

Superb care is priceless. Your support makes it possible.



Jan Pendleton, who underwent an emergency department admission and open heart surgery at Lahey.

"One thing I can say about my experience at Lahey is that it truly was a multidisciplinary one," recalls Pendleton. "In a matter of hours, I saw folks from Neurology, Endocrinology, Hematology, Ophthalmology, Cardiology, and Cardiac Surgery."



Hansen Medical Sensei
Robotic Catheter System

Dear Benefactor,

Thank you for your support of the Heart & Vascular Center at Lahey Clinic.

According to the American Heart Association, nearly 2,400 Americans die of cardiovascular disease each day. Every day, Lahey's cardiologists and cardiovascular surgeons work to improve the quality and longevity of life for our patients facing heart and vascular diseases. Here are highlights of the 2008 accomplishments of the team. We hope you enjoy learning about some of the many ways your contributions have made a difference in the very distinctive way we care for patients at Lahey.

Advances in Patient Care

Hybrid OR: Patients requiring multiple procedures can now benefit from streamlined care made possible by Lahey's new, hybrid operating room (hybrid OR), which was dedicated last April. The hybrid OR combines the diagnostic imaging capacity of a catheterization lab within an operating room environment. Patients benefit from the advantages of minimal access surgery: smaller incisions, shorter operating time, less post-operative pain, reduced risk of infection, and a more rapid recovery. In 2008, using the advanced medical technologies of the hybrid OR, Dr. Richard D'Agostino, Chair of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery, successfully completed Lahey's first robotically assisted minimally invasive coronary artery bypass, with complete angiography, in one operation—a procedure that would not have been possible under standard OR conditions. Other cardiothoracic surgeons have gone on to use the hybrid OR's expanded capabilities to perform several endovascular stent graft repairs of the aortic arch and descending thoracic aorta.

Sensei Robotic System: To advance the care of patients who suffer from abnormal heart rhythms, or arrhythmias, Lahey was one of the first hospitals in New England to acquire the Hansen Medical Sensei Robotic Catheter System. The Sensei is a catheter navigation system that allows a physician to work inside the patient's heart and access hard-to-reach cardiac anatomy with great accuracy and stability. Dual benefits of the Sensei System include more rapid recovery for patients and improved physician ergonomics and safety.

Research Update

Specialists at Lahey's Heart and Vascular Center focus on clinical trials that directly impact patient care and offer patients the latest advances in treatment. Patients willing to participate in clinical trials help physicians find more effective treatments and cures for diseases. During 2008, more than 12 trials were conducted in the interventional cardiology division alone.



Arthur W. Coviello, Jr.
Executive Vice President and
President of RSA, the Security
Division of EMC Corp.

*"In the corporate world,
turnaround specialists are
especially valued and respected.
I feel that Dr. Rich D'Agostino,
who performed my mitral valve
repair surgery, was my medical
turnaround specialist. Today, I
am still able to run half-
marathons and travel all over the
world to conduct business. I
remain an avid fan of the Patriots
and the Red Sox—and of
Lahey Clinic."*

For more information about
the Heart & Vascular Center,
please visit the Web site
<http://www.lahey.org/heart>

To discuss making a gift to
support the Heart & Vascular
Center, please contact the
Philanthropy Office at
781-744-3333.

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LipiScan: A pivotal, successful clinical trial led by Lahey Clinic researcher Dr. Sergio Waxman helped a product, the LipiScan Coronary Imaging System catheter, pass FDA scrutiny. Patients benefited by getting a new treatment option designed to use technology known as infrared spectroscopy through a catheter to detect vulnerable plaque which can break off or rupture and cause heart attacks. With this earlier detection, patients can be treated more quickly, through medication or the use of stents, to open arteries.

Excimer Laser: In November, WCVB, Channel 5, profiled Dr. David Martin, Lahey's Director of the Arrhythmia Service, as a cardiologist using the newest laser technology to help patients by removing non-functional and infected cardiac leads. Many patients receive implanted cardiac devices, such as pacemakers and defibrillators, to protect them from sudden cardiac death. Over time, the leads, or insulated wires that connect these devices to the heart, may become non-functional or infected. Because scar tissue can bind the leads in several places along their length, specialized tools are needed to remove them. Lahey's new excimer laser, approved by the FDA in 2008, employs "cool" ultraviolet light to dissolve the scar tissue binding the leads.

Regional Partnerships

Lahey has partnered with Southern New Hampshire Medical Center (SNHMC) to offer greater Nashua area residents convenient and sophisticated cardiac services, such as angioplasty and electrophysiology. Back in September 2004, Lahey was the first to bring angioplasty to Nashua. SNHMC now has done 100 emergency (primary) angioplasties and reduced the amount of time until the patient's arteries are reopened by almost one hour. Today, the partnership's new internet-based tools increase heart health awareness in the community.

Lahey also has partnered with Beverly Hospital to bring coordinated and complete cardiac care to residents of the North Shore. Through the Heart Health Connection, patients have access to expanded and convenient services at Beverly Hospital, specifically primary angioplasty, the gold standard for emergency treatment of individuals suffering from a heart attack, and electrophysiology for individuals with heart rhythm disturbances.

Because Lahey is their tertiary partner for cardiac care, Lowell General Hospital and Saints Memorial Medical Center are both now able to perform emergency (primary) angioplasties for the residents of the greater Lowell area.

National Recognition

Lahey Clinic is a leader in cardiovascular services. Lahey cardiologists and cardiac surgeons perform approximately 4,500 cardiac procedures and surgeries annually, and our patient outcomes rank among the best in the region and the nation. This August, Lahey received national recognition for having one of the best survival rates in the U.S. for patients having acute heart attacks, according to data released by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Lahey was also named one of the top cardiovascular hospitals in the country by Thomson Reuters (formerly Solucient), a leading source of health care business research. Lahey is one of only two Massachusetts hospitals named to the 2008 Thomson Reuters 100 Top Hospitals: Cardiovascular Benchmarks for Success.

Donor generosity makes advances to benefit patients at the Heart & Vascular Center possible. Thank you for your support.