



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Physician Implants Smallest Pacemaker at Woodland Heights**

LUFKIN, TEXAS (February 27, 2009)...Dr. Venkata Kovvali, Cardiologist with The Heart Institute of East Texas, has implanted the REPLY DR into a patient at Woodland Heights Medical Center. The REPLY DR is the smallest implantable dual chamber pacemaker on the market and this is the first time it has been implanted into a patient in Lufkin.

The REPLY DR pacemaker integrates SafeR™ technology by the Sorin Group. This technology has been shown to reduce unnecessary pacing in both Sinus Node Disease and unselected AV Block patients.

In addition to the SafeR technology, the REPLY pacemaker delivers advanced, automatic features that simplify the diagnostic and therapeutic treatment options for improved patient management. Also, patient follow-up is simplified with the availability of programming data obtained from one touch of the programmer's screen.

"We at Woodland Heights are pleased to be able to offer this new dual chamber pacemaker, which is the smallest of its kind. We strive to be the leader in providing cutting edge technology to our patients," stated Charity Fennell, Cardiac Catheterization Lab Manager. The REPLY is designed to further minimize unnecessary ventricular pacing and help promote natural cardiac function.

The Heart Institute of East Texas is located at 310 Gaslight Blvd. in Lufkin. For more information or to call for an appointment, call 936-632-8787.

### **About Woodland Heights Medical Center**

Established in 1918, Woodland Heights Medical Center was Lufkin's first hospital. Now, nine decades later, Woodland Heights is recognized throughout Deep East Texas as the leading provider of high quality, innovative health care services. Accommodating a wide range of clinical specialties, Woodland Heights has achieved excellence in key medical and surgical areas including cardiology, pulmonology, 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.