

Cataract Care Ambulatory Surgery Center

By Ron Kolodziej

One of the recent additions to the services offered at the Cataract Care Center, the C3 Medical Spa, emphasizes the rejuvenation and care of the skin around the eyes and face.

Established by Lynda L. Kearney, RPA-C, Director of Esthetics; Dr. David M. Kwiat, MD; and Dr. John R. Kearney, MD; the medical spa offers clients treatment options for their long-term goals of beauty maintenance and enhancements in a comfortable, private setting with a separate entrance in the Cataract Care Ambulatory Surgical Center at 2020 S. Kingsboro Avenue in Johnstown.

A free evaluation and consultation is recommended and available and to evaluate personal goals. The C3 Medical Spa carries an exclusive line of SkinCeuticals - skin treatment products - for repair, correction and prevention of skin problems, including but not limited to, acne and sun damage. Also available are state-of-the-art skin laser treatments for wrinkles, brown spots, spider veins and hair removal as well as the proclaimed Portrait Plasma which promotes a thickening of the collagen layer deep in the skin. Botox treatments and skin fillers are also available, as well as blepharoplasty a surgical procedure for the removal of unwanted excess skin around the eyelids. Affordable financing is offered and the services are available for patients of all ages.

David M. Kwiat, MD, joined the Cataract Care Center staff last year. A graduate of Syracuse University's Upstate Medical Center, he completed his Ophthalmology training at the University of Missouri in Kansas City. A gifted surgeon, Dr. Kwiat brought Lasik surgery back to the Cataract Care Center and also provides cataract and glaucoma surgery, treatment of diabetic retinopathy and other diseases of the eye and recently passed his board certification exam.

Linda L. Kearney, RPA-C, is a graduate of the Physician Assistant Master's Program at Albany Medical Center and the prestigious Harkness Eye Institute at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York City. In addition to her C3 Medical Spa duties, Lynda will also be performing comprehensive eye exams, treat medial and surgical diseases of the eye and fit and care for contact lens patients.

The present Cataract Care Center opened 20 years ago and offers total eye care with state-of-the-art equipment and services including: complete eye exams including emergency exams; measurement for corrective lenses; exams and treatments for cataracts, glaucoma diabetic retinopathy, and macular degeneration; cornea, retina and glaucoma laser surgery; contact lens fitting and refractive surgery including Lasik for the elimination of glasses. One of the featured services is for macular degeneration, a disease found primarily in senior citizens and which robs the patient of their central vision. At its onset there may be few or no symptoms but as it progresses it results in distortion, spots of missing vision and difficulty driving, reading and watching TV as well as the inability to recognize people. The Cataract Care Center's 10-point program can prevent advancement of the disease in 90 percent of those who follow it closely. It is important to start treatment as early as possible as vision lost is not regained and visual loss can happen virtually overnight. This is "dry" macular degeneration progressing to "wet."

Office hours are 7:30 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday. The Cataract Care Center is the only ophthalmology practice in Fulton, Montgomery, Herkimer and Hamilton Counties offering after-hours emergency care. Dial 1-800-CATARACT.

For customer convenience, the Eyewear Boutique offers a broad selection of glasses, from inexpensive to designer frames. Earl J. Sullivan ABOC, manages this Eyewear Boutique and is a licensed optician with over 30 years experience in our area. He has an instinctive eye for style and is accomplished at fitting glasses. Boutique hours in Johnstown are Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 4 pm and the Eyewear Boutique now offers service in the Amsterdam office as well. Hours there are Tuesday and Friday, from 9 am to 4 pm. The Eyewear Boutique also offers service to the Cataract Care Center's Medicaid patients.

The Cataract Care Center's Ambulatory Surgery Center provides the very best in ophthalmic surgical equipment and has a user-friendly atmosphere without long waits, insurance problems or the anxiety normally associated with hospital surgery. They offer surgery for cataracts, lens implants, glaucoma, cornea and lid lesions as well as refractive surgery, ocular plastic and eye muscle surgery. Also offered is Canaloplasty, a glaucoma procedure developed by Dr. Kearney and some of his colleagues. Ninety five percent of patients don't need glaucoma drops after having this procedure performed according to Dr. Kearney.

Also featured are Advanced Intraocular Lenses that provide near to far vision



Pictured Left to Right: Lynda Kearney, RPA-C and Dr. John R. Kearney.

for patients who have undergone cataract removal. Dr. Kearney said over 90 percent of the patients are able to read a newspaper after this AIL procedure.

Dr. Kearney credited Director Barbara Lewandowski, RN, BSN, as being instrumental in developing the Ambulatory Surgery Center and obtaining its certification and recertification. Ms. Lewandowski has been with the practice for more than 20 years and is also the administrator for both the Cataract Care Center and the Cataract Care Ambulatory Surgery Center.

Mr. Stanley Waddle, Facility Manager, is also a 20-year veteran and has widened his scope by recently passing his optician exam. Ms. Annie Himplsl, our Receptionist Supervisor, recently returned from maternity leave. Lori Wieszchowski is our Technician Supervisor and Ms. Kathleen Del Costello supervised the billing department. Mr. Robert Blinsinger came to the practice several years ago from the Amsterdam school system and is our finance Manager.

Dr. Kearney has been practicing in this area for 35 years. Originally trained in ophthalmic plastic surgery, his primary interest now is cataract and glaucoma surgery and general ophthalmology. He is board-certified in ophthalmology and in cataract surgery. He is past president of the American Board of Eye Surgery, the only board of its type that examines the surgical skills of a surgeon through on-site observations and videotapes of the candidate's surgical procedures.

Dr. Kearney is one of 12 doctors in the New York State and in the first group ever certified by the American Board of Eye Surgery. He is also the Program Director for the Annual Island Ophthalmology Meeting sponsored by the Society for Excellence in Eyecare and the American College of Eye Surgery. Dr. Kearney is the author of many articles about the eye and has developed many innovative surgical instruments and procedures as well as intraocular lenses. He also lectures nationally and internationally and this year is scheduled to give presentations in Berlin, Chicago, Cape Cod, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico.

The Cataract Care Center's primary office is located in Johnstown, 518-762-2020 or 1-800-CATARACT, with other locations at 425 Guy Park Avenue in Amsterdam (518-842-2020); 1304 Grand Boulevard in Schenectady (518-377-2020); and at 441 Trenton Avenue in Utica (315-724-2020). The email address is: cataractcarecenter@frontiernet.net and the website is located at: www.cataract-carecenter.com.