coaches, a sports psychologist and a sports medicine physician.

As a private, members-only facility, ClubMX has capacity for 30 full-time members, both amateur and professional, who often live onsite.

Motocross, now a recognized professional sport, has soared in popularity across the world. At any time, ClubMX’s onsite members represent countries like Spain and France, who come to the facility to train. While some travel alone, others have their families with them and live in one of ClubMX’s housing units.

Members have a structured daily schedule, which includes several hours of on-the-bike training, strength training and conditioning, nutrition and mental skills coaching. “Motocross is more than riding the bike,” said Brandon. “It’s both physically and mentally demanding. At ClubMX, we make sure our riders are fully prepared all around.”

ClubMX also offers its members outdoor amenities like fishing and swimming, a cafeteria, chapel and a full-service pro shop with mechanics.

McLeod Health Cheraw recognized the value of ClubMX to Chesterfield County and the influx of people it brings on a continuous basis. In turn, ClubMX saw the value of having the services of McLeod Health Cheraw just miles away. The two entities formed a partnership, making McLeod Health the preferred healthcare provider for ClubMX members and their families.

“This partnership just made sense,” said Bren Lowe, CEO of McLeod Health Cheraw. “At any given time, ClubMX has 30 or more individuals on the property, and McLeod Health Cheraw is prepared to provide them with excellent medical care if and when they need it.”

Overlooking the property’s main track is its new performance center which will display the McLeod Health name, featuring areas for strength and cardio training, a sauna and a hyperbaric chamber – a useful amenity that is designed to boost healing as well as reduce tissue damage and inflammation using 100 percent pure oxygen. The clubhouse will also accommodate treatment areas for the nutrition and healthcare providers onsite. ClubMX continues to elevate motocross training that is world class in its performance and recognition.

McLeod Health Cheraw

McLeod Health recently commenced construction on a new state-of-the-art expansion to the hospital, designed to enhance the delivery of high-quality health care in Chesterfield and Marlboro Counties. The expansion will be constructed on the current McLeod Health Cheraw property and replace the current building, which was built in 1980, and will grow around the existing Emergency Department, which opened in 2018, and the Intensive Care Unit that opened in 2021.

With a strong history in the Chesterfield community since 1958, McLeod Health Cheraw, formerly Chesterfield General Hospital, serves residents of Chesterfield and Marlboro Counties with excellence in patient care. As part of McLeod Health, patients receive access to specialized services, improved technology, an outstanding physician network and enhanced facilities. Services available at McLeod Health Cheraw include Cardiac Care, Diagnostic Imaging (including 3D mammography), Laboratory, Surgery, Orthopedics, Rehabilitation, Hospice and Home Health.

McLeod Health Cheraw recently commenced construction on a new state-of-the-art expansion, as shown in this rendering.

McLeod Cancer Centers Welcome New Providers



Dr. Ritwick Panicker



Dr. Hannah Worix



Dr. Adam Wolfe

McLeod Health offers residents from the Midlands to the Coast expanded access to preventive medicine, individualized cancer treatment as well as state-of-the-art technology at the McLeod Centers for Cancer Treatment and Research in Florence and Little River, South Carolina.

Physicians specializing in medical oncology, radiation oncology, surgery, pathology and radiology collaborate each day in recommending treatment plans for patients facing cancer.

Driven by a commitment to make this specialized care more widely available for patients, McLeod announces the addition of Oncologist **Dr. Ritwick Panicker**, Breast Surgeon **Dr. Hannah Worix**, and Radiation Oncologist **Dr. Adam Wolfe**. These three cancer specialists care for patients at the McLeod Cancer Center on the campus of McLeod Health Seacoast.

Dr. Panicker joins **Dr. Donny Huynh**, **Dr. Kerolos Rizk**, and **Melissa Bradley, NP**, in caring for the medical oncology needs of patients. A native of India, he comes to McLeod with 24 years of clinic practice in cancer care.

Board Certified in Medical Oncology and Hematology, Dr. Panicker most recently served as a Senior Medical Director in Oncology for Evolent Health. Dr. Panicker joined the well-established team of McLeod Oncology and Hematology Associates at Seacoast in the newly opened McLeod Center for Cancer Treatment and Research in July 2025.

Dr. Worix comes to McLeod from Duke University's Department of Surgery. She completed her residency at Carilion Clinic in Roanoke, Virginia, and a Breast Surgery Oncology fellowship at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. Dr. Worix is from Pembroke, North Carolina, and is

excited to join a well-established hospital system that continues to grow and provide care for patients in Horry County and beyond.

"Breast surgeons are not just treatment physicians; we also provide prevention and survivorship. McLeod is a great system, and I'm pleased to be supported by the team already in place here," said Dr. Worix.

Dr. Wolfe is Board Certified in Radiation Oncology. He comes to McLeod Health from the University of Arkansas, where he served as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology. He earned his medical degree from the University of Texas at Houston and his PhD from MD Anderson Cancer Center, also in Houston.

"Every patient and every case is unique, and radiation oncology has advanced dramatically over the past few decades, allowing us to deliver more precise, effective, and personalized treatments," added Dr. Wolfe.

Five Leading Cancer Sites

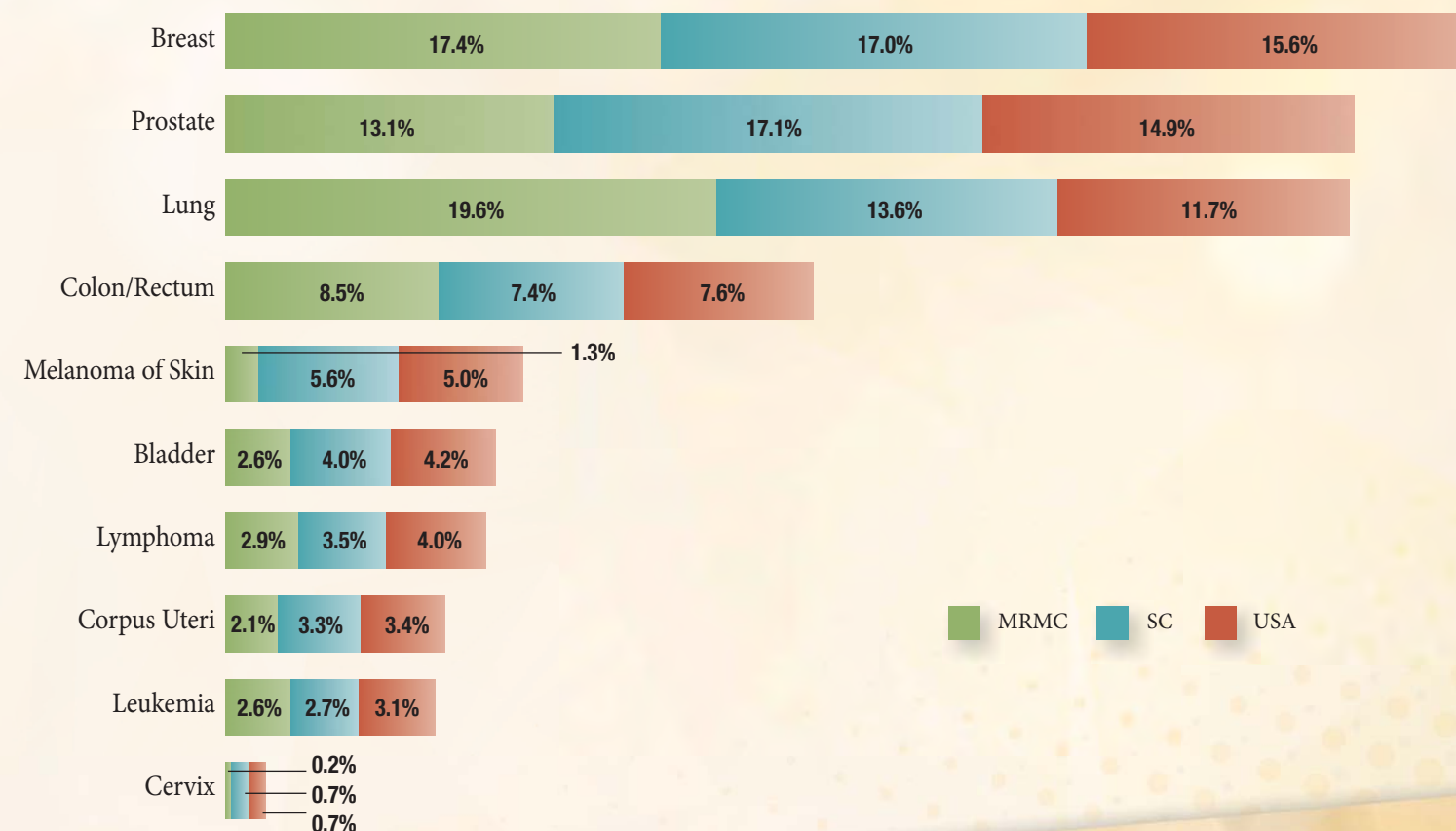
Diagnosed at McLeod in 2024	Cases
Bronchus & Lung	382
Breast	338
Prostate	255
Colon	113
Blood & Bone Marrow	99

Total Cases: 1187 (65.2%)



10 Most Prevalent Cancer Sites

Source: America Cancer Society "Cancer Facts and Figures 2024"



One Phone Call Changed Everything

by Tracie Foster

Back on the job, Matthew Savage has returned to the work he loves following a timely diagnosis and treatment.

The morning of August 6, 2025, started like any other day for 39-year-old Matthew Savage. A lineman with Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc., based out of Conway, South Carolina, Matthew dressed, checked on his two children who were still out of school for summer break, and prepared for what he expected to be a normal workday.

By mid-morning, Matthew was already busy with his crew working in the North Myrtle Beach area. Around lunchtime, they stopped at a local restaurant and while sitting at the table, Matthew began feeling a dull pain in his upper back.

"About 30 minutes into lunch, the pain progressively got worse," he recalled.

"It began to radiate down my arm and into my chest. I could take a deep breath, but it hurt every time I did. That's when I knew something wasn't right."

Having a history of heart disease on both sides of his family, Matthew's concern grew as the pain intensified. "With my family history, my first thought was something could be going on with my heart," he said.

After lunch, Matthew rode back toward Conway with a coworker. As they drove, the pain rapidly escalated.

"I kept repositioning in my seat to alleviate the pain, but nothing worked," he explained.

That's when Matthew picked up the phone and called Tiffany McCaskill, McLeod Nurse Practitioner at Horry Electric Cooperative's Employee Health Center. "I asked if she was in the office and told her I was in pain and needed her to check me out," Matthew said.

When Matthew arrived at the employee health center, Tiffany immediately began assessing his symptoms. He described having pain behind his right shoulder blade that worsened with deep breaths, along with chest discomfort. Tiffany placed Matthew on telemetry, equipment used to continuously track a person's heart rate and rhythm, and performed an electrocardiogram, or EKG, to rule out cardiac concerns.

"I had seen Matthew for the occasional sick visit, so when he called requesting to come in, I knew something was wrong," said Tiffany. "When he arrived and started to explain the way his pain worsened with deep breaths, coupled with his overall distress, it raised red flags. Even though the initial tests did not point to a heart attack, I knew something wasn't right and that he needed further evaluation immediately."

After reviewing the results and observing Matthew's condition, Tiffany directed that he be immediately transported to the McLeod Health Carolina Forest Emergency Department.

After several tests were performed, Matthew received news that would change his life forever.

"When the doctor came in to tell me what they had found, I was shocked," remembers Matthew. "The doctor explained that I had a pulmonary embolism in my right lung."

A pulmonary embolism is a serious and potentially life-threatening medical condition where a blood clot blocks an artery in the lung. This blockage stops the blood flow, preventing oxygen from reaching part of the lung, causing shortness of breath, chest pain and a rapid heart rate.

"They immediately started me on blood thinners through my IV," Matthew explained. "After monitoring me for several hours, I was discharged with instructions to rest and to follow up with my primary care provider."

Looking back, Matthew says the convenience of having an onsite employee health center played a crucial role in how quickly he received care.

"If it hadn't been that easy to just call Tiffany and walk in, I probably wouldn't have seen anyone that day, and I don't know what would have happened."

For Matthew, the Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc. Employee Health Center offers another important benefit, care for his family.

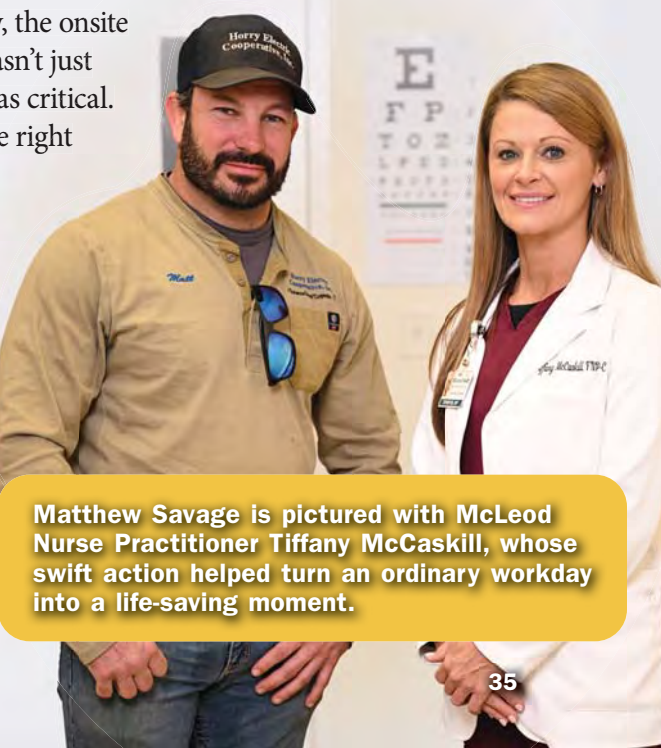
McLeod Onsite Health partners with local businesses and industries, like Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc., to help keep their workforce healthy, safe and productive. McLeod Onsite Health provides onsite health centers for 15 industries in Florence, Chesterfield, Dillon, Horry, and Williamsburg Counties. These centers offer a wide range of services including work-related injury care, Department of Transportation (DOT) physicals, drug and alcohol screenings, pre-employment exams, same-day sick visits, chronic condition management, wellness screenings and care coordination with primary care providers or specialists when needed.

Understanding from an employer and employee point of view that time away from work is lost productivity and wages, employees in these industries have immediate access to an onsite provider without ever having to leave their workplace. In addition to providing care to their employees, some industries extend these services to the employee's family members as well as retirees.

When his children are sick, he can quickly schedule an appointment to get them the care they need. "With two children and everything else going on in life, it's hard to fit in appointments," Matthew said. "Having the care center right here on campus just makes everything easier."

Today, Matthew is back to his normal routine, working full time, exercising regularly and spending time with his children. He is grateful for the quick action and easy access to care that helped turn an ordinary workday into a life-saving moment. What began as a dull ache became a powerful reminder that listening to your body, and having trusted healthcare close by, can make all the difference.

For Matthew, the onsite health center wasn't just convenient, it was critical. By providing the right care at the right time, the onsite health center made it possible for Matthew to get back to his health, his family and the work he loves.



Matthew Savage is pictured with McLeod Nurse Practitioner Tiffany McCaskill, whose swift action helped turn an ordinary workday into a life-saving moment.



SMARTER SYSTEMS, MORE HUMAN CARE: MCLEOD'S APPROACH TO AI IN PATIENT-CENTERED CARE

by Dr. Bryon Frost,
Chief Medical Informatics Officer for McLeod Health

Artificial intelligence (AI) has rapidly become one of the most transformative forces of our time. From manufacturing and transportation to education, finance and medicine, AI is reshaping the way we live and work. In health care, this technology is offering new and powerful ways to improve outcomes, reduce burdens on clinicians and enhance patient experience.

At McLeod Health, we are embracing AI innovation not as a replacement for the human touch in medicine, but as a tool that strengthens it. These technologies help our physicians and nurses work more efficiently, spend more quality time with patients and make better-informed clinical decisions.

Across the nation, health systems are incorporating AI to tackle some of the field's most complex challenges, ranging from clinical decision support and diagnostic accuracy to workflow efficiency. By analyzing vast amounts of data quickly and reliably, AI can

uncover patterns that help identify disease earlier, alert clinicians to risks in real time, and guide treatment choices that improve patient safety and outcomes.

At McLeod Health, we have built on this national momentum with a structured, clinically driven approach to AI adoption. Our focus is on tools that directly improve the daily lives of our clinical staff and the quality of care we provide for our communities. We are pleased to lead the way in using AI to improve patient care while making daily work better for our care teams.

In my own practice working as an emergency physician, I experience the benefits of AI at the bedside every shift. The emergency department is fast-paced and unpredictable, where accurate information and quick decisions can change outcomes. AI-powered tools help bring the right data forward at the right time, reducing noise and highlighting what truly matters for patient care.

By cutting down on documentation and administrative tasks, these technologies give me more time to focus on patient care. Seeing this impact firsthand confirms that AI is not just a concept; it is already improving care in real and meaningful ways.

One of our successes this past year at McLeod has been our use of a generative AI technology known as ambient clinical documentation. This tool securely listens to a patient's visit and assists the physician or advanced practitioner to create the medical note automatically that includes the details and conditions discussed. The provider then reviews the information, makes any changes needed and submits it to the medical record just as if it had been entered manually.

Currently, about 250 of our McLeod providers use this technology in their outpatient practices to document patient encounters efficiently and accurately.

The impact of this AI technology has been significant, and providers report faster note completion and less time spent charting after hours or on weekends. Doctors now spend more time listening to patients instead of typing during visits.

As a result, providers have been able to spend more time with each patient during their visits and report being able to see more patients each day, which helps improve access to care. We have seen notable improvements in patient experience scores for these providers, reflecting the positive influence of more engaged, less burdened clinicians.

AI is also driving improvements in clinical safety and decision-making. Within our electronic medical record (EMR) system, McLeod Health has implemented several advanced machine learning models called cognitive computing models. One such model is our sepsis model, which continuously evaluates patient data to help identify sepsis early. These predictive tools allow our teams to initiate treatment for septic patients sooner, improving outcomes and saving lives.

In radiology, we are using imaging-based machine learning tools, which support radiologists by quickly analyzing CT and MRI studies for signs of critical conditions such as stroke or hemorrhage. By highlighting potential areas of concern in real time, these tools help radiologists prioritize urgent findings and accelerate diagnosis, especially in emergency settings where every minute matters.

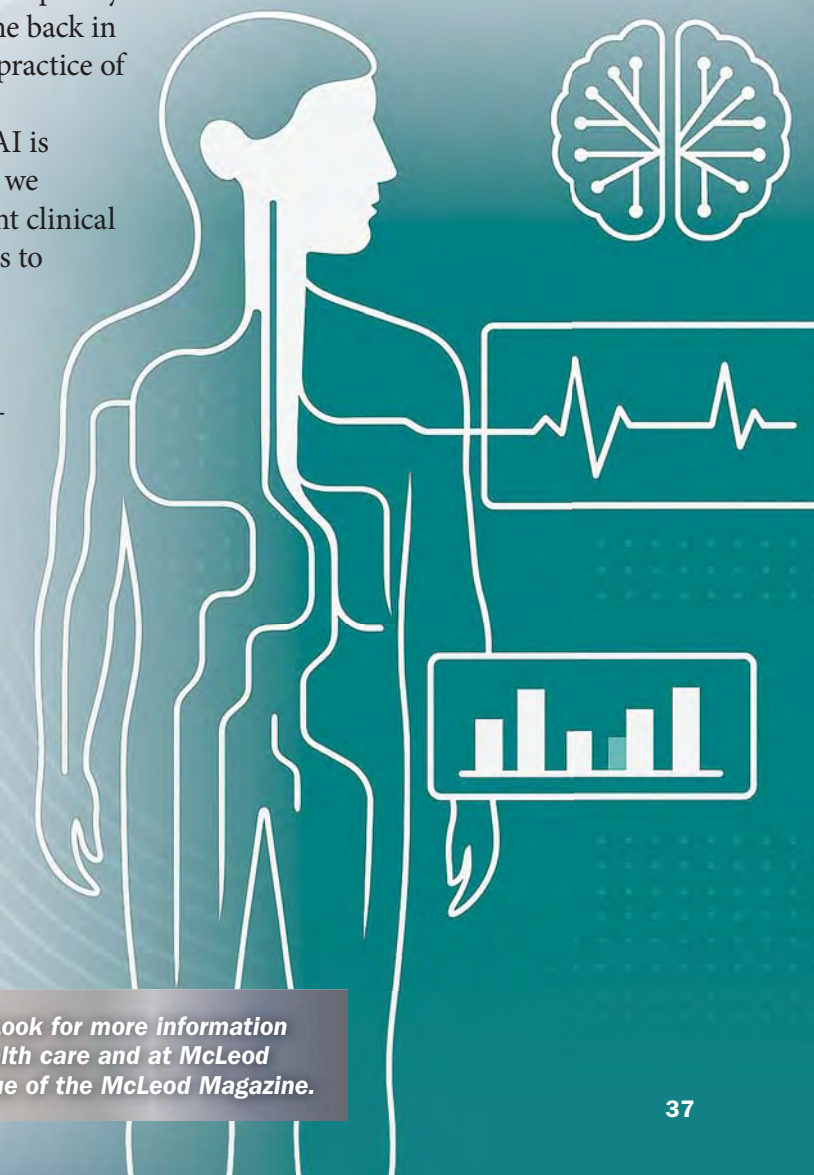
AI is also helping our physicians manage the daily demands of modern medicine. At McLeod, we have adopted our EMR's AI-generated Chart Summary to give clinicians a smarter, more concise view of patient

records, allowing faster information retrieval and safer decision-making. Physicians are also using new AI tools like OpenEvidence and UpToDate® Expert AI to improve decision-making at the point of care. These programs use trusted medical research and the latest peer reviewed medical journals to give doctors accurate, evidence-based information in real time.

By grounding their answers in proven data, these AI tools reduce the risk of "hallucinations," or wrong answers that can sometimes happen with other AI systems. These types of AI decision support tools help doctors make faster, safer and more confident choices about diagnosis and treatment. These tools illustrate how AI can simplify complexity and give clinicians time back in their day to enjoy the practice of medicine.

Our journey with AI is only beginning. Soon, we plan to expand ambient clinical intelligence capabilities to inpatient providers, bringing the same documentation efficiencies to hospital-based care teams. We are also preparing to implement ambient nursing documentation, which will help nurses automatically capture documentation as they deliver care, further reducing administrative burden and enabling more direct patient interaction.

Each step in this journey moves us closer to a health system where clinicians can focus fully on the human aspects of care, supported by intelligent technology, working quietly in the background. At its core, medicine is still about people caring for people. AI will never replace the compassion, judgment and intuition of skilled healthcare professionals. What it can do is strengthen those qualities by giving us better data, more efficient workflows and more time to build meaningful patient relationships. At McLeod Health, we are committed to standing at the intersection of innovation and compassionate care as we shape the future of medicine for the communities we serve.



Editor's Note: Look for more information about AI in health care and at McLeod in the next issue of the McLeod Magazine.

The McLeod Seacoast Patient Tower reflects the promise made to the surrounding communities of improving healthcare for area residents.



The landscape of Little River, South Carolina, looks remarkably different than in years past. Much of this change is the result of McLeod Health Seacoast's transformation from a modest outpatient center into a vital healthcare hub serving the rapidly expanding North Myrtle Beach community.

With a vision of offering top-tier care close to home, McLeod Health Seacoast has become a critical part of the region's healthcare infrastructure, offering services that are both cutting-edge and patient-centered.

The progress of McLeod Health Seacoast has been marked by strategic expansions that address both the growing demand for healthcare and the changing landscape of medical technology. A key example is the addition of a new patient tower, which increased the total licensed beds to 155.

As the population of North Myrtle Beach and surrounding areas continues to grow, so does the need for specialized services.

This increase in bed capacity ensures that McLeod Health Seacoast can continue to provide high-quality care as the demand for healthcare services intensifies.

As the population of North Myrtle Beach and surrounding areas continues to grow, so does the need for specialized services – particularly in cardiology. McLeod Health Seacoast rose to the challenge of meeting the need with the addition of diagnostic cardiac catheterization and electrophysiology labs in 2019.

These labs have allowed the hospital to expand its heart care offerings, ensuring access to essential treatments like heart catheterizations and electrophysiology studies close to home.

The addition of these labs set the stage for an even more significant development in 2023 when McLeod Health Seacoast introduced percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI).

This procedure allows the hospital to treat patients with

coronary artery disease by using a catheter to clear blocked or narrowed arteries, offering both emergent and elective treatment options that can help prevent heart attacks and improve long-term cardiovascular health.

Today, McLeod Health Seacoast offers some of the most advanced surgical technologies available. The hospital has embraced robotic surgery for minimally invasive procedures in urology, general surgery, and gynecology, as well as knee and hip replacement surgeries, offering faster recovery times and better outcomes.

These innovations not only enhance the surgical experience for patients but also reflect the McLeod Health Seacoast commitment to providing the latest in medical care.

For bone and joint health, McLeod Health Seacoast offers a full spectrum of orthopedic services, from joint replacements to sports medicine and spine care.

Continued on next page

McLeod Health Seacoast Continues to Grow for the Community

by Jennifer Hulon



The McLeod Center for Cancer Treatment and Research, a department of McLeod Regional Medical Center, is the first and only comprehensive cancer center in Horry County.



Dr. Joseph Marmora performs a procedure in the McLeod Seacoast Cath Lab.

McLeod Seacoast Physical Therapists Kevin Bullard and Jessica Jackson work together with the Inpatient and Outpatient Rehabilitation teams to guide patients through therapy while monitoring progress and mobility.

McLeod Health Welcomes New Physicians

McLeod Health is committed to ensuring the patients we serve have access to extraordinary physicians to meet the ever-growing needs of our communities. New physicians join our medical staff year after year, bringing diverse expertise and advanced training that strengthen our ability to deliver exceptional care. Please join us in welcoming these highly skilled providers to our team, dedicated to improving lives and advancing the vision and mission of quality care for all.

With comprehensive care for all extremities, McLeod Health Seacoast helps patients stay active and mobile.

McLeod Health Seacoast provides specialized rehabilitation services including cardiac, pulmonary, physical, occupational, and speech therapy. Each program is carefully tailored to meet the unique needs of every patient, supporting recovery from illness or injury, improving mobility and communication, and helping patients regain independence, contributing to improved health outcomes and quality of life.

For many people in their 50s and 60s, health concerns often are problems they believe can be postponed.

McLeod Health Seacoast seeks to change this mindset by offering preventative care aimed at identifying serious health issues early when treatment is most effective.

Women in this age group are also provided with advanced breast health services such as mammography, breast MRI and Whole Breast Ultrasound for dense breast tissue – vital tools for early cancer detection.

Similarly, for those with a smoking history, low-dose CT scans to screen for lung cancer are available, helping to detect the disease at earlier and more treatable stages.

The McLeod Center for Cancer Treatment and Research, a department of McLeod Regional Medical Center, opened on the campus of McLeod Health Seacoast in 2025.

As the only comprehensive cancer center in Horry County, this facility provides advanced treatments, including medical oncology, infusion services, radiation oncology, and breast surgery, all under one roof.

Despite the many excellent changes throughout McLeod Health Seacoast, the priority remains constant: delivering the care patients expect and deserve.

Whether it is expanding surgical services, enhancing cardiac care, or continuing to invest in advanced medical technology, the hospital is dedicated to meeting the healthcare needs of the community – both now and in the future.

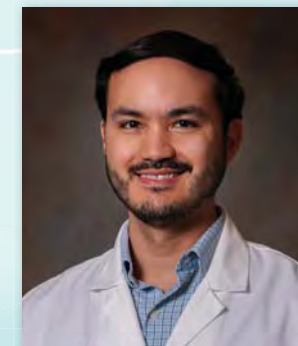
McLeod Health Seacoast has more than 300 providers on the

medical staff caring for patients as well as nearly 400 compassionate and attentive volunteers.

McLeod Health Seacoast provides more than basic care, which is what truly sets it apart. With its comprehensive service offerings, cutting-edge technology, and a deep commitment to the local community, McLeod Health Seacoast is more than just a place to receive treatment, it's a symbol of progress, innovation, and hope for the North Myrtle Beach area, promising that high-quality healthcare is always just around the corner.



Scan this QR code to learn more about the services available at McLeod Health Seacoast.



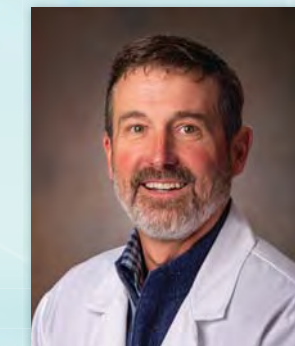
Jeremy Agostinho, MD
Infectious Disease
McLeod Infectious Disease Associates



John Beasley, MD
Urology
McLeod Urology Associates Florence



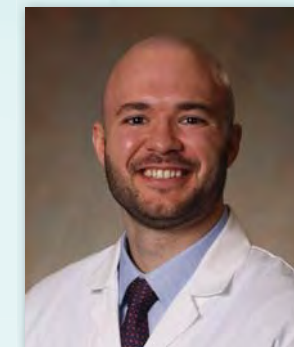
Stephanie Chaney, DO
Family Medicine/Primary Care
McLeod Primary Care Cheraw



Mitch Grunsky, MD
Family Medicine/Primary Care
McLeod Primary Care Clarendon



Benson Lukose, MD
Family Medicine/Primary Care
Southern Medical Associates



Matthew Rusek, MD
Pediatrics
McLeod Pediatric Associates



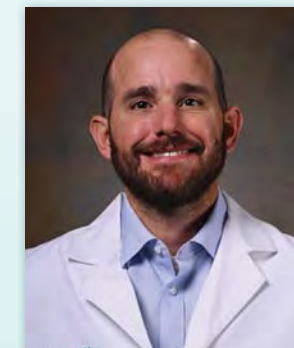
Mark Vadney, DO
Anesthesiology
McLeod Regional Medical Center



Morris Washington, MD
Gastroenterology
McLeod Digestive Health Center Seacoast



Paul Weatherby, MD
Foot and Ankle Surgery
McLeod Orthopaedics



Adam Wolfe, MD
Radiation Oncology
McLeod Cancer Centers



Hannah Worix, MD
Breast Surgery
McLeod Breast Surgery Seacoast



Scan this QR code to learn more about each physician.

New Physicians as of October 1, 2025 - January 31, 2026

McLeod News

Poynor School of Healthcare Innovation Hosts Ribbon Cutting and Open House



Pictured from left to right: Florence 1 Board Members Barry Townsend, Davy Gregg, Bryan Chapman and Trisha Caulder; State Superintendent of Education Ellen Weaver; McLeod Health President and CEO Donna Isgett; Superintendent of Florence 1 Schools Dr. Richard O'Malley; Florence 1 Board Chairman S. Porter Stewart; Florence 1 Board Members EJ McIver, Kimrey-Ann Haughn, Carla Eaddy, and Dr. Gloria Bracey; Florence Mayor Lethonia Barnes; City Councilmen Chipper Smith and George Jebaily; and SC House Representative Member Terry Alexander.

A Ribbon Cutting and Open House for the Poynor School of Healthcare Innovation was held on December 11. The new School of Innovation, a partnership with McLeod Health, is designed for high school juniors and seniors interested in pursuing healthcare careers.

Located in the newly reopened historic Poynor Building in downtown Florence, the program will provide students with hands-on healthcare education and training that prepares them for immediate career opportunities after graduation or continued study in college-level healthcare programs.

“McLeod Health and Florence 1 Schools teamed up to create a pathway for students who have an interest in careers in the medical field,” said Charity Gerald, Associate Vice President of Talent Strategy for McLeod Health. “This initiative is a result of a number of great minds coming together to formulate a strategic plan on how we want to see healthcare careers grow in the future not only for McLeod, but other entities as well.”

McLeod medical professionals will support curriculum development to ensure students gain practical, real-world skills that meet the workforce needs of the healthcare industry.

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