



MEET THE TEAM



Springfield
Springfield Clinic
Peoria



Meet the Springfield Clinic Peoria Team



| Robin Alley, MD, FACS

Requiring multiple operations as a child, Dr. Alley says feeling better post-treatment is what ultimately led her to become a surgeon. Dr. Alley completed her medical degree at Rush Medical College in Chicago, Ill., followed by her general surgery residency at the University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria, where she was chief resident.

“My favorite part of practicing medicine,” she says, “is being able to see a patient that has a problem that we can fix surgically and see how their quality of life improves after their operation.”

| Richard Anderson, MD, FACS

Dr. Anderson received his medical degree from Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine in Maywood, Ill., where he also completed a general surgery internship. He completed his general surgery residency at the University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria, followed by his cardiovascular and thoracic surgery fellowship at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Mo.

As a thoracic surgeon, Dr. Anderson finds that his surgeries, while technically challenging, are very rewarding. **“I love taking care of people,”** he says about why he pursued a career in medicine, **“and I wanted to make people better.”**



| Susan Canty, PA-C

Susan works exclusively with breast cancer patients. She completed her undergraduate education at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., and her graduate education at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas.

“It is overwhelming to have a diagnosis of breast cancer. I enjoy providing patients with information, support and encouragement throughout their journey.”



David Crawford, MD, FACS

“I once heard,” Dr. Crawford says, **“and I really believe it to be true, that nowhere on Earth is more pain relieved, function restored and cancer cured than in the operating room.”** Dr. Crawford attended the University of Louisville School of Medicine in Louisville, Ky., for his medical degree. He then completed his general surgery residency at Abington Memorial Hospital in Abington, Pa., and a minimally invasive surgery fellowship at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, Calif.

Dr. Crawford got a fellowship in minimally invasive and robotic surgery when it was brand new and has had a hand in building the robotics program curriculum for resident physicians in Peoria. His favorite part of practicing medicine is when he hears from patients how much they appreciate him and what he does. **“I save all my notes,”** he says, **“and I tell the residents to save all those and put them in a box for the bad days. When you’re certain you don’t want to do this anymore, I tell them, get out that box and read through it.”**

Rachel DeLong, APRN, CNP

Coming from a family of nurses, Rachel DeLong knew from a young age that she wanted to go into nursing. She completed her undergraduate degree at Rockhurst University Research College of Nursing in Kansas City, Mo., and her graduate degree at Cox College of Nursing in Springfield, Mo.

Rachel says she chose a career in the health care field because she liked the team aspect. **“I think it’s really nice to be able to be there for those patients at that vulnerable time. It’s an honor.”**



Chadrick Evans, MD, FACS

Dr. Evans completed his medical degree and general surgery residency at the University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria. He then went on to complete a critical care fellowship at the University of Colorado School of Medicine in Aurora, Co.

Many of Dr. Evans’ family members were mechanics or had other “hands-on” careers, so surgery felt like a good fit. As he went through medical school, he found trauma surgery to be grueling, yet rewarding. **“Trauma is a little bit of the unknown,”** he says, **“which is part of why I like it. It can be a very scary moment for a family, but I like to be in that role to help the patient and their family get through a very difficult and stressful event.”**



| Justin Fischer, MD, FACS

After witnessing his younger sister's battle with leukemia when he was a child, Dr. Fischer knew he wanted to be a doctor. He attended Southern Illinois University School of Medicine for medical school and completed his general surgery residency at Huntington Hospital in Pasadena, Calif.

Dr. Fischer chose colon & rectal surgery because of positive experiences he had in his residency. **"Every day in surgery is different,"** he says. **"There's always something to keep you on your toes."**

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| Jacob Hopping, MD, FACS

Dr. Hopping's interest in the field of medicine began during hospital visits with his grandmother, who was ill with lupus. Growing up doing carpentry and other jobs that required work with his hands, Dr. Hopping felt that surgery was a good fit for his future. He completed his medical degree at the University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria, followed by his general surgery residency at St. Louis University School of Medicine.

"It can be two o'clock in the morning, and you should be dead tired," he says. **"But having the patient's loved ones thrilled that they are going to be okay gives you energy to keep going. That makes it all worthwhile."**



| Heather Jefford, APRN, CNS, DNP

Heather began her career in medicine as a registered nurse before becoming a nurse practitioner. She received her undergraduate degree from Bradley University and her graduate and Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees from St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria, Ill.

She chose surgery because of a general surgery clinical rotation in school where she found she enjoyed the complexity and variety of the patients. She works with bariatric and surgical oncology patients with liver and pancreatic cancer.





| Denise Mammolito, MD, FACS

Dr. Mammolito found a love of the health care field at a young age when she volunteered for an ambulance corp. She went on to complete her medical degree, general surgery residency and surgical oncology fellowship at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in Newark, N.J.

While the multidisciplinary approach to cancer patients is what attracted Dr. Mammolito to surgical oncology during her residency, it wasn't until she started her practice that she discovered a passion for breast surgery. **"I really enjoy taking care of the breast cancer patients,"** she says. **"I felt that I was going to have the biggest effect on patients there."**

| Sonia Orcutt, MD, FACS

Dr. Orcutt received her medical degree from Boston University School of Medicine. She then completed a general surgery internship and residency at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, followed by a complex general surgical oncology fellowship at Moffitt Cancer Center at the University of South Florida College of Medicine in Tampa, Fla. She was inspired to pursue a career in surgery by the physicians she worked with during her surgery rotation as a third-year medical student, and now couldn't see herself doing anything else.

"I really enjoy the fact that, one, you can work with your hands, two, you can do a lot for patients in terms of helping to cure their cancer, and then, three, because it's cancer, you actually get a lot of follow up with the patients. You don't just see them once in your office, perform the surgery, and then be done," she says.



| Charalambos "Babis" Rammos, MD, FACS

Dr. Rammos knew early on that he would be a surgeon someday, having seen his father's rewarding career as a cardiac surgeon. He completed his general surgery residency at the University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria. He then went on to complete a plastic and reconstructive surgery residency at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., and an aesthetic plastic surgery fellowship at Hunstad/Kortesis Plastic Surgery Center in Huntersville, N.C.

"With plastic surgery," notes Dr. Rammos, **"you have the opportunity to operate head to toe. You can do reconstruction, cosmetic and non-surgical rejuvenation—a variety of things that help people and change lives."**





Thomas Rossi, MD, FACS

“I liked to work with my hands,” says Dr. Rossi about why he chose a career in surgery. **“I always worked on automobiles and did a lot of handyman and carpentry work, so surgery just seemed to be the most natural thing for me.”**

Dr. Rossi completed his medical degree at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science followed by his general surgery residency at the University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria, where he was also chief resident. His favorite part about his job now is working with the residents and medical students. **“I enjoy teaching; that’s what really keeps me motivated, keeps me in the loop and makes me work harder.”**

Shelley Scaff, APRN, CNP

Shelley completed her undergraduate degree at Illinois State University in Bloomington, Ill., and her graduate degree at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She took a surgery position when it opened because before then, she felt she had tried every other kind of specialty, from ICU to family medicine. So far, she likes surgery the best because of how problem-focused it is. **“I’d say now especially, my favorite part of my job is seeing the breast cancer patients,”** she says. **“They are so sweet and appreciative, and it just makes it totally worth it.”**



Steven Tsoraides, MD, FACS

“I knew I couldn’t sit at a desk all day long,” says Dr. Tsoraides. **“I knew I had to be fixing things, doing things, watching things develop. Surgery was just always the right fit for me.”**

Dr. Tsoraides received his medical degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria (UICOMP) where he also completed a graduate degree and general surgery residency. He then completed a colon and rectal surgery postgraduate residency at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. He now serves as associate professor of clinical surgery and the program director for the general surgery residency at UICOMP.

Dr. Tsoraides would describe his practice to patients as respectful and goal focused. **“I am intent on making sure we sift through any noise and get to the heart of the problem, using evidence-based medicine to provide the best care,”** he says. **“I want patients to know they’re in good hands and feel supported.”**

