Innovation

For nearly half a century, Washington Adventist Hospital has been at the forefront of cardiovascular achievements around the region — and around the world. Today, the hospital’s Center for Cardiac and Vascular Research (CCVR) is expanding that renown through a host of clinical studies and trials that are creating the next generation of cardiovascular therapies, treatments and medical devices.

Research conducted by CCVR through its own initiatives and in strategic partnership with major medical centers and industry colleagues worldwide is actively advancing both the science and practice of cardiovascular care.

Results of research trials performed at Washington Adventist Hospital have been presented at major national meetings and published in internationally recognized, peer-reviewed journals. More importantly, this innovative research is yielding life-saving advancements in the diagnosis and treatment of cardiac and vascular disease, offering new hope to patients everywhere.

Activities

CCVR actively enrolls patients in a variety of clinical research studies based on each patient’s needs. Its research staff, led by a team of skilled clinicians, works closely with each referring physician and patient participating in a CCVR study. Channels of communication are always open. The staff is available to answer questions and provide prompt feedback on a patient’s progress.

CCVR is a valuable resource for referring physicians as it allows investigation of newer therapies to treat the most complex medical cases. Moreover, patients who participate in clinical trials conducted by CCVR benefit from the superior care that Washington Adventist Hospital has to offer — with clinical staff, cardiovascular nurses and laboratories conveniently arranged in a single facility.

Background

CCVR is associated with the CardioVascular Institute (CVI) at Washington Adventist Hospital located in Takoma Park, Maryland. Washington Adventist Hospital is recognized as an area leader in sophisticated and specialized care for cardiac and vascular disease. Through CVI, patients have access to a multitude of services, from state-of-the-art diagnostic and surgical procedures to prevention and rehabilitation programs. Each year, more than 600 open-heart surgeries and more than 8,000 heart catheterizations are performed at Washington Adventist Hospital. The Center for Cardiac and Vascular Research supports the CardioVascular Institute through consultation, education and evaluation of breakthrough medical discoveries.

Value

The physician leaders of the Cardio Vascular Institute and the Center for Cardiac and Vascular Research have extensive experience in new device therapy and advanced treatments in all cardiac and vascular disorders.
Washington Adventist Hospital is a 285-bed, state-of-the-art acute care facility located in Takoma Park, Maryland. Washington Adventist Hospital is Montgomery County’s first cardiac center, performing more than 600 open-heart surgeries and more than 8,000 heart catheterizations each year. Washington Adventist Hospital is part of Adventist HealthCare, an integrated health-care delivery system based in Rockville, Maryland, that is one of the largest employers in the state of Maryland. Adventist HealthCare includes Washington Adventist Hospital, Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, Potomac Ridge Behavioral Health, Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital of Maryland, Adventist Senior Living Services, Hackettstown Community Hospital and Adventist Home Health Services, the Reginald S. Lourie Center for Children and Infants and LifeWork Strategies. For more information, visit www.WashingtonAdventistHospital.com.

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Interventional Cardiology

Mark A. Turco, MD, F.A.C.C., F.S.C.A.I.
Director, Center of Cardiac & Vascular Research

Specialty: Interventional Cardiology, Peripheral Arterial Disease, Endovascular Treatment for Stroke Prevention, Treatment of Aortic, and Thoracic Aneurysms

Mark A. Turco, MD, is an interventional cardiologist and member of Cardiovascular Consultants, PA. Dr. Turco treats complex coronary and peripheral arterial disease patients, and has experience in interventional therapies for the treatment of adult congenital abnormalities. He is the Director of the Center for Cardiac & Vascular Research at Washington Adventist Hospital, Takoma Park, Maryland and is President of the American Heart Association, Greater Washington Region. He has significant experience in clinical trial research with areas of interest including, acute coronary syndromes, interventional cardiology drugs and devices, and myocardial infarction. He has helped develop medical simulation course software for carotid intervention and complex coronary intervention, and is well published in the field of cardiovascular care. Dr. Turco works closely with the American College of Cardiology and the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions on guidelines, CMS policy, and other advocacy issues.

Dr. Turco is a Philadelphia native, who received his undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He received his medical degree and Internal Medicine training at the George Washington University in Washington, DC. His Cardiology and Interventional Cardiology training were received at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia, PA. Dr. Turco is board certified in Internal Medicine, Cardiology, and Interventional Cardiology.
Keith Lindgren, MD  
Chairman, CardioVascular Institute  

Specialty: General Cardiology, Nuclear Cardiology, and Interventional Cardiology

Keith M. Lindgren, MD, is the Director of Cardiology and the Chairman of the CardioVascular Institute at Washington Adventist Hospital. He is also the founder and member of the Cardiovascular Consultants, PA. Dr. Lindgren is a Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at Georgetown University Medical Center. Dr. Lindgren's special interests include echocardiography, nuclear stress testing, and risk factor control for the prevention of heart disease.

Dr. Lindgren received his medical degree at Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts. He trained at both Harvard Medical School and Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington, DC. Dr. Lindgren is board certified in Cardiovascular Diseases and Interventional Cardiology.

David M. Brill, MD, F.A.C.C.  
Director, Cardiac Catherization Laboratory

Specialty: Interventional Cardiology and Peripheral Arterial Disease

David M. Brill, MD is an interventional cardiologist, member of Cardiovascular Consultants, PA., and the Director of the Cardiac Catherization Laboratory at Washington Adventist Hospital. Dr. Brill’s expertise includes the treatment of peripheral vascular disease, interventional cardiology research, peripheral vascular interventional procedures, and carotid stenting. He is well-versed in the latest technologies and devices that are both being used in the clinical setting and in clinical research.

Dr. Brill received his undergraduate degree from Yale University and his Medical Degree from Harvard Medical School. He completed postgraduate training at University of Chicago and Tufts – New England Medical Center. He is board certificated in Internal Medicine, Cardiology, and Interventional Cardiology. Dr. Brill currently is Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.
**Fayaz Shawl, MD, F.A.C.C**  
*Director, Interventional Cardiology*

**Specialty: Interventional Cardiology, Peripheral Arterial Disease, and High Risk Angioplasty**

Dr. Shawl is the Director of Interventional Cardiology at Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Maryland, as well as Clinical Professor and Director of Interventional Cardiovascular Medicine at George Washington University School of Medicine in Washington, D.C., USA.

Dr. Shawl has played an active role in all aspects of Interventional Cardiology ever since he performed the first Angioplasty at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in 1981 after being trained by Andreas Gruentzig in 1979.

Dr. Shawl is a member of the renowned International Gruentzig Society, where he was recognized to have performed the most interventional procedures as a single operator than any other interventionist in the world. He is actively involved in developing cardiac programs in India and the United States.

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**Sridhar Chatrathi, MD, F.A.C.P., F.A.C.C., F.S.C.A.I.**  
*Director, Peripheral Intervention*

**Specialty: Interventional Cardiology and Peripheral Arterial Disease**

Sridhar Chatrathi, MD is an interventional cardiologist with Washington Adventist Hospital and Capitol Cardiology Associates, PA. He is actively involved in a number of interventional cardiology research studies. Dr. Chatrathi has a wide range of interventional skills to include: high risk procedures, laser atherectomy and rotational atherectomy peripheral intervention and carotid stenting.

Dr. Chatrathi received his medical degree from University of Arkansas School of Medicine and completed his residency and fellowship at University of Missouri - Columbia. He is a fellow with American College of physicians, American College of Cardiology and Society of Coronary Angiography & Interventions. Dr. Chatrathi is board certified in Internal Medicine, Cardiology, and Interventional Cardiology. Dr. Chatrathi is currently Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and volunteers to teach medical students.
Anees Ahsan, MD, F.A.C.C.
Chairman, Department of Medicine

Specialty: Interventional Cardiology

Anees Ahsan, MD is an interventional cardiologist at Washington Adventist Hospital and a Private Practitioner. He is board certified in Internal Medicine and Cardiology. Dr. Ahsan specializes in both invasive and noninvasive cardiology. He is currently consulting with the US State Department in a program entitled “Citizens Dialogue” promoting public diplomacy.

Dr. Ahsan received his medical degree from King Edward Medical College in Pakistan. His residency was completed at Georgetown University of Cardiology and he completed his fellowship at Georgetown University and DC General Hospital. Dr. Ahsan is a member of the American Medical Association and American College of Cardiology.

Aaron E. Kenigsberg, MD

Specialty: Interventional Cardiology

Aaron E. Kenigsberg, MD is an interventional cardiologist at Washington Adventist Hospital and member of Cardiology Group*. Previous appointments include Chief of Cardiology at Holy Cross Hospital and President of Forest Glen Cardiology. Dr. Kenigsberg was featured as a cover story for the New York Times Magazine article entitled “The Making of a Doctor,” and was also among a group of physicians invited to the White House by then First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, to participate in a conference on healthcare reform.

Dr. Kenigsberg received his medical degree from New York University School of Medicine. He completed his residency at University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital and fellowship at Harvard Medical School/New England Deaconess Hospital. Dr. Kenigsberg is a member of the American Medical Association and American College of Cardiology.

*Cardiology Group, Drs. Itscoitz, Segal, Gravino, Kenigsberg, and Schneider, PA.

Sanjiv Lakhanpal, MD

Specialty: Thoracic Surgery

Sanjiv Lakhanpal, MD is a thoracic surgeon who received his medical degree from the Medical College of Amritsar, Amritsar, India. His residency was completed at the University of Minnesota Hospital and Clinic and the University of Nevada School of Medicine.

Dr. Lakhanpal is board certified in thoracic surgery and general surgery.
Thomas Militano, MD

Specialty: Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery

Thomas C. Militano, MD is a cardiovascular & thoracic surgeon at Washington Adventist Hospital. He received his medical degree from Case Western Reserve University, completed his residency at Duke University Medical Center and Oklahoma University Health Sciences Center. Dr. Militano completed his cardiac surgical training at Tufts – New England Medical Center.

Dr. Militano has co-authored a number of publications and is a member of the American College of Surgeons, American College of Chest Physicians, Society of Thoracic Surgeons, American College of Cardiology and the American Thoracic Society. Dr. Militano is in private practice with Washington Regional Cardiac Surgery.

Anjum Qazi, MD

Specialty: Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery, Minimally Invasive Bypass Surgery, Mitral Valve Repair/Replacement, Aortic Root Reconstruction

Anjum Qazi, MD is the Chief of Cardiac Surgery at the CardioVascular Institute at Washington Adventist Hospital, Takoma Park, Maryland. Dr. Qazi has specialized in adult cardiac surgery for over 25 years with an emphasis on cardiothoracic surgery, minimally invasive bypass surgery, mitral valve repair and replacement and aortic root reconstruction.

Dr. Qazi is board certified in Surgery and Thoracic Surgery. He completed his internship and residency at Washington Hospital Center. Chief residency at Washington Hospital Center. Dr. Qazi completed his thoracic fellowship at the University of South Carolina and George Washington University. He is a member of the American College of Surgeons Medical Society of DC and the International College of Surgeons.

Bryan Steinberg, MD

Specialty: Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery, Minimally Invasive Treatment for Atrial Fibrillation

Bryan M. Steinberg, MD is a Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeon, and a member of the Washington Institute of Thoracic and Cardiovascular surgery. He obtained his medical degree from the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, and completed both his General Surgery and Cardiothoracic Surgery training at NYU Medical Center.

Dr. Steinberg has been a pioneer in the advancement of Cardiothoracic Surgery in the Washington, DC area introducing numerous techniques, including minimally invasive cardiac and thoracic surgery and the surgical correction of atrial fibrillation.
Dr. Steinberg is expert in complex valvular reconstructive surgery, including mitral valve repair and the use of stentless valves. He has special interest in the early management of infective endocarditis, cardiac tumors, surgery for IHSS, pulmonary embolism, and aortic aneurysm surgery. He also has broad experience in thoracic surgery, with extensive VATS minimally invasive experience for both benign and malignant thoracic disease.

Dr. Steinberg has authored numerous publications and holds memberships in The Society of Thoracic Surgeons, The International Society of Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery, The Heart Rhythm Society, The Pan American Medical Society, and The New York State Society for Thoracic Surgery. He is an avid speaker, has made presentations at national meetings and has lectured both nationally and internationally. As a proctor for Atricure, Inc. he has traveled around the country, training surgeons in the art of minimally invasive arrhythmia surgery.

**James L. Cockrell, Jr., MD, F.A.C.C**

*Director, Cardiac Electrophysiology*

**Specialty: Arrhythmias, Electrophysiology Studies, Implantable Devices (Defibrillators, Pacemakers), and Microvolt T-Wave Alternans, Electrophysiology Research**

James Cockrell, MD is the Director of Cardiac Electrophysiology and Ablation Services at Washington Adventist Hospital. He is actively engaged in electrophysiology research at the Center for Cardiac and Vascular Research (CCVR) at Washington Adventist Hospital.

Dr. Cockrell pioneered advanced techniques in Radiofrequency catheter ablation at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, completing service in the Military in 1991. He directed the Electrophysiology Outreach Program and the Pacemaker/defibrillator Clinic at The University of San Francisco, California before joining the staff at his current position at Washington Adventist Hospital in 1993. Dr. Cockrell’s special interests include research and development in the areas of complex radiofrequency catheter ablation for atrial fibrillation and ventricular tachycardia, implantable device repair and device therapy for heart failure.

He received his Medical Degree at The George Washington University Medical School in 1983. He completed post-graduate training in Internal Medicine at Letterman Army Medical Center, San Francisco in 1986, and combined fellowships in Clinical Cardiology and Cardiac Electrophysiology at Letterman and The University of California, San Francisco in 1989.
Sung Lee, MD

**Specialty: Arrhythmias, Electrophysiology Studies, Implantable Devices (Defibrillators, Pacemakers), Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy, Ablation With Special Interest in Atrial Fibrillation, and Electrophysiology Research.**

Sung W. Lee, MD is a cardiac electrophysiologist and member of Cardiovascular Consultants, PA in Takoma Park, MD. He is actively engaged in electrophysiology research at the Center for Cardiac and Vascular Research (CCVR) at Washington Adventist Hospital.

He graduated from the Medical College of Virginia and completed his residency at University of Maryland/VA. Dr. Lee completed his fellowship at the National Institutes of Health and George Washington University Medical Center. Dr. Lee was the Director of Electrophysiology Service at George Washington Hospital prior to joining Washington Adventist Hospital. He has been Investigator on many research studies and has co-authored a number of articles and abstracts.

Dr. Lee is board certified in Cardiology and Cardiac Electrophysiology. Dr. Lee is a member of the American College of Cardiology and the Heart Rhythm Society.

Alan I. Schneider, MD

**Specialty: Arrhythmias, Electrophysiology Studies, and Implantable Devices**

Alan I. Schneider, MD is a cardiologist at Washington Adventist Hospital and a member of Cardiology Group*. For the past five years, Dr. Schneider has been featured in Washingtonian Magazine’s “Best Washington Physicians” issue. Dr. Schneider specializes in all facets of arrhythmia care including pacemaker and defibrillator implantation and ablation therapy. He performs 300 procedures a year at Washington Adventist Hospital and Holy Cross Hospital.

Dr. Schneider received his medical degree at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. He is board certified in Cardiology and Cardiac Electrophysiology. Dr. Schneider is a native of Silver Spring, Maryland, and is married with three children.

*Cardiology Group, Drs. Itscoitz, Segal, Gravino, Kenigsberg, and Schneider, PA.
Robert DiBianco, MD
Specialty: Heart Failure, Preventive Cardiology, and General Cardiology

Robert DiBianco, MD is a cardiologist that has been on staff at Washington Adventist Hospital for over 25 years. Dr. DiBianco has developed and directed the Cardiac Risk Factor and Heart Failure Clinic, for clinical and research care of hyperlipidemic and heart failure patients respectively. He has made significant contributions to the research of pharmacological management of heart failure with ACE inhibitors, alpha blockers, and especially the phosphodiesterase inhibitors, amrinone and milrinone.

Dr. DiBianco received his medical degree from State University of New York at Buffalo. Dr. DiBianco reviews articles for publication for many cardiology journals and has personally authored greater than 100 publications, including two nationally-distributed patient education booklets. He is a fellow of the American College of Physicians (FACP), the American College of Cardiology (FACC) and the American Heart Association (FAHA).

Louis Larca, MD
Specialty: Echocardiography, Transesophageal Echocardiography, General Cardiology, and Nuclear Cardiology.
Title: Director, Echocardiography Lab

Louis Larca, MD is the Director of the Echocardiography Lab at Washington Adventist Hospital and a member of Cardiovascular Consultants, PA. Dr. Larca specializes in transesophageal echocardiography and intraoperative echocardiography. Dr. Larca graduated Cum Laude from Georgetown University where he received his medical degree. He completed his residency at St. Vincent’s Hospital and his fellowship at Georgetown University.

Dr. Larca is a member of Alpha Omega Alpha, the only national honor medical society in the world. He is board certified in internal medicine, cardiovascular diseases and echocardiography. Dr. Larca is a member of the American College of Physicians, American Society of Echocardiography and a fellow of the American College of Cardiology.