

# OPENING DOORS

## Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery



Cardiovascular disease is responsible for more than one out of every three deaths. Caring for patients with cardiovascular disease and preventing its devastating consequences are top priorities of UC Irvine physicians.

UC Irvine Healthcare's expert cardiovascular specialists treat hundreds of patients each year for heart attack, heart failure, heart rhythm problems such as atrial fibrillation, heart valve disease, aortic dissection or aneurysm, and infectious conditions, such as endocarditis.

The comprehensive cardiology program features state-of-the-art diagnostic and therapeutic capabilities, including 3-D echocardiography and 64-slice CT

technology for noninvasive angiograms. The cardiac care team includes board-certified cardiologists and cardiac surgeons, many of whom are nationally recognized experts in advanced approaches for treating heart disease.

As a regional referral center, UC Irvine offers advanced resources when community hospitals are unable to provide necessary care, particularly for complex or difficult-to-treat cases. The medical center also was among the first hospitals to be designated as a cardiac receiving center by Orange County Emergency Medical Services for its capability to provide immediate, sophisticated care for the most critical cardiac cases.

When interventional treatment is needed, cardiothoracic and vascular surgeons work alongside cardiologists to provide optimal patient care. In fact, due to their successes, UC Irvine Medical Center surpasses national standards in the length of stay, mortality and high-risk cardiac patients. Its Heart Failure Program has been certified by The Joint Commission, the nation's pre-eminent healthcare standards-setting organization. Among the advanced procedures being performed at UC Irvine Medical Center:

- **Atherectomy** – catheter-based plaque removal to restore blood flow
- **Aneurysm repair** – surgical repair of aneurysms, usually in the aorta, which could become life-threatening if left untreated
- **Cardiac ablation** – catheter-based delivery of focused energy to the heart muscle to stop arrhythmia
- **Cardiac catheterization** – catheter-based procedures with state-of-the-art hemodynamics, complex coronary stent implantations and intravascular imaging and coronary flow measurements
- **Complex valve surgeries** – direct surgical repair or replacement of the heart's valves
- **Coronary bypass surgery** – surgically grafting new circulatory channels to the heart muscle
- **Correction of congenital heart conditions** – sophisticated surgeries to repair structural malformations
- **Endovascular procedures for peripheral artery disease with stenting and stent grafting** – catheter-based delivery of tiny balloons or metal mesh stents into arteries to improve blood flow
- **Robotic da Vinci® Surgical System** – state-of-the-art robotic technology that allows surgery with micro-instruments through tiny incisions
- **Wolf Mini-Maze Procedure** – minimally invasive surgical procedure that uses video imaging and radiofrequency technologies to reduce atrial fibrillation

University Hospital has two cardiac catheterization labs, and the entire second floor is dedicated to surgical procedures, with 15 state-of-the-science operating rooms that are 50 percent larger than current ORs and have best-in-class lighting, temperature, humidity and infection control capabilities. In 2011, four more ORs will be added, two of which will be equipped for electrophysiology and vascular procedures.

