

# LASIK Surgeon Keeps Focus On Fast-Changing Profession

By *Dan Reany*  
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Setting up shop in Winchester to perform LASIK surgery isn't the first innovative thing Dr. John Stefano has done in his more than 20-year career.

In 1986, he was the first surgeon in the area to perform radial keratotomy vision correction surgery, which involves using a scalpel to make a series of spoke-like cuts to flatten the center of the cornea.

Ten years later, Stefano began performing laser vision correction.

As the technology continued to evolve, he continued to advance as well. The wall of his office at Winchester Medical Center is filled with certificates for a variety of procedures.

"I see all of the latest things at medical meetings," Stefano said this week. "I feel if I'm providing someone with a surgery, then it's up to me to provide them with the best, most effective, and up-to-date procedure I possibly can. It's sort of a personal thing. Maybe I'm obsessed with finding what's best."



Dr. John Stefano watches carefully as he performs a LASIK procedure.  
*(Photo by Scott Mason)*

Stefano leases a top-of-the-line laser from St. Louis-based Laser Vision Centers Inc. It's about a \$600,000 setup.

LVCI regional manager Jim Phillips called it a "roll on, roll off" — or "RoRo" — mobile unit. It is in Winchester one day every two weeks.

Stefano had previously performed LASIK (Laser Assisted In-situ Keratomileusis) at a laser facility in Fairfax.

He had an office locally in Winchester Medical Center's Medical Office Building 1. Until Medical Office Building 2 was built, Stefano couldn't perform LASIK locally.

"We had thought about it before, but there wasn't really any viable way to do it in our old space," he said. "We would have had to knock out walls, tear out the ceiling to add ventilation systems, and do a lot of other things. But when they built MOB2, we could design the space exactly the way we needed it."

Stefano has performed LASIK in Winchester since July. He completes about 10 procedures on the days the mobile laser is in his office, and has done more than 600 since 1997.

Stefano also performs cataract surgeries and corneal transplants. He has had a Winchester office since 1985 and has another office in Charles Town, W.Va., where he lives with his wife and their four children.

Stefano received an undergraduate degree in biophysics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1971 and a medical degree from the State University of New York in Buffalo in 1975.