

NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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Saint Luke's Health System and Cardiovascular Consultants explore new heart care model

*Discussion centers on patient care and innovative
health system - physician collaboration*

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Saint Luke's Health System and Cardiovascular Consultants, P.A., are exploring a health system - physician collaborative model that would further integrate the heart care delivered by Cardiovascular Consultant's 42 cardiologists.

The parties signed a confidential memorandum of understanding on Aug. 27. Discussions are underway with a goal of reaching agreement by early 2010.

“As construction on the ‘New Saint Luke’s’ nears its mid-2011 completion date, Saint Luke’s community board members, leaders and employees realize the timing is right to consider new ways to partner with physicians,” said G. Richard Hastings, president and CEO of Saint Luke’s Health System.

“This means not only preparing for the innovative new hospital space and the advanced new technology, but also developing new health care delivery models. The ‘New Saint Luke’s’ will bring an invigorated spirit to highly specialized cardiovascular care for patients in the entire Midwest region,” Hastings said.

The health system – physician collaborative model would continue to focus on providing the highest quality care and outstanding customer service to patients; lowering the cost of cardiovascular care; growing the scope of cardiovascular services; and establishing a care delivery platform that can be adapted to future changes in America’s health care delivery system.

“As the region’s leading cardiology practice, Cardiovascular Consultants shares with Saint Luke’s a commitment to evidence-based, regionally accessible cardiac care,” said Kenneth C.

Huber, M.D., executive medical director of Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute and president of Cardiovascular Consultants. "As discussions move along we look forward to exploring a model to solidify and enhance the common ground we already share."

Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute opened in 1982 as the nation's first dedicated heart hospital and is renowned for its research, innovation, quality and world class care. The Heart Institute has received multiple accolades through the years, including being named a Distinguished Hospital for Patient Safety by HealthGrades in 2006, 2007 and 2008, and a Best Hospital for Heart and Heart Surgery by *U.S. News & World Report* in 2007 and 2008.

'The New Saint Luke's' – Saint Luke's \$330 million renovation project – will house a new, state-of-the-art facility for Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute and the Muriel I. Kauffman Women's Heart Center.

About Cardiovascular Consultants

Cardiovascular Consultants became the exclusive provider of cardiovascular services for Saint Luke's Health System in 1999 when it was awarded a management agreement to provide strategic and operational oversight of all the health system's cardiovascular services. The physician practice is comprised of 42 of the region's most highly trained and experienced cardiologists and provides care in its 12 offices and clinics throughout the Greater Kansas City area and surrounding region. The practice also includes approximately 250 health professionals and administrative staff.

About Saint Luke's Health System

Saint Luke's Health System consists of 11 area hospitals and several primary and specialty care practices, and provides a range of inpatient, outpatient, and home care services. Founded as a faith-based, not-for-profit organization, our mission includes a commitment to the highest levels of excellence in health care and the advancement of medical research and education. The health system is an aligned organization in which the physicians and hospitals assume responsibility for enhancing the physical, mental, and spiritual health of people in the metropolitan Kansas City area and the surrounding region.

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