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Community Service

Dr. Nicholas Dodaro	16
Dr. Joan Huffman	16
Dr. Janice Kiernan	16

Orthopedics

Dr. Kevin Neal	16
Dr. Paul Shirley	18
Dr. William Pujadas	18

Nurse

Ann Hollander	18
Catha Jones	18
Bridget Rossi	18

Pediatrics

Dr. Mobeen Rathore	19
Dr. Eric Ceithaml	19
Dr. Norberto Benitez	22

Physicians

Dr. Lyndon Box	22
Dr. Yazan Khatib	22
Dr. Jeffery Scott Johns	25

Scientist

Nicholas Talley	25
Alan Fields	26
Matthew Farrer	26

Surgeon

Dr. John Crump	26
Dr. Eric Frykberg	27
Dr. Robert Still	27

Presented by:



Physician

Dr. Yazan Khatib

First Coast Cardiovascular Institute

Dr. Yazan Khatib hopes to one day have a ribbon bring awareness to his passion in medicine, similar to the pink ribbon for breast cancer.

"Many people don't realize that someone who has a foot ulcer or gangrene has a higher chance of dying than patients with breast cancer," Khatib said. "The primary problem is not the wound on the foot. It's a blockage in the leg or the heart, and not many people know that."

In addition to being vice president and director of limb salvage and endovascular interventions at the First Coast Cardiovascular Institute, Khatib helped pioneer the Save a Leg, Save a Life Foundation, a nationwide effort that brings awareness to limb salvage medicine.

Khatib joined Save a Leg, Save a Life in 2006 when it was a local effort called Wound Summit Outreach. In 2008, the initiative changed its name and now has 40 chapters nationwide with more developing.

"I've always had a passion for this kind of medicine," he said.

The main goal of Save a Leg, Save a Life is to educate people about foot ulcers and gangrene.

"When the patients present the problems to health care providers, that's when we find success," Khatib said. "That's when we save lives."



Khatib

— Lauren Darm