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CONSULTS

NEWS FOR PHYSICIANS FROM THE UCONN HEALTH CENTER

Everything's Better in 3D

The UConn Cardiovascular Advanced Imaging Center uses cutting-edge echocardiography technology to capture today's

most precise 3D images. This novel modality has proven accuracy for assessment of mitral valve disorders, atrial septal defects, and determination of left ventricular volumes.

"With 3D imaging, we can more accurately measure a patient's volumes and better determine if the patient needs a defibrillator," says Erick Avelar, M.D., director of Non-Invasive Cardiac Imaging at the Pat and Jim Calhoun Cardiology Center. "With our new technology, it takes seconds for a 3D acquisition and less than five minutes for the analysis."

Jason Ryan, M.D., M.P.H., adds, "The 3D echo allows us to take images of the heart that are useful in the evaluation of left ventricular size, helping us measure the patient's

ejection fraction. The detailed images allow us to better understand their left ventricular volumes."

The technology is also useful in looking

"With 3D imaging, we can more accurately measure a patient's volumes and better determine if the patient needs a defibrillator."

—Erick Avelar, M.D.

at valve disorders. "A 2D image only shows a slice of the valve, making it hard to see the entire structure. In 3D, we are able to get a clear picture of any leaky valves," says Dr. Ryan.

"We can see which portion of which leaflet is prolapsing, helping the cardiac surgeon determine if the patient is a candidate for valve repair or valve replacement."

Patients with adult congenital heart conditions can also benefit from the 3D imaging techniques. According to Dr. Avelar, the technology allows them to look for any holes in the heart, see how large the hole is, and evaluate the tissue surrounding the hole—all important considerations for a surgeon determining how best to treat the patient.

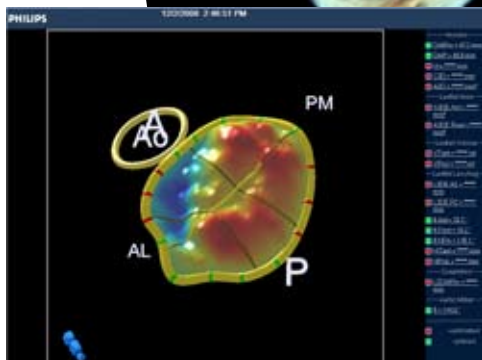
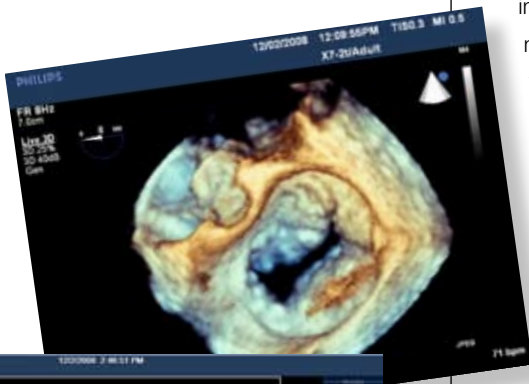
In the case of a patient with a cardiac mass, the 3D echocardiogram can help



PHYSICIAN DIRECTORY

With more than 350 physicians, UConn has the largest multi-specialty group in central Connecticut. We cover virtually every specialty and subspecialty in health care.

Detailed, up-to-date information about our specialists is available in our online physician directory at uconndocs.uchc.edu.



Photos: Erick Avelar, M.D.

From left to right: Erick Avelar, M.D.; Christopher Pickett, M.D.; Anjanette Ferris, M.D., M.P.H.; Jason William Ryan, M.D., M.P.H.; and Heiko Schmitt, M.D., Ph.D.



UConn Health Center Welcomes Five Cardiologists

Five cardiologists have joined the UConn Health Center and are now seeing patients at the Pat and Jim Calhoun Cardiology Center.

Heiko Schmitt, M.D., Ph.D., and Christopher Pickett, M.D., are co-directors of the Heart Rhythm Program.

Dr. Schmitt completed his residency at the State University of New York at Syracuse and a fellowship in cardiology and electrophysiology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. **Dr. Pickett** completed his postdoctoral training at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, including fellowships in cardiology and electrophysiology. **Drs. Schmitt and Pickett** have expertise in heart rhythm conditions such as atrial fibrillation and arrhythmias. They offer medication treatment as well as device-related therapies such as internal defibrillators, specialized pacemakers for heart failure patients, and cardiac ablation.

Anjanette Ferris, M.D., M.P.H., Erick Avelar, M.D., and Jason William Ryan, M.D., M.P.H., specialize in non-invasive cardiology. **Dr. Ferris** completed her

postdoctoral training at Columbia University Medical Center in New York City, including fellowships in cardiovascular disease and preventative cardiology. Her expertise is in women's heart health and lipid disorders. **Dr. Avelar** completed clinical and research training in internal medicine and cardiology at Tufts-New England Medical Center, the University of Michigan, Good Samaritan Hospital in Cincinnati, and the University of Utah School of Medicine. He also received advanced cardiac imaging training in cardiac magnetic resonance imaging, echocardiography, and the use of a multi-slice CT scanner for CT angiograms of the coronary arteries. **Dr. Ryan**, a graduate of the UConn School of Medicine, completed his postdoctoral training at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, including a chief residency and cardiology fellowship. His expertise is in echocardiography and cardiac magnetic resonance imaging.

CALL! New patients are welcome. To refer a patient, call **877-676-1733**.



Only at UConn The Endocrine Neoplasia Program

Endocrine neoplasia refers to both benign and malignant tumors of the endocrine glands. All endocrine neoplasms may overproduce hormones that cause pathologic effects. The complexity of these conditions requires specialized and multidisciplinary care. The Endocrine Neoplasia Program at the UConn Health Center is uniquely positioned to provide this care. Part of the Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center, it is the only neoplasia program in Connecticut.

“Our goal is to provide patients with a multidisciplinary team of medical experts,” says Carl D. Malchoff, M.D., Ph.D., program director. “Depending on the varied circumstances within individual cases, our team is able to enlist those medical experts most capable of providing the necessary care for that patient. We work collaboratively and strive to continue building our extensive experience in the wide variety of diagnostic and therapeutic therapies available to treat the neoplasms of the thyroid, pituitary, parathyroid, pancreas, neuroendocrine tissue, and adrenal glands.”

The Endocrine Neoplasia Program is staffed by Dr. Malchoff; Beatriz Tendler, M.D.; Andrew Arnold, M.D.; and Pooja Luthra, M.D. They work alongside other specialists including surgeons, oncologists, tumor genetics experts, pathologists, and invasive radiologists. Together, this diverse team offers a wide variety of services and procedures.

The program specializes in many endocrine conditions, such as thyroid cancer and thyroid nodules, cancers and benign tumors of the adrenal gland, hyperparathyroidism and parathyroid tumors, and pituitary adenomas. Testing and diagnosis is simplified at the Health Center with procedures such as fine needle aspiration biopsy, thyroid ultrasound, thyroid carcinoma testing, adrenal vein sampling, inferior petrosal sinus sampling, genetic testing, and dynamic endocrine testing. Advanced medical, surgical, and ablation options are also offered. After treatments are completed, the team provides ongoing surveillance.

“Our patients are referred to us from around the country and the world,” says Dr. Tendler. “We are one of the few institutions to routinely perform adrenal vein sampling and petrosal sinus sampling. We also have highly trained experts in nuclear medicine that routinely perform octreotide and MIBG scanning.”

There is a genetic predisposition for many endocrine neoplasia disorders. Our clinical geneticists are particularly adept in assisting us with evaluation of these patients.

Research, particularly in genetics, has also been an important mission of the program. The work Drs. Malchoff and Tendler began in 1996 resulted in a clinical trial for familial non-medullary thyroid cancer, earning them international acclaim.

“We want to continue this work and to emphasize the importance of research and patient care for endocrine tumors,” says Dr. Tendler. “Our goal is to provide patients more advanced care and treatment options.”

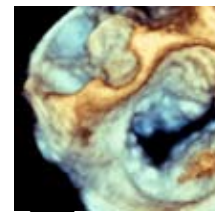
CALL! To refer a patient to the Endocrine Neoplasia Program call **877-676-1733**.

FAST Facts

21 Number of years UConn medical students have been providing primary care and counseling to Hartford’s homeless at the South Park Inn medical clinic.

13,716 Number of babies with a serious health condition cared for in the Newborn Intensive Care Nursery since it opened in 1975.

*Know More —
visit www.uhc.edu*

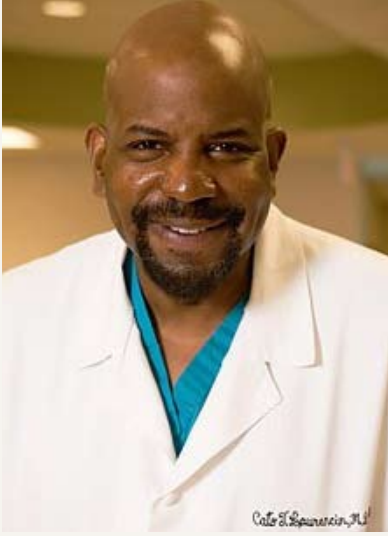


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define the point of attachment and the area occupied by the mass better than 2D echo. With that information, surgeons then can determine the best approach.

These 3D echocardiogram services are available at the main UConn Health Center campus in Farmington. Most imaging studies can be scheduled within a week. If you have a question about which imaging tests are most appropriate for a particular patient, the specialists at the UConn Cardiovascular Advanced Imaging Center are available for phone consultation.

CALL! Referring physicians can reach Drs. Avelar and Ryan at **877-676-1733**. More information is available at heart.uhc.edu.



Cato T. Laurencin, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Laurencin is an expert in shoulder and knee surgery and is an international leader in tissue engineering research. He is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the American College of Orthopaedic Surgeons, is widely published in scholarly journals and holds more than 20 U.S. patents. Among Dr. Laurencin's numerous awards and accolades, he is the winner of the 2009 Pierre Galletti Award, the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering's highest honor. The Galletti Award recognizes contributions to public awareness of medical and biological engineering and the promotion of the national interest in science, engineering and education. The AIMBE cites Laurencin's "seminal contribution to tissue engineering and international leadership in biomedical engineering."

Shoulder the Load

Cato T. Laurencin, M.D., Ph.D., Vice President for Health Affairs; Dean, School of Medicine and Van Dusen Endowed Chair in Academic Medicine, has recently joined the team of orthopedic surgeons at the New England Musculoskeletal Institute. Dr. Laurencin, along with Robert A. Arciero, M.D.; Augustus Mazzocca, M.S., M.D.; and Kevin P. Shea, M.D., offer world-class care for a variety of shoulder conditions. These experts use the latest advances in the diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of shoulder injuries to increase mobility, diminish pain, improve function, and enhance quality of life.

Conditions and treatments include:

- Biceps tendonitis
- Frozen shoulder
- Rotator cuff tears
- Rotator cuff tendinitis, shoulder bursitis, impingement syndrome
- Shoulder dislocation/instability
- Shoulder labral tears
- Shoulder pain
- Shoulder separation
- Shoulder surgery

Outpatient care, physical therapy, imaging, and same-day surgery are all provided in a modern, convenient location on the UConn Health Center's Farmington campus. For your patients' convenience, some of our experts also see patients in East Hartford at the UConn Health Partners Office, 99 Ash Street; Avon at Old Avon Orthopaedics, 2 Simsbury Road; and Southington, 1131 West Street Building 1.

CALL! 860-679-6600 to refer a patient or to speak with one of our orthopaedic surgeons.

For physician biographical information visit:

nemsi.uhc.edu and click on **"Choose a Physician."**



Augustus Mazzocca, M.S., M.D.



Robert A. Arciero, M.D.

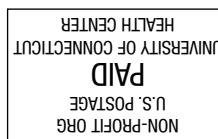


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