

# A trio of satisfied surgeons

BORN IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, THEY FOUND THREE DISTINCT PATHS TO SUCCESS AT THE OPERATING TABLE

ILAN WALDMAN, M.D.

UROLOGIST/ROBOTIC SURGEON

HOW DOES A MEDICAL student pick a specialty? For Israeli-born Ilan Waldman, M.D., who moved to New Jersey with his parents at age 13, it came down to happiness. “I talked to a lot of doctors, and urologists were always happy,” he says. “They loved their work, even after doing it for 40 years. No one wanted to retire.”

A graduate of George Washington University Medical School in Washington, D.C., who did his residency in Philadelphia at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Dr. Waldman, 32, also appreciates the wide range of challenges urologists face. “We do everything from small procedures such as a cystoscopy to 10-hour surgeries for cancer,” he says. And he enjoys working with the da Vinci robotic, a surgical tool that gives urologists precise control in tiny, hard-to-reach areas such as the prostate and around the kidneys.

This summer, Dr. Waldman returned to Israel to marry Yael, an Israeli-born “Jersey girl.” They now live in Long Branch. And in August he joined the New Jersey Urologic Institute, a practice affiliated with Monmouth Medical Center. “Everyone there has been very welcoming and helpful,” he says. From urologists, he’d expect no less.



STEVEN J. BINENBAUM, M.D.

MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGEON/BARIATRIC SURGEON

STEVEN J. BINENBAUM, M.D., knows that medicine runs in his blood, but he can’t give many details. In 1989, when he was a teenager, his family left his native Moscow as political refugees. “I know there were some physicians and scientists in my family in prior generations,” he says, “but I don’t know much about it, because the records were erased in Russia.”

His parents own a laboratory that makes dental implants, crowns and ceramic fillings. “I had an idea I’d be in some medical profession because my parents were,” says Dr. Binenbaum. As he pursued his studies, from the State University of New York at Stony Brook to the St. George University Medical School in Grenada, he became progressively more interested in surgery. Then came a surgical residency at Monmouth Medical Center and a fellowship at New York’s St. Luke’s/Roosevelt



Hospital in minimally invasive/bariatric surgery.

“The technical aspects of medical care are very gratifying, but I found that seeing people get better is the greatest enjoyment of all,” he says.

Dr. Binenbaum, 34, enjoys skiing and reading and spends off-time with his wife, Cherie, in their Middletown home.

JADD W. KOURY, M.D.

MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGEON

THE KOURY FAMILY of Red Bank is big on surgery. Dorothy Koury, M.D., is completing a fellowship in pediatric surgery. And her husband, Jadd W. Koury, M.D., 35, is one of the Monmouth Medical Center’s new advanced laparoscopic surgeons. But he started out to be a heart surgeon.

While the Arkansas native was attending the University of Arkansas Medical School, during his residency at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and on a fellowship at New York University, he studied heart surgery—“the top of the line for surgeons,” he says.

Six months into his fellowship, however, he changed course, facing the fact that there were very few jobs available for heart surgeons. “It was a disappointment,” he says. “But it’s basic supply and demand. I was at a high-volume heart-surgery center and they just weren’t doing a lot of procedures.”

He found another fellowship, this one at George Washington University in laparoscopic surgery, and today he’s quite happy with the choice of that field. “I do a lot of complicated surgeries that save lives,” he says. His specialty is solid organ surgery—stomach, intestines, colon, spleen and bladder. ■

