

# BUILDING THE FUTURE OF CARDIOVASCULAR CARE

By Sue Spiry



**When you or someone you love needs care for a heart or vascular problem, you want to go where you know you'll get the best possible care. Fortunately, you can find this care right near home in western Massachusetts at one of the nation's top cardiovascular hospitals: Baystate Medical Center.**

Specialists at Baystate have been caring for the hearts of the people in our communities for decades, and continue to be at the forefront of the field. The fact is, Baystate Medical Center does not just provide exceptional heart and vascular care on a regional level, but on a national level, something many people do not realize.

- Baystate Medical Center is ranked in the top 2% of all U.S. hospitals for heart attack care.

- Baystate was named as one of the Thomson Reuters 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals® in their annual study identifying the nation's best providers of cardiovascular service selected from more than 1,000 U.S. hospitals.
- Baystate's Regional Heart Attack Program is recognized nationally for outcomes in heart attack care including providing lifesaving angioplasty up to 25 minutes sooner than the national standard.

"You can see from the data reported in these types of analyses that Baystate Medical Center is among the leading hospitals in the country for cardiovascular care," says Dr. John Rousou, chief of Cardiac Surgery. "We know that our main goal is providing the safest, most effective care for our patients."

But at the end of the day, caring for the heart is not just about caring for your heart muscle, veins, and arteries. It's about caring for all of you. That's why Baystate Medical Center's "Hospital of the Future" will support integrated care that places every patient at the center of a team of experts who are highly specialized, but also deeply collaborative.

## ENVISIONING THE FUTURE

Imagine that you need both a coronary stent implanted by a cardiologist and bypass surgery performed by a cardiac surgeon. In Baystate's new building, hybrid endovascular suites will feature agile technology that can be moved in and out at the touch of a switch, making it possible for all of the necessary specialists and subspecialists to perform whatever procedures you need, without moving you from room to room.

"Hybrid technology allows us to perform both open and closed procedures at the same time," says Dr. Aaron Kugelmass, chief of Cardiology at Baystate. "For example, patients will be able to have a stent implanted and bypass surgery during one encounter, rather than having to return for separate procedures."

He continues, "As hybrid technology continues to evolve, our new facility puts us in the perfect position to offer technology we see coming in the future, such as new valve treatments and other therapies."

Dr. Mark Hirko, chief of Vascular Surgery at Baystate, agrees. "The national recognition we receive validates that the people in our communities are getting the best possible care at Baystate. The design of the new Heart & Vascular Center gives us the flexibility and the space we need to adopt new technologies as they become available, ensuring our patients can continue to receive the very best care."

## ENHANCING NURSING CARE

Anyone who has ever been in the hospital can attest to the importance of the nurses. "High quality nursing care is a key factor in recovery for heart and vascular patients," says Kugelmass. "Our new building will support this. For

