

# Looking Ahead

Now celebrating 10 years as owner of Bucks Eye Specialists in Yardley, Dr. Sanjay Kamat builds on his commitment to preserving, protecting, and improving patients' vision.

by BILL DONAHUE  
photography by JODY ROBINSON



**O**nce we hit adulthood, most of us feel as though the days speed by at a blinding pace. Ten years can pass by almost in a blink. Sanjay Kamat, D.O., knows the feeling. This year, Dr. Kamat is celebrating the 10-year anniversary of owning and operating Bucks Eye Specialists, his Yardley-based ophthalmology practice.

"I can't believe it's been 10 years," says Dr. Kamat. "This milestone has given me an opportunity to look back and contemplate these past 10 years, as well as the path forward. We've worked very hard to establish ourselves here, to help people of all ages see the world around them more clearly, and it's very humbling to see the way that we have been embraced by the community."

At Bucks Eye Specialists, Dr. Kamat treats just about every condition, disease, or disorder associated with the eye: cataracts,

glaucoma, and macular degeneration; dry eye; ptosis (drooping of the upper eyelid, which can compromise vision); blepharitis (chronic inflammation of the eyelids); and diabetic retinopathy (damage to retinal blood vessels caused by diabetes).

"If it involves the eye, I've seen it and treated it," says Dr. Kamat, who received his board certification in ophthalmology through the American Osteopathic Colleges of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (AOCOO-HNS).

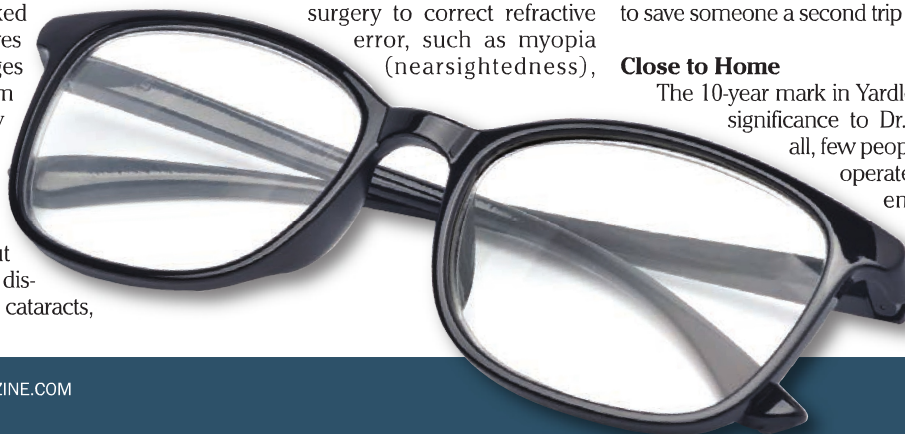
Particular areas of specialty include surgery to correct refractive error, such as myopia (nearsightedness),

hyperopia (farsightedness), astigmatism, and presbyopia (the inability to see things up close, due to the aging process). He also specializes in "combined procedures," whereby he removes a patient's cataracts while also treating a patient's glaucoma or adding implantable contact lenses, all in one trip to the operating room.

"It's amazing to consider some of the things I can do now," he says. "A decent cataract surgeon will be able to add on ancillary surgery to help people's vision, and that's a real benefit to patient care because you're able to save someone a second trip to the OR."

## Close to Home

The 10-year mark in Yardley is of special significance to Dr. Kamat. After all, few people can say they operate a prosperous enterprise that adds value to a community so close to where



they came of age.

Dr. Kamat grew up in Bucks County and graduated at the top of his class from Pennsylvania High School. He left the Greater Philadelphia Area to attend medical school at Kansas City University of Medicine and Bioscience, and then “came home” for his ophthalmology residency at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. He also worked at Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia, where he gained experience in cataract surgery and oculoplastic trauma.

In 2009, Dr. Kamat took over Bucks Eye Specialists, a practice established by his childhood ophthalmologist, Barry Kutner, M.D. Over the years, Dr. Kamat has taken deliberate steps to grow and fully modernize the practice: converting to electronic medical records; investing in pioneering technology such as Intense Pulsed Light, which is used to treat dry eye; and becoming certified in new, cutting-edge technologies to treat patients with impaired vision.

Dr. Kamat devotes almost 90 percent of his time to direct patient care. In addition, he is a clinical instructor at the Wills Eye Institute in Philadelphia, as well as the ophthalmologist for the Cancer Treatment Centers of America’s Northeast Regional Center in Philadelphia. He also devotes his time to being on staff at numerous facilities in

the tri-state area, as well as to providing vital care to patients at inner-city clinics.

In other words, Dr. Kamat he has earned his reputation as one of the top ophthalmologists in the Greater Philadelphia Area. In 2017, for example, he was invited to join the medical advisory board of Wills Eye Surgery Center in Warminster. Also, last March the AOCOO-HNS awarded Dr. Kamat with the Governors Achievement Certificate. The AOCOO-HNS Board of Governors bestowed the honor upon him for distinguishing himself through a high degree of accomplishment and meritorious service performed on behalf of the college and its board of examiners.

The honors keep coming. Last month Dr. Kamat crossed the Atlantic Ocean to take a grander, even more visible stage. He served as co-chairman of a two-day event held in Amsterdam, Netherlands, called the 2019 Global Ophthalmology Summit. There, he

was the sole American among some of the world’s most prominent research scientists, practitioners, and educators, to focus on “exploring the latest advancements in vision science and ophthalmology.”

Besides his work as summit co-chairman, he made a formal presentation about one patient who was born with extreme nearsightedness and astigmatism. In it, he offered data about this patient’s case, which required “a staged procedure,” including the placement of multifocal corrective lenses, to correct the patient’s condition.

“I’m honored that they reached out to me and wanted me to be part of the summit,” he adds. “I had never been to Amsterdam

in need of emergency care, but when they do, you want to be able to help,” Dr. Kamat says. “It ended up working out beautifully for the patient; Dr. Chhedi and other members of the team deserve a lot of credit.”

Once Dr. Kamat returned home, he jumped right back into the swing of things, treating patients in his Yardley office and in ORs throughout the Greater Philadelphia Area.

“We’ve been doing very well with premium lenses involving cataract surgery,” he says. “In fact, a lot of these people we’re treating are coming out of the surgery with 20/20 vision. The technology we’re using can change someone’s life in significant ways, and that technology is only going to continue



Since taking over Bucks Eye Specialists in 2009, Dr. Kamat has taken deliberate steps to grow and fully modernize the practice.

before this trip, so I was glad to take some extra time to see a part of the world that has so much culture and history.”

Overall, from the interactions with fellow practitioners to touring the historic cobblestone streets of Bruges, Belgium, he was “thrilled” with the experience. In fact, hopes to be invited to next year’s summit, slated for Rome, Italy.

He considers such trips to necessary asides, however brief. Even though he and his colleague, Dana Cianni, O.D., were both away at the same time—she was in Iceland with her husband—the practice kept on humming. When a patient came to Bucks Eye Specialists in need of emergency treatment for a retinal issue, Cindy Chhedi, O.D., an optometrist from a sister office in Mount Laurel, N.J., was able to step in and quickly connect the patient with a retina specialist.

“You obviously don’t want people to be

to get better and better.”

Whether it’s adding new products and procedures, new technologies, or new staff, Dr. Kamat is laser focused on providing treatment capable of having a dramatic effect on his patients’ eyesight. He’d also like to host an open house, if he can find the time to plan it, in celebration of the 10-year milestone.

“The first 10 years have come with their share of ups and downs, but I have really enjoyed my time here in Yardley,” he says. “With everything that’s been happening in the past year or so, I feel like we’re starting the next 10 years on the right foot.” ■



#### **BUCKS EYE SPECIALISTS**

301 Oxford Valley Road, Suite 801-A  
Yardley, Pa. | (215) 493-7330  
[BucksEyeSpecialists.com](http://BucksEyeSpecialists.com)