

Committed to the Treatment of Heart Failure

Health Watch

Atlanta

MCG Launches Region's Only Heart Transplant Program

Imagine you have just been told you have heart failure. Until recently, for many of the 5 million Americans living with heart failure, a diagnosis meant normal life was over.

Now the latest advances in heart failure treatment have been brought to eastern Georgia through MCG Health System's commitment to develop a Cardiovascular Center of Excellence. "With heart failure treatments being developed so quickly, we wanted to build an integrated system to offer patients the newest and best approaches," says Guy Reed, M.D., chief of cardiology at MCG.

Some of the nation's top physicians have been recruited to carry out this important mission. Dr. Reed came from Harvard Medical School, and Kevin Landolfo, M.D., chief of cardio-

thoracic surgery, joined MCG from Duke University. Rounding off the medical staff are other expert physicians in the areas of echocardiology, electrophysiology, and pediatric cardiovascular surgery. "We have put together a team of highly specialized individuals with extensive experience in treating patients with end-stage heart disease," says Dr. Landolfo.



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Individualized Patient Care, Cutting-Edge Approaches

The new Cardiovascular Center of Excellence combines cardiovascular medicine, cardiac surgery, and clinical management of vascular disease in a single, comprehensive unit.

Whether a patient has mild or severe heart failure, MCG experts are dedicated to helping every patient live longer, with the highest quality of life possible. "Through an integrated approach, we provide one place for people to receive customized care from a team of specialists working together," says Dr. Reed. "Throughout any stage of illness, we offer the latest therapies and care such as advanced pacemakers, defibrillators, and mitral valve repairs." A specialized heart failure clinic helps patients manage their disease, improve their quality of life, and avoid hospitalization.

Patients with severe heart failure may benefit from the surgical implantation of a left ventricular assist device to help maintain the heart's pumping ability. Another option may be a heart transplant. G is now one of a few specialized hospitals in the Southeast offering heart transplantation

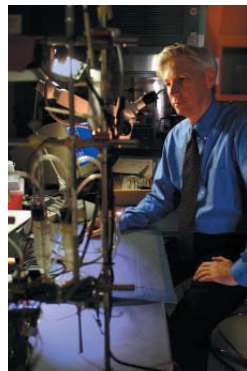
Advances in Medical Science

Through groundbreaking research, MCG experts are playing a role in advancing the understanding of the most effective new therapies for heart failure and other types of cardiovascular disease.

MCG is among some 90 sites in the world studying surgical treatments for heart failure as part of a National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute initiative. The study seeks to determine whether a surgical ventricular remodeling technique to

restore a healthy shape to swollen hearts can restore basic heart function and help patients feel better. During the procedure, surgeons remove damaged, scarred muscle and stitch healthy muscle back together. "Earlier techniques involved removing larger amounts of tissue, including healthy muscle, to restore hearts to their normal size.

We've learned patients don't do well when we take out normal muscle so this method involves removing scar tissue and leaving normal muscle intact," says Dr. Landolfo.



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Newest Members of the MCG Heart Center Team:

Guy L. Reed, M.D.

Chief, Section of Cardiology
Recruited from: Harvard Medical School

Kevin P. Landolfo, M.D.

Chief, Section of Cardiothoracic Surgery
Recruited from: Duke University

Carolyn K. Landolfo, M.D.

Director, Cardiology Echo Lab
Recruited from: Duke University

James D. St. Louis, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Section of Cardiothoracic Surgery/
Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgeon
Recruited from: Brown University Medical School

Robert A. Sorrentino, M.D.

Director, Arrhythmia Services
Recruited from: Duke University

MCG

Cardiovascular Center

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