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Another First for Cardiac Care in Texas

Lufkin, Texas--(December 11, 2007) Woodland Heights Medical Center (WHMC) is committed to bringing the foremost in cardiac technology to our patients. The hospital is the first in Texas to offer the Innova 2121 IQ All-Digital Cardiovascular Bi-Plane and Interventional Imaging System. Using this versatile new digital imaging system, WHMC physicians, now have enhanced capabilities in the diagnosis and treatment of heart disease.

“The GE Innova 2121 imaging system is helping Woodland Heights physicians clearly see the blood vessels and anatomy of the heart, as well as blood vessels throughout the entire body- even the smallest, finest vessels all the way to the fingertips,” said Lance Jones, CEO of WHMC. “This new piece of equipment is the 8th in the nation and the only one currently being used in the state of Texas. It is also expected to play a critical role in helping our physicians treat a growing number of chronic heart and vascular conditions including atherosclerosis, a build-up of plaque that affects blood flow in arteries.”

According to the American Heart Association, atherosclerosis causes hundreds of thousands of heart attacks and strokes each year and accounts for nearly three-fourths of all U.S. deaths from cardiovascular disease.

“The Innova 2121 addresses one of the biggest challenges in interventional cardiology today, clearly visualizing the finest vessels and intricate anatomy of the human heart,” said Dr. R. Bachireddy, cardiologist. “This system will enable our physicians to more accurately and efficiently diagnose and in some cases treat diseases like atherosclerosis.”

The images produced are so detailed that physicians are able to see clearly enough to safely maneuver the smallest medical devices—such as catheters, stents and guidewires during balloon angioplasties, vascular interventions and other clinical procedures. In additions it will open new opportunities for Woodland Heights to provide a wide range of image-guided, minimally invasive treatment options that offer patients advantages over traditional surgery.

These minimally invasive procedures reduce risk, lessen pain and stress, and shorten recovery times. In many cases, the detailed images produced enhance the physician's ability to treat their patients using minimally invasive techniques in lieu of major surgery.

About Woodland Heights Medical Center

Established in 1918, Woodland Heights Medical Center was Lufkin's first hospital. Now, almost nine decades later, Woodland Heights is recognized throughout Deep East Texas as the leading provider of high quality, innovative health care services. In 2006, Woodland Heights Medical Center was named a Distinguished Hospital for clinical excellence—ranking in the nation's top 5% for quality care. * This year Woodland Heights received the highest possible ratings for treatment of heart failure and was rated best in Northeast Texas for overall cardiac service. * Recognized for its continued excellence in cardiac care, Woodland Heights is a five star rated hospital for the treatment of heart failure, cardiac interventions, and treatment of heart attack and for cardiology services. * Additionally, Woodland Heights is ranked number four in Texas for overall cardiac services and cardiology services.* Accommodating a wide range of clinical specialties, Woodland Heights has achieved excellence in other key medical and surgical areas including neurology, orthopedic surgery, physical medicine/rehabilitation, vascular surgery and obstetrics and gynecology. Woodland Heights also offers a full range of outpatient diagnostic services including advanced imaging, laboratory, outpatient surgery and emergency services. Through its Rehabilitation Center, Woodland Heights offers cardiac rehabilitation, stroke recovery and physical and occupational rehabilitation. Combining modern facilities, leading technology, an exceptional staff and a commitment to the communities it serves Woodland Heights Medical Center remains at the forefront of quality health care in Deep East Texas.

* *Healthgrades*