

Lawnwood Regional Medical Center & Heart Institute

Opened in 1978, Lawnwood Regional Medical Center & Heart Institute is a 341-bed facility with specialty services that include heart surgery and minimally invasive prostate cancer surgery.



Lawnwood Regional Medical Center & Heart Institute
1700 S. 23rd St., Fort Pierce, FL 34950
(772) 461-4000; www.lawnwoodmed.com

Specialty services

The Heart Institute

Provides a full range of services including cardiac catheterizations, angioplasty/stents, and open-heart surgery, with dedicated operating suites and a Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit.

Robotic surgery

The da Vinci Intuitive Robotic Surgical System, a technique in which surgeons are assisted by robotic devices, allows for minimally invasive prostate cancer surgery to help create less scarring and blood loss, and minimize the risk of impotence and incontinence.

Level II Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

A 10-bed unit that provides advanced care for infants. A neonatologist is available 24 hours a day, and all nurses and respiratory therapists in the unit are certified in neonatal resuscitation.

Expanded emergency room

Lawnwood's Emergency Department was recently expanded, doubling its capacity and tripling the space dedicated to emergency care. The \$12 million renovation, completed in October, features a large waiting room with a special play area for children, larger exam rooms, five critical care rooms and one trauma room.

Inpatient Rehabilitation Center

A 26-bed facility offering 24-hour rehabilitation by a team of physicians, nurses, social workers, physical therapists, psychologists, dietitians, pharmacists and discharge planners.

Community services

Lawnwood Pavilion Mental Health Services offers free assessments 24 hours a day. Call (772) 466-1500.

Outpatient services

Lawnwood provides various medical/surgical procedures, laboratory and imaging services (X-ray, ultrasound, mammography, CT, MRI and more), physical therapy and cardiac rehabilitation.

On staff

Dr. T. Peter Downing, cardiovascular and thoracic surgeon



Downing's dream was to do heart transplants. He worked at the National Institutes of Health, with an artificial heart program in Utah, and at Stanford in pursuit of this goal.

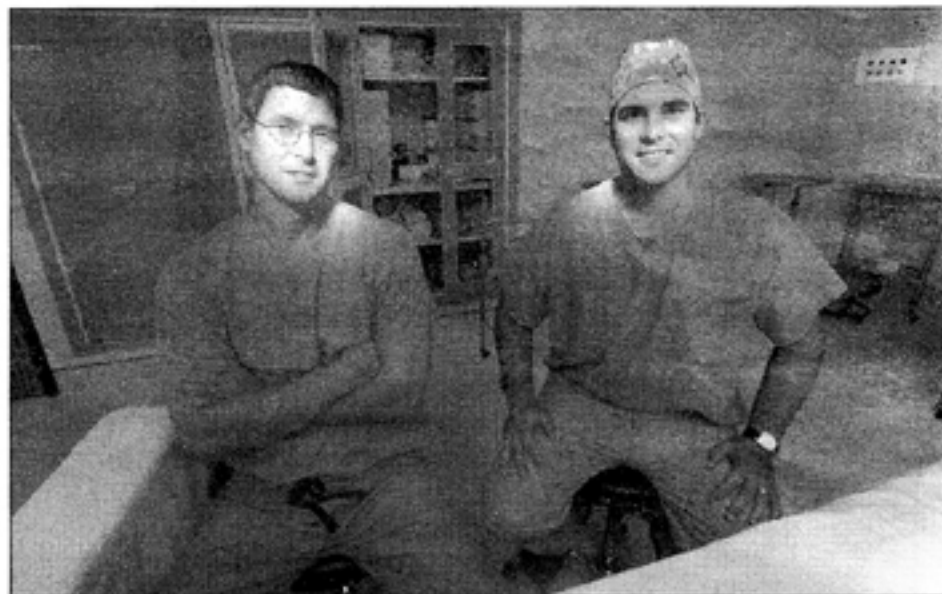
But a car accident years ago resulted in brain and back surgeries that led him to take a year off and change his plans.

He came to Florida in 1986 and to Lawnwood in 1999. The hospital doesn't perform heart transplants, but 'I do a lot of things related to it,' said Downing.

Downing assisted in the opening of Lawnwood's Heart Institute and served as president of the Florida Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons. He and his staff do 'beating heart surgery' in which patients are not put on a heart/lung machine.

Instead, doctors operate while the heart continues to function. The result, he says, is quicker recuperation for the patient.

Downing also uses a technique called endoscopic vein harvesting, which minimizes scarring and risk of infection for patients.



WADA MOSSAVAT/Staff Photographer

Drs. Scott Appledorn (left) and Adam Ball of Lawnwood Regional Medical Center.

Dr. Adam Ball and Dr. Scott Appledorn, urologists

Ball and his partner, Appledorn, run a Web site at www.gulfstreamurology.com — the name of their private practice. They perform minimally invasive prostate cancer surgery using the da Vinci Intuitive Surgical System, the only system available between Jacksonville and Atlantis, according to Lawnwood.

'I actually always wanted to be a doctor,' said Ball, 32, who has been in practice since August 2005. Initially he wanted to be an orthopedic surgeon, but a family crisis changed his mind in medical school.

'My father had prostate cancer, and I was following him through his course of treatment,' said Ball, who switched his specialty at that point. 'I liked what urologists do. The treatment of female incontinence, erectile dysfunction, in addition to prostate treatment.'

Ball and Appledorn did their residencies together at the University of Miami for five years. Then they started a practice together.

'We love what we do,' Ball said. 'We recognize that as the population ages, prostate cancer certainly will be a disease on the forefront for men's health.'