

## The Virtua Cardiologist Spring 2022

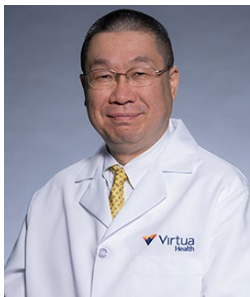
As you know, we recently received positive news from the state allowing elective PCI to be performed at Virtua Mount Holly and Virtua Marlton hospitals. This will greatly expand access to care for area residents—increasing patient satisfaction—as well as optimizing use of our cath labs.

This year, we will focus advancing our cardiac imaging capabilities, with the deployment of coronary CTA and PET under the guidance of Dr. Mark Finch. We will be following up on this exciting news in our next issue.

We also look forward to additional discussions around the development of a complex aortic valve clinic and an advanced heart failure program.

Thank you all for your continued dedication. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to reach out.

### Virtua's Mobile ECMO Expertise Highlighted



CT intensivist Hitoshi Hirose, MD, PhD, has co-authored over 50 articles and presented widely on the topic of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO). Most recently, he recorded a presentation on “mobile ECMO” that is available both on Virtua’s 411 (in a new curated section under [The Virtua Cardiologist, titled “Lectures and Publications,”](#)) as well as on [YouTube](#).

ECMO is typically used in patients with severe lung damage from infection or cardiogenic shock, among other uses. Dr. Hirose and his partner, Qiong Yang, MD, have a long experience in the use of ECMO from their previous work at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. They have been building the program within the ICU at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes and making use of ECMO across the system.

### ‘Inside Look’ at Blood Vessels Aids Peripheral Artery Disease Treatment



Virtua vascular specialists are now utilizing lumivascular atherectomy for the treatment of peripheral vascular disease.

Lumivascular atherectomy incorporates an imaging fiber attached to the end of a catheter that allows the operator to better differentiate between healthy and diseased tissue as they remove plaque from inside the diseased vessel.

“This technology allows me to remove as much plaque as possible while minimizing damage to artery walls and healthy tissue,” said Luai Tabaza, MD, FACC, FSCAI, RPVI, who began using the technology last

fall. “I can see in real time where I am in the vessel and how much plaque I am taking out. This is the next level of targeted treatment.”

A balloon integrated into the catheter aids in maneuvering a high-speed blade that shaves off the plaque. The plaque is stored within the catheter and then removed from the body.

“We can rotate and engage the plaque at different angles. We are able to target specific areas of with plaque while avoiding dissecting the artery walls and reducing the chances of restenosis,” said Dr. Tabaza.

If needed, a separate catheter is used to implant a stent or deliver a medication to keep the artery open.

As with traditional atherectomy, lumivascular atherectomy utilizes fluoroscopy. However, as it is not needed as often during the procedure, radiation exposure to patients and the medical team is greatly reduced.

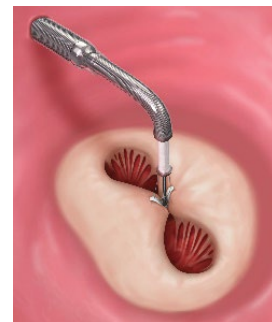
“Our ability to diagnose and effectively treat cardiovascular disease continues to evolve,” said Chun (Dan) Choi, MD, Virtua vice president of clinical operations for cardiovascular services. “Technologies such as lumivascular atherectomy will not only improve the longevity, but the quality of life of our patients.”

## Patient Selection for MitraClip

The MitraClip™ transcatheter edge to edge repair (TEER) device has become an increasingly useful therapy for severe, symptomatic degenerative (primary) mitral regurgitation (MR). Last year, CMS extended Medicare reimbursement for TEER to include functional (secondary) mitral regurgitation resulting from heart failure.

Patients eligible for MitraClip:

- Symptomatic moderate-to-severe or severe primary/degenerative or secondary/functional MR ( $\geq 3+$ )
- LVEF  $\geq 20\%$
- High risk/prohibitive risk for mitral valve surgery as determined by multidisciplinary team
- Anatomical suitability for procedure is determined after close evaluation of transesophageal echocardiogram (TEE) MitraClip protocol



Patients may experience:

- Marked limitations on physical activity
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Weight gain
- Edema

The Virtua Valve Clinic offers comprehensive evaluation and treatment for patients with valvular heart disease, including TEER, surgical mitral valve repair/ replacement, transcatheter aortic valve

replacement (TAVR), surgical aortic valve replacement (SAVR), among many others. Supported by the ACC/AHA guidelines, a team approach helps patients receive the quality of care you want for them.

If you feel you have a patient that would benefit from evaluation in the Virtua Valve Clinic, please place an order for **“Ambulatory Referral to Valve Clinic”** in Epic.

## Cardiac Awards 2022



Healthgrades is probably best known for its annual “five star” rating reviews of hospitals across the U.S. Over the years, and in the former Lourdes Health System and now Virtua Health, cardiac services has engaged with Healthgrades’ Quality Ratings Review team to better understand the data that drive the ratings.

The review process has been helpful in identifying opportunities for improved patient care, more accurate reporting, and better communication with the health information management (HIM) team with regard to coding. This analysis has also proven useful when evaluating other quality dashboards, such as those used for Leapfrog, STS, and Truven, among others.

For 2022, Virtua Health received the following awards: One of Healthgrades America’s 100 Best Hospitals for Coronary Intervention Excellence; Top 10% in the nation for coronary intervention procedures; five-star recipient for coronary interventional procedures; and five-star recipient for pacemaker procedures for five years in a row.

It is important to note that a contract established under Lourdes allows for the licensing and promotion of awards for Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital only, but we list here relevant awards for heart services across Virtua Health.

Also of note: Healthgrades, the company, recently underwent two important transitions. They split off their analytics arm into a new company called Mercury, and both were recently acquired by an entity called Red Ventures, which offers a large number of opportunities to enrich any future relationship for the benefit of promoting our physicians and services.

## Virtua Health’s PCI Capabilities Now at Three Sites



Kudos to the team led by Virtua interventionalist and Marlton Cath Lab Director Randy Mintz, MD, for obtaining full licensure for the Mount Holly and Marlton cath labs. In December 2021, Virtua Health received approval from the New Jersey Department of Health in their updated elective angioplasty regulations.

As many of you recall, Virtua Marlton Hospital was the original investigator site in the pivotal C-Port trial, the only facility in southern New Jersey to participate. Now, together with Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes, which serves as the

hub for cardiovascular surgery, Virtua has three distinct geographic sites that bring our highly experienced and patient-centered interventional teams to the community where they live. The service has excellent door-to-balloon times, and is supported by an active emergency STEMI program and an established Transfer Center.

Since receiving state approval, the CCL at Mount Holly has been performing at a monthly average greater than 50% higher than this time last year. Great work!

Virtua's PCI capabilities was featured recently in [Cardiology Today](#), a series of newsletters developed by Virtua to educate community physicians. The issue was [posted on LinkedIn](#) and received over 1,300 views.

### Vein & Vascular Service Promoted in Practice Locations



You may notice that many Virtua Cardiology practices have adorned their patient exam rooms with posters to educate patients and families to Virtua's unified vein and vascular services. The posters are meant to prompt a conversation with the clinical cardiologist related to symptoms they may be having but not necessarily reporting. Ideally, the cardiologist will use Epic to generate a referral to the service. However, the poster also directs to a digital landing page that provides additional information and direction for self-referral through a dedicated phone number or a web form that directs to the clinical navigation team.

### Medtronic Partners with Virtua Health to Improve Access to Care



*Virtua Health cardiologist Hafeza Shaikh, DO, provides medical screenings and support services to patients in southern New Jersey.*

Late last year, Virtua announced a five-year partnership focused on improving delivery of quality care for residents of South Jersey, particularly those who reside in traditionally underserved communities or face systemic barriers to care.

Medtronic LABS, an independent, impact-focused organization funded by Medtronic plc, will simultaneously launch a separate pilot collaboration with the Cherry Hill Free Clinic and Virtua to address care and food access for people with chronic conditions—the first U.S.-based initiative for Medtronic LABS.

“I truly believe technology is the path forward to improving human welfare,” said Geoff Martha, Chairman and CEO of Medtronic. “This new partnership and collaboration demonstrate the opportunity to use technology to tackle health challenges in a localized, grassroots way. By taking a data-informed approach, we can help improve access and outcomes for patients with chronic conditions in southern New Jersey.”

“This partnership presents a significant opportunity to accelerate health equity and better outcomes for individuals and families in our community,” said [Dennis W. Pullin, FACHE](#), president and CEO of Virtua

Health. “Together, we will apply the latest research and innovation to the fundamentals of community-based care, allowing us to identify and empower those who need support to achieve the best-possible quality of life.”

Martha was recently featured in the first episode of what is now season 3 of Dennis Pullin’s *Here for Good* podcast. You can listen on your favorite podcast platform or view a [video podcast here on YouTube](#).

Of particular interest to our team, one of the projects included in the scope of the partnership involves a program to optimize care for hospital patients diagnosed with heart failure, with a focus on slowing the progression of the disease and enhancing the experience of both patient and provider. By employing Medtronic’s data-driven, decision-support tools, Virtua clinicians will provide ongoing resources post-hospitalization, minimizing the likelihood of readmission and creating sustainable, enriching solutions for the individual. [Read the full press release here](#).

### **Save the Date: Cardiology for Primary Care Symposium Sept. 10, 2022**

Mark your calendars for the annual Virtua Cardiology for Primary Care Symposium, scheduled to take place on Saturday, Sept. 10. This will be the 12th year Virtua Cardiology has held this event to educate primary care practitioners, physicians, NPs, and PAs on news and trends in cardiovascular care. The symposium is part of the Rowan series, “Key Essentials for Optimizing Patient Care,” a virtual/hybrid 5-Block CME Series, and is designed specifically to better prepare primary care clinicians for the management of their patients.

Stay tuned for full agenda. While the event is focused on primary care education, the in-person events have offered an opportunity to meet and greet community physicians between sessions.