

PRACTICE BROCHURE



SKIN **CANCER**
C E N T R E
MOHS MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY

Richard J. DeAngelis, MD

April S. Ross, PA-C

Ashlyn Platts, PA-C

Ryan Grove, RTT



We at the SKIN CANCER CENTRE will

- Care for you with the kindness, compassion, and respect you deserve.
- Utilize the most advanced diagnostic tools and treatment methods available.
- Employ sound judgment based upon proven scientific research.
- Apply the expertise of over thirty years of practice.
- Perform surgery only when necessary.

How We're Different

Our entire practice is devoted exclusively to skin cancer. We offer the most comprehensive approach to the prevention, detection, and treatment of skin cancer. We also utilize the most technologically advanced diagnostic tools to aid in early diagnosis, as well as the most sophisticated methods of treatment. Our philosophy is to expect nothing less than outstanding outcomes and unsurpassed cure rates. In our family-friendly environment, we strive to alleviate your anxiety, allay your fears, and dispel the many myths surrounding skin cancer and its treatment.

Concern for Your Comfort

When treatment is required for the removal of pre-cancers or skin cancers, even if located in the most delicate of areas, we carefully and skillfully do only what is necessary, as comfortably as possible, with the least amount of pain. In many instances, even when treating pre-cancerous actinic keratoses with a common treatment like liquid nitrogen, we often numb the site prior to the application of this otherwise painful procedural application. This is especially helpful when applying this extremely cold substance to one's forehead or scalp, where nerve endings are particularly sensitive.

An Uncommon Understanding of Skin Cancer

The team of providers at the Skin Cancer Centre have treated countless skin cancers and pre-cancers since 1991. This extensive experience has allowed their practitioners to amass the knowledge, insight, and judgment necessary to thoroughly appreciate the innumerable subtleties of skin cancers of all types. The Skin Cancer Center remains at the forefront in early detection of pre-cancers and skin cancers by utilizing a Dermatoscope as an advanced diagnostic aid. This enables one to better visualize and therefore determine which areas of concern may respond to conservative topical therapy versus a more aggressive treatment. Their providers regularly treat high-risk skin cancer patients and are very comfortable addressing problems that few dermatologists would be as confident to treat.

A Collaborative Effort

The focused service we provide at the SKIN CANCER CENTRE not only requires a highly specialized physician, but also a fine-tuned staff that is thorough yet gentle, capable and caring. We are very proud of our well-trained and experienced staff. They are most helpful and strive to be attentive to your every need.

Whether you need a blanket if you're cold or reassurance if you're anxious, they know how to care for you, and they do it with genuineness and grace, and at times, humor and charm.

Respect for Your Time

Please understand that some patients travel from long distances to be treated and require surgery on the same day as their initial visit without the possibility of a prior consultation. On some occasions, their cancer may be more involved than we or the referring physician had anticipated. This rarely forces us to make last minute changes to our schedule, but there are times we may run up to one hour late. We do everything in our power to minimize these occurrences, and appreciate your understanding if this should happen to occur on a day when you are on our schedule to be seen or treated. We greatly respect your time and do our best to see you as promptly as possible with the necessary attention that you also deserve.

A Policy of Providing Value

We try our best to keep your out-of-pocket cost to a minimum. We accept Medicare assignment and most types of health insurance. We are conscientious not only regarding the procedures we perform each day, but also in how our costs will impact your uniquely personal and financial situation. Since we focus our practice in such a specialized way, we have learned over the years how to avoid as many costly complications as possible while still achieving unsurpassed cure rates. In other words, we do everything we can to get your treatment or surgery right the first time, and we know how often we need to see you for future follow-up visits based on your unique risk of developing pre-cancers or skin cancers. Some of you may have been referred by another very capable doctor, who will likely follow up after your surgery with us. We are not only honored to have so many private patients but are always honored by those physicians whose confidence allows us to participate in the care of their patients.

What a Patient Should Expect

- Attention to detail and a willingness to provide a total body examination.
- A total body exam at least once a year for high-risk patients who have a personal or family history of melanoma.
- The use of typical visual aids, such as lighting and magnification devices.
- The use of technologically advanced visual aids, such as digital photography (to follow spots of concern over time) and Dermoscopy (see details in section on Dermoscopy).

What a Patient Needs to Know

A well-trained skin cancer provider who is conducting a skin cancer screening does not always follow a patient's list of concerns in the order in which the patient presents them. This is not to say that your spots of concern should not or will not be examined. Oftentimes, the provider has a systematic methodology that is followed in order to ensure that all areas of your body are inspected for skin problems. By doing so, the provider focuses on the spots or lesions that are of most potential concern for cancer.

However, if you want to ensure that you don't forget to ask the provider about your particular concerns, feel free to draw a circle around specific spots to ensure that they are seen. This will serve as a reminder to you and as an area of focus for your provider.

It is best to remove make up from your face prior to the examination so that nothing is hidden. You may choose to bring make up with you to put back on prior to leaving the office and returning to your daily routine.

Some providers and or staff members may be very sensitive to fragrances or perfumes so please refrain from such if possible, on your visit.

*“Wherever the art of medicine is loved,
there is also a love of Humanity”*

- Hippocrates

Philosophy and Principles of Practice

- A doctor who is too conservative and fails to get to the root of the problem or is so afraid of missing something that a more conservative method of treatment is rarely used, may not be serving your best interests. I would like to believe that most doctors strive to keep the patient's best interest at the forefront of their practice. However, in our increasingly litigious society, there may be times when some doctors feel pressure to do extra tests or procedures in order to avoid missing something of potential importance. This practice of defensive medicine only contributes to the problem of rising healthcare costs.
- Increasing governmental regulation takes a toll on treatment. The alarming trend toward greater regulation typically equates to a continued increase in cost and practice overhead. At the same time, the reimbursement rates for most medical services are slowly going down. With each passing year, it seems that a physician generally has to do more in less time, simply to keep up and to maintain an acceptable balance in the income/overhead ratio.
- The best doctors must weigh in the balance many factors with regard to the treatment of their patients. With the demands for specialists in small communities, the demands of insurance companies, and the sheer time involved in maintaining a practice, this balance is sometimes difficult to achieve. We must continually monitor ourselves in light of our expertise and limitations. Above all, we must remember the Hippocratic Oath: to first and foremost, do no harm.

Dermoscopy and the Early Detection of Skin Cancer

A Dermatoscope is a handheld device that aids significantly in the early detection of skin cancer. Not only does it magnify the objects in view by ten, but the special optics and LED lights also allow the examiner to see through the surface layers of the skin into the upper layers of the dermis. It is within these layers of the skin where abnormalities can be appreciated that are unable to be seen with the unaided eye or even with a typical magnifying glass.

Dermoscopy or Epiluminescent Microscopy (ELM) has been more widely used as a diagnostic tool in European countries and is gradually becoming more popular in the United States as well. Increasingly more scientific studies have proven its efficacy when used by a trained provider. In addition to aiding in the more accurate delineation of both benign and malignant growths, ELM also enables one to detect malignancies in earlier stages. In other words, a provider trained in the use of ELM can more clearly distinguish those things that are without a doubt benign, for which no biopsy is needed, from those things that are clearly malignant, for which treatment is necessary.

The vast majority of melanomas detected in our office with the aid of this device are in a very superficial stage and therefore less likely to be as potentially dangerous. As far as the more common types of skin cancers, known as basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas, ELM often allows us to detect these at a stage where they may even be difficult to see with the naked eye. Therefore, the necessary treatment for such early common skin cancers may be less extensive, requiring a less intrusive procedure for such patients. In our practice, the Dermatoscope is an invaluable tool that we could not confidently practice without.



What is Mohs Micrographic Surgery?

Mohs Micrographic Surgery is a precise and highly specialized method used to surgically remove skin cancer. The cancerous tissue is excised under local anesthesia and then immediately examined under microscopic vision. This proven method of skin cancer removal offers the greatest possible chance of a complete cure while preserving as much normal skin as possible.

Mohs Surgery: Why it's Unique

There are several common methods currently used to examine cancerous tissue when removed from a patient and sent to a pathologist for margin evaluation. Bread loaf sectioning, cross sectioning, and peripheral sectioning involve the evaluation of vertical sectioned samples from the tissue submitted to a lab for processing. While these methods are commonly used, they only allow a physician to examine a very small percentage of the margins of most concern. In contrast, the Mohs technique allows for the skin cancer tissue to be processed in such a way that horizontal sections are obtained, which allows for the microscopic evaluation of the entire base of the removed tissue as well as the entire outside peripheral margin. Therefore, the most vital information required to determine whether all the cancer has truly been eliminated is obtained by this exacting technique—Mohs Micrographic Surgery.

Mohs Surgery - The Advantages

The goals in treating skin cancer are as follows:

- To offer a patient the highest chance of cure.
- To conserve as much healthy tissue as possible.
- To minimize dysfunction or distortion.
- To achieve the best cosmetic result.

Mohs Micrographic Surgery can achieve these goals unlike any other available method, which is why it has become the gold standard for the removal of many of the most common types of skin cancers.

Mohs Micrographic Surgery is usually most beneficial and cost effective when used to treat skin cancers that have developed on delicate locations of one's face and for skin cancers that have not responded to the more common methods of removal. The most common skin cancers that are treated in this manner are basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas.

When skin cancers are discovered in locations close to one's eyes, ears, lips, or nose, the Mohs technique allows a physician to conserve as much normal skin as possible, while also ensuring that the cancer is completely removed. More than any other technique used today, Mohs Micrographic Surgery helps minimize unnecessary distortion or dysfunction, which is of utmost importance in achieving the best cosmetic result.

In summary the Mohs removal method is superior to other methods in that the skin cancer that is removed is evaluated under microscopic vision immediately on site. The patient need not agonize while waiting days for the lab results, and in many instances, the wound resulting from the removal can be fixed the same day since the Mohs surgeon is confident that the cancer has been completely removed and thoroughly evaluated.

“Mohs micrographic surgery is considered the most effective technique for treating many basal cell carcinomas (BCCs) and squamous cell carcinomas (SCCs), the two most common types of skin cancer.”

- Skin Cancer Foundation

Skin Cancer Centre Laboratory



The Skin Cancer Centre's laboratory is an essential part of our practice. It allows us to process tissue in-house to deliver real-time diagnoses for our Mohs cases.

Thanks to our experienced and extremely efficient histotechnician, we are able to create slides from your tissue sample enabling microscopic evaluation almost immediately. This ensures that we conserve as much of your healthy tissue as possible while also giving our team the greatest chance of removing all of the cancer.



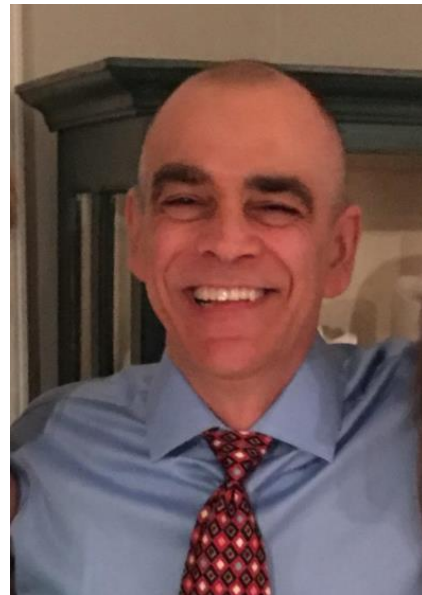
Skin Cancer Centre's Team of Providers

Richard J. DeAngelis, M.D.

Dr. Richard J. DeAngelis, the second born of five boys, was raised in Morgantown, West Virginia and after completing his training, moved to Anderson, SC with his wife and growing family in 1991 to begin his practice.

Dr. DeAngelis is a Diplomate of the American Board of Dermatology and also holds a subspecialty certification in Micrographic Dermatologic Surgery as a Founding Member of the American Board of Medical Specialties in Mohs Micrographic Surgery.

Dr. DeAngelis deems it an honor and a privilege to have befriended and learned from so many patients since he began his private practice in 1991. He will remain forever indebted to them for the many ways that they have contributed to his life, both personally and professionally.



However, after over 30 years of practice, Dr. DeAngelis is beginning his transition toward eventual retirement planned for June of 2024. The practice is embarking upon the search for his uniquely qualified successor who will serve as the primary Mohs Micrographic Surgeon for the Skin Cancer Centre commencing in July of 2023.

April Ross, PA-C

April Ross, PA-C, joined the staff of the Skin Cancer Centre in November 2011 and has been a vital asset since this time. April earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Pre-Medicine with a Major in Biology and Minor in Chemistry from Southern Wesleyan University. She then completed her master's degree in Medicine from Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, Tennessee and has been a certified Physician Assistant since 2005. While in graduate school, April was PA student of the year for the state of Tennessee.



April practiced in Family Medicine for 7 years in Seneca, SC prior to joining the Skin Cancer Centre. During this time, she was responsible for treating a broad range of disease processes encountered in a typical family practice. However, she devoted most of her time to screening and treating the dermatological conditions of many of her patients in the multi-specialty practice. Joining the professional team of the Skin Cancer Centre was a realization of April's dream to further specialize, and to become an expert in the management of patients predisposed to the development of pre-cancers and cancers of the skin.

April is married and has two beautiful children, a son Samuel and daughter, Baker. She enjoys spending time with her family and working on their family farm.

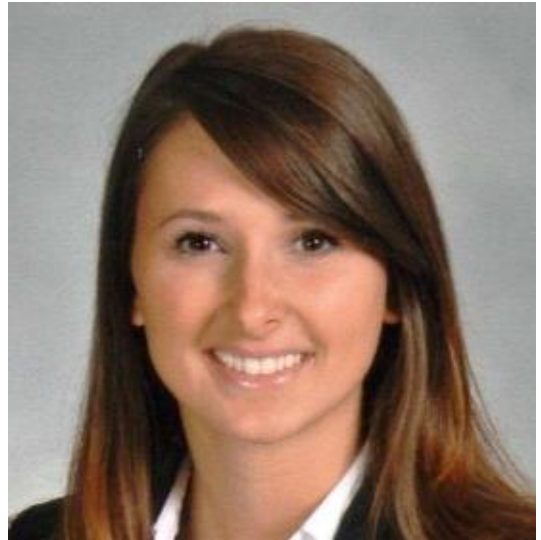


Ashlyn Platts, PA-C

Ashlyn Platts, PA-C, joined the staff of the Skin Cancer Centre in May of 2016. Ashlyn graduated from the University of South Carolina in Aiken in 2007, and then obtained her Master of Science in Medicine-- Physician Assistant from the Medical College of GA in 2012.

She worked with another board-certified dermatologist in the state of Georgia full time prior to joining us at the Skin Cancer Centre. She came to us with a solid foundation from her experience working in general dermatology and has an outstanding reputation where she practiced for three years in the state of Georgia.

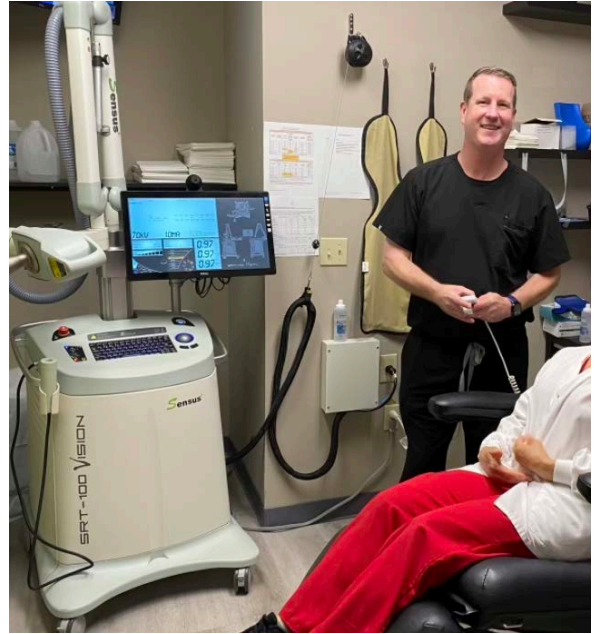
Her move to our practice in the upstate allowed her to expand her experience in the early detection and advanced treatment of skin cancer. When she is not in the office, she is likely enjoying her time with her husband Daniel and young son Wolfram.



Ryan Grove, RTT Certified Radiation Therapist

Ryan joined our practice in March of 2021. Prior to joining the Skin Cancer Centre, he worked for over 15 years as a Radiation Therapist and has supervised teams that installed and implemented the machinery and provided treatment during that time as well.

Ryan has proven to be an invaluable asset to our team, and resides in Greenville, SC with his family.



~ August 2018 ~

Skin Cure Oncology Partnered with Skin Cancer Centre



What Cancer Cannot Do

Cancer is so limited~~

It cannot:

- **Cripple love**
- **Shatter hope**
- **Corrode faith**
- **Destroy peace**
- **Kill friendship**

- **Suppress memories**
- **Silence courage**
- **Invade the soul**
- **Steal eternal life**
- **Conquer the Spirit**

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Receptionists: Kala, Kathy, and Eduarda

Surgery Scheduling: Kala

Billing: Sylvia and Collin

Surgical Assistants: Xiomara, Phyllis, Heidi,

Patti, Marina, Michelle, Kayla

Laboratory Director: Mary Smith

