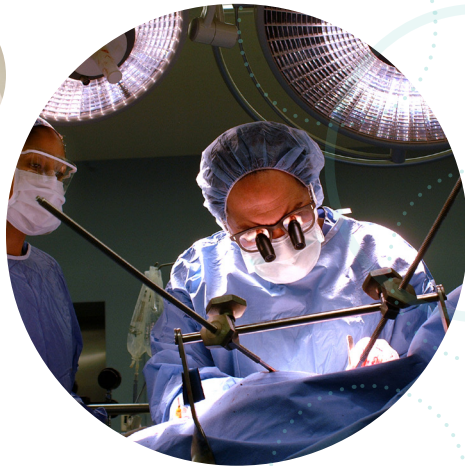


# STRENGTHENING THE PULSE OF HEART CARE



**A LIFE-SAVING INVESTMENT:** When you give in support of the Sands-Constellation Heart Institute, you're ensuring that people throughout our region have access to the best cardiologists and the best technology – so they have the best chance for healing.

"We offer high-quality care that's second to none," said Soon Park, MD, chair of the Sands-Constellation Heart Institute. "We're pursuing that without compromise, and any support our donors offer is in support of that mission."

**AN INCREASING NEED:** Heart disease is the leading cause of death for men, women, and people of most racial and ethnic groups in the United States. In fact, about 655,000 Americans die from heart disease each year. That's roughly one in every four deaths, and the numbers are projected to keep growing.

"The number of people diagnosed with heart disease is soaring worldwide and so is the cost to treat the disease," said Scott Feitell, DO, director of advanced heart failure and mechanical circulatory support. "It is a complex disease, and one simple pill is not enough." Often surgeries and other procedures, like implanting pacemakers and defibrillators, are required.

**A STATE-OF-THE-ART APPROACH:** The Sands-Constellation Heart Institute works hard to recruit doctors who are experts in their fields and offers a cardiology fellowship program to help new physicians become highly trained cardiologists. But to offer the best care, medical staff need access to specialized imaging and the most recent research and education.

For example, patients will benefit from purchasing a \$2 million MRI machine. Currently, there are two MRI machines at Rochester General Hospital, one at Clifton Springs Hospital & Clinic and one at Unity Hospital. "We're operating our MRIs seven days a week and still there is a waiting period," Park said.

Adding a nuclear CT hybrid camera, which costs \$250,000, will allow doctors to diagnose patients with amyloidosis without the need for a heart biopsy. "Amyloidosis is not rare," Feitell said, adding that the disease occurs when an abnormal protein builds up in an organ and interferes with its function. "We diagnose 100 to 150 patients a year, but thousands of people have the disease. We can diagnose it non-invasively with a state-of-the-art nuclear CT hybrid camera."

Plus, increasing the number of critical care beds by 16 and updating the da Vinci surgical platform will give patients access to highly specialized surgeries, with fewer risks.

The list of needs – both in equipment and in personnel – can seem daunting. But every step forward, and every dollar given, means a better chance at health for friends and neighbors in the Rochester region and beyond.

