University of Chicago Medicine Opens Heart and Vascular Center

In February, the University of Chicago Medicine launched the Heart and Vascular Center, which combines resources from three clinical specialties to meet the growing needs of patients seeking cardiovascular care in a highly coordinated setting.

This new center, which includes more than 40 faculty physicians, interpreters, specialists, technologies and dedicated nursing and support staff, is a carefully orchestrated network of world-renowned experts focused on real-world problems involving the heart and blood vessels.

The University of Chicago has one of the most advanced treatment systems for all forms of cardiovascular disease, the center adds, allowing patients to benefit from the most up-to-date experience, leading to improved outcomes and faster recovery times.

This approach to care has become critical as the nation’s population ages and complex cardiovascular disease becomes more common. The American Heart Association predicts more than 40 percent of Americans will have some form of cardiovascular disease by 2030.

The Heart and Vascular Center builds on the University of Chicago Medicine’s considerable expertise. The University is almost home to Illinois’s largest heart transplant program (this second largest in the Midwest), a nationally known program for the placement and management of ventricular assist devices, one of the nation’s most comprehensive programs using robotics for cardiovascular surgery, and a national leader in the treatment of blood disorders, including in the field of bone marrow transplantation in patients with cardiovascular disease.

The University of Chicago Medicine’s vascular surgeons are doing amazing things, and we want you to see how we can work together to benefit your patients.

It’s easy to refer a patient—please see back cover.

How to Refer a Patient

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For Non-Emergency Cases and Daytime Emergency Cases (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.):

Please call 773.702.6128.

This number can be used to schedule a patient appointment or to contact one of our vascular surgeons. For non-urgent cases, a surgeon can be paged immediately.

For Emergency Cases After 5 p.m.:

Please call 1-888-UCH.0200.

The Call Center operator can put you in touch with the attending vascular surgeon immediately for discussion or so a transfer can be initiated. If needed, arrangements for air transfer can also be made.

University of Chicago Medicine
Department of Surgery
5841 South Maryland Avenue, MC 5028
Chicago, IL 60637

WELCOME!

We know that you are interested in the latest treatments for your patients, and eager to find new resources and options for them. This newsletter provides you with the innovative procedures and unique treatment options available right here in Chicago. Our vascular surgeons are doing amazing things, and we want you to see how we can work together to benefit your patients.

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Ask Us More Questions!

Think of our surgeons as a ready resource—we’re always available to talk. At the University of Chicago Medicine, we value collaboration with fellow physicians. Even if you don’t have a specific patient case, call us if you have questions. We are also here and ready to make a presentation about some of our innovative techniques to physicians in your practice.

For more information, please call 773.702.6128.

To learn more about the Heart and Vascular Center, visit uchospitals.edu/heartandvascular.
The Importance of Collaboration in Patient Care

Although our team possesses the knowledge and technical capabilities to care for patients with peripheral arterial disease, their primary goal is to work closely with referring physicians to ensure the highest quality of care for their patients. The Importance of Collaboration in Patient Care

The “Dare to Care” Vascular Disease Screening Program

Since the program launched, we have screened over 400 patients. We are excited to be able to offer this free service to our community physicians and patients.

The screening looks for the following areas of vascular disease:

- Carotid artery disease: a primary cause of stroke
- Abdominal aortic aneurysm: ruptured aneurysms cause death in up to 90% of cases
- Renal artery stenosis: which unilaterally, frequently leads to the need for hemodialysis
- Scleroderma: affecting up to 12 million Americans, especially those over 50

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Collaboration and Communication: Keys to Vascular Patient’s Success

In 1989, Dale Jesk, then 53, started experiencing pain in his legs caused by peripheral arterial disease. At that time, he was working as a carpenter for a local hospital and had difficulty completing simple tasks, such as pushing a cart or walking.

A critical component of diagnosis and treatment of peripheral arterial disease is non-invasive testing, which is performed in our accredited vascular laboratory. Our laboratory was among the first group of vascular laboratories in the nation awarded accreditation by the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Vascular Laboratories.

Despite those efforts, it was decided that Jesk required more extensive treatment. In March 2001, he was eventually referred to a local interventional radiologist who performed an angiography on the left superficial femoral artery to relieve his symptoms. Unfortunately, Jesk yet again suffered another setback when the artery occluded.

That’s when he was referred to Ross Milner, MD, Professor of Surgery and Director of the Center for Aortic Diseases at the University of Chicago Medicine.

When asked what he thinks Dr. Milner has done to make himself available to physicians, “I always strive to make myself available to physicians,” said Milner. “If there is a patient that needs to be seen urgently, we will see that person as soon as possible. If a physician has a question, we’ll always return messages in a timely manner.”

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Heart and vascular specialists at the University have helped develop several diagnostic approaches. They were the first in the United States to provide three-dimensional echocardiography and have enhanced the use of high speed CT and advanced MRI scanning in the diagnosis of heart disease.

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— Renal artery stenosis: most unmasked, frequently leads to the need for hemodialysis
— Scleroderma artery disease: affecting up to 12 million Americans, especially those over 50

Physicians interested in referring their patients for a free screening should direct their patients to call 773.834.5599.

Screenings are held on Saturdays at our Hyde Park campus.

Christopher Shelly, MD, FACS
Professor of Surgery
Chief, Section of Vascular Surgery & Endovascular Therapy

Collaboration and Communication: Keys to Vascular Patient’s Success

In 1989, Dale Jesk, then 53, started experiencing pain in his legs caused by peripheral arterial disease. At that time, he was working as a carpenter for a local hospital and had difficulty completing simple tasks, such as pushing a cart or walking.

For many years, Jesk, with assistance from his family physician Geoffrey Gottumukkala, MD, was able to medically manage his condition, which is frequently triggered by cigarette smoking and other risky habits, such as high cholesterol and high blood pressure. He also benefitted from strategies to reduce the likelihood of complications that may arise from his disease.

Jesk’s symptoms worsened in late 2008 when he suddenly found himself experiencing recurrent buttock and leg pain while playing golf. A return to his usual level of activity was not possible. Medical evaluation revealed that Jesk had developed atherosclerosis, or a narrowing of the left superficial femoral artery.

In early April 2011, Milner performed a particularly challenging three-peek endovascular procedure in the same operation—known as a directional pull and ligation—that is performed in our accredited vascular laboratory. Our laboratory was among the first group of vascular laboratories in the nation awarded accreditation by the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Vascular Laboratories.

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Milner: Medicine: Excellence in Vascular Care

The Section of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy looks for the emergence and technology necessary to care for patients with vascular diseases.

On the cover: This illustration shows the superficial femoral artery of the leg with peripheral arterial disease (PAD).
If you have any questions about our aortic disease programs or other specialty cardiovascular diseases, newly established Heart and Vascular Center, a multidisciplinary effort to treat complex vascular disorders. Many times, patients with complex cardiovascular or aortic diseases require the collaboration and work together toward the same goal.

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Screenings are held on Saturdays at our Hyde Park campus. Physicians interested in referring their patients for a free screening should direct their patients to call 773.782.6888. The “Dare to Care” Vascular Disease Screening Program

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University of Chicago teams perform nearly all adult and pediatric cardiac and vascular procedures, working collaboratively with the nation’s leading hospitals and medical centers. They offered more than $19 million in research funding last year from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. Heart and vascular specialists at the University helped develop several innovative approaches. They were the first in the United States to provide three-dimensional echocardiography and have enhanced the use of high-speed CT and advanced MR scanning in the diagnosis of heart disease.

University of Chicago faculty were among the pioneers in understanding the basic biology of heart muscle activity, which led to the development of new drugs. They performed groundbreaking early studies on the effects of lifestyle and genetics in heart and vascular disease and on prevention and treatment for hypertension. University of Chicago cardiology researchers pioneered the first successful implantable cardioverter-defibrillator in the U.S. in 1995 and, in 2014, installed one of the world’s smallest cardiac pacemakers as part of a clinical trial.

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