

Meet ThedaCare's Bariatric Weight Loss Care Experts



Raymond F. Georgen, MD, FACS

Dr. Georgen serves as the co-founder and co-medical director of ThedaCare's Bariatric Weight Loss Care program. Dr. Georgen is also actively involved in the Level II trauma center at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah. Dr. Georgen has a real passion for working with bariatric patients. "Our mantra is to treat the whole person," he explains. "It's amazing to see how their bodies change, but the real reward is seeing their lives change."

- Board Certified in General Surgery
- Medical School and residency: Loyola University, Maywood, Illinois
- Undergraduate: Villanova University
- Fellow, American College of Surgeons
- Fellow, American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgeons
- State of Wisconsin Trauma Advisory Committee
- Fox Valley Regional Trauma Advisory Counsel



Kevin Wasco, MD, FACS

Dr. Wasco serves as the co-founder and co-medical director of ThedaCare's Bariatric Weight Loss Care program. Dr. Wasco has an active interest in minimally-invasive surgery and new technology. Dr. Wasco also serves as the Chairman for Cancer Committee at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah. Dr. Wasco takes great pride in helping people improve and prolong their lives. "When you have a surgery that has shown to be a cure – not only for losing weight, but for curing many co-morbidities – it only makes sense to use it. We can add 10-15 years or more to a person's life!"

- Board Certified in General Surgery
- Medical School and Residency: University of Wisconsin
- Undergraduate: Marquette University
- Fellow, American College of Surgeons
- Fellow, American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgeons
- Member American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (SAGES)
- ASMBS Emerging Technologies Committee Member



Betsy Winnekens, APNP-C

Nurse Practitioner Betsy Winnekens has been with Surgical Associates since the beginning in 2002. She provides pre-op and post-op care in tandem with the physicians. Betsy has a master's degree as a Family Nurse Practitioner from UW-Oshkosh and her bachelor's degree in nursing from UW-Eau Claire. Betsy has done research on the quality of life after bariatric surgery, as well as the effects of weight loss surgery on the health of children in the household.



Mary Ellen Buechel, RN

Understanding that no two patients are the same, Mary Ellen enjoys being part of peoples' lives and helping them on their journey toward becoming healthier. Mary Ellen received her bachelor's degree in nursing from Marian College. Outside of work, she likes spending time with family. She has a passion for fitness and enjoys biking, hiking, and working out.



Lori Knapp, RD

Lori Knapp is a registered dietician who specializes in working with the bariatric population. In fact, she has always worked with bariatric patients since earning her degree from UW-Stevens Point in dietetics. Lori is a member of the American Society of Metabolic Bariatric Surgery.



Mike Griffith, LCSW, MSW

Mike provides group therapy called "life skills" for bariatric patients struggling with challenges of everyday life and how to cope with those stressors. Mike is a member of the American Society of Metabolic Bariatric Surgery. He has a master's degree in social work and is a licensed social worker by the State of Wisconsin.



Jennifer Spreeman, CMA

Helping patients get back to normal and bettering their lives, Jennifer works with patients toward reaching their goals and overcoming any challenges along the way. Jennifer received an education as a certified medical assistant from Fox Valley Technical College, and is a member of the American Association of Medical Assistants. She was just 19 when she began working on our team.



Julie Scott

Julie Scott is the Practice Manager for Surgical Associates. She is our "resident expert" on insurance approvals and guides patients through this process.



Thomas R. Groh, PhD

Dr. Groh earned his PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Connecticut. His practice focuses on psychological testing and evaluations, including personality, cognitive and attention testing.



Ashley Krautkramer, RD, CDE

Helping people make positive changes through the foods they eat, Ashley encourages each patient to strive for progress, not perfection. Ashley earned a bachelor's degree in dietetics from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. She is a registered dietitian, a certified dietitian, and a certified diabetes educator. She is also a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the Wisconsin Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, and the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery.



Andrea Wolff, RN, BSN

Andrea Wolff is the Bariatric Program Coordinator. She ensures our compliance as an accredited comprehensive bariatric center. She also develops and provides patient education before, during, and after surgery. Andrea received her nursing degree from UW-Oshkosh in 2003. She is a member of the American Society of Metabolic Bariatric Surgery, Obesity Action Coalition, and The Obesity Society.



Jess Marshall, Exercise Physiologist

Jess helps people find genuine enjoyment in exercise. She also facilitates one of our seven monthly support groups. She is a member of the American Society of Metabolic Bariatric Surgery. Jess received a bachelor's degree in kinesiology from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

ThedaCare Bariatric Weight Loss Care

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