

IN THE NEWS



Marti McCulloch named director of the Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center

Marti McCulloch has been named director of the Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center at The Methodist Hospital in Houston.

"Marti will provide strategic oversight and direction to the Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center," said Dr. Alan Lumsden, medical director of the MDHVC and chair of cardiovascular surgery for The Methodist Hospital.

McCulloch was previously the director of Cardiac and Vascular Diagnostic Imaging at the Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center, where she established the cardiac CT and the cardiac MRI programs, and increased Methodist's community vascular screenings to help prevent peripheral arterial disease, which is extensive in Houston.

"Marti will work on programs that strengthen the collaborative nature of medicine across the MDHVC, establishing initiatives that make it easier to bring ideas from the research arena and the clinical arena to improve quality and care for our patients," said Bryan Croft, vice president of operations at The Methodist Hospital and the Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center.

McCulloch holds a bachelor's in human fitness and performance from the University of

Houston-Clear Lake and a Master of Business Administration with a minor in health care administration from The University of St. Thomas.

McCulloch currently serves on the quality committee of the American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) and is vice chair of the Sonographer Council at the ASE. She is also involved with Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers and the Greater Houston Society of Echocardiography (GHSE). McCulloch has also served on the editorial boards of the *Journal of American Society of Echocardiography* and *Cardiac Ultrasound Today*. Her research and publication interests include 3D imaging, contrast and ergonomics.



Dr. William A. Zoghbi to preside over American Society of Echocardiography Scientific Sessions in Washington, D.C.

Dr. William A. Zoghbi, director of the Cardiovascular Imaging Institute at the Methodist

DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center, presided over the American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) Scientific Sessions and General Meeting held in June in Washington, D.C.

Zoghbi is president of the ASE, a 15,000-member organization of medical professionals. The conference showcases top investigators from around the world presenting research on the latest advances in cardiovascular ultrasound.

"This is an organization that is committed to excellence in cardiovascular ultrasound and its application to patient care," said Zoghbi. "I am honored to serve this

group of medical professionals who improve the lives of patients with heart disease every day."

Zoghbi holds the William L. Winters Endowed Chair of Cardiovascular Imaging at The Methodist Hospital and is a leader in the field of echocardiography and Doppler ultrasound. He has developed new techniques to evaluate cardiac valve disorders and cardiac function. Studies conducted in Zoghbi's lab have improved the noninvasive evaluation of cardiac function and the detection of ischemic heart disease.

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Cardiologist Dr. Stephen Little is the director of the new valve clinic at the Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center. The unique, multidisciplinary clinic includes national experts in diagnostic cardiac imaging, interventional cardiology, robotic procedures and cardiac surgery to provide the best care possible.

Methodist opens new valve clinic for patients with complex cardiac valve disease

Earlier this year, the Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center opened a multidisciplinary valve clinic that provides one-stop-shopping for patients with complex diseases of the cardiac valves.

The clinic, which streamlines the process for patients, is headed by national experts in diagnostic cardiac imaging, interventional cardiology, robotic procedures and cardiac surgery to provide the best care possible. The clinic will also host a valve board and maintain a robust clinical database of complex valve disorders to support research and advances in the treatment of cardiac valve disease.

A patient can call into one phone line, where a dedicated coordinator will make sure all questions are answered and all the right specialists are together at the patient's appointment. The coordinator will do all the behind-the-scenes orchestrating to ensure smooth, efficient patient care.

Diagnosis and treatment of valve disease

"Imaging of the heart is one thing that sets Methodist apart," said Dr. Stephen Little, cardiologist and director of the new clinic. "It is unusual to find centers like Methodist that can provide patients with advanced imaging technology that is dedicated exclusively to the diagnosis and treatment of cardiac disease."

Methodist uses advanced technology to improve safety and shorten recovery of patients being treated for valve disease. The Methodist cardiac imaging services include 3D Doppler echocardiography, 3D transesophageal echo (TEE), computed tomography (CT), cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), nuclear studies, stress imaging, carotid ultrasound and a 10-suite cardiac catheterization laboratory, one of the largest cath labs in Texas.

Methodist also provides access to magnet-guided and robot-guided catheter procedures as well as a robotic surgical approach to mitral valve repair. Methodist has one of the largest series of surgical valve repairs in the world.

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Research on valve disease

MDHVC is conducting research on ways to improve diagnostics as well as treatment of valve disease. Researchers are comparing echo and MRI to best quantify valve disease and are using 3D TEE to assess artificial valve function in patients. Methodist investigators are also collaborating with leading universities on valve research. Researchers from Methodist and Rice University are studying the mechanisms of valve calcification, or hardening, to better prevent and treat hardened valves. Methodist and University of Houston researchers are studying the effects of stress on the mitral valve to help refine and improve surgical repair procedures.

For more information on the Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center's new valve clinic, see debakeyheartcenter.com/valveclinic.



Internationally acclaimed minimally invasive vascular surgeon joins The Methodist Hospital in Houston

Dr. Heitham Hassoun joined the Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center in August, bringing his expertise in mini-

minally invasive vascular surgery to Houston.

Hassoun's expertise includes repairing aortic aneurysms, carotid stenosis and peripheral arterial disease (PAD) through small puncture holes rather than incisions, an approach called percutaneous treatment. Hassoun, who came to Methodist from Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, also conducts basic and translational research supported with National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding.

"Dr. Hassoun's extensive experience with percutaneous treatment of arterial disease will be a great benefit to our patients," said Dr. Alan Lumsden, chair of the department of cardiovascular surgery at The Methodist Hospital. "By repairing aortic aneurysms through a small puncture hole, he greatly reduces recovery time and pain associated with this dangerous condition."

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FOR INFORMATION:

Please contact us at 832-667-5978
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Proceeds benefit heart disease research at the Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center at The Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas.

Methodist
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Advanced Cardiovascular Update:

Saturday, October 24, 2009
7:00 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Trevisio Restaurant | 6550 Bertner St., Houston, TX 77030

Course Director: Miguel A. Quiñones, M.D., F.A.C.C.

Course Co-Director: Alan B. Lumsden, M.D.

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For more information, contact Yvette Whittier at 713-441-6201 or ywhittier@tmhs.org, or log on to debakeyheartcenter.com.

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