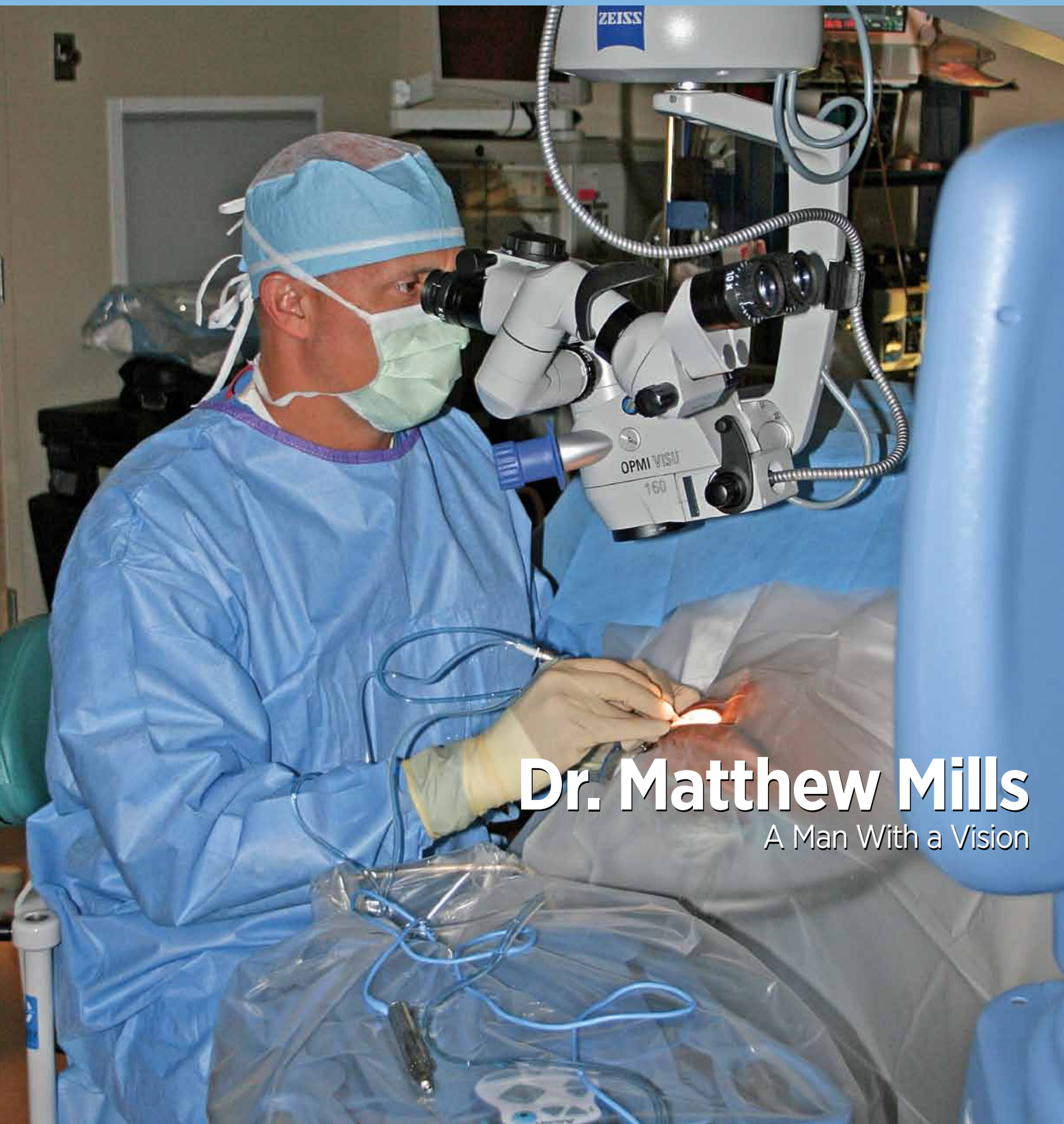


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Dr. Matthew Mills

A Man With a Vision

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By Susan Cushing

Board-certified ophthalmologist Matthew B. Mills, M.D., of Eye Care Professionals blazes through life with almost super-human energy and enthusiasm.

Performing hundreds of intricate, sight-restoring procedures every year, Dr. Mills is also an active member of the clinical teaching faculty at the University of Nevada School of Medicine, instructing senior residents in the family medicine program. Dr. Mills is also a vital component of the sports medicine team for the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), a respected member of the teaching faculty for UNR's Sports Medicine fellowship program and the official ophthalmologist for the Wolf Pack Athletic Department.

"Dr. Mills is instrumental in teaching our sports

medicine Fellows about trauma and other eye conditions they might encounter on the sideline and in a sports medicine office setting," says Carol Scott, M.D., Medical Director of University of Nevada Sports Medicine. "We greatly value our relationship with Dr. Mills and are proud to have him working with the University of Nevada Sports Medicine and Athletic Department."

A dedicated husband and father, active in his church and an avid outdoorsman, the doctor also finds time to research and keep abreast of evolving techniques and technologies, incorporating many of these into his practice. In recent years, he also has had the opportunity to deliver several thought-provoking continuing education lectures to doctors across the country.

While there are myriad adjectives to describe his zeal and dedication, distilled down to a single word it would surely be "excellence." For Dr. Mills, excellence is the only option — whether at his practice, the university, home or in the community.

NEW VISION

Gradual reduction, even total loss of sight, is one of the most dreaded markers of time that the elderly face. Thanks to innovators like Dr. Mills, these ravages can be abated.

"A *flick of a switch*, going from dark to light," says patient Bill King. "I know it's much more complex, but to go from extremely poor vision to nearly perfect, there are no words that can explain how it makes me feel. I honestly feel that I have found a piece of the Fountain of Youth!"

Having performed thousands of successful ophthalmic refractive procedures including LASIK, implanted contact lenses (ICLs), Presbyopia correction and other advanced forms of cataract and refractive surgery, Dr. Mills confidently delivers the best possible results for his patients. At the forefront of many innovations related to these procedures, Dr. Mills frequently leads the way. He was the first surgeon to perform Wavefront LASIK in northern Nevada, the first to implant the ReSTOR presbyopia correcting intraocular lens (IOL) and the

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first to perform endocyclophotocoagulation (ECP) for the surgical treatment of glaucoma.

“It wasn’t that long ago that cataract surgery meant we would remove the cataract, improve the vision, but have the patient still wear glasses for most activities for the rest of his or her life,” explains Dr. Mills. “Today, patients expect better results with less dependence on glasses than ever before.”

“With current technology, we realize that if we can be very precise on our biometry [measurements] and our surgical techniques, we can now, very accurately, target the postoperative refractive status. At that point, the goal becomes giving patients their best possible visual function with the least reliance on spectacles. Toward that end, surgical device companies have developed various lens implants that allow us to basically simulate the vision that you had when you were 25 years old.”

This revolutionary procedure utilizes special IOLs uniquely designed to provide enhanced image quality and a full range of vision, offering cataract patients the best

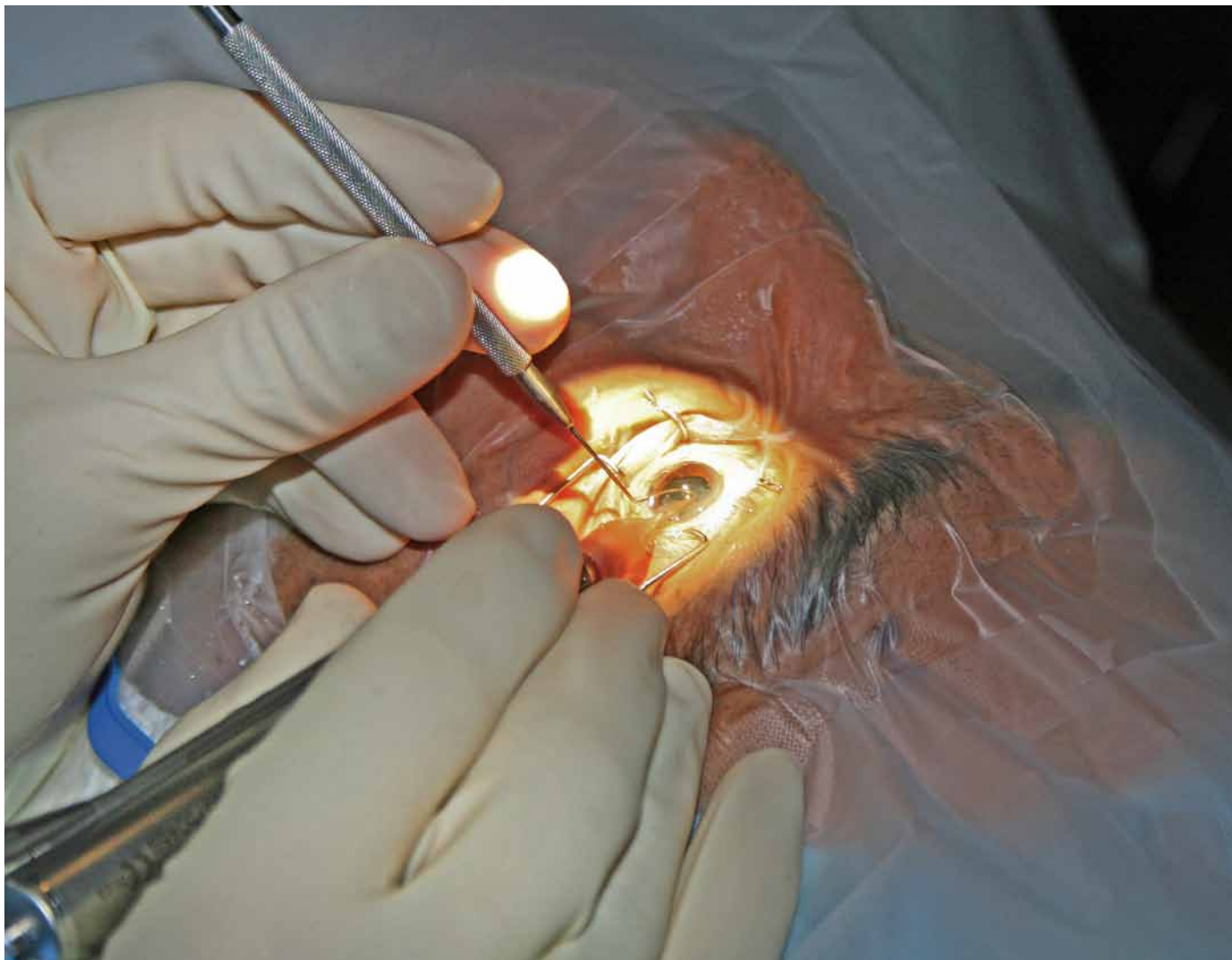
opportunity to live life free of glasses.

“This has become something of a niche area for me,” he says. “In my various speaking engagements around the country, I am asked to convey how to be successful with presbyopia correction, premium IOLs and astigmatism correction. It’s something that not every doctor offers or has success with, but the technology is there with the capacity to greatly improve our patients’ lives.”

Glaucoma is another affliction that tends to predominantly impact geriatric patients. Once again, Dr. Mills has been at the forefront of newer surgical techniques. ECP is a relatively newer and safer surgical alternative for patients with uncontrolled glaucoma. Dr. Mills was the first anterior segment surgeon to perform ECP in northern Nevada and has helped many patients with this potentially blinding disease to lower their ocular pressures and preserve their vision using this procedure.

‘SETTING HIS SIGHTS ON SUCCESS’

Even as a young high school student in his hometown





With the offer of a full-ride academic scholarship to Houston Baptist University, which offers an excellent premed program, he decided to pursue a career in medicine. His subsequent acceptance to the University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, for medical school, seemed to mesh perfectly with his plans.

Dr. Mills completed his internship at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC, followed by an ophthalmology residency at Louisiana State University Medical Center in Shreveport, where he began to acquire his advanced skills as an ophthalmologic surgeon.

During his three years of service at Irwin Army Community Hospital in Kansas, Dr. Mills became Chief of Ophthalmology. “I had the privilege of providing care for many veterans and active-duty service men and women during my time in the army, and I made great efforts to ensure their access to care was maintained,” he explains.

Ultimately, Dr. Mills was offered a teaching position in the ophthalmology department at Brooke Army Medical Center, but elected to move on with a career in private practice.

“As my time in the army was winding down, I considered my options,” he explains. “I could return to Houston, where my roots and family were, or I could go someplace with a nicer climate, and they could come visit!” Along those lines, Dr. Mills looked at practice opportunities throughout the west, eventually deciding on Reno. (His parents moved here shortly thereafter!)

Dr. Mills joined A.A. “Bud” Schonder, M.D., in practice in Reno in September 1999. As with every other significant phase of his life, Dr. Mills completely immersed himself into building his reputation and client base. At the same time, he was also working toward his next

Dr. Mills prepares a patient for Lasik procedure.

of Houston, TX, Dr. Mills exhibited remarkable aptitude for physics and calculus. Studies came easily to him, yet his intuitive drive pushed him to continually strive harder and reach higher.



milestone goal, which he achieved in 2003 when he was able to purchase the practice.

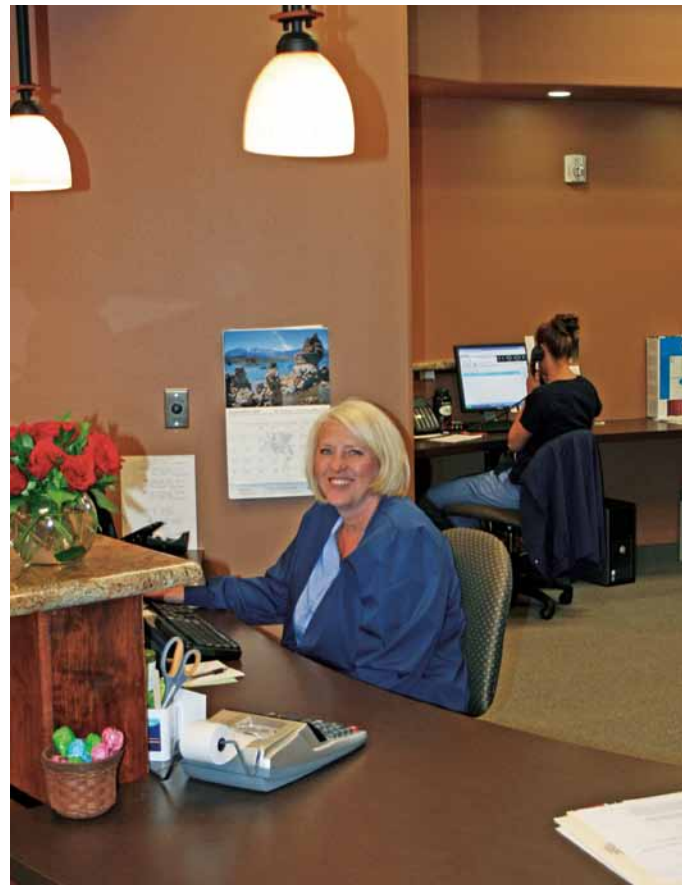
A NEW PERSPECTIVE

Patients visiting Eye Care Professionals today enjoy the culmination of another of Dr. Mills' visions. This stunning new facility sits where, only a few years ago, there was just a patch of dirt. The soothing ambience here is created by an intricate blend of subdued tones accented with splashes of bright colors and masterful artwork. Warm and welcoming, while richly elegant, the décor speaks volumes of the concern and respect for its clientele.

"We had built up our practice to the point where we'd actually outgrown our existing building," he explains. "So, rather than expand in a somewhat dated building, we decided to design something that is not only state-of-the-art and technology intensive, but appealing to our ever-expanding patient base. We envisioned a place patients would want to come."

EYE TO THE FUTURE

From the beginning, Dr. Mills has been at the forefront of his profession. Often, he's the first in northern Nevada



Patients will always be greeted with a smile.

Bettina Fegan testing a patient





Jan Bishop, practice manager

to introduce revolutionary and cutting-edge procedures.

Performing refractive surgeries since the mid-1990s, Dr. Mills has also conducted research in the area of refractive surgery and is published in medical texts on the cornea, the primary structure modified in refractive procedures.

He currently serves as the Medical Director of the Sierra Vista Surgery Center, a multispecialty facility here in Reno where he is also an investor.

A decade has passed since Dr. Mills first moved to Reno and began building his practice, yet, despite the demands of a busy, thriving practice, his enthusiasm and passion has not waned.

“It’s an exciting time for ophthalmology,” he says. “In our practice, we provide comprehensive ophthalmic care but tend to specialize in cataract, refractive surgery, LASIK, ICLs and glaucoma surgery. I strive to stay on the cutting edge with new procedures and tools that seem to be ever evolving. I’m committed to offering my patients excellent care and as many options as possible.”

“This commitment is evident from the moment that you walk into their office,” observes Robert Rand, M.D., a primary care physician who frequently refers patients to Eye Care Professionals. “The technology that they have invested in is evident and apparent, all over their office, literally in every corner.”

Though dedicated and driven, Dr. Mills is equally passionate about his young family and community. He and his wife Wendy, along with their two sons, enjoy many activities including skiing, hiking, fishing, golf and basketball. Dr. Mills has also competed in several triathlons and one marathon. The family attends and is involved with activities at Grace Church in northwest Reno.

“Initially, it was a great practice and a great opportunity with Dr. Schonder that brought me to Reno,” he says of the last 10 years “but now I have married a terrific girl from here, we have two wonderful boys born at St. Mary’s in downtown, my parents are here, my wife’s entire family is here, and I’ve been able to continue to grow this practice in a tradition of excellence. Reno is a great community to live and work and raise a family in. I can’t wait to see what is in store in next 10 years.” ■



For more information about Dr. Matthew B. Mills or Eye Care Professionals please call (775) 322-1000 or visit www.RenoEyeCare.com.