

# 2024 Annual Cardiovascular Report



East Texas Heart & Vascular Institute

Note from the Editor
Screenings 4
Interventional Cardiology
Cardiac Rehabilitation
Electrophysiology
Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery
Convergent Procedure
Heart Valve Center
New Programs in Cardiology: ECMO9
New Programs in Cardiology: PERT 10
New Programs in Cardiology: Shock Team
New Programs in Cardiology: CardioMEMS <sup>™</sup> 11-12
A Year in Review UT Health Tyler New Electrophysiology Lab
A Year in Review: UT Health Tyler Chest Pain Observation Unit and MI Registry
A Year in Review: UT Health East Texas Heart & Vascular Geographic Expansion
A Year in Review: UT Health East Texas Heart & Vascular Institute Continued Growth 15-17
A Year in Review: Research Summary17-19
A Year in Review: Awards and Recognition
A Year in Review: Marketing Recap 202422
A Year in Review: Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship —
The University of Texas at Tyler Health Science Center
Cardiology Providers & Leadership
Cardiology Clinic Locations
Cardiology Imaging Locations



# Note from the Editor

Tyler and its surrounding communities are experiencing significant growth, which comes as no surprise. East Texas is not only beautiful, but many people are seeking to escape the hectic pace and traffic of Dallas and Houston. This includes younger individuals joining local universities and the new medical school, as well as those looking to retire in a less congested and stressful area of Texas. Tyler provides the perfect location for both.

UT Health East Texas Heart and Vascular Institute is expanding. We are growing to meet the increasing demand for services, new technologies and geographic expansion. We're enhancing our services, adding new locations, increasing our team of cardiologists, cardiothoracic and vascular surgeons and other supporting providers, while creating a teaching and learning environment for future generations. Additionally, we are forging new partnerships with other specialties and hospitals outside of the UT Health East Texas system.

We have made significant strides in our mission to meet the medical and educational needs of the patients and communities we serve. Our educational programs are robust and unmatched in East Texas. Now in their second years, both the medical school and our Cardiology Fellowship Programs are attracting students from across the United States. Our fellowship program has grown from two fellows to four, and next year, we'll have six. Our long-term goal is to develop cardiologists who want to stay and practice in East Texas, delivering quality cardiovascular care to our communities.

From a clinical standpoint, our team at the UT Health East Texas Heart and Vascular Institute continues to expand services and therapeutic advances in the treatment of complex coronary, valvular, arterial, venous, renovascular, cerebrovascular and arrhythmic disorders.

As you browse our annual report, you'll find examples of the many diagnostic and therapeutic options we offer. You'll also read stories from patients who wanted to share their experiences, and you'll have the opportunity to meet some of our exceptionally talented physicians.

We look forward to making 2025 another extraordinary year.



Sincerely,

**David Hector, MD, FACP, FACC, FAAC, FSCAI** Professor of Medicine, The University of Texas at Tyler School of Medicine Editor in Chief

# Screenings

Detecting cardiovascular disease early can play a crucial role in preventing future heart attacks and strokes. Many severe heart conditions develop silently, without any noticeable symptoms. This means that by the time a problem is identified, it may already have escalated into a significant cardiac event.

## **Computed Tomography Calcium Scoring**

While cardiovascular screenings are typically conducted after symptoms appear, computed tomography calcium scoring provides a proactive and efficient way to assess your heart health before symptoms develop. The calcium score test uses the computed tomography scan (aka CAT scan, or CT scan) for a quick and noninvasive medical image of the inside of the heart, looking at calcium buildup. This quick, non-invasive test helps identify risk factors early on and determines if additional screenings are needed.

We offer a CT Calcium Score for just \$100, with results sent directly to your chosen primary care physician. This service is conveniently available at all UT Health East Texas hospitals.

# Interventional Cardiology

The UT Health East Texas Heart and Vascular Institute is home to the region's most experienced and comprehensive team of heart and vascular specialists. With a commitment to excellence, our highly skilled physicians deliver cutting-edge care for cardiac and vascular conditions, ensuring patients receive the best possible treatment close to home.

## Diagnosis

UT Health East Texas provides advanced, non-invasive imaging programs designed to accurately diagnose and assess a wide range of cardiac conditions. Our comprehensive imaging options include:

- Cardiac MRI and CAT scan
- 3D echocardiography
- Vascular imaging with CAT scan and ultrasound
- Nuclear imaging

#### **Treatment** (Structural/non-surgical repairs of the heart)

#### Transcatheter Valve Treatment (TCVT) and Transaorta Valve Replacement (TAVR)

Our advanced TCVT and TAVR technology reduces calcium buildup, potentially extending valve longevity and minimizing the need for future interventions.

#### Patent Foramen Ovale and Atrial Septal Defect (PFO/ASD) Repair

This catheter-based procedure closes a small hole between the two upper chambers of the heart. Its minimally invasive approach typically allows for a smoother and quicker recovery.

#### **Complex Coronary Stenting**

Using the latest advancements in drug-eluting stent technology, this procedure helps widen narrowed arteries, restoring healthy blood flow and improving heart function.

#### **Percutaneous Treatment**

By utilizing specialized catheters and devices, this minimally invasive technique treats peripheral vascular disease, avoiding the need for large incisions associated with traditional heart surgery.

#### **Shockwave Intravascular Lithotripsy**

A state-of-the-art, minimally invasive treatment used prior to stent placement to address calcified arteries, helping to open blocked or narrowed vessels effectively.

#### **Turbohawk and Orbital Atherectomy**

These innovative devices treat severely calcified, complex blockages in the legs. By removing plaque, they facilitate proper stent placement and improve blood flow.

## Cardiac Rehabilitation

Cardiac rehabilitation is a medically supervised outpatient program designed to support individuals with heart disease in their journey to recovery. By combining personalized exercise plans with educational resources, the program helps patients regain strength, improve overall well-being and return to a full and active life. Our goal is to enhance physical, emotional and social health, empowering each patient to thrive.

Qualifying diagnosis for entry into our cardiac rehab programs are:

- Myocardial infarction (heart attack)
- Coronary artery bypass graft surgery (CABG)
- Valve repair/replacement
- Stent
- Percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA only)
- Stable angina
- Heart transplant
- Congestive heart failure with ejection fraction of 35% or less

# Electrophysiology

#### Advancing Electrophysiology: Cutting-Edge Care at UT Health East Texas

The field of electrophysiology (EP) has transformed more than any other area of cardiology in the past decade. With remarkable advancements in catheter-based ablation and implantable cardiac devices, our specialists can now treat conditions once deemed untreatable.

At UT Health East Texas, our cardiac team leads the way in arrhythmia management, offering both straightforward procedures like supraventricular tachycardia (SVT) and atrial flutter ablations, as well as complex interventions for atrial fibrillation and ventricular tachycardia.

As this field continues to evolve, we remain committed to innovation. Our state-of-the-art facilities include two electrophysiology labs, with a third lab set to open in early 2025, ensuring access to the latest technology for our patients.

#### **Our Advanced EP Technology and Procedures**

#### **Advanced Ultrasound**

Equipped with Cartosound technology, this system integrates real-time intracardiac echocardiography (ICE) into the mapping environment, enhancing visualization of heart structures, catheter placement and potential complications for safer, more precise procedures. Paired with the Ensite X mapping system, the ViewMate console provides comprehensive imaging for complex, fluoroless EP ablations, minimizing radiation exposure and optimizing patient safety.

#### **3D Mapping**

The 3D mapping system provides high-density, real-time mapping of cardiac arrhythmias, combining speed and accuracy to deliver safer, more efficient treatments.



#### **Leadless Pacemaker**

This leadless pacemaker, implanted directly into the heart, offers a minimally invasive option with a faster recovery and shorter hospital stays.

UT Health Tyler was the first in the region to offer the dual-chamber transcatheter pacing system, tailored for individualized care.

#### **Event Monitor**

A long-term cardiac monitoring system with a battery life of 4.5 years allows patients to manage their health through a smartphone app. Physicians can remotely program the device, ensuring continuous care without the need for in-office visits.

#### **Innovative Procedures for Advanced Care**

#### Cryoablation

Using sub-zero temperatures, cryoablation targets the cells responsible for arrhythmias, offering shorter hospital stays and faster recovery.

#### **Convergent (Hybrid) Ablation**

This collaborative procedure combines catheter and surgical ablation techniques, providing a comprehensive treatment for patients with chronic atrial fibrillation (Afib) without the need for open-heart surgery.

#### **Fluoroless Ablation**

This technique eliminates radiation exposure by utilizing ultrasound imaging for precise catheter guidance, offering the same safety and recovery benefits as traditional ablation.

#### Watchman<sup>™</sup> and Watchman FLEX<sup>™</sup>

The Watchman<sup>™</sup> device reduces stroke risk in patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation by sealing off the left atrial appendage, potentially serving as an alternative to blood-thinning medications.

At UT Health East Texas, we are dedicated to providing cutting-edge care and pioneering new treatments in electrophysiology, improving outcomes and enhancing quality of life for our patients.

# Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery

The cardiovascular and thoracic surgeons at UT Health East Texas bring unparalleled expertise and offer advanced treatment options rarely available at other hospitals in the region. Our medical center was purpose-built to meet the unique needs of cardiovascular patients, with highly skilled intensive care teams dedicated to providing exceptional care for those with complex medical conditions.

In 2024, our cardiovascular surgery team performed procedures on 435 patients, including bypass surgeries, aortic and mitral valve replacements, transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR), transcatheter valve treatment (TCVT) Maze and MitraClip<sup>™</sup> procedures, as well as minimally invasive treatments for atrial fibrillation and radial artery harvesting for bypass grafts.

#### Traditional Bypass Surgery

UT Health East Texas Heart and Vascular Institute is a leader in coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG), commonly known as bypass surgery. This procedure restores blood flow to the heart by using arteries from the chest or veins from the leg to bypass blockages. While CABG is a routine procedure at our flagship hospital in Tyler, our surgical team approaches each case with a level of precision and care that sets us apart.

#### **Minimally Invasive Heart Surgery**

Also known as keyhole surgery, minimally invasive heart surgery avoids the need for a sternotomy (splitting the breastbone). Instead, the procedure is performed through small incisions using specialized instruments and camera scopes, providing the surgeon with enhanced visibility of the heart. This innovative approach offers numerous benefits, including faster recovery, shorter hospital stays, lower infection rates, reduced pain and minimal blood loss. In 2024, our team successfully performed 19 minimally invasive heart surgeries.

#### **Personalized Care for Every Patient**

At UT Health East Texas Heart and Vascular Institute, every patient receives a thorough evaluation to determine the most appropriate procedure and treatment plan. Our team is committed to delivering care tailored to each individual's condition, ensuring the best possible outcomes with compassion and expertise.

# **Convergent Procedure**

UT Health East Texas is proud to be the first hospital in the region to offer the innovative convergent procedure. This minimally invasive treatment is a collaborative effort between a cardiac surgeon and an electrophysiologist (EP) to help patients with chronic or persistent atrial fibrillation (AFib)—a condition where the heart's electrical rhythm becomes irregular, leading to an inconsistent heartbeat.

## A Two-Stage Approach to Treat AFib

The convergent procedure is performed in two stages:

#### **1. Surgical Ablation**

In the first stage, the cardiac surgeon makes a small incision below the breastbone to insert a camera and an ablation catheter behind the heart. This allows access to areas that were previously unreachable without opening the chest cavity. The surgeon carefully ablates specific areas of the heart to help restore normal electrical signaling.

#### 2. Electrophysiology Ablation

After a brief hospital stay of two to three days for recovery, the second stage typically involves the electrophysiologist completing the ablation process to ensure optimal outcomes.

## **Understanding and Managing AFib**

AFib is a common condition, affecting about one in 10 people over the age of 65. Symptoms can include a racing heart, shortness of breath, dizziness or lightheadedness. Left untreated, AFib can increase the risk of stroke and other complications.

If you or a loved one is experiencing symptoms of AFib, consult your primary care physician to explore your treatment options. At UT Health East Texas, we are committed to providing advanced, patient-centered care to help you live a healthier, more active life.

To find a physician near you, call **903-596-DOCS** or visit **UTHealth**EastTexas.com for more information.

# Heart Valve Center

The UT Health East Texas Heart Valve Center brings together the expertise of board-certified cardiothoracic surgeons and interventional cardiologists to provide patients with advanced, specialized care. Our center not only focuses on diagnosing and treating heart valve disease, but also aims to raise awareness of this often-overlooked condition.

We offer a full range of valve repair and replacement procedures, using the latest techniques and technologies. In 2024 alone, our team performed 70 transcatheter aortic valve replacements (TAVRs), 21 MitraClip<sup>™</sup> procedures and numerous surgical aortic and mitral valve replacements.

#### Transcatheter Mitral Valve Repair (TMVR)

UT Health Tyler was the first in the region to perform the MitraClip<sup>™</sup> procedure. As the world's first transcatheter mitral valve repair therapy, MitraClip<sup>™</sup> provides a life-changing option for patients who are too high-risk for open-heart surgery, offering effective treatment for mitral valve disease with quicker recovery times.

#### Transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR)

TAVR is a minimally invasive procedure designed to treat a diseased aortic valve in patients with aortic stenosis, especially those whose health conditions make them ineligible for traditional open-heart surgery. Since introducing TCVT and TAVR to East Texas in October 2015, our team has completed over 546 procedures, helping patients experience significant improvements in both quality of life and recovery.

At the UT Health East Texas Heart Valve Center we are committed to providing compassionate, patientcentered care, offering the most advanced solutions to help our patients lead healthier, more active lives.



# New Programs in Cardiology: ECMO

UT Health Tyler is proud to announce the launch of its extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) program, the first of its kind for adult patients in East Texas. This advanced life-saving therapy represents a significant milestone for the region, providing crucial support for patients with severe heart or lung failure. By offering ECMO, UT Health Tyler is leading the way in revolutionizing care for the community, ensuring that patients receive the highest level of medical intervention without having to leave the region.

#### The Importance of ECMO

ECMO is a specialized therapy that temporarily takes over heart and lung functions, allowing these vital organs time to rest and recover. First developed in the 1970s for neonatal care, ECMO has since evolved to treat adults suffering from critical heart or respiratory failure, saving thousands of lives. By pumping and oxygenating blood outside of the body, ECMO provides crucial support for patients facing life-threatening conditions such as acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), pulmonary embolism and cardiac failure.

#### **Impact on East Texas Patients**

With the establishment of UT Health's ECMO program, patients in East Texas no longer need to travel to larger cities to access this advanced care. This program will benefit patients experiencing severe heart and lung failure, providing options for recovery that were previously unavailable in the region. Both veno-venous (V-V) ECMO, which supports lung function, and veno-arterial (V-A) ECMO, which supports both heart and lung function, will be offered with the goal of patient recovery.

ECMO also will be instrumental in supporting the development of complementary programs, such as the shock team and the pulmonary embolism response team (PERT), further strengthening our ability to address acute, life-threatening cardiovascular conditions.

#### **Expanding Services: LVAD and Heart/Transplant Programs**

UT Health Tyler's ECMO program lays the groundwork for future growth in other advanced cardiac care services and advance heart failure. The introduction of ECMO opens the door for developing programs such as left ventricular assist devices (LVADs) and potential heart and lung transplant services. Over the next five years these innovations will allow East Texas residents to receive the most advanced care, closer to home, while reducing the need for travel to distant medical centers.

#### **Research and Elevating the Academic Field**

As part of its commitment to medical excellence, UT Health Tyler's ECMO program will play a pivotal role in advancing research and elevating the academic field. By being at the forefront of ECMO care in the region, the program will serve as a center for clinical research, education and training, helping to enhance the capabilities of healthcare professionals across East Texas. This program not only will save lives, but also foster a culture of learning and innovation.

#### A Program Close to Home

Most importantly, the ECMO program at UT Health Tyler allows patients to stay in East Texas. Serving as the hub, in a "spoke-hub" model, patients will remain close to their families and support systems during critical times. By reducing the need for transfer to distant facilities, UT Health Tyler is providing the community with life-saving care without sacrificing the comfort and support of loved ones.

UT Health Tyler is excited to offer this transformative service, continuing its mission of delivering the highest level of healthcare to the East Texas community. With ECMO as the foundation, we look forward to a future of expanding services and providing cutting-edge care for the people we serve.

# New Programs in Cardiology: PERT

The establishment of a pulmonary embolism response team (PERT) in East Texas will be a pioneering step, marking the first such initiative in the region. This team will bring together a diverse group of experts, including first responders, emergency medicine physicians, pulmonary/critical care specialists, interventional cardiologists, specially trained nursing staff and an ECMO team. Together, they will form a multidisciplinary unit dedicated to the rapid diagnosis and management of pulmonary embolism (PE), a condition that affects approximately 300,000 people annually and claims a life every six minutes.

As the central hub for this groundbreaking program, UT Health Tyler will coordinate care with surrounding facilities across East Texas, ensuring timely and advanced interventions like thrombolysis, catheter-directed procedures and ECMO. Research shows that PERT programs improve patient outcomes by facilitating the use of these advanced therapies while maintaining safety standards. This initiative will provide life-saving care, especially in rural areas where specialized treatment options are often limited.

With PERT, UT Health Tyler will experience a new level of healthcare excellence. This collaborative approach will not only reduce the need for patient transfers and lower mortality rates, but also enhance the overall quality of care in the region, setting a new standard for medical services.

# New Programs in Cardiology: Shock Team

The creation of a comprehensive shock program at UT Health East Texas represents a critical advancement in the care of patients experiencing various types of shock throughout the region. Shock is a life-threatening condition that can arise from a range of causes, such as acute myocardial infarction (AMI) or acute-on-chronic heart failure. This program will ensure that patients receive precise, targeted treatment based on the specific type of shock they present, using advanced mechanical circulatory support (MCS) devices like intra-aortic balloon pumps, percutaneous ventricular assist devices and ECMO. Additionally, the program soon will offer extended therapies, including left ventricular assist devices (LVADs), to help manage long-term heart failure.

A cornerstone of the program is the recognition that "not all shock is created equal." Differentiating between AMI-related shock, heart failure-related shock, obstructive shock, cardiogenic shock and distributive shock is essential for selecting the most effective treatment. The specialized use of MCS will stabilize patients in the most critical conditions, while extended therapies will offer significant benefits for those with chronic heart failure. This program, originating at UT Health Tyler, will extend its impact to surrounding UT Health East Texas facilities, creating a cohesive network of advanced shock care throughout the region.

For the program to be successful, comprehensive education for healthcare providers at all levels will be key. Since shock presents in various forms and requires different interventions, training for emergency physicians, critical care nurses, transport teams and others will be essential. This education will ensure that shock is quickly recognized and treated with the most appropriate life-saving therapies. As the program expands, it will enhance patient outcomes, reduce mortality and set a new standard of care for East Texas.

# New Programs in Cardiology: CardioMEMS™

#### What is CardioMEMS™?

CardioMEMS<sup>™</sup> is a revolutionary technology designed to remotely monitor heart failure patients, providing healthcare providers with real-time insights into their patients' cardiac health. CardioMEMS<sup>™</sup> stands for cardiovascular micro-electro-mechanical system. The system features a miniature sensor implanted in the pulmonary artery, continuously measuring pulmonary artery pressure (PAP). Elevated PAP is an early indicator of worsening heart failure, enabling timely intervention before the patient requires hospitalization.

#### How It Works

**1. Implantation:** The CardioMEMS<sup>™</sup> sensor is implanted through a minimally invasive procedure, typically in a hospital or outpatient setting. About the size of a dime, the sensor is placed in the pulmonary artery.

**2. Data Transmission:** After implantation, the sensor wirelessly transmits data to a secure data center. Patients use a home-monitoring unit to collect this data and send it directly to their healthcare provider.

**3. Real-Time Monitoring:** Healthcare providers have access to this data in real time, allowing them to detect changes in a patient's condition quickly. This proactive monitoring enables more effective management of treatment plans.

**4. Alerts and Interventions:** If the data shows rising pressures indicating worsening heart failure, healthcare providers can take action promptly—often by adjusting medications or suggesting lifestyle changes—thereby reducing the need for hospitalization.

#### **Clinical Evidence**

Research shows that the CardioMEMS<sup>™</sup> system significantly reduces hospital admissions related to heart failure. Studies reveal that patients using CardioMEMS<sup>™</sup> experienced fewer hospital visits compared to those monitored traditionally. These findings highlight the value of incorporating this technology into standard heart failure management.

#### **Benefits for Patients**

The integration of CardioMEMS<sup>™</sup> at UT Health East Texas offers numerous advantages for heart failure patients:

**1. Enhanced Monitoring:** Patients benefit from continuous, real-time heart-health monitoring, reducing the need for frequent hospital visits while allowing them to manage their condition with more ease and confidence.

**2. Early Intervention:** By detecting changes in pulmonary artery pressure early, healthcare providers can intervene before symptoms escalate, helping to avoid emergency situations and hospitalizations.

**3. Improved Quality of Life:** Fewer hospital admissions and personalized treatment plans contribute to better overall well-being. Many patients report feeling more in control of their health, leading to a more fulfilling life.

**4. Reduced Healthcare Costs:** Proactive management through CardioMEMS<sup>™</sup> can lead to fewer hospitalizations, ultimately lowering healthcare costs. This is particularly beneficial in a region where access to healthcare resources may be limited.

**5. Greater Patient Engagement:** The remote monitoring capabilities promote better communication between patients and providers, fostering an active role for patients in their care.

#### **Benefits for East Texas**

The introduction of CardioMEMS<sup>™</sup> at UT Health East Texas will have a positive impact on the broader East Texas community:

**1. Addressing Heart Disease Prevalence:** With heart disease and heart failure affecting many in East Texas, especially due to conditions like obesity, diabetes and hypertension, CardioMEMS<sup>™</sup> will help address this pressing health challenge and improve community health outcomes.

**2. Access to Advanced Care:** UT Health East Texas's adoption of advanced technologies ensures that East Texas residents can receive cutting-edge cardiac care locally, reducing the need for long-distance travel and bridging the gap between urban and rural healthcare access.

**3. Economic Benefits:** By reducing hospital admissions and enhancing patient management, CardioMEMS<sup>™</sup> offers economic benefits for the region. Lower healthcare costs can alleviate financial pressures on patients and the local healthcare system, contributing to the area's overall economic health.

#### Conclusion

The introduction of CardioMEMS<sup>™</sup> at UT Health East Texas represents a transformative advancement in the management of heart failure. By utilizing innovative technology for remote monitoring, UT Health East Texas enhances patient care, empowers individuals and strengthens the healthcare infrastructure across East Texas. This initiative promises not only improved health outcomes for patients but also benefits for the community, ensuring greater access to advanced healthcare solutions. As UT Health East Texas moves forward with this new chapter, we are excited to provide life-changing care and support to heart failure patients in East Texas.



# A Year in Review: UT Health Tyler New Electrophysiology Lab



The recent decision to expand from two electrophysiology (EP) labs to three at UT Health Tyler signifies a strategic move to enhance cardiac care and meet the growing demand for electrophysiological services. This expansion will not only increase our capacity to perform procedures, but will also improve the overall patient experience, ensuring that we can better serve our patient base and the broader community.

The addition of a third EP lab will significantly expand our procedural capacity. Currently, our two labs are operating at near full capacity, leading to longer wait times for patients requiring critical procedures such as catheter ablations, device implantations and other advanced

electrophysiology treatments. With the new lab, we anticipate an increase in the number of procedures performed annually, reducing wait times and allowing us to accommodate a greater volume of patients. This increased capacity is vital, as timely access to care can drastically improve patient outcomes, particularly for those suffering from arrhythmias and other heart rhythm disorders.

The expansion also will enhance the patient experience by allowing for more flexible scheduling and a streamlined approach to care. Patients often face anxiety and uncertainty while waiting for procedures; shorter wait times can help alleviate these concerns, leading to a more positive overall experience. Furthermore, with increased lab availability, we can better manage our patient flow, allowing for more efficient use of resources and staff.

East Texas has a growing population, with an increasing number of individuals requiring cardiac care. By expanding our EP lab capabilities, UT Health East Texas remains the leader in heart health in the region. This development will allow us to serve not only existing patients but also those in underserved communities who may previously have faced barriers to accessing specialized cardiac care.

The demand for electrophysiology services is on the rise due to factors such as an aging population and the increasing prevalence of heart disease. By increasing our lab capacity, we can ensure that patients in East Texas receive timely and high-quality care, addressing a critical community need. This commitment to community health aligns with UT Health East Texas's mission to provide comprehensive care and improve the overall health of the populations we serve.

The expansion also provides an opportunity for clinical growth and innovation within the department. More labs allow for the introduction of new technologies and techniques in electrophysiology, further enhancing our capabilities. This positions UT Health East Texas as a center of excellence for cardiac care, attracting top talent in the field and fostering an environment of continuous learning and improvement.

The transition from two to three electrophysiology labs at UT Health East Texas represents a significant advancement in our commitment to patient-centered care. By increasing our procedural capacity, enhancing patient experience and better serving the community, this expansion not only addresses current needs but also sets the stage for future growth. UT Health East Texas is poised to lead the way in electrophysiological care in East Texas, ensuring that our patients receive the highest standard of care in a timely and efficient manner.

# A Year in Review: UT Health Tyler Chest Pain Observation Unit and MI Registry

In 2023, UT Health Tyler introduced a dedicated Chest Pain Observation Unit, a collaborative effort between the emergency and cardiology departments. This specialized unit focuses on managing patients with low-risk chest pain, ensuring they receive timely, efficient and expert care.

Patients in this unit are evaluated by a cardiologist and/or nurse practitioners, following a strict set of clinical criteria combined with the caregivers' specialized expertise. After thorough assessment, patients proceed with one of the following personalized treatment plans:

- Discharged home
- Discharged to follow up with more testing at the cardiology office as an outpatient
- Receive further testing while in the emergency department
- Admitted to the hospital for more extensive testing

The chest pain observation unit is just one of the many reasons UT Health Tyler has consistently earned the American College of Cardiology's Platinum Performance Achievement for the MI Registry. UT Health Tyler is proud to rank in the 90th percentile for overall acute myocardial infarction (MI) performance in our Chest Pain MI Registry, demonstrating our commitment to excellence in heart attack care.

Additionally, UT Health Tyler is in the 90th percentile for discharge performance metrics, ensuring MI patients leave the hospital with the best possible outcomes and follow-up care.

In the Cath PCI Registry, we continue to excel, performing in the top 10% nationally for delivering PCI (percutaneous coronary intervention) to our ST elevation myocardial infarction patients, also known as STEMI patients. This means at UT Health Tyler we outperform 90% of hospitals across the country, providing life-saving care with speed, precision and expertise.

At UT Health Tyler, we are dedicated to setting the standard for exceptional cardiac care in our community and beyond.

# A Year in Review: UT Health East Texas Heart & Vascular Geographic Expansion

UT Health East Texas announced a strategic partnership with Palestine Regional Medical Center in 2024, bringing Tyler Cardiovascular Consultants (CVC) cardiologist Yazan Khouri, MD, to the facility. This collaboration is designed to expand access to high-quality cardiac care and improve health outcomes for patients in the East Texas region.

With Dr. Khouri's expertise now available at Palestine Regional Medical Center, local residents have access to specialized heart and vascular care closer to home. This partnership means patients receive timely assessments, diagnoses and treatment options, both interventional and non-interventional, without the need for extensive travel, addressing the growing demand for cardiovascular services in the area.

In addition, this initiative serves as a foundation for UT Health East Texas to build further partnerships with other healthcare systems across East Texas. By collaborating with additional facilities, we aim to create a stronger network of care, pooling resources and expertise to meet the healthcare needs of the broader community.

Our commitment is to foster a seamless continuum of care that enhances patient access to specialized services, encourages innovative practices and ultimately leads to improved health outcomes for East Texas. Through these strategic partnerships, UT Health East Texas is dedicated to advancing cardiovascular health and providing comprehensive, compassionate care throughout the region.

# A Year in Review: UT Health East Texas Heart & Vascular Institute Continued Growth

#### Increased Collaboration - Heart and Vascular Institute Specialties:

- Cardiology consultations
- Nuclear medicine and echocardiogram diagnostics
- Non-invasive diagnostic evaluation
- Cardiac arrhythmia treatment and management
- Peripheral vascular disease diagnosis and treatment
- •Treatment of venous insufficiency with venoablation
- Coronary catheterization and intervention

- Advanced heart failure clinic
- Atrial fibrillations and pacemaker clinic
- Coumadin clinic
- Event monitoring
- Telemedicine
- Laboratory service

#### **Improved Access to Care**

Throughout the UT Health East Texas network, patients with cardiology-related concerns often turn to our emergency rooms for evaluation and potential treatment. While not all of our hospitals offer roundthe-clock cardiology services, the integration of advanced technology has allowed us to expand access to high-quality care, ensuring patients receive timely and effective treatment when they need it most.

#### **Telemedicine Internal Network**

With our physician-to-physician telemedicine program, hospital emergency room physicians, hospitalists and other care providers in our network now have 24/7 access to cardiologist video visits and consultations. This initiative is designed to ensure that patients in our service areas receive timely, specialized care, allowing them to stay in their local communities and hospitals whenever possible— especially when transfers to higher levels of care are not necessary. This program enhances our ability to deliver high-quality, patient-centered care close to home. We have completed dozens of telemedicine consultations with high levels of satisfaction from our patients and providers.

#### **Telemedicine Patient Visits**

Our telehub, located at Cardiac Plaza in Tyler, is dedicated to delivering specialized telemedicine consultations. This state-of-the-art facility enables our clinicians to connect with patients virtually, allowing them to receive expert care from the comfort of their own homes. This approach enhances access for patients in remote areas, ensures providers can stay closely connected with their patients and upholds the personalized care we are committed to delivering to every individual we serve.

#### **Call Center**

Our remote nursing team diligently monitors all calls and messages, ensuring faster response times and timely patient care. By working closely with clinic staff, these nurses provide efficient, high-quality care remotely, helping to streamline patient management and improve overall service.

#### **Advanced Heart Failure Clinic**

The Advanced Heart Failure Clinic at UT Health East Texas offers specialized care and education for patients diagnosed with chronic heart failure (CHF). Our multidisciplinary team, which includes a cardiologist, nurse practitioner, clinical pharmacist and heart failure nurse, collaborates to provide the tools necessary for managing CHF and preventing unnecessary hospital admissions.

We focus on improving our patients' quality of life through lifestyle changes, disease education and tailored drug therapies. Additionally, our clinic features an on-site laboratory for point-of-care testing (POCT), which enables us to monitor and adjust diuretic therapy effectively. We also utilize personalized diuresis protocols, typically ranging from one to three days, depending on each patient's specific needs, helping to reduce ER visits and improve overall care.

The clinical pharmacist's role is to:

- Assess the patient
- Evaluate medication regimens and laboratory test results
- Provide pharmacotherapeutic management to ensure that patients are receiving dose-optimized GDMT with limited adverse events
- Screen for potential drug-drug or drug-disease state interactions
- Disease state and medication education
- Type (or lack) of insurance coverage and out-of-pocket medication costs and provide patient assistance or possibly less expensive alternatives to therapy
- Oversee safe and effective IV diuresis within the heart failure clinic

#### Heart Failure Clinic: Comprehensive Care and Support

Patients at the UT Health East Texas Advanced Heart Failure Clinic benefit from a variety of support services, such as our patient assistance program, which helps with the cost of expensive medications. This also includes our Transition of Care Clinic, designed to ensure a seamless shift from hospital to home with close follow-up care. Our goal in the coming year is to reduce heart failure admissions and readmissions, while providing more personalized care to East Texas families.

#### **Atrial Fibrillation Clinic: Personalized Treatment for AFib**

The UT Health East Texas Heart and Vascular Institute's Atrial Fibrillation (AFib) Clinic offers a comprehensive range of treatments to manage AFib, from medication to advanced procedures when necessary. Every patient is unique, and our team works closely with you to determine the most appropriate treatment based on your symptoms and medical history.

Most AFib treatments begin with non-surgical options, such as medications to slow the heart rate and restore normal rhythm, along with blood thinners to prevent clotting. In some cases, we may also perform a procedure to shock the heart back into a regular rhythm.

For patients who do not respond to medication, we offer several surgical options. One option is catheter ablation, a procedure where a catheter is used to freeze the areas of the heart causing AFib. For those with more persistent AFib, we offer the convergent procedure. This two-stage procedure involves a cardiothoracic surgeon who makes a small incision to target the signals causing AFib, followed by a catheter ablation from an electrophysiologist. Most patients recover quickly, with just two days in the hospital for the initial procedure.

In certain cases, patients who cannot tolerate blood thinners may be candidates for the Watchman<sup>™</sup> left atrial appendage closure device. This one-time, minimally invasive procedure permanently closes off the left atrial appendage to reduce stroke risk without the need for ongoing blood thinner use.

#### Sleep Center: Comprehensive Care for Sleep Disorders

As the first American Academy of Sleep Medicine-accredited sleep center in East Texas, the UT Health East Texas Sleep Disorders Center has expanded from a small two-bed facility in 1985 to a network of 24 beds across the region. The Tyler Sleep Center, located at UT Health East Texas Cardiac Plaza, serves as the hub for this network, providing care for patients of all ages, from children to adults.

Under the leadership of Dr. David Jones, a board-certified expert in sleep medicine and pulmonology, the Sleep Disorders Center diagnoses and treats a broad range of sleep disorders, including obstructive sleep apnea, central sleep apnea and more complex conditions linked to heart failure, stroke and neurological conditions. Our center performs over 1,500 polysomnography tests annually and has been a leader in offering home sleep apnea testing, with over 900 tests conducted each year.

Our Tyler Sleep Center operates seven days a week, offering both overnight and daytime sleep studies. With a dedicated team of specialists, we provide effective treatment options tailored to each patient's needs, helping improve sleep quality and overall health.



## A Year in Review: Research Summary

Tyler Cardiovascular Consultants (CVC)/UT Health East Texas continues to participate in cutting-edge research that keeps our patients receiving the most current and innovative cardiology care. UT Health East Texas patients receive the most advanced treatment options for hypertension with renal denervation in the SPYRAL AFFIRM trial. Patients requiring cardiac stents are participating in trials such as TARGET IV NA<sup>™</sup>, PIONEER III<sup>™</sup> and Medtronic Coronary PSR. Tyler CVC/UT Health East Texas also has two heart failure trials (VICTOR HF and ALLEVIATE HF) with new heart failure medicines and medical devices to help reduce repeat hospitalizations.

#### **Renal Denervation Summary**

UT Health East Texas and Tyler Cardiovascular Consultants are enrolling patients in the SPYRAL AFFIRM Clinical Study, which evaluates the long-term safety, efficacy and durability of the Medtronic Symplicity Spyral<sup>™</sup> Renal Denervation System (also known as the Symplicity blood pressure procedure) in patients with uncontrolled hypertension and associated chronic conditions (i.e., diabetes and chronic kidney



disease). The procedure is for use as a complementary treatment in patients with high blood pressure (or hypertension) when lifestyle changes and antihypertensive medications do not adequately control blood pressure.

The Symplicity blood pressure procedure is a minimally invasive technique that targets specific nerves near the kidneys that can become overactive and cause high blood pressure. It is clinically proven to help reduce high blood pressure, which can lower serious health risks. After mild sedation, the doctor inserts a thin tube into the femoral artery leading to the

kidney. The doctor then administers a radio frequency through a catheter to disrupt the excessive activity of the nerves connected to the kidney. The tube is removed, leaving no implant behind.

The SPYRAL AFFIRM clinical study will treat up to 1,300 patients with uncontrolled hypertension. The study will follow these patients for three years.

The SPYRAL AFFIRM clinical study is part of the SPYRAL HTN Global clinical program, adding to the safety and efficacy data for the Symplicity Spyral Renal Denervation System.

#### Symposium 2024

Each year, the goal of the cardiac symposium is to offer healthcare providers in East Texas a thorough and up-to-date review of cardiovascular conditions commonly encountered in daily practice. Renowned guest speakers share the latest clinical trial findings and updated clinical guidelines, complemented by case presentations that demonstrate how to effectively integrate these guidelines into real-world clinical settings. This event serves as an invaluable opportunity for healthcare professionals to stay informed and enhance their expertise in cardiovascular care.

#### **Presentation overview:**

SPEAKER	ТОРІС	
Arnaldo Lopez-Ruiz, MD	Acute Cardio-renal Syndrome: Diagnosis and Management Strategies	
Ajay Pachika, MD	CT-Calcium Score in Clinical Practice	
Preetham Muskula, MD	When to Treat in Primary Prevention for CAD	
Gaurav Patel, MD	Coronary CT Angiogram in Clinical Practice	
Rev. Chris Legg, LPC	How to Serve in Long-term Helping Roles with Secondary Trauma**	
Mary Jane Farr, MD	, MD Management of Acute Heart Failure	

The 2024 Cardiovascular Symposium was held May 18 at UT Health North Campus Tyler. The symposium was focused on the subject of heart failure and included local and guest speakers presenting research on the subject matter, as well as offering an ethics credit for those who attend. The 2024 symposium was championed by Dr. Raul Torres-Heisecke.

#### **Case Collaborative 2024**

The UT Health East Texas cardiovascular team held quarterly case collaborative gatherings for and by providers. At the collaboratives, cardiologists and fellows presented three to four cases that have impacted their medical practices and opened the floor for informal collaborative discussion. Our objectives were to provide education by discussing diagnosis and treatment options for complex clinical cardiovascular cases and help build strong physician networks in the community.

#### Speakers included:

Rahul Aggarwal, MD Tyrone Galbreath, DO, MHA, FACS Preetham Muskula, MD Mario Padilla, APRN, AGACNP-BC, CCRN FCCS Guarav Patel, MD Ramachandra Reddy, MD Jordan Sexe, DO Mohammed Sheikh, DO Raul Torres-Heisecke, MD



Preetham Muskula, MD



Ajay Pachika, MD





CORONARY ANATOMY Accurate Coronary Artery Assessment Improvement in Resolution Focus on Radiation Early Clinical Research / Trials

CORONARY PHYSIOLOGY Cardiac CT - Modest Specificity Invasive FFR Gold Standard Goal: Reduce Unnecessary Cath Evolution of FFR-CT and Trial Data



**Guarav Patel, MD** 



# A Year in Review: Awards and Recognition

UT Health Tyler is proud to be an accredited Platinum Performance Chest Pain Center, Vascular Testing Facility and Echocardiography Facility. Our commitment to providing the highest quality care for patients experiencing heart attack symptoms is evident in the expertise and compassionate care delivered by our team.

We continuously strive to improve the care we provide by abstracting data on our cardiovascular patients. Our data registries, which include Chest Pain MI, Cath PCI, Electrophysiology, Cardiothoracic Surgery and Structural Heart (TCVT, TAVR, MitraClip<sup>™</sup> and Watchman), are accredited by the American College of Cardiology and The Society of Thoracic Surgeons. These registries enable us to measure our performance and make data-driven improvements in patient care.

In addition, our STEMI program generates a STEMI Report after each patient's care, detailing response times and patient outcomes. These reports are shared across all departments involved in providing urgent care to our STEMI patients. This collaboration between physicians, the cardiac cath lab, EMS and the emergency department has been vital to identifying areas for improvement and ensuring that patients receive timely and effective care. Our efforts have earned recognition from the American Heart Association, the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission and the American College of Cardiology.

As part of our commitment to advancing cardiovascular care, UT Health East Texas has received three American Heart Association Get With The Guidelines Achievement Awards. These awards reflect our dedication to following the latest, research-based guidelines for the treatment of heart disease and stroke, helping to save lives, reduce recovery times and prevent unnecessary readmissions.

Heart disease and stroke are the leading causes of death in the US, but studies show that patients recover better when care is aligned with the most current treatment guidelines. Through the Get With The Guidelines program, UT Health East Texas ensures that patients benefit from the most up-to-date care practices, ultimately improving outcomes for those in our community.

"By adhering to the latest treatment guidelines and streamlining our processes, we ensure timely and appropriate care for heart attacks and strokes," said Lisa Hutchison, neuroscience and stroke program director. "The Get With The Guidelines program helps us deliver proven knowledge and improve the lives of East Texans."

This year, UT Health East Texas proudly received the following achievement awards:

- Get With The Guidelines Rural Stroke Bronze Award | UT Health Henderson & UT Health Quitman
- Get With The Guidelines Rural Stroke Silver Award | UT Health Jacksonville
- Get With The Guidelines<sup>®</sup>-Stroke Gold Plus Award, Target: Stroke Honor Roll, Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll | UT Health Tyler

Image: Description of the constraint of the constrain









UT Health East Texas Heart and Vascular Institute was proud to play a key role in the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women Campaign. Donna Bowers, regional director of cardiology & oncology services for UT Health East Texas, co-chaired the event alongside Lecia Bowman, chief nursing officer, UT Health Tyler. In recognition of her outstanding contributions, Kristen Brice, regional manager for physician & provider relations & outreach, was honored as the American Heart Association's Woman of Impact for 2023. Additionally, the campaign featured a panel that included Robert Carney, MD, alongside a heart disease survivor, highlighting the important work being done to raise awareness and support women's heart health. The American Heart Association Circle of Red, Co Chaired by Brice and Sandra Tovar, RN, director of nursing, UT Health Tyler, raised and donated \$15,000 to Bethesda Health Clinic.









# A Year in Review: Marketing Recap 2024



## **8 PRINTED STORIES**

Magazine

- 2 Tyler Morning Telegraph2 Medical Professionals
- 1 Henderson Daily News
- 2 Jacksonville Progress
- 1 Panola Watchman

## **11 BROADCASTS**

## **3 KYTX**

- ECMO program announced (Feb 2. at 5:30 p.m. and Feb. 5 at 5 & 6 a.m.)
- ICU Nurse recovers from open-heart surgery (May 1 at 10 p.m.)
- ECMO (Oct. 3 at 5 p.m.)

#### 2 KETK

- ECMO program announced (Feb 2. at 6 p.m. and Feb. 5 at 6:30 & 8:30 a.m.)
- ECMO (Oct. 3 at 6 p.m.)

## **1 KFXK**

• ECMO program announced (Feb 5. at 7 & 8 a.m.)



## **6 ARTICLES RAN ONLINE WITH PRINTED ARTICLES**

## **19 ARTICLES PUBLISHED ONLINE ONLY**

## 91 TOTAL POSTS

**ONLINE STORIES** 

- 161,365 Total impressions
- 22,335 Total engagements (reactions, comments, shares, clicks)
- 1 Provider video (live and pre-recorded)
- 1 Patient testimonial



# A Year in Review: Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship – The University of Texas at Tyler Health Science Center

In July 2023, The UT Tyler School of Medicine Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Program welcomed its first class of fellows. In 2024 two additional fellows joined the inaugural class.

Our program's mission is to develop leaders in cardiovascular disease treatment for the East Texas community, primarily through advanced and systematic education of fellows and faculty. The program is focused on caring for all levels of cardiovascular health in the community by continuing to be the preferred reference service for cardiology care in the East Texas region.



#### Jordan Sexe, DO

Jordan Sexe, DO, is a current second year cardiology fellow at The University of Texas at Tyler School of Medicine. Dr. Sexe received his undergraduate degree in biology from Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa. He graduated medical school from William Carey University in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Prior to starting fellowship, he completed his internal medicine residency at The University of Texas at Tyler. In June 2024, he received the New Physician of the Year award from the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association. In

2022, he was given the DO Resident of the Year award from Texas Osteopathic Medical Association. Dr. Sexe received the Outstanding Achievement in Research Award for the graduating class of 2020 while at William Carey University. Since March of 2023, he has served as a national faculty member for the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners.



#### Mohammed Aamir Sheikh, DO

Mohammed Sheikh, DO, grew up in London, England; completed high school in Pakistan and then moved to the US. Dr. Sheikh moved from Southern California to Pennsylvania for his undergraduate degree, then medical school in Tennessee, and now, after completing his residency, is a cardiovascular disease fellow in Texas. He is interested in pursuing a career in advanced cardiovascular imaging and heart failure with the goal of establishing advance cardiovascular imaging and heart failure in East Texas.

Outside of work he spends time with family and friends, but mostly stays occupied with his two boys.



#### Thomas Nguyen, DO

Thomas Nguyen, DO, is a first year cardiology fellow. He pursued his education at The University of Texas at Austin for his undergraduate degree, graduated from Erie Lake College of Osteopathic Medicine, Pennsylvania and completed internal medicine residency at UT Health East Texas. Dr. Nguyen is planning to practice general cardiology after fellowship. In his free time, he enjoys bouldering, tennis and pickleball.



#### Christos Sarantopoulos, MD

Christos Sarantopoulos, MD, was born and raised in Los Angeles and completed his undergraduate degree at University of California, Irvine, then medical school at Oakland University, William Beaumont Hospital in Michigan, and residency at UT Tyler focusing on internal medicine. He is currently a first-year fellow at The UT Tyler School of Medicine. In his free time he enjoys walking, playing pickleball and spending time with family.

## UT Health East Texas Cardiologists



Jarett Berry, MD, MS, FAHA



Dudley D. Goulden III, MD, FACC



Jennifer Thibodeau, MD



Robin Strait, APRN, FNP-C

## UT Health East Texas Cardiothoracic Surgeons



W. Stephen Phillips, MD



Ramachandra Reddy, MD



Pamela Jackson, APRN, NP



Mario Padilla, APRN, AGACNP-BC, CCRN FCCS



Aneicha Smith, APRN, NP



Danielle Spelios, APRN, AGACNP-BC





Robert Carney, MD, FACP, FACC

Yazan Khouri, MD,

**RPVI, FACC** 



Brent Davis, MD, FACC



Alex Korniyenko, MD



David Dick, MD, FACC, FSCAI



Andrew J. Luisi, Jr., MD, FACC, FASNC



Ashish Gangasani, MD



Preetham R. Muskula, MD



David Hector, MD, FACP, FACC, FSCAI, FAAC



Frank Navetta, MD FACC, FSCAI

## Tyler Cardiovascular Consultants (Cont.)



Augustine Njoku, MD, FACC,



Ajay Pachika, MD, FACC



Gaurav Patel, MD



Robert Smith, MD, FACC



Raul Torres-Heisecke, MD, FHRS



Abram Abriz, MSN, APRN, AGNP-C



Katie Bobbit, APRN, FNP-C



Angela Bridges, MSN, APRN, FNP-C



Lamont Davis, APRN, FNP-C



Monica Hudspeth, MSN, APRN, FNP-C



Kristina Johnson, MSN, APRN, FNP-C



Michele McDonald, MSN, APRN, AGACNP-BC



Pamela Ray, APRN, AGACNP-BC



Francisco Rivera, APRN, MSN, FNP-C, ACNP-BC



Skylar Schamber, APRN, AGACNP-BC



Jason Scott, MSN, APRN, FNP-C

## UT Health East Texas Heart & Vascular Institute Leadership

- Donna Bowers, JD, RHIA, CHP | Regional Director of Cardiology, UT Health East Texas
- Paul Ferguson | Assistant Vice President of Clinical Services, UT Health Tyler
- Stacey Smith, RDCS, RVT | Regional Cardiovascular Imaging Director, UT Health East Texas
- Jessica Hall, RN Assistant Director of Cardiac Cath Lab, Tyler Cardiovascular Consultants
- William Cooksey, RN, MBA, FACHE | Senior Practice Administrator, Tyler Cardiovascular Consultants
- Ryan Switzer, RN, BSN | Director of Invasive Cardiology, UT Health Tyler
- Damikia Cooper, RN | Clinical Coordinator of Electrophysiology Lab
- Megan Heron, RN | Clinical Coordinator of Cath Lab
- Floyd Franklin, RN | Manager of Invasive Cardiology Preoperative & Postoperative, UT Health Tyler
- Jackie Taylor | Revenue Practice Administrator, Tyler Cardiovascular Consultants
- Jennifer Townsend, MBA | Senior Practice Administrator, UT Health East Texas Physicians
- Mario Padilla, APRN, AGACNP-BC, CCRN FCCS | ECMO Program Director, UT Health Tyler

#### Vascular Tyler -

- Mark R. Robbins, MD, FACS
- Tyrone J. Miller, DO, FACOS, FACS
- D. Brent Kerns, MD, FACS

# Highlight for new cardiologist



#### Yazan Khouri, MD, RPVI, FACC

"In my patient care philosophy, I prioritize communication, compassion, respect and dignity. Effective communication involves connecting with patients, listening to their concerns and ensuring clarity regarding their condition and treatment options," he said. "Compassion, respect and dignity are essential in providing supportive and caring healthcare experiences. By embracing these values, I aim to positively impact patients' well-being and enhance their quality of life."

Dr. Khouri was drawn to a career in healthcare after witnessing his family's struggles with heart disease and strokes. "Through medicine, I found fulfillment in providing care, support and guidance to patients and their families during difficult times," he said.

Dr. Khouri specializes in cardiovascular disease and interventional cardiology. His expertise encompasses a wide range of cardiovascular conditions, including coronary artery disease, heart failure, valvular abnormalities, arrhythmias and cardiomyopathies. He performs procedures such as coronary atherectomies, lithotripsy and stent placements to restore blood flow to the heart. He also has focus on treating peripheral arterial disease (PAD), offering advanced interventions to improve vascular health and quality of life for patients with PAD symptoms or critical limb ischemia.

# Highlight for new cardiothoracic surgeon



#### Ramachandra Reddy, MD

Ramachandra Reddy, MD, is passionate about delivering consistent, high-quality care through teamwork and precision. He believes that the key to successful outcomes lies in building a strong, cohesive team, ensuring uniformity and excellence in every procedure. His approach prioritizes collaboration and standardized care to maintain the highest level of patient safety and success.

Dr. Reddy was inspired early in life by his family physician, sparking his interest

in medicine. During medical school, he had the opportunity to observe cardiothoracic surgery alongside a mentor, which solidified his passion for the specialty.

With a deep focus on high-risk cardiovascular surgeries, Dr. Reddy specializes in treating conditions such as pulmonary embolism—both acute and chronic—and performing complex coronary work, including minimally invasive coronary surgeries and beating heart procedures. He particularly enjoys taking on challenging cases that other physicians may turn down, always looking for a safe and effective path to treatment.

Outside of work, Dr. Reddy enjoys hiking and has climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro, visited the base camp of Mt. Everest and trekked through Machu Picchu.

# **Cardiology Clinic Locations**



\*All information subject to change.



ATHENS 2000 S. Palestine St. Ste. 100 Athens, TX 75751	Andrew J. Luisi, Jr., MD Aleksandr Korniyenko, MD
CANTON 406 Highway 243 E. Canton, TX 75103	Brent Davis, MD
<b>CARTHAGE</b> 702 N. Davis St. Carthage, TX 75633	Aleksandr Korniyenko, MD
<b>GUN BARREL CITY</b> 2408 W. Main St. Gun Barrel City, TX 75156	Aleksandr Korniyenko, MD Andrew J. Luisi, Jr., MD
HENDERSON 317 Wilson St. Henderson, TX 75653	Robert Carney, MD David Hector, MD
JACKSONVILLE 203 Nacogdoches St. Ste. 290 Jacksonville, TX 75766	David Hector, MD Preetham Muskula, MD Ajay Pachika, MD
NORTH CAMPUS TYLER 11937 U.S. Highway 271 Tyler, TX 75708	Jarett D. Berry, MD Dudley Goulden, MD Augustine Njoku, MD Jennifer Thibodeau, MD
PALESTINE 126 Medical Dr. Ste. B Palestine, TX 75801	Yazan Khouri, MD
<b>PITTSBURG</b> 2701 U.S. Highway 271 N. Pittsburg, TX 75686	Brent Davis, MD Augustine Njoku, MD Ajay Pachika, MD
<b>QUITMAN</b> 117 N. Winnsboro St. Quitman, TX 75783	Augustine Njoku, MD Gaurav Patel, MD Robert Smith, MD
<b>TYLER</b> 2608 McDonald Rd. Tyler, TX 75701	Robert Carney, MD Brent Davis, MD David Dick, MD Ashish Gangasani, MD David Hector, MD Alex Korniyenko, MD Preetham Muskula, MD Frank Navetta, MD Augustine Njoku, MD Ajay Pachika, MD Gaurav Patel, MD Robert Smith, MD Raul Torres-Heisecke, MD

# **Cardiology Imaging Locations**

## Athens

- Complete Echocardiogram
- Limited Echocardiogram
- Contrast Echocardiogram
- Bubble Study Echocardiogram
- Pedi Echocardiogram
- Carotid Ultrasound
- Resting ABI
- Bilateral Venous Lower Extremity
- Unilateral Venous Lower Extremity
- Bilateral Arterial Lower Extremity
- Unilateral Arterial Lower Extremity
- Bilateral Venous Upper Extremity
- Unilateral Venous Upper Extremity
- Bilateral Arterial Upper Extremity
- Unilateral Arterial Upper Extremity
- Aorta Ultrasound
- Renal Artery Limited Ultrasound Stress Echo
- Dobutamine Stress Echo
- Lexiscan Nuclear
- ETT Nuclear
- Transesophageal (TEE)

## Carthage

- Complete Echocardiogram
- Limited Echocardiogram
- Contrast Echocardiogram
- Bubble Study Echocardiogram
- Carotid Ultrasound
- Resting ABI
- Exercise ABI
- Bilateral Venous Lower Extremity
- Unilateral Venous Lower Extremity
- Bilateral Arterial Lower Extremity
- Unilateral Arterial Lower Extremity
- Bilateral Venous Upper Extremity
- Unilateral Venous Upper Extremity
- Bilateral Arterial Upper Extremity
- Unilateral Arterial Upper Extremity
- Aorta Ultrasound
- Renal Artery Limited Ultrasound
- Stress Echo
- Lexiscan Nuclear
- ETT Nuclear
- Transesophageal (TEE)

## Gun Barrel/Cedar Creek Lake

- Complete Echocardiogram
- Limited Echocardiogram
- Carotid Ultrasound
- Bilateral Venous Lower Extremity

- Unilateral Venous Lower Extremity
- Bilateral Arterial Lower Extremity
- Unilateral Arterial Lower Extremity
- Bilateral Venous Upper Extremity
- Unilateral Venous Upper Extremity
- Bilateral Arterial Upper Extremity
- Unilateral Arterial Upper Extremity
- Aorta Ultrasound

## Henderson

- Complete Echocardiogram
- Limited Echocardiogram
- Contrast Echocardiogram
- Bubble Study Echocardiogram
- Carotid Ultrasound
- Bilateral Venous Lower Extremity
- Unilateral Venous Lower Extremity
- Bilateral Arterial Lower Extremity
- Unilateral Arterial Lower Extremity
- Bilateral Venous Upper Extremity
- Unilateral Venous Upper Extremity
- Bilateral Arterial Upper Extremity
- Unilateral Arterial Upper Extremity
- Aorta Ultrasound
- Renal Artery Limited Ultrasound Stress Echo
- Dobutamine Stress Echo
- Lexiscan Nuclear
- ETT Nuclear

## Jacksonville

- Complete Echocardiogram
- Limited Echocardiogram
- Contrast Echocardiogram
- Bubble Study Echocardiogram
- Pedi Echocardiogram
- Carotid Ultrasound
- Resting ABI
- Exercise ABI
- Bilateral Venous Lower Extremity
- Unilateral Venous Lower Extremity
- Bilateral Arterial Lower Extremity
- Unilateral Arterial Lower Extremity
- Bilateral Venous Upper Extremity
- Unilateral Venous Upper Extremity
- Bilateral Arterial Upper Extremity
- Unilateral Arterial Upper Extremity
- Aorta Ultrasound
- Renal Artery Limited Ultrasound
- Lexiscan Nuclear
- ETT Nuclear

## Palestine

- Echocardiography (Pediatric, Adult and Transesophageal)
- CT Angios- whole body NOT\Coronary
- Coronary Calcium Score
- Nuclear Images
  - Gated spect
  - MUGA
  - Technician pyrophosphate
- Cardiac Cath
- Peripheral Angiography

#### Pittsburg

- Contrast Echocardiogram
- Bubble Study Echocardiogram
- Complete Echocardiogram
- Limited Echocardiogram
- Carotid Ultrasound
- Resting ABI
- Exercise ABI
- Bilateral Venous Lower Extremity
- Unilateral Venous Lower Extremity
- Bilateral Arterial Lower Extremity
- Unilateral Arterial Lower Extremity
- Bilateral Venous Upper Extremity
- Unilateral Venous Upper Extremity
- Bilateral Arterial Upper Extremity
- Unilateral Arterial Upper Extremity
- Aorta Ultrasound
- Renal Artery Limited Ultrasound
- Exercise Stress Echo
- Lexiscan Nuclear

## **Midtown Tyler**

- Complete Echocardiogram
- Limited Echocardiogram
- Contrast Echocardiogram
- Bubble Study Echocardiogram
- Venous Reflux
- Lower Extremity Carotid Ultrasound
- Resting ABI
- Bilateral Venous Lower Extremity
- Unilateral Venous Lower Extremity
- Bilateral Arterial Lower Extremity
- Unilateral Arterial Lower Extremity
- Bilateral Venous Upper Extremity
- Unilateral Venous Upper Extremity
- Bilateral Arterial Upper Extremity
- Unilateral Arterial Upper Extremity
- Stress Echo
- Lexiscan Nuclear
- ETT Nuclear
- Pseudo

30

## **North Campus Tyler**

- Complete Echocardiogram
- Limited Echocardiogram
- Contrast Echocardiogram
- Bubble Study Echocardiogram
- Carotid Ultrasound
- Bilateral Venous Lower Extremity
- Unilateral Venous Lower Extremity
- Bilateral Arterial Lower Extremity
- Unilateral Arterial Lower Extremity
- Bilateral Venous Upper Extremity
- Unilateral Venous Upper Extremity
- Bilateral Arterial Upper Extremity
- Unilateral Arterial Upper Extremity
- Aorta Ultrasound
- Resting ABI
- Pseudo
- Renal Artery Limited
- Renal Artery Complete
- Dobutamine Stress Echo
- Lexiscan Nuclear
- ETT Nuclear
- Bubble Study Echocardiogram
- MUGA Scan
- PYP for Cardiac Amyloidosis
- CT Aortic (AAA/Dissection)
- CT Peripheral Angiography
- CT Venous Run-Off
- CT Cardiac Calcium Scoring

#### Quitman

- Complete Echocardiogram
- Limited Echocardiogram
- Contrast Echocardiogram
- Bubble Study Echocardiogram
- Carotid Ultrasound
- Bilateral Venous Lower Extremity
- Unilateral Venous Lower Extremity
- Bilateral Arterial Lower Extremity
- Unilateral Arterial Lower Extremity
- Bilateral Venous Upper Extremity
- Unilateral Venous Upper Extremity
- Bilateral Arterial Upper Extremity
- Unilateral Arterial Upper Extremity

UT Health East Texas

- Aorta Ultrasound
- Renal Artery Limited Ultrasound
- Stress Echo
- Dobutamine Stress Echo
- Lexiscan Nuclear
- ETT Nuclear
- Pseudo

