

Surgical Center Owners Listing



Robert T. McElroy, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Dr. McElroy is the founder of Tallgrass Prairie Surgical Specialists. He is a native Topekan and a graduate of the University of Kansas School of Medicine. He developed an interest in surgery as a missionary in Africa.

Dr. McElroy is board certified in General Surgery. He is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He retired in June of 2002.



Kurt R. Knappenberger, M.D.

President,
Tallgrass Surgical Center

Raised in South Central Kansas, Dr. Knappenberger attended the University of Kansas School of Medicine in Kansas City, Kansas and Wichita, Kansas. He completed his residency training at the Orthopedic

Surgery Residency, St. Francis Regional Medical Center and St. Louis Shriners Hospital, St. Louis, Missouri. Dr. Knappenberger is Board Certified in Orthopedic Surgery and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. His surgical interests include total joint, arthroscopy and fracture care. Dr. Knappenberger has received several medical honors: most recently he was listed in the Consumers Research Council of America's "Guide to America's Top Surgeons." When he is not performing surgery, Dr. Knappenberger enjoys getting together with friends to play Bluegrass music on his acoustic guitar.



Kenneth Gimple, M.D.

Dr. Gimple was born and raised in Clay Center, Kansas. He received his medical degree from Kansas University Medical School, Kansas City, Kansas, graduating in 1971. He attended the University of Oklahoma and Rancho Los Amigos Hospital, Downey, California for his Orthopedic Residency. He served as a Medical Officer at Hicham Air Force Base, Honolulu, Hawaii during his postgraduate days. He and his family moved to Topeka in 1979 where he began work with the Orthopedic Clinic of Topeka, P.A. and has been with the clinic since that time. He is board certified in Orthopedic Surgery and is a member of the American Orthopedic Society of Sports Medicine and the North American Spine Society.



Cindy E. Penzler, M.D.

From Abilene Kansas, Dr. Cindy Penzler received her medical degree from the University of Kansas School of Medicine, Kansas City, Kansas. After completing an internship in Pediatrics from the University of Kansas School of Medicine, Wichita, Kansas, she furthered her training at the University of

Kansas with residency training from the Department of Ophthalmology. Dr. Penzler is board certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology. Dr. Penzler has been awarded the American Medical Association Physician's Recognition Award for completion of at least fifty hours of continuing medical education annually. She is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and an Active Fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.



Kenneth Teter, M.D.

Born and raised in Wichita, Kansas, Dr. Teter received his medical degree from the University of Kansas School of Medicine. He completed his residency at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque and performed a fellowship in Hip and Knee Arthroplasty from Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation, LaJolla, California. Dr. Teter received the "Best Resident Research" award from the New Mexico Cerebral Palsy Foundation for best resident research presentation. His research related activities have led to eleven medical presentations and three medical journal publications. Dr. Teter is board certified by the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery and is certified as a cartilage surgeon. Dr. Teter specializes in all orthopedic operations except spinal procedures. He has special interests in hip and knee replacements, sports medicine, and shoulder surgery.



Carlyle Dunshee, M.D., F.A.C.S.

President,
Tallgrass Prairie Surgical Specialists, P.A.

Dr. Dunshee was born and raised in Fort Scott. He attended Duke University and finished his B.A. degree in 1991 in Zoology. He then attended the University of Kansas School of medicine earning his M.D. degree in

1995. Dr. Dunshee completed his general surgical residency at The Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University in June 2001. He also received an M.B.A. from East Carolina University during this time. Dr. Dunshee's practice includes all aspects of general, vascular and non-cardiac thoracic surgery. He has a special interest in vascular and minimally invasive surgery. Dr. Dunshee is board certified in General Surgery and is a fellow of American College of Surgeons.



William E. Gitchell, M.D.

Medical Director,
Tallgrass Surgical Center

Dr. William Gitchell received his medical degree from the University of Kansas School of Medicine, Kansas City, Kansas. He attended the University of Arkansas for Health Sciences, Little Rock, Arkansas for his Primary Care

Internal Medicine Residency. Dr. Gitchell completed his Anesthesiology Residency at the University of Kansas for Health Sciences and Hospital, Kansas City, Kansas. He is a diplomat of the American Board of Anesthesiology.



Bernita Berntsen, M.D., F.A.C.S.

As one of nine children from a farming family in Southeast Kansas, Dr. Berntsen is no stranger to hard work. She is a graduate of Pittsburg State University and the University of Kansas School of Medicine where she completed her surgical residency. Dr. Berntsen furthered her education with

advanced training in GI laparoscopic surgery, breast surgery and bariatric surgery. She specializes in all aspects of general surgery, and excels at laparoscopic and minimally invasive surgery. Dr. Berntsen is board certified in General Surgery, and is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons.



Sidney Y. Hu, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Dr. Hu, General Surgeon, was born and raised in Kansas City, Kansas. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Kansas and a Medical Degree from the University of Kansas School of Medicine in Kansas City, Kansas. Dr. Hu completed her residency in General Surgery at

the University of Missouri Health Care in Columbia, Missouri. Dr. Hu is board certified in General Surgery and is a fellow of American College of Surgeons.



Randall J. Kresie, M.D.

Dr. Kresie received his medical degree from Kansas University Medical Center, Kansas City, Kansas. He continued his education through Kansas University Medical Center, completed an internship in Internal Medicine and went on to perform an Ophthalmology Residency. Dr. Kresie is board certified in Ophthalmology. He is a native of Topeka and has been in private practice since 1988. His interests include cataracts, glaucoma, surgery of the eyelids, and diabetic eye diseases. He performs cataract, glaucoma, and plastic surgeries of the eyelids, as well as, laser surgery for glaucoma and diabetic eye conditions. Dr. Kresie holds a teaching position at the Colmery O'Neal Veterans Hospital, Topeka, Kansas. Dr. Kresie also provides monthly outreach clinics in Sabetha, Seneca, and Holton.



Craig L. Vosburgh, M.D.

President,
Tallgrass Prairie Holding Co., LLC

Once a rugby and an athletic scholarship recipient, Dr. Vosburgh received his medical degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine. His residency training in

Orthopedic Surgery and Rehabilitation was also completed at the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Vosburgh extended his surgical qualifications through a Fellowship in Joint Replacement at The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopedic Hospital in England. He then performed a Shoulder Surgery Fellowship of Northern Virginia prior to starting practice in Topeka. His academic papers have been published in five different peer review medical journals. Dr. Vosburgh's surgical interests include joint replacement, shoulder arthroscopy and reconstruction and sports injuries.



James J. Hamilton, Jr., M.D., F.A.C.S.

Raised in Western Kansas, Dr. Hamilton attended Kansas State University and transferred to the University of Kansas School of Medicine where he received his medical degree. Dr. Hamilton completed his surgical

residency at Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA. He furthered his training to include a year of vascular surgery at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. He also performed a fellowship in liver surgery at the University of Bern, Switzerland. Dr. Hamilton is board certified in General Surgery and is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.



Michael J. Schmidt, M.D., F.A.C.S.

From Wichita, Kansas, Dr. Michael Schmidt attended the University of Kansas and the University of Kansas School of Medicine, Kansas City, Kansas, where he completed his medical degree. He did his Orthopedic Surgical Residency at the University of Nebraska Hospital and affiliated hospitals in Omaha.

Dr. Schmidt is Board certified in Orthopedic Surgery and is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Schmidt specializes in sports medicine and adult reconstructive surgery. He is licensed to practice medicine and surgery in Kansas and Nebraska. Dr. Schmidt is devoted to volunteer work; he has spent the last 18 years volunteering as the 501 School District's athletic team physician and has been presented with the Volunteer of the Year Award from the Capper Foundation.



Orville R. Wetzel, M.D.

Dr. Orville Wetzel received his medical degree from the University of Kansas School of Medicine, Kansas City, Kansas and completed an Internal Medicine internship at the University of Kansas, Wichita, Kansas.

Dr. Wetzel furthered his education at the University of Kansas and completed a residency in Anesthesiology. He is board certified by the American Board of Anesthesiology.



Richard T. Darnall, D.D.S.

Dr. Richard Darnall has practiced Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in Topeka for twenty years. He is a graduate of the University of Missouri School of Dentistry at Kansas City. After completing his internship and general practice residency with the US Navy, he went on to complete his residency in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of Missouri School of Dentistry - Kansas City and Truman Medical Center. Dr. Darnall is a member of numerous professional organizations, including, the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, the American Dental Association and the Academy of Osseointegration.

Our Mission

Tallgrass Surgical Center, its physicians and staff, seek to provide surgical excellence with compassion to all patients, who have outpatient surgical needs.