

# Deerfield dermatologist retires after 44 years in area

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Dr. Burton Silver (left) with his first and last patient, Richard Lozins.

| Jackie Pilossoph—for Sun-Times Media

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lived downtown, and still drove up here to see him.”

Originally from the west side of Chicago, Silver graduated from Roosevelt University Medical School, and then worked as a physician for the United States Army in San Antonio, Texas and in Vietnam before completing his residency.

According to Silver, there were only six dermatologists on the North Shore when he started his practice. He said he chose Deerfield for the location because he was familiar with the area, having worked in the emergency room at Highland Park Hospital during his residency.

“I’ve always loved dermatology because unlike other physicians who have to use equipment, I’m using my eyes,” said Silver, who with his wife, Myrna raised their four children in Highland Park, and then moved to Lake Bluff, where they currently reside. “I’m not looking at an x-ray or at a cardiogram sheet. I walk into a room and pretty much have an idea what the diagnosis is just by looking at it.”

Silver also said he enjoys dermatology because he sees patients of all ages, from babies to geriatrics.

Deerfield Dermatology Associates provide general dermatology exams and procedures, pathology, micrographic surgery and cosmetic dermatology, including Botox and other fillers.

The practice employs a staff of 26, including five dermatologists.

“What’s important when it comes to my staff is personality and the desire to be committed and not be a nine to fiver,” he said. Silver’s office manager, Robyn, has been at the practice for 30 years, and his bookkeeper, Maureen 35 years. “I owe so much of my success to the staff,” Silver said. “We know a lot about our patients, and we have great relationships with them. It really helps in our care.”

All of the physicians at Deerfield Dermatology are on staff at North Shore University Health Systems, but the practice is independently owned.

Upon his retirement, Silver will be spending time at his south Florida home doing his favorite hobby: landscape design. “Being in a garden is like meditation,” Silver said. “I like to look at what I’ve done, and the beauty of nature.”

When asked what he would miss most about practicing dermatology, Silver said hands down, the people. “I will miss my patients and my staff,” he said. “We are a family. That’s what we are.”

Silver said he still looks around the office and can’t believe what he started has turned into what the practice is today.

“I’m glad he stuck around this long,” said Lozins. “I’m like his bookends. He described me that way.”

DEERFIELD — In 1969, Dr. Burton Silver, a dermatologist who had just finished his residency at the University of Illinois at Chicago opened a small office in Deerfield. His first patient was a little boy named Richard Lozins, whose mom brought him in for poison ivy.

Three offices and 44 years later, Silver, head dermatologist of Deerfield Dermatology Associates, his large dermatology practice, is retiring. He saw his last patient on Friday, May 31st, and guess who the patient was. Richard Lozins.

“I really got a kick out of that,” said Silver, who said his decision to leave was difficult, but the right one, as he wants to spend more time with his wife, his children and his grandchildren. “He called about six weeks ago and I was all booked up and he said to the receptionist, ‘You know, I am Doctor Silver’s first patient so he always gets me in.’”

“I’ve always been so happy with him that I never even thought to switch,” said Lozins, now 52 and living in Kildeer. “For several years I