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Florida Medical Center
A Campus of North Shore

Saving Lives at the Comprehensive Stroke Center and the Heart Institute of Florida

See Story Page 16
Heart disease remains the number one cause of death for both men and women in the United States, however, each year, tens of thousands of Americans survive a heart attack and fully recover.

The Heart Institute of Florida at Florida Medical Center has cared for patients with cardiovascular disease for nearly four decades. The Institute’s staff, which includes board-certified cardiologists, vascular and thoracic surgeons and certified registered nurses and technologists, use the latest technology to perform a broad range of procedures. Trained professionals closely follow the American Heart Association’s recommended treatment guidelines to help reduce the likelihood of future heart attacks.

“For me the story of heart disease really hit home,” said the hospital’s CEO Gabrielle Finley-Hazle, whose dad died unexpectedly of a heart attack at the age of 58. “It’s a personal mission as well as a professional one.”

Finley-Hazle is also this year’s chairperson for the American Heart Association’s Go Red for Women Campaign for Miami-Dade and Broward. It is a privilege, the CEO said, to be named chair during the campaign’s 10th anniversary. Go Red for Women encourages awareness of the issue of women and heart disease in an effort to save more lives.

“It’s important to know it’s still the number one cause of death,” Finley-Hazle said. “More women are still dying from heart disease than all forms of cancer combined.”

Over the years Florida Medical Center has grown and evolved. The hospital was the first in Broward County to perform an open heart procedure and was a forerunner in offering cutting edge 80-lead electrocardiogram (ECG) technology, which measures electrical impulses throughout the entire heart. Today, The Heart Institute includes four cardiac catheterization labs, dedicated cardiac operating rooms, including a state of the art Cardiac Hybrid Operating Suite and Heart Valve Clinic.

The Comprehensive Stroke Center is also dedicated to providing high quality care. The professionals within the Stroke Center function as a team working together, and collaborating with first responders to provide the best quality care possible.

“Our goal is to make sure we are offering our community access to all the treatment options available to them if they have a stroke night or day 24 hours, 7 days a week,” Finley-Hazle said.

“We truly do have a team approach and fast track system,” she added. “Time is of the essence when it comes to a brain attack or heart attack.”

The hospital also strives to educate patients and their families by providing information and hosting workshops about stroke and heart disease. Florida Medical Center also provides free monthly health screenings throughout the year. Support groups are also offered to patients who may have had a heart attack or procedure.

“Time is critical for both episodes,” Finley-Hazle said. “We have systems in place. Our team is waiting for them at the door. Time saved is brain saved and the same thing goes for the heart.”

Finley-Hazle said her personal philosophy is that the patient always comes first. Born and raised in the community, she is reminded every day of the lives they are touching - every patient is someone’s mother, daughter, father, son, relative or friend.

“Our ability to heal and transform goes beyond that individual,” Finley-Hazle said.

In 2012, Florida Medical Center was recognized by United Healthcare as a Premium Specialty Care Center for cardiovascular surgery, and by Blue Cross Blue Shield Florida Blue Distinction Center for Cardiac Care and Bariatric Surgery. Florida Medical Center has also received recognition from the American Heart Association’s Get With The Guidelines Gold Plus Performance Achievement Award in heart failure and stroke care as well as Target: Stroke Honor Roll. Florida Medical Center is also ranked in the top 10 percent in the nation for the treatment of stroke as well as a 5-star recipient for the treatment of stroke by Healthgrades for 2012.

Florida Medical Center, located at 5000 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale, is fully accredited by The Joint Commission, the nation’s oldest and largest hospital accreditation agency. To learn more about the hospital, upcoming events or schedule your free screening, please visit www.FloridaMedCtr.com or call 1-866-498-LIFE (5433).