



6801 Rogers Avenue Fort Smith, AR 72903 www.cooperclinic.com

For Immediate Release

Cooper Clinic, P.A.

Fort Smith, Arkansas

May 11, 2011

Cooper Clinic's 4D Cardiac Echo offers Arkansans a new dimension in Cardiology

Studies report that heart disease causes more than one in every four deaths in the United States. Early detection is critical, and so is access to the most advanced diagnostic tools. For Arkansas adults, the newest diagnostic technology, 4D Cardiac Echo, is available only in Fort Smith.

Cooper Clinic, P.A., a 90-year-old physician-owned group based in Fort Smith, has installed the ACUSON SC2000™. Developed by Siemens Healthcare, this is the first diagnostic instantaneous full-volume imaging system for cardiologic testing. Using this 4D Cardiac Echo technology, the entire volume of blood flow through the heart can be analyzed in just one complete cardiac cycle.

According to Siemens Healthcare, Arkansas Children's Hospital, Little Rock, is the only other facility in the state utilizing 4D instantaneous full-volume imaging.

Timothy Waack, MD, a Board-Certified Cardiologist with Cooper Clinic, explained the significance of this new technology. "Using sound waves, Echocardiography is a noninvasive test often utilized in the detection and management of many types of heart disease. In traditional ultrasound systems, four to seven heart cycles are "stitched" together to form a complete volume. In comparison, the new ACUSON SC2000 4D Echo system displays a genuine representation of the patient's beating heart. This new technology uses superior 3D images to capture a single heartbeat in real time, and that element of "real time" is why it's commonly referred to as 4D. With amazing precision, we can assess how well the heart muscle pumps, whether the valves of the heart are functioning properly, and if blood flow through the heart is occurring normally. The 4D Echo is a powerful tool for diagnosing heart disease, particularly as it relates to problems with heart valves. It represents a new dimension in Cardiology."

The new Echo system provides other benefits as well, according to Rebecca Fleck, MD, Chief Medical Officer at Cooper Clinic. “From a patient’s perspective, this new technology makes the exam easier and more comfortable, as there is no need for breath holding. There is also a higher level of diagnostic confidence. Patients appreciate that 4D is the new gold standard for Echo; all Echocardiogram testing at Cooper Clinic is performed by Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographers; all exams are read by Board-Certified Cardiologists; and our Echocardiography Department is fully accredited¹.”

With 100 providers, Cooper Clinic, P.A. has a long tradition as healthcare leaders in the field of Radiologic Technology. The Clinic installed the Fort Smith area’s first and only 4D Cardiac Echo, Lower Radiation CT, Bilateral Breast MRI, the first Cardiac CT, and permanently installed PET/CT.

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NOTE:

- **Photos of the 4D Echo (with or w/out Cooper Clinic patient undergoing exam) may be scheduled or emailed to you upon request.**
- **Interviews may be scheduled with Cardiologists and/or Chief Medical Officer.**

¹Accreditation granted by the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Echocardiography Laboratories (ICAEL).