

Local  
Eco-Heroes

Confessions of  
a Single Mom

The Sandy  
Berger Sting

George Pelecanos  
Remembers 1968

Guide to Good  
Art Galleries

# WASHINGTONIAN

## Top Doctors

We asked thousands of  
physicians across the region:

**If someone in your family  
were sick, which doctor  
would you call?**

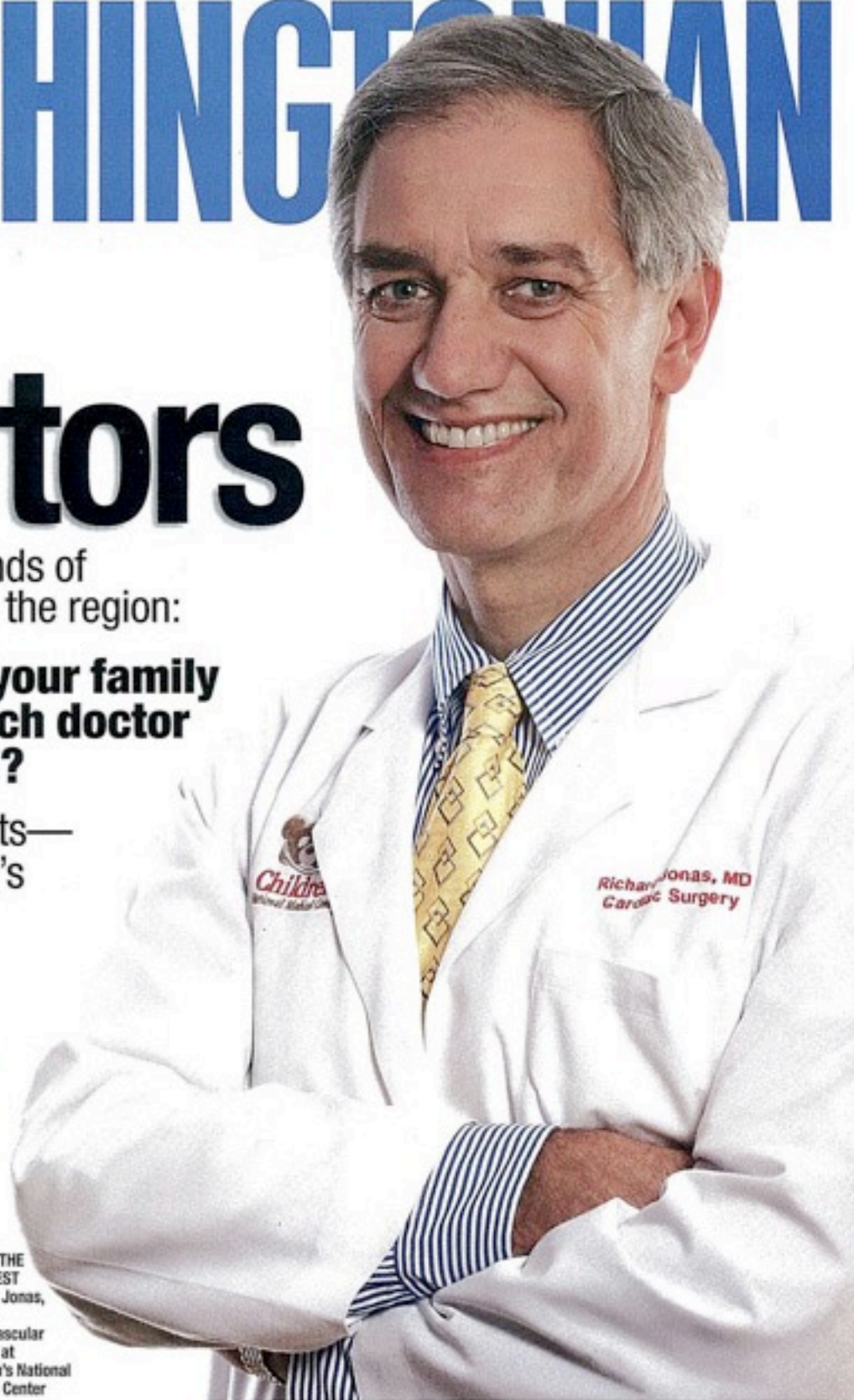
Here are the results—  
a guide to the area's  
best doctors in

**36**  
SPECIALTIES

APRIL 2008



ONE OF THE  
VERY BEST  
Richard Jonas,  
chief of  
cardiovascular  
surgery at  
Children's National  
Medical Center



# Top Doctors

We asked physicians to name the doctors they would send a family member to. The results: 1,700 of the area's best doctors in 36 specialties.

**HERE ARE THE AREA'S TOP DOCTORS** as selected by other doctors. We sent questionnaires to 6,500 randomly selected area physicians asking them what doctors they would send members of their families to in each of 36 medical specialties. More than 1,250 physicians responded. Together they named thousands of doctors in the Washington/Baltimore area. This list is made up of those who received the greatest number of recommendations within their specialties, with adjustments to account for geographic distribution.

The medical specialties included are those in which patients generally have a choice of doctor. Anesthesiologists and emergency-room physicians, for example, are not listed because patients typically do not select them. Two surgical subspecialties, Breast-Cancer Surgery and Hand Surgery, are included for the first time on the list.

Doctors are asked to name pediatric practitioners in most specialties, and physicians who concentrate on treating children within their specialties are designated as doing so, but pediatric subspecialties themselves—pediatric cardiology, for example—are not broken out separately.

An important note: The doctors on this list are not necessarily the area's "best" doctors, and they certainly are not the only good ones. Many first-rate physicians are not on the list. There are several reasons for this.

Doctors tend to be known within the medical "villages" they practice and make referrals in. These are usually grouped around hospitals and population centers. Doctors in one "village" often do not know doctors in others. This can work to the disadvantage of physicians in out-of-the-way places and in "closed" organizations in which outside referrals are limited.

Some excellent doctors have such narrow subspecialties that they are not singled out in a more general context. Many

.....  
*Physician profiles by Drew Bratcher. Contributing to research for this section were Peter Bryce, Marissa Conrad, Elizabeth Farrell, Emily Leaman, Alex Monibbian, Kate Nerenberg, Jasmine Tanton, and Hanna Wallen.*

physicians who practice in—and even head—hospital departments are not part of normal referral networks and therefore often go unnamed. Some younger physicians haven't been in practice long enough to establish their reputations widely. And physicians in group practices often are thought of collectively; in many instances, only one or two of the "name" physicians in a group make the list while their associates, perhaps equally well thought of, do not garner enough mentions.

The Top Doctors selections in some respects constitute an all-star list, but the list is designed to be broad enough to be useful to readers throughout the area.

Although the doctors on the list are respected by their colleagues, the listing of a physician here is no guarantee that you will be satisfied, nor should it be a substitute for your own judgment. Almost every physician has bad outcomes in the course of a career, and there are few who haven't had dissatisfied patients. If you feel uncomfortable with a doctor, no matter what his or her credentials, find another.

If you have good relationships with doctors you see now, maintain those relationships, whether or not the doctors are on this or any other list. When you need the services of specialists, consult your current physicians. This list is designed to be a resource in helping you make informed decisions.

The general locations of doctors' offices in DC, Maryland, and Virginia follow their names. After the office locations are abbreviations for the hospitals at which the physicians have privileges. "No insurance" means the doctor does not accept private insurance, although he or she may accept Medicare, Medicaid, or both.

More information on each doctor, including insurance plans he or she participated in as of March 1, 2008, can be found at [washingtonian.com/topdoctors](http://washingtonian.com/topdoctors); the access code is *topdocs2008*. Because insurance affiliations change, always check them with the physician's office before making an appointment.

## Why Some of My Doctors Aren't on the List

**AS THE INTRODUCTION** to this section explains, many excellent physicians do not make the Top Doctors list. Some who don't are my doctors.

Why would an editor who oversees the Top Doctors survey go to a physician who isn't on the list? Because no one knows better that any survey methodology is imperfect, and some great docs don't get the votes to make the list.

Take Lisa Boyle, the surgeon who removed a parathyroid adenoma from my neck, an operation referred to in singing circles as the "diva's nightmare" because of the risk of laryngeal nerve damage. I love to sing. An endocrinologist who refers patients regularly to Dr. Boyle calls her "the preeminent thyroid surgeon from here to New Haven." In our survey she would fall under the General Surgery category, but because she performs mainly thyroid and related surgeries—hundreds of them a year—most doctors wouldn't think of her outside of that specialized context. The situation is similar for breast-cancer surgeons, a category we added to the list this year, because their practices are so specialized, some of the top vote-getters in Breast-Cancer Surgery didn't make previous lists in General Surgery. In any event, Dr. Boyle operated on me on a Monday morning, and on Thursday I was singing as well as—or at least no worse than—ever.

Another of my docs is Jonas Rudzki, an orthopedist who's not on the list because he's young. The son of veteran Washington gastroenterologist Cesar Rudzki and a 2000 graduate of GW medical school, Dr. Rudzki—a team doctor for the Capitals, Nationals, and Mystics—fell just shy of the number of votes needed to make the list. He'll likely be on the next one.

My doctors aren't the only good people not on the list. My *Washingtonian* colleague Drew Lindsay's dad, Joe Lindsay, until recently chief of cardiology at Washington Hospital Center, is one of the region's most respected cardiologists, yet as a hospital staff chief he saw few private patients and was not part of a regular physician-referral pattern, so he never collected enough votes to make the list. Dr. Lindsay has counterparts at hospitals and research institutes throughout the area—expert physicians who don't make the list because of their positions.

Some of the doctors I see regularly are on the list. Internist and endocrinologist James Ramey and rheumatologist Susan Lacks both get lots of votes in their specialties—and more than live up to their reputations as top doctors.

One person who has long been a big vote-getter is not on this year's list. Endocrinologist Neil Ravin is moving his practice to Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Besides being an occasional writer for this magazine over the years, Neil has been my physician and friend—the person I've called when I or a loved one needed help or advice. He's a first-rate medical detective, an out-of-the-box thinker with a wry sense of humor, and a physician who genuinely cares about medicine and patients alike—the definition of a top doctor. Like all of his patients here, I will miss him.

—KEN DeCELL

tions. ALEX, FOAKS, FRFX, LOU, MV, RES, VHC.  
Keith A. Horvath, Bethesda, 301-896-7610. SUB  
Richard A. Jonas, Northwest DC,  
202-476-2137. CNMC. Concentration in  
pediatrics.

Louis T. Kanda, Northwest DC, 202-291-1430.  
WHC.

Edward A. Lefrak, Falls Church, 703-280-5858;  
also Alexandria, Arlington, and other loca-  
tions. ALEX, FOAKS, FRFX, LOU, MV, RES, VHC.

Frederick C. Lough, Downtown DC,  
202-775-9371. GWU.

Paul S. Massimiano, Falls Church,  
703-280-5858; also Alexandria, Arlington,  
and other locations. ALEX, FOAKS, FRFX, LOU,  
MV, RES, VHC.

Anjum G. Gazi, Takoma Park, 301-891-2233;  
also Northwest DC. WADV, WHC.

John W. Rhee, Falls Church, 703-280-5858; also  
Alexandria, Arlington, and other locations.  
ALEX, FRFX.

Irving Shen, Falls Church, 703-280-5858. ALEX  
FOAKS, FRFX, LOU, MV, RES, VHC. Concentra-  
tion in pediatrics.

Alan M. Speit, Falls Church, 703-280-5858; also  
Alexandria, Arlington, and other locations.  
ALEX, FOAKS, FRFX, LOU, MV, RES, VHC.

## Cardiology

*Cardiologists diagnose and treat heart prob-  
lems. Interventional cardiologists also perform  
a balloon-catheter technique, called angi-  
plasty, to open up blocked coronary arteries.*

Marjaneh Akbari, office in Fairfax,  
703-289-1207. Hospital privileges at FRFX.

Deborah J. Barbour, Chevy Chase,  
301-656-9070. SUB.

Alan Benheim, Fairfax, 703-573-0504; also Lees  
burg, Centreville. ALEX, FOAKS, FRFX, LOU,  
POT, PW, RES. Concentration in pediatrics.

Susan K. Bennett, Downtown DC,  
202-822-9356. GWU, WHC.

Harry J. Bigham Jr., Bethesda, 301-897-5301.  
SUB. Interventional.

Edward N. Bodurian, Chevy Chase,  
301-656-4064. SUB, SUB, WHC.  
Interventional.

Carl P. Bon Tempo, Fairfax, 703-698-8525; also  
Fairfax. FOAKS, FRFX. Interventional.

George B. Bren, Downtown DC, 202-785-4966  
also Clinton, Waldorf. CIV, FTW, GWU, SOMD,  
WHC.

David M. Brill, Takoma Park, 301-891-7000;  
also Rockville. CAL, SG, SUB, WADV.  
Interventional.

Kenneth M. Brooks, Fairfax, 703-641-9161.  
FRFX, LOU, RES.

Patrick F. Callahan, Fairfax, 703-876-8410; also  
Rockville. ALEX, FOAKS, FRFX, HC, LAU, MV,  
MW, POT, RES, SG, WHC. Concentration in  
pediatrics.

Keith H. Chu, Manassas, 703-335-8750. FAU,  
FRFX, PW.

Virginia C. Colliver, Bethesda, 301-897-5301.  
SUB.

Nicholas Cossa, Fairfax, 703-573-3494. ALEX,  
FOAKS, FRFX, LOU, RES, VHC. Interventional.

Nancy J. Davenport, Northwest DC,  
202-686-9801. SUB, SUB, WHC.



## FAMILY MEDICINE

Five of the children in **Colette Magnant's** family are doctors, one's a nurse, and one who couldn't stand the sight of blood is a lawyer. Their father, a pediatrician in Northern Virginia for decades, loved his work. "I think he always thought we'd have a family clinic," Magnant says. "But you know how siblings are—we argue too much." ¶ At Georgetown University Hospital in the 1980s, Magnant was the only female breast-cancer surgeon. Women flocked to her. One group of patients—judges who are friends off the bench—dubbed her "the cheerleader" because of the optimism she inspires. "With breast cancer, you take so many hits psychologically," Magnant says. "I think it helps to have someone with an upbeat personality." ¶ Magnant has pioneered treatments such as a biopsy in which individual cancerous lymph nodes are extracted, sparing women the severe swelling that often accompanies removing them all. ¶ Though breast cancer has become more of a chronic illness than a killer, Magnant says her goals haven't changed: "I'm still trying to make women look as good as possible while giving them the best treatment possible."

**Yuri A. Dreychak**, Bethesda, 301-897-5301. SUB, Interventional.

**Robert DiBianco**, Takoma Park, 301-891-7000. CAL, SG, SUB, WADV.

**Paul E. DiLorenzo**, Annandale, 703-204-9301. ALEX, FRFX.

**Mary T. Donofrio**, Northwest DC, 202-476-2137. CNMC. Concentration in pediatrics.

**Sean M. Dwyer**, Chevy Chase, 301-656-9070. SIR, SUB.

**Daniel J. Ferricola**, Takoma Park, 301-891-7000. CAL, SG, SUB, WADV.

**Gary P. Fisher**, Chevy Chase, 301-656-3334. GU, SIR, SUB.

**Jack L. Flyer**, Chevy Chase, 301-656-5050. SIR, SUB, WHC. Interventional.

**Dennis C. Friedman**, Rockville, 301-670-3000; also Germantown. LAU, MONT, SG, WADV. Interventional.

**Ted D. Friehling**, Fairfax, 703-849-0770; also Manassas. FRFX. Interventional.

**Frank M. Galloto Jr.**, Fairfax, 703-876-8410; also Rockville. ALEX, FOAKS, FRFX, HC, LAU, MV, MVX, POT, RES, SG, WHC. Concentration in pediatrics.

**Robert A. Gallino**, Olney, 301-774-5810. MONT, WHC. Interventional.

**Merdod Ghafouri**, Manassas, 703-335-8750. FAU, FRFX, PW.

**Brian N. Glick**, Arlington, 703-671-2490. FRFX, WHC.

**Thomas S. Goldbaum**, Chevy Chase, 301-656-4064. SIR, SUB, WHC. Interventional.

**Samuel D. Goldberg**, Bethesda, 301-897-5301. SUB.

**Frank N. Gravino**, Silver Spring, 301-681-9095. HC, WADV.

**D. Leonard Griffen III**, Rockville, 301-670-3000; also Germantown. LAU, MONT, SG, WADV.

**Seymour I. Hepner**, Fairfax, 703-573-0504; also Leesburg, Centreville. ALEX, FOAKS, FRFX, LOU, POT, PW, RES. Concentration in pediatrics.

**Robert T. Herron**, Vienna, 703-281-1265.

ALEX, FOAKS, FRFX, LOU, MV, RES, WHC. Interventional.

**Thomas J. Hougen**, Arlington, 703-717-4070; also Northwest DC, Waldorf. CNMC, FRFX, GU, SIR, WHC. Concentration in pediatrics.

**Samuel B. Itscoltz**, Silver Spring, 301-681-9095. HC, WADV.

**Martin S. Kanovsky**, Chevy Chase, 301-656-3334. GU, GWU, SIR, SUB, WHC.

**Sharon S. Karr**, Fairfax, 703-573-0504; also Leesburg, Centreville. ALEX, FOAKS, FRFX, LOU, POT, PW, RES. Concentration in pediatrics.

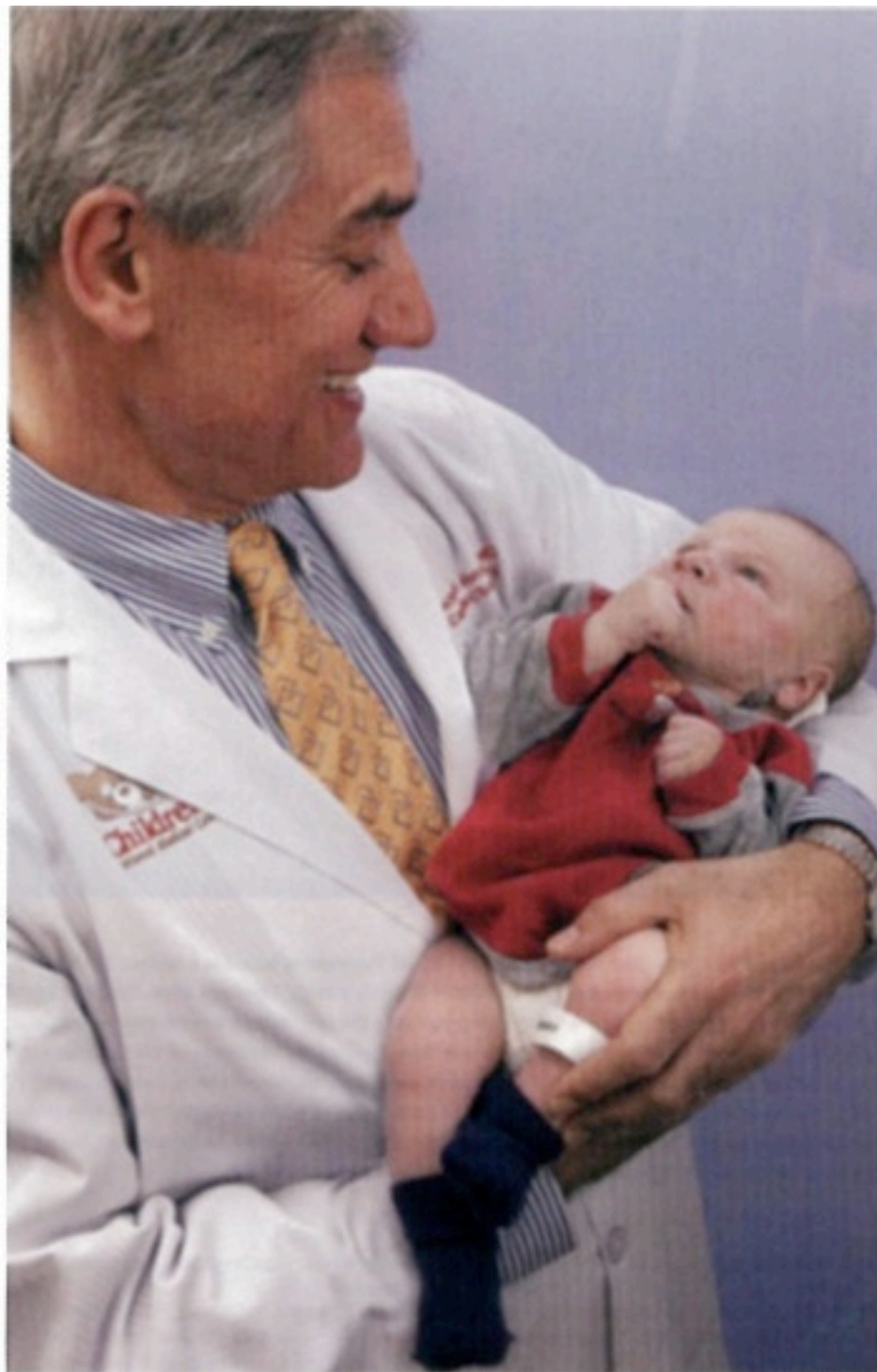
**Richard J. Katz**, Downtown DC, 202-741-3333. GWU.

**Aaron E. Kenigsberg**, Silver Spring, 301-681-9095. HC, WADV. Interventional.

**Kenneth M. Kent**, Northwest DC, 202-877-5975. SUB, WHC. Interventional.

**Joseph M. Kiernan**, Fairfax, 703-573-3494. ALEX, FOAKS, FRFX, LOU, RES, WHC.

Interventional.  
**Karen S. Kuehl**, Northwest DC, 202-476-2020.



## FIXING LITTLE HEARTS

Mark Noll was born on Valentine's Day with a broken heart. His aorta and pulmonary artery were reversed, severely disrupting the circulation of blood to the body. Fortunately, Dr. **Richard Jonas** knew what to do. A week later Jonas—chief of cardiovascular surgery at Children's National Medical Center—performed an arterial switch that saved baby Mark's life. ¶ An Aussie who trained under revolutionary cardiac surgeon Brian Barratt-Boyes in New Zealand, Jonas in the 1980s became one of the world's first doctors to do heart surgery on newborns. "Back then it was still considered heresy to operate young," Jonas says. "But Boyes came along and said, 'No, we're going to fix the problem early.'" ¶ In Boston, Jonas pioneered surgeries designed to combat Mark's defect—once a death sentence. Now babies who have the surgery almost always recover. "I have kids who are in college now that I operated on," Jonas says. "You want them to be the best that they were ever going to be."

CNMC. Concentration in pediatrics.

**Louis J. Larca**, Takoma Park, 301-891-7000. CAL, SG, SUB, WHC.

**Benjamin I. Lee**, Downtown DC, 202-822-9356. GWU, WHC. Interventional.

**Kenneth M.H. Lee**, Downtown DC, 202-775-0955. WHC. Interventional.

**Christopher J. Leet**, Manassas, 703-369-5959; also Gainesville. FAU, PREFIX, PW.

**Mohamed K. Mardini**, McLean, 703-827-0001. ALEX, FOAKS, PREFIX, LOU, POT, PW, RES. Concentration in pediatrics.

**Gerard Robert Marlin**, Northwest DC, 202-476-2020. CNMC. Concentration in pediatrics.

**Robert G. Matthews**, Annandale, 703-573-2045. PREFIX.

**Francis J. McGrath**, Arlington, 703-524-7202. ALEX, FOAKS, PREFIX, MV, VHC.

**Mark Robert Milner**, Bethesda, 301-897-5301. SUB.

**Pradeep R. Nayak**, Vienna, 703-281-1265. ALEX, FOAKS, PREFIX, LOU, MV, RES, VHC.

**Allen A. Nimetz**, Chevy Chase, 301-656-3334. GU, SIR, SUB, WHC. Interventional.

**John T. O'Brien**, Annandale, 703-573-0740. PREFIX. Interventional.

**Thomas J. Odar**, Rockville, 301-670-3000; also Germantown. LAU, MONT, SG, WADV.

**R. Oskoui**, Northwest DC, 202-464-5770. SIR, SUB, WHC. Interventional.

**Antonio R. Parente**, Arlington, 703-524-7202. ALEX, FOAKS, PREFIX, MV, VHC. Interventional.

**Jin Hyuk Park**, Fairfax, 703-573-0504; also Leesburg, Centreville. ALIX, FOAKS, PREFIX, LOU, POT, PW, RES. Concentration in pediatrics.

**Augusto D. Pichard**, Northwest DC, 202-877-5975. SUB, WHC. Interventional.

**Thomas Pinder**, Northeast DC, 202-832-1800. HC, PG, PROV, WHC.

**Dean M. Pollock**, Leesburg, 703-858-5421; also Fairfax. PREFIX, LOU.

**Joseph A. Quash**, Northeast DC, 202-832-1800. HC, PG, PROV, WHC.

**Bryan D. Raybuck**, Fairfax, 703-698-8525; also Fairfax. FOAKS, PREFIX. Interventional.

**Jonathan S. Reiner**, Downtown DC, 202-741-3333. GWU. Interventional.

**Kevin M. Rogan**, Annandale, 703-698-6255. FOAKS, PREFIX. Interventional.

**Joel Rosenberg**, Downtown DC, 202-822-9356. GWU, WHC. Interventional.

**Stephen P. Rosenfeld**, Alexandria, 703-751-8111. ALEX, PREFIX.

**Elizabeth Ross**, Downtown DC, 202-775-0955. WHC.

**Richard E. Rubin**, Chevy Chase, 301-654-6442. SIR, SUB. No insurance.

**Peter J. Sabia**, Silver Spring, 301-681-5700. HC, LAU, WADV.

**Lowell F. Satler**, Northwest DC, 202-877-5975. SUB, WHC. Interventional.

**Alan I. Schneider**, Silver Spring, 301-681-9095. HC, WADV. Interventional.

**Herman B. Segal**, Silver Spring, 301-681-9095. HC, WADV.

**Stuart F. Seides**, Downtown DC, 202-822-9356. GWU, WHC. Interventional.

**Stephen R. Shapiro**, Rockville, 301-424-8484; also Fairfax. PREFIX, SG. Concentration in pediatrics.

**Harvey S. Sherber**, Fairfax, 703-698-8525.  
FOAKS, FRFX. Interventional.

**Robert A. Shor**, Reston, 703-437-5977; also  
Leesburg. ALEX, FOAKS, FRFX, LOU, RES, VHC.

**Michael C. Slack**, Northwest DC, 202-476-2020.  
CNMC. Concentration in pediatrics.

**Sameer Sofat**, Rockville, 240-683-8002. SG.

**Allen J. Solomon**, Downtown DC,  
202-741-3333. GWU. Interventional.

**Roger Stevenson Jr.**, Bethesda, 301-897-5301.  
SUB.

**Anne E. Summers**, Fairfax, 703-641-9161. FRFX,  
LOU, RES.

**Hassan Tabandeh**, Manassas, 703-335-8750.  
FAU, FRFX, PW.

**Hamid Taheri**, Manassas, 703-335-8750. FAU,  
FRFX, PW. Interventional.

**Barry S. Talesnick**, Chevy Chase, 301-656-9070;  
also Silver Spring. SIB, SUB.

**Sherif S. Tawfik**, Fairfax, 703-573-0504;  
also Leesburg, Centreville. ALEX, FOAKS,  
FRFX, LOU, POT, PW, RES. Concentration in  
pediatrics.

**James A. Thompson**, Fairfax, 703-876-8410.  
FOAKS, FRFX, HC, LAU, MV, MW, POT, RES, SG,  
WHC. Concentration in pediatrics.

**Cynthia Marie Tracy**, Downtown DC,  
202-741-3333. GWU.

**Joseph A. Vassallo**, Chevy Chase,  
301-656-9070. SIB, SUB.

**Bernard M. Wagman**, Northwest DC,  
202-726-5484. WHC.

**Alan G. Wasserman**, Downtown DC,  
202-741-3333. GWU.

**Jonathan E. Yager**, Fairfax, 703-641-9161. FRFX,  
LOU, RES.

**Joshua S. Yamamoto**, Chevy Chase,  
301-656-4064. SIB, SUB, WHC.

**Shahram "Shawn" Yazdani**, Manas-  
sas, 703-335-8750. FAU, FRFX, PW.  
Interventional.

**Bruce W. Zinsmeister**, Silver Spring,  
301-587-7040. HC, WHC.