

SOUTHEAST GEORGIA HEALTHCARE PROFILES

The Best Care for Your Digestive System

One of America's most advanced, patient-centered gastroenterology practices is right here in Savannah.

Compassionate care is the cornerstone of our practice," says Dr. Mark Murphy, co-founder of The Center for Digestive & Liver Health (CDLH) and The Endoscopy Center. "We offer a warm, empathetic contrast to the assembly-line services of other practices. Our patients feel like people, not diagnoses or test subjects."

CDLH offers a full spectrum of services for the prevention, detection, and management of digestive diseases, with the advantage of being the largest gastroenterology practice in southeast Georgia. "Our doctors have the ability to *sub*-specialize, offering immense expertise in diverse conditions," explains Dr. Murphy. "Referring gastroenterologists send their complex patients to us from as far as two hours away."

University-level technology is provided with acute competence: "You can trust that you won't be the first to receive a leading-edge technique. Even our most advanced procedures are performed on a repetitive, not sporadic, basis."



The board-certified gastroenterologists of CDLH: (l to r) Steven L. Carpenter, MD, AGAF, FACP, FASGE; Mark R. Nyce, MD; Edward Rydzak, MD, AGAF; George C. Aragon, MD; Allan L. Hardy, MD; Mark E. Murphy, MD, FACP, AGAF; Charles W. Duckworth, MD; Ryan C. Wanamaker, MD

CDLH physicians were the first in Georgia to offer endoscopic ultrasound (EUS). Of the nine physicians in Savannah who perform Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP), seven are at CDLH. The practice also invested in an Electronic Medical Records (EMR) system more than eight years ago, long before most other practices, enabling providers secure access to patient records.

"We don't cut corners," says Dr. Murphy. "We're detail-oriented and keep stringent data records to measure our outcomes."

And the results speak for themselves: CDLH's history of consistent success has earned the respect of peers who voted them as "America's Top Doctors."

CDLH is home to the three physicians in south Georgia to be awarded this prestigious recognition.

March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month

It's one of the deadliest diseases in America, but it doesn't have to be.

"Colon cancer is *preventable*, not just curable," points out Dr. Murphy. "If precursor polyps are detected during a colonoscopy, we can remove them immediately, reducing the risk of colon cancer by 99 percent."

The first screening colonoscopy is recommended at age 50, or earlier if there is a family history of colon cancer. The procedure only needs to be repeated every 10 years, if results are favorable.

