



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Aug. 13, 2018

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Sacred Heart Hospital Pensacola invests in state-of-the-art hybrid operating room

PENSACOLA, Fla. — Dr. Maria Toledo, a Sacred Heart Medical Group endovascular neurosurgeon, performed the first four cases in the new state-of-the-art hybrid operating room at Sacred Heart Hospital Pensacola.

The first of its kind in Northwest Florida, the \$4.5 million investment provides patients with access to the highest level of therapeutic and diagnostic tools available for stroke and other neurological illnesses. Sacred Heart is part of Ascension, the nation's largest, nonprofit health system.

The hybrid operating room combines the facilities of a standard operating room with a leading-edge biplane system, enabling surgeons to customize neurosurgical procedures for each individual patient utilizing both minimally-invasive and open microsurgery as needed.

Toledo said the improved efficiencies of the hybrid operating room will translate to improved patient outcomes by allowing multistage procedures to be performed at one scheduled time and location.

"The hybrid operating room allows us to perform high-end diagnostic imaging and multiple surgical or non-surgical interventions without ever leaving the operating room," Toledo said. "These new capabilities mean patients receive less radiation exposure, spending less time under anesthesia and less time in the hospital overall."

The high-end diagnostic imaging includes built-in X-ray imaging, computer guidance systems and video-integrated technology that projects and records 3D images of the surgical field onto high-definition plasma monitors.

As the only hospital in northwest Florida area designated by the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration as a Comprehensive Stroke Center, the hybrid operating room and new specialists expand the hospital's neurovascular capabilities. Neurosurgeon Dr. Christopher Villar and interventional neuroradiologist Dr. Nathan Kohler, recently joined the office of Sacred Heart Medical Group neurosurgeons Dr. Toledo and Dr. Ann Carr, as well as pediatric neurosurgeon Dr. Matthew Pearson.

About Sacred Heart Health System

In Florida, Ascension operates Sacred Heart Health based in Pensacola and St. Vincent's HealthCare based in Jacksonville. Together, Ascension operates seven hospitals and more than 100 other sites of care, and they employ nearly 10,000 associates. Across the region, Sacred Heart and St. Vincent's have served North Florida communities for more than 145 years. In fiscal year 2017, they provided \$168 million in community benefit and care of persons living in poverty. Ascension (www.ascension.org) is a faith-based healthcare organization dedicated to transformation through innovation across the continuum of care. As the largest non-profit health system in the U.S. and the world's largest Catholic health system, Ascension is committed to delivering compassionate, personalized care to all, with special attention to persons living in poverty and those most vulnerable. Ascension includes approximately 165,000 associates and 34,000 aligned providers. Ascension's Healthcare Division operates more than 2,600 sites of care – including 153 hospitals and more than 50 senior living facilities – in 22 states and the District of Columbia. For more information on Sacred Heart Health System, visit www.sacred-heart.org.

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