

# 'Dr. C' times three

IN DIFFERENT WAYS, THESE MONMOUTH DOCTORS

EACH FOUND THE RIGHT MEDICAL NICHE

GENERAL SURGEON

**STEPHEN A. CHAGARES, M.D.**

WHEN SANTA CLAUS arrived on Christmas morning at The Children's Hospital at Monmouth Medical Center, the guy in the red suit was Stephen A. Chagares, M.D. For 10 years, Dr. Chagares, 44, and his wife, Marianne, aka Mrs. Claus, have brought gifts and cheer to pediatric patients and their siblings. Last year, the Shrewsbury residents were joined for the first time by their daughter, Isabella, now 19 months old.

"It's our big day," says the doctor. "Marianne coordinates donations from our families, the Colts Neck Women's Club and other organizations all year."

A lifelong New Jersey resident, Dr. Chagares graduated from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey–Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in Piscataway in 1990, then came to Monmouth for his general surgery residency. After completing it in 1996, he joined the medical staff and opened a solo practice in Shrewsbury. Today he is assistant program director for the general surgery residency.

"One of the more satisfying parts of my practice is removing cancerous tumors," he says. "My reward at the end of a long day is that I'm able to tell my patients in the recovery room that their cancer is gone."



INTERVENTIONAL CARDIOLOGIST

**EDWARD J. CHOI, M.D.**

A THIRD-GENERATION physician, Edward J. Choi, M.D., didn't have to look far for inspiration. His grandfather was a general practitioner in Korea; his father is a surgeon in Edison.

"My father has a wonderful rapport with patients, and I am trying to emulate his ways," says Dr. Choi, 37, of Long Branch. The two also play tennis together and share a love of reading, with interests in medicine and history.

Dr. Choi grew up in East Brunswick. He graduated from Wake Forest University School of Medicine in North Carolina in 1998 and did an internship and residency in internal medicine at the UMDNJ–Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in Piscataway. After a cardiology fellowship and an interventional cardiology fellowship at Brown University School of Medicine/Rhode Island Hospital in 2006, Dr. Choi went into private practice at Atlantic Cardiology in Neptune.

Dr. Choi enjoys encouraging his patients to get fit and reduce their risk factors for heart disease. He and some of his medical partners play in an over-30 soccer league at Fit Sports in Wall.

"We have some exciting therapies and procedures available today for heart disease, but preventing it is always better than treating it," he says.



VASCULAR SURGEON

**GEORGE S. CONSTANTINOPOULOS, M.D.**

WHILE IN MEDICAL school at the University of Athens, George S. Constantinopoulos, M.D., came to the Boston suburbs for a summer clerkship at Waltham Hospital. There he fell in love with surgery, realizing that it fit his personality.

"I like to solve problems and get results quickly," he says. "That's what a surgeon does."

After earning his M.D. in 1976, he came to the U.S. to do his internship and surgical residency at Monmouth Medical Center, then did a fellowship in vascular surgery and transplantation at Philadelphia's Hahnemann University. Next his path led back to

Monmouth and into practice in Long Branch. Today, Dr. Constantinopoulos, 56, is section chief of vascular surgery, specializing in carotid artery and endovascular procedures.

"I love Monmouth for a simple reason: I can trust the staff with my patients," he says.

An avid reader of books about history, politics and the business of medicine, Dr. Constantinopoulos also completed an MBA program at Kennesaw State University in Atlanta, Georgia. He and wife, Andrea, have three children, Anthony, 23, Julia, 17, and Chloe, 3. ■

