



# NEWS

Subject: Sanger Clinic Becomes Part of Carolinas HealthCare System

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The Executive Board of the Sanger Clinic, P.A., has reached an agreement to become part of Carolinas HealthCare System (CHS). Sanger physicians have voted in favor of the proposal and CHS is proceeding to finalize the purchase of the assets and affiliation by March 31.

The Sanger Clinic is the oldest and largest cardiology group in the Charlotte area, and is one of the largest single specialty groups in the southeast. With more than sixty physicians in ten separate locations, the Sanger Clinic has had a longstanding relationship with Carolinas Heart Institute at Carolinas Medical Center.

“This is a great strategic fit,” said Michael C. Tarwater, President and CEO of Carolinas HealthCare System. “The integration of the Sanger Clinic and CHS will position us to meet the demand for cardiology and cardiovascular services more effectively, while better managing the costs associated with rapidly advancing technology and treatment of disease.”

“We believe this is an exciting development for heart care in our area,” said Paul G. Colavita, M.D., President of the Sanger Clinic. “The diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular disease is a growing, fast changing area. By being part of CHS, we will be able to reach new levels of effectiveness in the delivery of care.”

“The close cooperation between Carolinas Medical Center and The Sanger Clinic looks back a half century to mutually benefiting thousands of patients. Now we are looking forward to a future of an even closer and more beneficial relationship,” said Francis Robicsek, M.D., Ph.D., Chairman of the Board and founder of The Sanger Clinic.”

The sale will be completed on or before March 31, 2005.

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“The Sanger Clinic has been a leader in providing care in the field of cardiology and cardiovascular surgery for 50 years,” said Joseph G. Piemont, Executive Vice President for Strategic Services at CHS, and President of Carolinas Physicians Network (CPN). “This leadership is recognized internationally. I would like to take this opportunity to express appreciation to the physicians and staff who have contributed so much to the diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular disease and I welcome them to CPN.”

For more than six decades, the Sanger Clinic has provided the benchmark for comprehensive cardiovascular care in the Carolinas. By combining the advantages of private practice, physician individuality and independent clinical judgment, with the strength and knowledge of a large group practice, the Sanger Clinic has remained the leading provider of heart care for patients of all ages.

Through compassionate patient care, innovative medical procedures and a strong sense of community, the Sanger Clinic has built a reputation of trust and stability in the Carolinas. Originally established in 1946, by Paul W. Sanger, MD, the Sanger Clinic has grown to include an impressive staff of adult and pediatric cardiologists, and cardiac, thoracic and vascular surgeons. With numerous locations in both North and South Carolina, the Sanger Clinic offers convenient access to heart care. Offices are located in Boone, Charlotte (3 locations), Gastonia, Lake Norman, Lincolnton, Monroe, Rock Hill (S.C.), Forest City, and Shelby.

Carolinas HealthCare System is a not-for-profit, self-supporting public organization offering a wide variety of health and human services to residents of both North and South Carolina.

CHS is the largest healthcare system in the Carolinas, and fourth largest public system in the nation. It owns, leases and manages hospitals, nursing homes, physician practices, home health agencies, radiation therapy facilities, physical therapy facilities, and other healthcare related operations, comprising approximately 4,300 licensed beds and 25,300 employees. It is listed in the top five integrated healthcare networks in the U.S.