



NEWS

Subject: CHS forms new business unit to guide the future growth of cardiac services

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[Carolinas HealthCare System](#) has organized a new business unit to guide the growth and development of cardiovascular services on a regional basis. The newly formed [Sanger Heart and Vascular Institute](#) (SHVI) represents a combination of Sanger Clinic, Charlotte Cardiology Associates and Carolinas Heart and Vascular Institute.

Effective July 1, all three entities will begin the transition to Sanger nomenclature. The names “Sanger Clinic,” “Charlotte Cardiology Associates” and “Carolinas Heart and Vascular Institute” will be phased out in signage and communications pieces directed to patients and staff.

Joseph G. Piemont, President and Chief Operating Officer at Carolinas HealthCare, said the change is consistent with CHS’s goal of operating as a unified enterprise. “The new structure,” he said, “will create seamless interaction between the care provided by Sanger and CCA staff in their medical offices and in the hospital settings in which they serve patients.”

Dr. Paul Colavita, current president of Sanger Clinic and Carolinas Heart and Vascular Institute, will become President of SHVI, reporting to Paul Franz, Executive Vice President, Physician Services Group.

Colavita said SHVI patients will benefit because of the Institute’s ability to coordinate and integrate all aspects of patient care. “In addition,” he said, “patients will profit from the expansion of highly specialized services into new venues and the sharing of best practices.”

Colavita said the recent granting of chest pain accreditation to numerous hospitals within the CHS network is a prime example of the type of coordinating work that SHVI is geared up to handle. “We are extremely proud of this achievement,” he said. “A network of accredited chest pain centers ensures that patients can present for treatment at numerous locations, and be assured that quality standards and training levels meet the highest national standards. “

Piedmont noted that SHVI's administrative structure is considered "innovative" within the industry, and provides a prototype that is likely to be adopted by many other healthcare providers.

"The formation of SHVI," he said, "will enable us to channel our resources in a way that best responds to public demand, and delivers the next level of sophistication and specialization."

After July 1 all Sanger Clinic and CCA medical offices and practice locations will start being referred to as Sanger Heart and Vascular Institute facilities. Colavita said the transition would take time, but that SHVI staff members are working conscientiously to keep patients, employees and other constituents fully informed.

He said the Sanger name was retained in SHVI nomenclature because it enjoys such widespread recognition on a regional and national basis. Sanger Clinic was named in honor of Dr. Paul Sanger, an early Charlotte pioneer in thoracic surgery and vascular research, who died in 1968.

Colavita noted that more than 420 physicians and support staff will be directly affected by the new blending of cardiac services. They currently work in more than 30 full-time and part-time medical offices spread across 16 counties in North and South Carolina. In addition, a large number of hospital-based personnel working in cardiac cath labs, operating rooms, etc. will come under the SHVI umbrella.

Dr. Francis Robicsek, Chairman of the Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery at CMC, and founder and senior physician of the Sanger Clinic, said formation of SHVI was a logical step in the evolution of heart and vascular care in the Carolinas.

"If you look at demographics across the large region served by SHVI," he added, "you'll see that there are millions of people, representing millions of hearts that potentially need care and treatment. The formation of SHVI is an important step in assuring that vital, specialized services remain available and accessible to those who need assistance."

About Carolinas HealthCare System

Sanger Heart and Vascular Institute (www.sangerheart.org) is part of Carolinas HealthCare System (www.carolinashealthcare.org), one of the leading healthcare systems in the Southeast, with 25 affiliated hospitals in North and South Carolina.

Carolinas HealthCare employs more than 1,300 physicians, and serves patients in more than 450 care locations including physician practices, nursing homes, surgical and rehabilitation centers, home health agencies and other facilities. These operations comprise some 5,400 licensed beds and employ more than 40,000 employees.

CHS's flagship facility is Carolinas Medical Center (www.carolinasmedicalcenter.org), an 874-bed hospital in Charlotte that includes a Level I trauma center, a research institute and

numerous specialty units (heart, cancer, organ transplant, behavioral health, etc.). CMC also serves as one of North Carolina's five Academic Medical Center Teaching Hospitals, providing residency training for more than 240 physicians in 15 specialties.

CMC has been recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* for urology, and named as Charlotte's "preferred hospital" by the National Research Corporation 11 times. CMC hospitals have also been honored by J.D. Power and Associates for maternity and emergency services. Carolinas HealthCare's "community benefit," which includes the value of indigent care, uncompensated medical services, education, research and charitable contributions, totals more than \$770 million annually.

For more information contact the Office of Public Information, 704-355-3141