



BURLINGTON COUNTY
EYE PHYSICIANS



Dr. Gregory Scimeca

A Sight to Behold

For top-notch, patient-centered eye care, look no further than Burlington County Eye Physicians.

By **Matt Cosentino**
Photography by **Jeff Anderson**

When Dr. Gregory Scimeca decided to go into the family business—following both his father and grandfather into ophthalmology—there were many lessons he learned as a youngster that he wanted to apply to his own career.

One in particular stood out.

Committed to patient-centered care like his dad and grandfather before him, Scimeca has turned Burlington County Eye Physicians into the spot in South Jersey for expert, convenient treatment of the eyes. With locations in Willingboro, Moorestown and Millville, along with Langhorne, Pa., Scimeca, his team of eight doctors and a large, supportive staff are prepared to handle any issue you might have with your eyes.

“Our goal is to deliver the highest quality eye care that is currently available,” Scimeca says. “We want to educate patients and let patients know what their options are as far as eye care is concerned. We have specialists in many different areas, including cataracts, refractive surgery like LASIK, retina, glaucoma, and ophthalmoplastics. We’re able to cover pretty much whatever your need is.”

One of the aspects that sets Burlington County Eye Physicians apart from other practices is having all of those specialists under the same roof. Another unique facet is the

Surgical Center of Burlington County, an on-site facility that provides a safe and comfortable setting for surgical procedures.

“A lot of doctors don’t do the volume that we do, so they have to share their surgical center with other doctors,” Scimeca says. “But we have our own surgical center, so not only are we seeing a lot more patients than the average doctor, but we’re able to control the quality and we don’t have to rely on a hospital. Most people are afraid of going to a hospital even if it’s for an outpatient procedure. That’s not really an issue for our patients; they just come to our outpatient facility and don’t have to step foot in a hospital.”

Burlington County Eye Physicians even takes the convenience factor to the next level, providing transportation to and from the surgical center for those who need it.

“That’s a big plus,” Scimeca says. “A lot of people don’t want to bother their kids and make them take a day off of work, or ask their neighbors for a ride. So it’s a nice added feature.”

As for the procedures themselves, lasers play a big part in the treatment of many conditions. With the technology ever changing, Scimeca is committed to using the most efficient and up-to-date methods possible.

“Ophthalmology is a very laser-heavy medical specialty. We rely on lasers to treat



a number of conditions,” he says. “We use lasers to treat nearsightedness or farsightedness, to treat glaucoma, to treat problems with people’s retinas.

“There’s new and better laser technology becoming available all the time. Each year, lasers are being utilized for more and different types of procedures.”

The most common procedure is the laser refractive surgery, such as LASIK, for vision correction. Scimeca has performed thousands of these procedures since the early 1990s and is the specialist in this field at Burlington County Eye Physicians.

Now, with Wavefront Custom LASIK technology, Scimeca can treat each indi-

vidual eye for its unique imperfections. Not only can he eliminate the need for glasses or contact lenses, he can often offer patients better than 20/20 vision.

PRK is another form of laser eye surgery for patients who are nearsighted or farsighted. But there are also methods that don’t use lasers that can be effective.

“I also will implant a contact lens inside a patient’s eye to correct any kind of nearsightedness they might have, especially if they’re not a candidate for the laser surgery,” Scimeca says. “They can get what’s called an ICL, which is an intraocular contact lens.”

Other surgical procedures performed at Burlington County Eye Physicians range from cataract surgery, a 10-minute operation in which a clouded lens is replaced by an artificial lens, to several different options available for serious retinal detachment.

But as Scimeca points out, many conditions, whether complex or not, can be avoided with early detection. Glaucoma is a prime example.

“Fifty percent of the people in this country who have glaucoma don’t even know it, and that’s because they’re not getting regular eye exams,” he says. “So we en-



courage people to get regular exams and to get tested for glaucoma if there's any suspicion, especially for those who have a family history of glaucoma.

"Glaucoma doesn't have any symptoms, so it's something you really have to go the doctor to get diagnosed. African-Americans need to be checked sooner, because glaucoma usually occurs earlier and is more frequent in African-Americans. If you're an African-American, you should be checked in your 40s, and for everyone else, in your 50s. But if you have a family history, come even sooner, and you should get checked every two years."

For cosmetic procedures, Burlington County Eye Physicians has a number of services available, including eyelid rejuvenating surgery, brow lifting and reconstruction of the eyelids and face following skin cancer. Intense pulsed light, or IPL, is used to treat dry eye as well as skin rejuvenation and hair removal.

Scimeca's practice even administers BOTOX treatment, a fact that he believes is often overlooked.

"A lot of people don't know this, but ophthalmologists were the first ones to use BOTOX," Scimeca says. "I'm somewhat surprised when patients are surprised that we

use BOTOX, when we're really the specialty that pioneered its use. The reason it was first approved was for blepharospasm, that's when someone squeezes their eyelids closed all the time. Once it got approved cosmetically, everyone jumped on board—dermatologists, general surgeons, pretty much everybody. But we provide that service, as well. It usually works better in the small muscles, the ones around the eye."

Clearly, there are any number of reasons for a patient to visit Burlington County Eye Physicians, and that's what drew Scimeca to ophthalmology in the first place.

"Both my parents were physicians, but I enjoyed ophthalmology," he says. "I found it to be less technical and the most technologically advanced sub-specialty in medicine. I also enjoy the fact that you can see all age groups, you can see men and women, and there's outpatient work as well as surgical work. It's a nice work balance and it's a great feeling to see patients ecstatic when you can help restore their eyesight." ■

Burlington County Eye Physicians

has South Jersey locations in **Willingboro**, **Moorestown** and **Millville**. To schedule an appointment at the Willingboro office, located at 225 Sunset Road, call (609) 877-2800. To schedule an appointment at the Moorestown office, located at 711 E. Main St., call (856) 235-2448. To schedule an appointment at the Millville office, located at 1205 N. High St., call (856) 825-8700. Or, visit them online at BCEye.com.