

Where Heart Is Headed



Vanderbilt Heart
WhereHeartIsHeaded.com

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Message from VHVI Leadership

Keith Churchwell, M.D., John Byrne, M.D., and Doug Sawyer, M.D., Ph.D.

We had a highly successful fiscal year, including record-setting cardiac surgery volume and outstanding door-to-balloon (D2B) times for heart attack victims. Between July 1, 2008, and June 30, Vanderbilt performed 2,139 cardiac surgery procedures, which include coronary artery bypass grafts, heart valve replacement and repair, ventricular assist devices and heart transplants for both adult and pediatric patients. By comparison, we performed approximately 900 surgeries in fiscal year 2004-2005, when VHVI was first established. In addition, Vanderbilt had D2B times of 90 minutes or less for 100 percent of patients. The median D2B time was 58 minutes. The national standard set by the American College of Cardiology Door-to-Balloon Alliance recommends 90 minutes or less for 75 percent of patients receiving PCI. We thank all of you for your contributions that helped make the last year a resounding success.

Expanded Role for Keith Churchwell, M.D.

Keith Churchwell, M.D., has been named the executive director and chief medical officer of the Vanderbilt Heart and Vascular Institute. Churchwell has served in this role in an interim capacity and now assumes permanent responsibility. He will be broadly accountable for the quality of clinical care, patient satisfaction, direct oversight of operational and financial performance, strategic planning and overall contribution of VHVI to the Medical Center and University. He will be supported in these efforts by John Byrne, M.D., Doug Sawyer, M.D., Ph.D., Thomas Naslund, M.D., Robin Steaban, R.N., M.S.N., Larry Goldberg and David Posch, among others on the VHVI team.

U.S. News and World Report

We are pleased to report that, once again, Vanderbilt Heart is recognized as a leader in cardiac care, according to the July *U.S. News* rankings. Vanderbilt Heart ranked No. 17 on the heart and heart surgery list, which is six positions higher than we held in 2008. Once again, Vanderbilt Heart is the only center in Tennessee recognized among the nation's best for heart care. Thank you for all you do to make this a world-class heart institute. These rankings by *U.S. News & World Report* are only one measure of our success. None of our accomplishments would be possible without your hard work and many contributions to our mission.

Congratulations to the following individuals and units for receiving the Patient Satisfaction Awards in July:

6S
7N
CVICU
Vascular Same Day Surgery
Vascular Lab
VHVI Cath Lab
VHVI Nuclear Cardiology

David Zhao, M.D.
Emily Kurtz, M.D.
John Dixon, M.D.
Joseph Fredi, M.D.
Mark Wigger, M.D.
VHVI Lebanon

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New Faces

Dan Lenihan, M.D., will join the division of Cardiology and VHVI as a heart failure clinician and director of Clinical Research. He is currently at the University of Texas MD Anderson where he leads the Clinical Research in the Cardiology Department. He will bring many skills to our campus that will, among other things, strengthen collaboration between our clinical research program and our colleagues in Oncology.

Dan grew up in Oak Ridge, Tenn. He will be moving here with his wife, Merle, an obstetrician who is currently completing her Ph.D., in medical ethics, and their four children. Dan will be starting here in September.

Angela Allen, N.P., will be the first Vascular Surgery Nurse Practitioner at Vanderbilt. Her practice will focus on the care of the post-op vascular surgery patient. She will be working in collaboration with vascular surgeons and residents beginning the week of Aug. 3.

Angie received a B.S.N. from Murray State and her Masters in Nursing from Vanderbilt. Angie began her nursing career in 2001 in the Vanderbilt Burn Unit. She advanced to the educator position in the burn unit and then became one of the first Nurse Practitioners there. She left Vanderbilt for a short time to provide Nurse Practitioner services at Northcrest Medical Center. Angie's experience in establishing new programs, introducing new roles, understanding the potential of N.P., contributions to a service and her enthusiasm and passion for this work make her well prepared to fill this new role.

Ben Byrd, M.D., Receives ASE Award

The American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) is pleased to recognize Benjamin F. Byrd III, M.D., professor of Medicine, director of Echocardiography and the Adult Congenital Heart Disease program, as the winner of the 2009 American Society of Echocardiography Meritorious Service Award. This award recognizes individual members for their substantial and generous efforts to the Society's betterment.

Byrd was recognized for this many years of volunteer service to ASE, including leadership as chair of the ASE Membership Steering Committee, and currently as chair of the ASE Advocacy Committee. As the leader of ASE's substantial advocacy efforts, Dr. Byrd has spent countless hours tackling many issues including coding and reimbursement, developing collaborative efforts with other medical societies, and making sure that echocardiography is positively represented in the healthcare reform debates.

Welcome 2009-2010 Clinical Cardiovascular Medicine Fellows

Douglas W. Adkisson, M.D., Physician Scientist Track

Ryan Anthony, M.D.

Michael Bestawros, M.D., M.P.H.

Evan Brittain, M.D., Physician Scientist Track

Michael Cash, M.D.

Chizor Iwuchukwu, M.D.

Jonathan Gibson, M.D.

Ben Shoemaker, M.D.

Quinn Wells, M.D.

The fellowship program now requires participation in some research activity during training. The creation of the formal requirement will enhance the research curriculum and improve the training of this promising new generation of leaders.

Update on 2009 fellowship graduates:

Modele Ogunniyi:

Emory faculty

Matt Biladeau :

Case Western faculty

Mohamed Abu-Halimah:

Vanderbilt faculty and Vanderbilt Heart, Murfreesboro

Joseph Akamah:

Meharry faculty

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Vanderbilt Heart Clinical Research Enterprise Growth in 2009

The Clinical Research Center has grown over the past year under the guidance of John McPherson, M.D., chair of the clinical research steering committee, and Bobbye Wieman, R.N. In 2008-2009 fiscal year, there were 75 research studies in different stages of development running through the center, thanks to the hard work of 16 staff members. Our clinical research activity has more than doubled in the past year, with estimated expenditures of ~\$1,400,000 as of 6/30/09.

The growth and organization of our Center has directly impacted new proposal generation. Applications for clinical research submitted to the NIH totaled more than \$3,000,000 annually. Many of these proposals took advantage of the Vanderbilt Clinical and Translational Research Center that is run by Gordon Bernard, M.D. Several of these were multicenter studies initiated by Vanderbilt faculty. While it is unlikely that all will be funded, grant submission is worth celebrating! Special thanks to our Grants Administrators, Lisa Lawrence and Chad Raphael, for their work. The Center will continue to expand resources as our study activity and funding justify, and space allows.

Vanderbilt Heart Registry to begin in August

The Vanderbilt Heart Registry was submitted to the IRB in July and the first subjects enrolled in August. The ultimate goal is that all VHVI patients be invited to participate in this registry.

This will be an 'umbrella' registry within which will live other registries such as the Vanderbilt Heart Failure Registry under the direction of Tom Di Salvo, M.D., and Rachel Garcia-Criswell. This is only the beginning of a long process to establish VHVI as a center with a durable and productive outcomes research database.

The registry will utilize the REDCap database and is being designed to interface with StarPanel and the CIS in under the guidance of Rashid Ahmad, M.D.

All faculty, fellows and staff are asked to maintain certification with requirements for human subject research. Those compliant by July 15 will be included on the protocol. It will take all of our efforts to reach our goal of 10,000 registered by end of 2010.

Core Laboratory Formed

The Core Laboratory for Translational Clinical Research in the division of Cardiovascular Medicine has been formally established. Under the direction of Yan Ru Su, M.D., and Jared LeBoeuf, research assistant, the functions of the Core Laboratory are:

1. To build the VHVI Registry/repository research database and properly maintain bio-specimen collections for clinical outcome research and pilot projects for grant applications.
2. To provide support and help to clinical faculty and cardiology fellows for translational bio-medical research. This includes assisting with experimental design and the development of new assays, recommending mechanistic experiments, and helping identify proper resources on campus for investigator-initiated research projects.
3. To provide experimental services, such as DNA extraction, SNP detection, real-time RT-PCR on target gene expression, based on a fee-for-service.
4. As the Core Lab grows, we will expand the experimental services for the division and Vanderbilt Heart.