

Community Report



Mohawk Valley
Heart Institute

YOUR HEART IS IN THE RIGHT PLACE.

WWW.MVHEART.ORG

OUR VISION

To be the leader in Cardiac Care in the region.

OUR MISSION

The Mohawk Valley Heart Institute (MVHI), as a leader in healthcare, provides comprehensive, convenient and excellent care. Regional access is provided to a continuum of cardiac services through a local multi-provider system. The Institute is committed to continuous improvement in the quality of care for our region.

message from leadership

The milestone of the 10th anniversary of the Mohawk Valley Heart Institute (MVHI) is also a celebration for our community. Our program is a collaboration of Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare and St. Elizabeth Medical Center and it represents a partnership that was designed with our community in mind.

Working together we are able to care for our patients and their families, close to home, with an exceptional medical staff and state-of-the-art care. During the past decade, we have grown the program from diagnostics and surgery to include electrophysiology and research.

It is the talents and commitments of our medical staff, nurses and technicians and all those who support the many services of the Heart Institute that have made the past ten years possible. And a special thanks to you, the members of our community, for your support and confidence in helping us build an exceptional cardiac care program not only for the Mohawk Valley, but for our entire region.

Our 10th anniversary brings with it impressive numbers, more than 5,000 cardiac surgeries, 12,000 coronary angioplasties, 30,000 diagnostic cardiac catheterizations and 4,000 electrophysiology procedures, ranking MVHI among the most experienced cardiac centers in the state, and for some procedures, in the country.

This level of excellence gives us a strong foundation for the future and helps our community know "Your Heart is in the Right Place."

Sincerely,



Sister M. Johanna DeLelys
President/CEO
St. Elizabeth Medical Center



Keith A. Fenstemacher
President/CEO
Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare

Timeline

1996

January

Decision to locate services:

St. Elizabeth to perform Heart Surgery, Angioplasty and Diagnostic Catheterizations

St. Luke's Campus of Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare to perform Diagnostic Catheterizations

Faxton Campus of Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare to provide Outpatient Cardiac Rehabilitation Services

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE ONE
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 SURGICAL TREATMENT THREE
 CARDIAC SURGERY FOUR
 OUTPATIENT CARDIAC FOUR
 ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY SERVICES FIVE
 AWARDS SIX

quality care for our patients

Providing the highest level of care to our patients is a top priority for the entire MVHI team. One quality improvement initiative MVHI staff recently undertook was to decrease post-operative infection.

Our cardiac surgery team is committed to the elimination of post-operative infections. Nationally, the rate of infections for cardiac surgery is about 3.5%, which translates to approximately 15 to 20 infections each year for a program as large as the Mohawk Valley Heart Institute. Our quality improvement team, through a number of new techniques and practices, reduced infections significantly. **In 2007 MVHI had zero deep sternal wound infections....zero!** Exceptional quality patient care is what we strive for each and every day. Our vision is to be a model for other cardiac programs throughout the nation.

cardiac catheterization & angioplasty

The Mohawk Valley Heart Institute operates cardiac catheterization labs at St. Elizabeth Medical Center and at the St. Luke's campus of Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare. In MVHI's ten-year history, the labs have performed more than 33,000 diagnostic cardiac catheterizations as well as more than 12,000 angioplasties.

Faxton-St. Luke's cardiac catheterization lab has digital, flat panel imaging that provides the best images with the lowest amount of radiation, and St. Elizabeth Medical Center has newly renovated lab facilities that opened in March 2008 with the same digital equipment.



Dr. Joyce and the Critical Care Team



Dr. Kelley and the MVHI Surgical Team



Drs. Blaker and Love and the FSLH Cath Lab Team



The Electrophysiology Team

May

New York State Department of Health grants final approval of Certificate of Need for Cardiac Surgery and Angioplasty

1997

March

\$4.1 Million Cardiac Project at St. Elizabeth Medical Center
Heart Institute elects officers
Program established

October

First Cardiac Surgery performed

1998

March

100th Surgery performed

**OUR MOHAWK VALLEY
HEART INSTITUTE
PHYSICIAN SPECIALISTS
TEAM INCLUDES:**

- 3 cardiothoracic surgeons
- 3 cardiothoracic anesthesiologists
- 6 interventional cardiologists
- 3 electrophysiologists
- 8 invasive cardiologists
- 2 medical cardiologists



Therapist Jody Barnes with a patient in MVHI's outpatient Rehab.

"An extremely attentive staff with professional, caring and personable people. They were knowledgeable, helpful and positive in all situations. And the cardiac rehab staff is a great asset to the heart recovery program."

– A satisfied MVHI patient

Cardiac Catheterization is a minimally invasive procedure performed by our cardiologists to diagnose disease in the arteries and valves of the heart. Our cardiologists study the coronary arteries to determine if there are blockages that require treatment. They also evaluate the heart valves for disease such as leaking or calcification (hardening). If problems are found, treatments may include medication, angioplasty or open-heart surgery.

Coronary angioplasty is a treatment option performed for serious blockages in the coronary arteries. Angioplasty can be a life-saving procedure, as it opens up a completely blocked artery, preventing massive damage to the heart muscle. Our Cath Labs at both hospitals are the destination for heart-attack patients in our community, with the goal of getting the blocked artery open within 90 minutes of presenting to the hospitals.

surgical treatment of atrial fibrillation: Mini-maze

Atrial fibrillation (AF) is the most common arrhythmia (unusual speed or rhythm of the heartbeat). It's a disorder in the heart's electrical system that causes AF. People who have AF often may not even feel symptoms, but they are at a greater risk for strokes.

Our cardiothoracic surgeons treat AF with a cryoablation (removal by freezing) technique as part of the open cardiac procedures. The procedure helps prevent AF by disrupting the disorganized signals causing the problem.

We also offer a different technology called radio frequency ablation, which can still be used during conventional open cardiac procedures such as coronary artery bypass or the newer *Minimally Invasive Mini-Maze*. Mini-Maze involves only a few small incisions on the side of the chest and a tiny camera to find and ablate (remove) the tissue that causes the atrial fibrillation. This procedure does not require a large incision in the sternum, and patients do not need to use a heart-lung machine, so they spend fewer days in the hospital, and can return to their daily activities much sooner than with an open cardiac procedure.

May

First Off-Pump Bypass
Surgery performed

August

First Angioplasty performed

2003

February

First Electrophysiology (EP) Procedure
performed

June

First CryoMaze Atrial Fibrillation Ablation
performed

cardiac surgery at St. Elizabeth Medical Center

Cardiac surgery uses grafts to redirect blood flow around blockages and/or repairs or replaces malfunctioning valves. Surgeons at MVHI use veins, harvested using minimally invasive techniques, or internal mammary arteries as grafts.

Off-pump open heart surgery - Most open heart surgery is performed with the support of a heart-lung machine to supply blood and oxygen to the patient while his or her heart has been intentionally stopped during surgery. However, at MVHI about 15% of bypass surgeries are performed as off-pump or "beating heart" surgeries.

Echocardiography during surgery - An echocardiogram is essentially a sonogram of the heart, and offers heart surgeons a real-time view of blood flow, heart muscle and valve function during surgery. MVHI's Frederic Joyce, MD, a Cleveland Clinic-trained valve specialist, is the only heart surgeon in the United States who is board-certified in surgical echocardiography.

outpatient cardiac rehabilitation Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare - Faxton Campus

Outpatient cardiac rehabilitation is a comprehensive program to support cardiac patients following an acute myocardial infarction (heart attack), open heart surgery, or coronary angioplasty. The program, staffed by specially trained cardiac nurses and exercise physiologists, provides an individualized exercise program for each patient that is safe and effective. Education helps patients identify their own personal cardiac risk factors and supports their new goal of a healthier lifestyle.

"This unique program, in which two healthcare organizations work together under the Mohawk Valley Heart Institute, is a model for our community, state and the nation. Our community continues to reap the benefits of having such an excellent program in the Mohawk Valley."

**- Nicholas O. Matt
MVHI Board Member**



MVHI Board of Directors

L to R - Back Row
Mark Blaker, MD
John Kelley, MD
Stephen Sweet - Treasurer
Keith A. Fenstemacher - Vice Chair

Front Row
Sister Rose Vincent - Emeritus
Matthew Babcock
Cheryl Perry, RN - Co-Coordinator
Halsey Bagg, CHE - Co-Coordinator
Nicholas O. Matt

Missing from Photo
Sister M. Johanna DeLelys - Chair
Scott Perra - Secretary
Albert D'Accurzio, MD
Brian Gaffney, MD
Margaret Olson - Administrative Assistant

September

New laser procedure for angina patients – Transmyocardial Laser Revascularization

2005

August
Collaboration with Masonic Medical Research Lab begins

2006

May
10,000th Angioplasty performed

July

MVHI participated in the "Get with the Guidelines" Program in which our performance resulted in national recognition by the American Heart Association

**Mohawk Valley Heart Institute Medical
Staff and Affiliated Physicians**

Mohawk Valley Surgery Group

2211 Genesee Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 733-7798
www.mvsurgery.com

Nabeel El-amir, MD

Frederic Joyce, MD

John Kelley, MD

Deborah Cleary, PA

Michael D'Accurzio, PA

Renee Dundon, PA

Karen Kelley, PA

Central New York Cardiology

2211 Genesee Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 733-7598

Daniel Berg, MD

Brian Gaffney, MD

Andrew Ho, MD

Peter Hotvedt, MD

Michael Kelberman, MD

Gerry Love, MD

Hugh MacIsaac, MD

Darius Marhamati, MD

Thor Markwood, MD

Ashok Patel, MD

Prabhat Varma, MD

Susan Hamo, RN, FNP

Amy Haver, RN, NP

Dina Kuliesius, RN, FNP

Kathleen Marollo, RN, ANP

Luann Voorhees, RN, ANP

electrophysiology services

Patients travel locally and from outside the region to benefit from our state-of-the-art facilities, and the expertise of our three electrophysiologists and their staff.

Electrophysiology procedures include:

EP Studies – diagnosing abnormal electrical rhythms of the heart

Tilt Table Testing – diagnosing patients with fainting disorders

Cardioversion – using low electrical stimulus to convert abnormal rhythms to normal

Ablation – destroying abnormal and life threatening electrical pathways in the heart

Pacemaker Implants – implanting an electrical device to regulate a slow-beating heart

Automatic Cardioverter Defibrillator Implantation – implanting an electrical device to regulate or abort rapid and dangerous rhythms

Our patient care units include cardiac intensive care, intermediate cardiac care and ambulatory cardiac care. The intensive and intermediate cardiac units are dedicated to our open heart surgery and post emergency angioplasty patients. The ambulatory units are dedicated to our cardiac catheterization and electrophysiology patients. Our registered nurses are specifically trained in coronary care and advanced cardiac life support.

September

First catheter-based Atrial Fibrillation Ablation performed

December

First surgical-based minimally invasive Atrial Fibrillation Ablation performed

2007

February

Faxton-St Luke's Healthcare approved for Emergency Angioplasties

October

MVHI celebrates **10th Anniversary** of its first open heart procedure

MVH national recognition/awards

2002

Outpatient Cardiac Rehabilitation Program awarded national certification by the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation (AACVPR) for meeting strict standards of care

2003

Health Grades reported Angioplasty Program among the top 5% nationally

2004

Received HANYS Honorable Mention Community Health Improvement Award

2005

American Heart Association (AHA) Leadership Volunteer Award for Excellence in Improving Cardiovascular Health Systems

AHA Initial Performance Achievement Award Hospital for *Get with the Guidelines* (GWTG) Program for Coronary Artery Disease (CAD)

Outpatient Cardiac Rehabilitation awarded national re-certification by AACVPR

2006

Recognized by AHA as 1 of 173 hospitals in the country that met GWTG performance standards for CAD

Clearing the Air Award for dedication in reaching tobacco use prevention goals

2007

Recognized by AHA for meeting GWTG performance standards. Recognition published in *U.S. News & World Report*

Mohawk Valley Heart Institute Medical Staff and Affiliated Physicians

Anand Desai, MD

1801 Black River Boulevard
Rome, NY 13440
(315) 339-7255

Ramzi Nassif, MD

1676 Sunset Avenue
4th Floor
Utica, NY 13502
(315) 624-8130

Fred Talarico, MD

2115 Genesee Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 733-1148
Patricia Rosati, RN, ANP-C

Slocum Dickson Medical Group

1729 Burrstone Road
New Hartford, NY 13413
(315) 798-1508
www.sdmg.com

Mark Blaker, MD

Sidney Blatt, MD

John Cai, MD

Thomas Mathew, MD

John Tretter, MD

Barbara Deblois, RN, FNP-C

Lisa Ennis, RN, FNP

Uptown Anesthesia

2405 Genesee Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 798-9788
www.uptownanesthesia.com

Ramesh Cherukuri, MD

Prasad Kambhampati, MD

Narender Sarabu, MD

Other milestones noted at the
10th Anniversary celebration:
29,940 Cardiac Catheterizations
11,784 Angioplasty Cases

4,794 Cardiac Surgeries
3,960 Electrophysiology (EP) Procedures

2008

March

St. Elizabeth Medical Center opens two new cardiac catheterization labs and one new electrophysiology lab

Main Office

2209 Genesee Street

Utica, NY 13501

(315) 734-3329

1 (866) 505-MVHI (6844)

Program Coordinators:

Halsey Bagg, CHE - St. Elizabeth Medical Center: (315) 734-3329, hbagg@stemc.org

Cheryl Perry, RN - Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare: (315) 624-6242, cperry@mvnhealth.com

info@mvheart.org

Visit us at www.mvheart.org



1 (866) 505-MVHI (6844) • (315) 734-3329 • WWW.MVHEART.ORG

2209 GENESEE STREET
UTICA, NY 13501