

## **Virtua Heart Team Performs Milestone 1000th TAVR**



This summer, the Structural Heart team at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital performed its 1000th transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR).

Virtua performed its first TAVR for the minimally invasive treatment of aortic stenosis in 2013, and reached this milestone faster than many other centers.

“This achievement is a true team effort, reflective of a collaborative, comprehensive approach to care,” said Ibrahim Moussa, DO, FACC, FSCAI, RPVI, medical director of the Structural Heart Program at Virtua, who performed the procedure with cardiothoracic surgeon Charles Stivala, DO. “It is gratifying to have improved the lives of so many people in South Jersey—and to know that we will continue to support our community in this vital way.”

TAVR uses a catheter threaded through an artery to insert a new valve inside the heart. Once opened, the new valve pushes aside the old one and begins to work immediately, restoring proper blood flow and instantly improving symptoms. Patients usually spend only one night in the hospital.

“As a cardiologist and health care executive, I’ve had the privilege to work closely with the extraordinary Structural Heart team as the TAVR program has grown and matured,” said Reg Blaber, MD, EVP and chief clinical officer. “The fact that we have reached this important milestone as rapidly as we did is a testament to the faith the community places in us to care for their health.”