



**Arkansas Methodist
Medical Center**
It's all about you.

Contact:

Shay Nanke

Marketing Coordinator

(870) 239-8031; shay.nanke@arkansasmethodist.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, August 11, 2009

**AMMC OFFERS PATIENTS LEADING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY
ENHANCING DIAGNOSTIC AND TREATMENT CAPABILITIES**

Addition to Cath Lab Will Aid Heart Patients and Many Others

PARAGOULD, AR - Arkansas Methodist Medical Center has acquired a new, leading-edge angiography or x-ray system that provides physicians with highly detailed images of patients' arteries during diagnostic and treatment procedures.

Angiography is a procedure that helps physicians visualize arteries in the body, most often in the heart, legs or kidneys, to determine whether those vessels are narrowed, blocked or damaged by disease.

During the procedure, a thin catheter or tube is inserted into an artery leading to a specific part of the body, an iodine-based dye is injected to highlight the vessels and x-rays are taken. Angiography also makes it possible for physicians to combine diagnosis and treatment in a single procedure, such as when patients undergo surgical techniques such as angioplasty where a balloon-tipped wire is guided into an artery and the balloon is inflated to open it up, or where a stent or tube is placed inside an artery to keep it open.

Developed by Siemens Medical Solutions, the fully digital Axiom Artis[®] features advanced technology in the form of flat-panel detectors, providing images without the distortion common with conventional x-ray techniques. The flat detectors not only enable physicians to visualize the smallest arteries, but the technology also helps doctors visualize interventional devices, such as guidewires and catheters, in precise detail and from almost any angle.

-more-

AMMC Adds Leading-Edge Technology to Cath Lab/Page 2

According to AMMC Cardiologist Dr. Ammar Hallak, “Better images lead to faster, more accurate diagnoses for patients.”

The Axiom Artis is specially designed to provide patients with the lowest possible radiation dose. Minimizing radiation is especially beneficial during angiographic procedures because they are often lengthy in duration. In addition, its design eliminates time-consuming and uncomfortable repositioning of patients in the exam room, making the procedure faster and less stressful for patients.

“In this modern day era in which percutaneous intervention is replacing more invasive surgery, this state-of-the-art equipment will allow us to perform complex coronary interventions that are minimally invasive with optimum safety and accuracy,” according to AMMC Cardiologist Dr. Allen Duplantis.

A recognized leader, Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould provides progressive, compassionate health care to residents throughout Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri. Additional information about AMMC is available at:

www.arkansasmethodist.org.