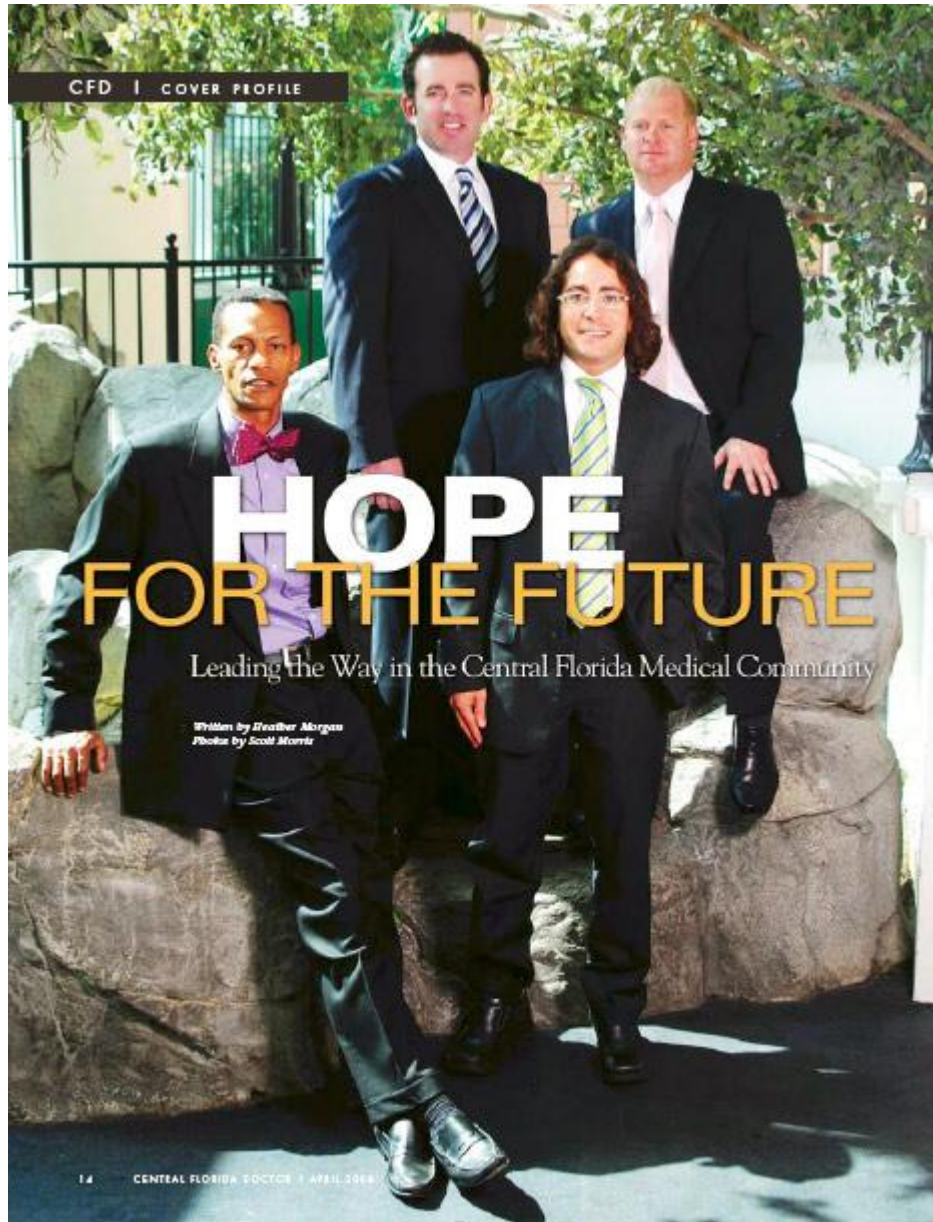


HOPE FOR THE FUTURE:

Leading the Way in the Central Florida Medical Community

(Excerpted from Central Florida Doctor, April 2008)



Clockwise: J. Matthew Knight, M.D., P.A.,
Matthew Albert, M.D.,
Sam Atallah, M.D., and
Anton Coleman, M.D., at Nature Works at the Orlando Science Center



At one time, he looked up to them in admiration, amazed at their compassion. Today, he's one of them...

Raised in Central Florida, J. Matthew Knight, M.D., P.A., remembers spending his youth looking up to the very doctors who now trust him, a respected dermatologist, with their patients. “I feel blessed that I can take care of their patients,” he says. “I have a deep connection to the community.”

Dr. Knight’s path to medicine also began a bit differently than one might expect – with a dive into literature. Jumping at the chance to learn from some of the greatest English literature educators in the country, Dr. Knight pursued his undergraduate degree in English lit; while he could quote Shakespeare with the best of ’em, he took summer classes to ensure he had the skills and knowledge required to succeed in medical school.

And though he knew he wanted to focus on surgery, one of his training rotations led him to the dermatology clinic. “It was one of those ‘love at first sight’ kind of things,” Dr. Knight says. “The skin is so visible; it has a very emotional part. In dermatology, we can improve people’s health and emotion.” It was a perfect blend of general patient care, oncologic surgery, and cosmetic dermatology.

TURNING CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES

That’s not to say rewards always come easy. While his practice, Knight Dermatology Institute, offers comprehensive skin care and the latest, cutting-edge cosmetic and laser procedures, Dr. Knight feels extremely fortunate to see oncology patients from MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Additionally, he invests time doing consultations with children from Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children and Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women and Babies. The children, he explains, are very ill and suffer from severe skin diseases, conditions that will likely accompany them throughout adolescence and into adulthood. “It’s difficult – we feel for them from the bottom of our hearts,”

Dr. Knight says. “As a dermatologist, I can offer reassurance and support, as we rarely deal with life and death issues. It’s a lot of education, hand-holding, and wound care.”

NATURAL LEADER

Though humble in his status as a leader, Dr. Knight realize she needs to guide by example each day. “It transcends medicine,” he says. “It’s important to be a good person in all walks of life – the best kind of leader leads by actions and deeds, honesty, faithfulness, and truthfulness.”

While it starts with compassion, attentiveness, and respectfulness in the clinic, he explains, physicians’ roles as leaders follow them out the door into the community.

ON THE HORIZON

With presidential primaries drawing closer to an end, results could offer a preview of the future of healthcare. “Every candidate has promised nothing short of a sweeping reform,” Dr. Knight says. Governmentalization of healthcare and universal healthcare are both hot topics, as is the pay-per-performance model. Whichever strategy materializes, Dr. Knight says, “is going to have one of the most revolutionary impacts on doctors in the past 30 years. We’re all anxious about the future because no one really knows what’s going to happen. Within a year, we’re going to see some monumental changes in the healthcare system.”

You might find native Floridian Dr. Knight after hours on the golf course... or spending as much quality time as possible with family and friends, and of course, his beloved Labrador.

With physicians like this ready to lead the way in medicine in Central Florida, the future holds endless possibilities, proving the community truly is in good hands.

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