

# One-Stop Destination for Cardiovascular Care

There's nothing more stressful than worrying about a complex cardiovascular problem and having to travel to several different locations for tests and treatments.

**Each new office, each new setting** can be an anxiety-provoking experience, adding immeasurably to an already trying situation.

The new Cardiovascular Center at University of California, Irvine Medical Center is designed to make

cardiac imaging expert. The center houses a multidisciplinary team of cardiologists, cardiothoracic surgeons, vascular surgeons and others. They work side by side to provide optimal patient care.

**High-risk patients.** The team is further strengthened by ready access to the most modern methods available for the diagnosis of cardiovascular conditions. This includes a number of leading-edge, noninvasive imaging tests such as 64-slice CT scans, 3-D echocardiography, magnetic resonance and positron emission tomography (PET scans). Also available is infrared optical imaging, a sophisticated invasive test to assess heart health.

The new center will make getting treated for heart and blood vessel disease a kinder and gentler experience.

“As a university-based hospital, UC Irvine Medical Center treats a high percentage of patients with complex cardiovascular conditions, including extensive coronary artery disease, serious valve disorders, rhythm disturbances, vascular problems and advanced heart failure,” says cardiothoracic surgeon **Dr. Jeffrey Milliken**, co-director of the Cardiovascular Center. By locating a full range

of cardiovascular services in a consolidated area, communication among the center's integrated team of specialists is streamlined. This helps doctors address each patient's needs in a comprehensive manner—one of the many reasons that UC Irvine Medical Center surpasses national standards in the treatment of high-risk cardiac surgery patients.

Milliken and other UC Irvine Healthcare cardiothoracic surgeons perform coronary bypass surgery and other procedures in state-of-the-art operating rooms at UC Irvine Douglas Hospital, just steps away from the Cardiovascular Center. Angioplasty, stenting and a host of other interventional procedures are performed in two adjacent state-of-the-art cardiac catheterization labs.

Peripheral vascular disease is also a major focus of the new center. “The health of the peripheral circulatory system and the heart is closely related since both involve the same disease processes,” says vascular surgeon **Dr. Roy Fujitani**, Cardiovascular Center co-director. Hardening of the arteries can lead to leg pain during physical activity, gangrene and wounds that won't heal. Other problems such as carotid artery disease and aortic aneurysms—potentially life-threatening bulges in the wall of the body's major blood vessel—are also common vascular problems that often go undiagnosed. A full range of testing for vascular conditions is available at the new center, including noninvasive ultrasonography and 3-D interactive imaging. Treatment may involve one or more therapies such as medication, minimally invasive procedures and conventional surgery.

**An ideal environment.** “By bringing together experts in all areas of cardiovascular care, the combined experience of the individuals on the team becomes greater than the sum of its parts,” says Narula. “This creates an ideal environment in which cardiovascular patients can receive highly integrated, state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment services.”

For more information on the UC Irvine Cardiovascular Center, visit [www.ucihealth.com/heart](http://www.ucihealth.com/heart). For a referral to a UC Irvine Healthcare heart or vascular specialist, call 714.456.6699.



the diagnosis and treatment of heart and blood vessel disease a kinder and gentler experience for patients and their families. “The new facility is a ‘one-stop’ destination for people with even the most complex conditions,” says **Dr. Jagat Narula**, co-director of the Cardiovascular Center and world-renowned