

Contact: Janice Piscitelli
Office: 614.546-3410
Mobile: 614.361.0040
jpiscitelli@mchs.com

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Development Of Cardiovascular Center Of Excellence At Mount Carmel St. Ann's Hospital

COLUMBUS – Mount Carmel Health System has announced that it will develop a cardiovascular center of excellence at Mount Carmel St. Ann's in Westerville to meet a growing community need in the hospital's service area. Mount Carmel plans to invest nearly \$100 million over the next several years to accommodate this expansion, which is projected to create as many as 200 jobs.

The Mount Carmel St. Ann's cardiovascular center of excellence will offer a wide range of state-of-the-art cardiovascular services, including diagnostic cardiac catheterizations, interventional cardiology services like angioplasty, non-invasive cardiovascular diagnostic testing, electrophysiology services, and peripheral vascular diagnostic and interventional services. Mount Carmel will work with cardiovascular surgeons who currently practice at Mount Carmel East and Mount Carmel West to begin planning for open heart surgery services at Mount Carmel St. Ann's in the future as well.

"In developing a full service cardiovascular center of excellence at Mount Carmel St. Ann's, we are responding to continuing requests by area physicians, EMS providers and residents who want the hospital to provide comprehensive state-of-the-art cardiovascular services so that patients have access to these needed services closer to home," said Janet Meeks, president and chief operating officer of Mount Carmel St. Ann's. "As the communities we serve grow, Mount Carmel St. Ann's is committed to growing along with them to meet their healthcare needs by reinvesting in our programs and services."

Mount Carmel has signed an agreement with a group of cardiology physicians, Clinical Cardiovascular Specialists, Inc., to partner with the healthcare system and other physicians who already practice at Mount Carmel in establishing the cardiovascular center of excellence at Mount Carmel St. Ann's. Clinical Cardiovascular Specialists will add to the existing capabilities of the growing cardiology groups that already practice at Mount Carmel St. Ann's – Cardiology, Inc., led by Dr. Mukesh Shah, and Capitol City Cardiology, Inc., led by Dr. Charles Noble.

"Partnering with Mount Carmel will give Clinical Cardiovascular Specialists an opportunity to help develop a cardiovascular center of excellence to meet a community need and position the practice for long-term success," said Dr. Timothy Timko, the group's president. "Our physicians met on multiple occasions with the Mount Carmel St. Ann's administration, physician leaders and associates. We were particularly impressed with Mount Carmel St. Ann's commitment to patient satisfaction, physician engagement and associate satisfaction."

Clinical Cardiovascular Specialists will begin focusing its practice at Mount Carmel St. Ann's on September 14th and brings six board-certified cardiologists who have a strong reputation for clinical excellence: Dr. Timothy Timko, Dr. John Costa, Dr. Todd Cardwell, Dr. H. Paul Kim, Dr. David Sabgir and Dr. Douglas VanFossen.

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They join a Mount Carmel St. Ann's medical staff that already has several cardiologists, including Dr. Bruce Graham, Dr. Rajiv Hede and Dr. Jerry Sterkowicz with Cardiology, Inc., and Dr. Rajendra Patel and Dr. Kenneth Baker with Capitol City Cardiology.

"Mount Carmel St. Ann's has continued to expand its service offerings for over 25 years in Westerville," said Dr. Gerald Girardi, president of the Mount Carmel St. Ann's medical staff and a practicing obstetrician/gynecologist in Westerville. "This expansion into tertiary cardiac services is the next logical step so that we can continue to meet the needs of this growing community."

Clinical Cardiovascular Specialists becomes part of Mount Carmel Health System's Physician Practice Division (Mount Carmel HealthProviders) and will relocate its offices to the Mount Carmel St. Ann's campus early next year after renovation of new office space is completed. Meanwhile, the group's temporary offices (7400 Huntington Park Drive, Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio 43235) will be located in the Crosswoods office park off State Route 23 just north of Interstate 270.

"It's wonderful that the Westerville community will now have ready access to state-of-the-art cardiovascular services at St. Ann's," said Westerville City Manager David Collinsworth. "St. Ann's has served our community well for 25 years both as a healthcare provider and as a major employer and contributor to our local economy. We value our long-time partnership with St. Ann's in leading and supporting community initiatives."

Added Westerville Fire/EMS Chief Bernie Ingles, "Every minute treatment is delayed, a heart attack patient is at risk for permanent heart muscle damage – or death. Our community deserves to have ready access to potentially life-saving cardiovascular care closer to home just like communities around other local hospitals."

In partnership with its medical staff, Mount Carmel Health System has already established cardiovascular centers of excellence at Mount Carmel East and Mount Carmel West, which together were named among the *2008 Thomson Reuters 100 Top Hospitals®: Cardiovascular Benchmarks for Success*.

"This expansion of cardiovascular services at Mount Carmel St. Ann's is another example of Mount Carmel Health System's historical commitment spanning nearly 125 years to fulfilling our mission and meeting the community's healthcare needs by reinvesting in our programs and services," said Claus von Zychlin, president and chief executive officer of Mount Carmel Health System.

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Other Suggested Individuals To Interview:

- Westerville Public Information Officer Christa Dickey (liaison to Westerville city officials) – 901-6411
- Delaware County EMS Chief Rob Farmer – (740) 833-2190
- Worthington Fire Chief Scott Highley – 885-7640
- Sunbury Village Administrator Dave Martin – (740) 965-2684
- Immediate Health Associates, Inc. (St. Ann's independent ED group) Frank Orth, D.O. – (740) 501-8299

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About Mount Carmel Health System

Founded in 1886, Mount Carmel Health System (MCHS) is a not-for-profit healthcare system offering a broad range of healthcare services in the Central Ohio region. MCHS includes four hospitals – Mount Carmel East, Mount Carmel West, Mount Carmel St. Ann's, and Mount Carmel New Albany; numerous outpatient services; home care; palliative and hospice care; an ambulance and mobile intensive care unit service; a community outreach program for the poor and under-served; a college of nursing; and a Medicare Advantage health plan (MediGold). MCHS has more than 8,400 associates; medical staffs of approximately 1,500 physicians; and more than 1,000 volunteers. MCHS has received national recognition for its quality of care, and is a past recipient of the Catholic Health Association's highest award – the "Achievement Citation." As a Mission-driven organization, MCHS provided more than \$65 million in total uncompensated community benefits in FY 09, serving 229,000 individuals. MCHS is a member of Trinity Health, the fourth-largest Catholic healthcare system in the United States (based on operating revenue).