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You trust your doctor with your life and, sometimes, your happiness. By staying on top of the latest procedures, technologies and medication, the nine profiled here show why they are among the best.

photographs by Phil Flynn

Top Docs

Nicholas Petrelli Oncology

Like many Delawareans, Dr. Nicholas Petrelli goes to the beach to

relax. He fishes in the Indian River Inlet or goes for a morning swim in the ocean at Cape Henlopen. Petrelli learned to surf as a teenager on family vacations to Montauk, Long Island, so when he moved to Delaware four years ago, after two decades in Buffalo, New York, he took up the sport once more.

But even when the 58-year-old Petrelli is relaxing, his mind is on his work. "I see these young people on the beach tanning," he says, shaking his head in dismay. "Melanoma is one of the most common cancers."

He worries that the proliferation of new housing in coastal Sussex County has led to an inadequate medical infrastructure for the influx of residents, many of whom are older adults at higher risk for cancer.

For Petrelli, cancer care is not just a career. It's his life's mission.

Petrelli came to Delaware in 2001 to be the first medical director of the Helen F. Graham Cancer Center at Christiana Care Health System. He had reached his zenith at the Roswell Park Cancer Center, where he worked since beginning his surgical oncology fellow-

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