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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**INTERVENTIONAL CARDIOLOGIST JOINS AMMC**

**PARAGOULD, AR** - Arkansas Methodist Medical Center is pleased to welcome Interventional Cardiologist Dr. Allen J. Duplantis, Jr. to the medical staff at the hospital.

Dr. Duplantis comes to AMMC from Hannibal Regional Hospital in Hannibal, MO, where he served as Director of Interventional Cardiology for three years.

“We are so pleased to have Dr. Duplantis join our healthcare team. He brings extensive skills and expertise that will compliment the level of quality care we offer our patients,” AMMC President and CEO Ron Rooney said.

Interventional cardiology is a specialty that focuses on catheter-based treatments of heart diseases such as angioplasty, where a balloon-tipped wire is guided into the arteries surrounding the heart and inflated to remove a clot; and the placement of stents or tubes in arteries surrounding the heart to keep arteries open.

The advantages of interventional cardiac medical procedures to patients include smaller scars, less pain and shorter recovery periods than those associated with conventional surgery. Dr. Duplantis says, “With my office at AMMC, hopefully more people in the region will be able to stay close to home should they be in need of cardiac care.”

He adds, “My wife, Connie, and I have family in the area so we also hope to play a role in making life better for the people in our new home of Paragould and throughout the region.”

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Dr. Duplantis' office is located in AMMC's Professional Office Building, Suite 9. His office hours are Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Friday, by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, call (870) 239-8450.

Dr. Duplantis will share on-call duties with Cardiologist Dr. Ammar Hallak, who has been working with AMMC since 2000.

Prior to his tenure at Hannibal Regional Hospital, Dr. Duplantis was an interventional cardiologist at Ozark Medical Center in West Plains, MO. He also has been a cardiologist in private practice throughout the Southeastern and Southwestern United States from Mississippi to Texas to Oklahoma, as well as in Jonesboro for eight years.

He received his bachelor's degree in pre-med from the University of Houston (Texas) and his M.D. degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. He interned at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, WA and performed his residency and cardiology fellowship at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

Dr. Duplantis and his wife, Connie, who is originally from Jonesboro, have five children and six grandchildren.

A recognized leader, Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould provides progressive, compassionate healthcare to residents throughout Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri. Additional information about AMMC is available at: [www.arkansasmethodist.org](http://www.arkansasmethodist.org).