

Twin County ENT

Relief from allergies ... and more

By Emily Harris

While the specialty practiced at 104 Doctors Park in Galax has not changed, the name has. Twin County ENT opened on Feb. 1, and is a division of Twin County Regional Healthcare (TCRH).

Dr. James P. King Jr., FACS, remains at the practice. He is joined by Dr. Cameron A. Gillespie, FACS, who is new to Galax, but not to the area.

Both doctors are board certified by the American Academy of Otolaryngology. Both doctors are also graduates of the University of Virginia (UVA) School of Medicine and both served in the military.

A familiar face

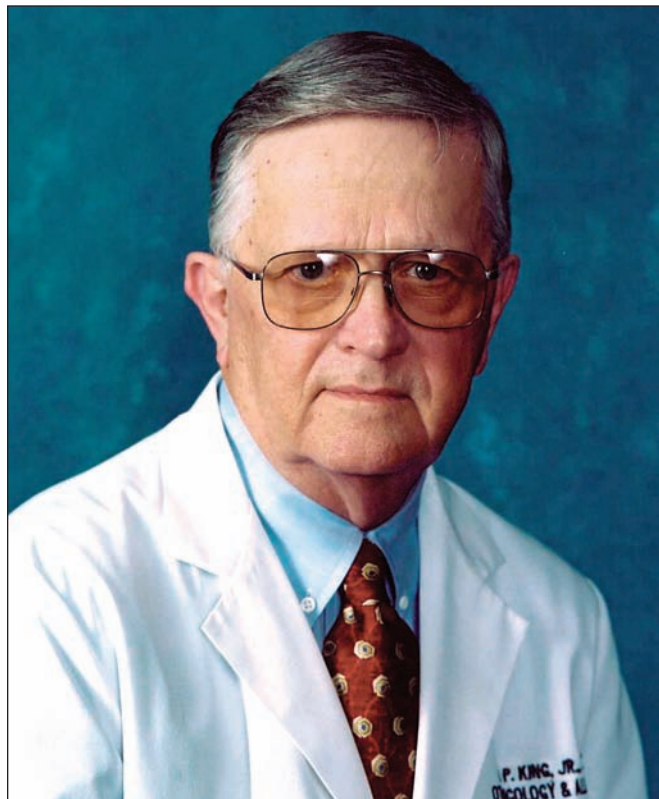
Dr. King says he's been around Galax long enough that folks know him. "They know I will try to be straightforward with them. I don't believe in holding back something. If they want to know, I'm going to tell them," he says.

Dr. King was born in Charlottesville when his father was a medical student, and he was raised in Radford. After graduating from Roanoke College in Salem in 1954 with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology, Dr. King completed a mixed internship at the University of Kansas Medical School in Kansas City, Kansas, in 1959. He finished a year of general surgery at the Watts Division at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, in 1960. He completed a specialty-training program in Otolaryngology at the University of Virginia in 1960. After he completed his residency training at UVA, Dr. King went on active duty as a Navy medical officer. His rank was Lieutenant Commander. His father served in World War II as a Naval medical officer, too. Dr. King was stationed at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Newport, Rhode Island.

Dr. King became board certified by the American Academy of Otolaryngology in head and neck surgery in 1964 and a fellow of the American Academy of Otolaryngology Allergy in 1990.

And while Twin County ENT is new, Dr. King has been on the staff at TCRH for 25 years.

Dr. King was in group practice in Roanoke for 15 years before he came to Galax, where he built and opened the practice in 1983.



Dr. James P. King Jr., FACS

Dr. King is married and his wife Patricia is the practice's head allergy nurse. They have five children between them and eight grandchildren.

Returning to Virginia

Dr. Gillespie owned The Gillespie Clinic, Inc., in South Boston, Virginia, for 13 years. He left to work as a contract surgeon for the U.S. Army at Fort Hood's Darnell Army Regional Medical Center in Killeen, Texas, for two years. When he returned to Virginia, he joined Twin County ENT.

Dr. Gillespie was born in Alaska, where he lived for one year. He was sent to live with his grandparents in Virginia when the Korean War broke out. Gillespie's father was in the Navy Medical Corps and was in the Aleutian Campaign of World War II.

He's a local guy, Dr. Gillespie says. He attended Grymes Memorial School in Orange, Virginia, which is north of Charlottesville in the Blue Ridge Parkway, and then Woodberry Forest School, a private preparatory school near Orange, Virginia. He graduated from UVA, where he was an Echols Scholar, in 1970 with a dual Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and philosophy. He completed medical school at UVA in 1974.

Dr. Gillespie's father and grandfather were career medical officers in the Navy. He signed up for a Navy scholarship



Dr. Cameron A. Gillespie, FACS

for medical school. Dr. Gillespie completed a straight-surgery internship at the Naval Regional Medical Center (NRMC) in Philadelphia in 1975. He completed a surgery residency at NRMC in Philadelphia in 1976 and a residency in Otolaryngology at NRMC in Oakland, California, in 1979. He was chief of Otolaryngology at NRMC in Japan until 1983.

He prefers ENT surgery. "It's more delicate, more precise and more likely to be seated than some other surgery fields," he says.

Dr. Gillespie completed a head and neck cancer fellowship at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina, from 1984 to 1986. This overlapped with his Navy service and he says he was in the military in civilian clothing while at Duke. He has been affiliated with Duke from 1995 to 2008. After the fellowship, he was assistant chief of Otolaryngology at NRMC in Bethesda, Maryland. When he retired from the U.S. Navy Medical Corps in 1993, he held the senior officer's rank of Captain.

Dr. Gillespie became board certified by the American Academy of Otolaryngology in head and neck surgery in 1979 and he became a fellow of the American Academy of Otolaryngology Allergy in 1979. He has also been certified in the preventative medical specialties of Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine since 2004.

While in the Navy, Dr. Gillespie caught the last part of the Vietnam War and the first Gulf War.

Dr. Gillespie met his wife Tomoko Usami, a Dietitian, while he was stationed in Japan. They have one dog and three parrots.

Twin County ENT

Twin County ENT offers a one-stop shop for patients' ENT needs—allergy testing and immunotherapy, surgery, ear, nose and throat, Dr. King says.

"Immunotherapy is giving the allergy shots to those patients ... once we find out what they're allergic to, which could be tree and grass pollen, dust, dust mites, mold, animal dander ... then

we make up the vaccines to those antigens in this office and then we give the patient the shots to build up their immunity against the very things that they're allergic to," he says.

"Allergy is just a malfunction of the immune system and when the patient gets exposed to these environmental allergens, like tree, grass and pollen, the immune system can handle that quite nicely. But if the patient is susceptible to that and builds up a very high allergic load, then what happens is the immune system gets out of balance and the out come the symptoms of sneezing, runny nose, nasal congestion ... any number of symptoms come out," he says. "That's when I see them, take the history and the physical and determine what is needed. Then we will go ahead and do skin testing and find out exactly what they're allergic to ... followed by preparation of the vials, followed by starting them on their allergy shots to improve the function of their immune system so they can handle the things that they've been exposed to ... and that's sort of it in a nutshell." ■

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact Twin County ENT at (276) 236-5161.