



Emily Arsenault M.D.

Dermatologist,
Cancer Surgeon and
Owner, Arsenault
Dermatology

Beginning medical school at 19 and becoming an M.D. at 23 is indicative of the commitment to the medical profession that Dr. Emily Arsenault, a dermatologist and skin pre-cancer and cancer surgeon, exhibits at her expansive practice that she opened in 2003. A specialist in pediatric—infants, children, and adolescents—dermatology, Dr. Arsenault's practice includes medical dermatology, cosmetic procedures, skin cancer surgery, body mole mapping, and preventive skin care.

W

ith offices in Lakewood Ranch and Bradenton, her staff of 65 includes an M.D. and

five P.A.s, four who hold Master's degrees from the Physician Assistant Training Program at the University of Florida, and one who holds a Master's degree from Nova Southeastern University.

Dr. Arsenault's practice includes medical dermatology such as full body scans, warts, moles, cysts, acne, hair loss, nail infections, skin allergies, scars, broken blood vessels, rosacea, and Blue Light Therapy for acne treatment. She performs Mohs surgery and body mole mapping for those with an increased risk of melanoma. Cosmetic procedures include Botox, Juvederm, and Kybella. An esthetician P.A. is trained in Sciton BBL, dermaplaning, and skin rejuvenation.

Dr. Arsenault worked in a large multispecialty group in Massachusetts and saw what she liked—and didn't like. Her practice here reflects her desire for quality in every aspect and incorporates what she learned from that large physician group. Her husband Dr. Mike Arsenault, Chief Operations and Technology Officer, is a trained psychiatrist who joined the practice to assist with growth, quality, and technological updates. Dr. Arsenault's approach seems to work as her practice has been voted the Bradenton Herald's "People's Choice Award for Best Dermatologist" for the past nine years.

"I practice the Golden Rule in that I treat patients as I want to be treated. I was a dermatology patient as a teenager so I understand what it's like to be in the chair. I want to make my patients comfortable. My goal is to be proactive in finding things that the patient didn't know prior to seeing me. I returned to Florida where my husband and I were born and raised because of the schools and growth possibilities. I wanted to be on the ground floor of a place to grow and was the first dermatologist in Lakewood Ranch," Dr. Arsenault says.

Her interest in pediatric dermatology began in residency when she was shocked when her young patients' parents would tell her that dermatologists don't treat children. She sees children 10 years old and younger for acne, eczema, warts, molluscum (a common viral skin condition), rashes, and moles. For example, she diagnosed a 10-year old girl with melanoma and referred her to a pediatric oncologist surgeon.

Dr. Arsenault loves seeing children and has ways to keep them distracted during treatment. Women from 12 years old to mid-twenties and pre-menopausal women frequently develop hormonal acne with deeper, tender pimples. But the majority of Dr. Arsenault's patients have sun damage including moles, bleeding red bumps, scabby spots, and pre-cancerous conditions. She says people in middle age and older are surprised by how much damage the sun has done to their skin.

Hiring the right people is also important to Dr. Arsenault. "I was skeptical at first until I met and worked with Physician Assistants. They're trained to be an extension of me. And I love to educate. The women who hold these positions in my practice have gone to the best schools—which has a lot of overlap with medical school and, in my opinion, these ladies could have chosen to

become M.D.s in another life. They have come to me with their own dermatology training and then I further hone their skills personally for months before they gain my trust in their judgment. And they have never let me down. I love to be generous with my team and patients to a point where my greatest fear is that I am taken for granted."

Dr. Susan Weinkle, a dermatologist in private practice in Bradenton, says, "I have enjoyed the privilege of knowing Dr. Arsenault for the past 15 years. She provides an excellent level of care in her practice which focuses primarily on medical dermatology. We're quite fortunate to have someone with her expertise to deliver the level of care she provides in her three offices in Manatee County since so many residents are in need of her services. In addition to her practice, she is the proud mother of three children."

The spacious well-appointed flagship Lakewood Ranch office embodies her philosophy of a high quality proactive and preventive care model where patients and staff are treated like family. "I'm passionate about treating patients and saving lives. I know we save two to three lives a week. I and my staff are thorough with every patient. That thoroughness allows us to identify problems early such as a mole before it becomes melanoma. I am rewarded every time I help someone who couldn't find help elsewhere, such as with a mysterious rash or itch. I see patients and perform five surgeries every day even though it is hard to plan for all patients' issues where one patient might have 20 skin cancers. The key to my success is being true to my founding principle of doing right by the patient whatever that takes. Some physicians get bogged down with the business aspects of a practice—personnel, software, IT issues. In doing high quality work, I spend more time with patients," she says.

A native of Miami, Dr. Arsenault was raised by a stay-at-home mother and a mechanic father. Her sister is a physical therapist in Texas and her late sister was an elementary school teacher. Dr. Arsenault attended the Honors Program in Medicine at the University of Miami School of Medicine where she received her M.D. and where she met her husband. She completed an internship in Rhode Island and dermatology training at Boston University; her husband completed an internship in adult psychiatry at Brown University. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology and is Board Certified in dermatology.

She and Dr. Mike have two daughters and a son who are five, seven, and nine years old whom she describes as super sweet, playful, curious, and outgoing. In her leisure time, she enjoys outdoor activities with the family; cooking with the children; and reading about dermatology, astronomy, science, nature, biology, and general health. Her guilty pleasure: riding scientifically-engineered roller coasters. She and Dr. Mike support the community by participating in Adopt a Family and providing bikes at the Lakewood Ranch egg hunt.

Dr. Arsenault is passionate about practicing quality preventive dermatology and treating patients and staff like family. 🍷

🍷 STORY: Carol Darling

🍷 IMAGES: Evelyn England