



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Texas Heart® Institute at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital completes 200th successful case using CardiacAssist's TandemHeart™ extracorporeal circulatory support device

“This technology is helping us save lives.”

Bud Frazier, M.D.

PITTSBURGH, July 1, 2009—[CardiacAssist Inc.](#) announced today the successful completion of the **200th** procedure by Houston-based **Texas Heart® Institute (THI) at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital** using the FDA-cleared and CE-Marked **TandemHeart®** System for short-term extracorporeal circulatory support. TandemHeart can be placed rapidly by *both* interventional cardiologists in a cath lab *and* by cardiac surgeons in an operating room to provide short-term circulatory support to patients requiring additional cardiac assistance.

The device provides effective and reliable temporary circulatory support for critically ill patients. Hemodynamic support includes a high net blood-flow rate of up to five liters per minute in the catheterization lab or up to eight liters per minute in the OR—more than twice the amount from previous technologies and fully reimbursed by Medicare under existing DRG codes. The 200 cases have been performed at THI at SLEH primarily by cardiologists [Biswajit Kar, M.D.](#), and [Pranav Loyalka, M.D.](#), and by cardiac surgeons [O.H. “Bud” Frazier, M.D.](#), and [Igor Gregoric, M.D.](#)

“The dedication and pursuit of excellence shown by the Texas Heart Institute and *all* TandemHeart users has been the critical key to our success,” said **Michael Garippa**, CEO and President of CardiacAssist. “TandemHeart sets a whole new paradigm for treating cardiac patients quickly and aggressively. In addition to being used to treat emergency patients, TandemHeart has also been used to support patients before, during, and after complex elective procedures,” added Garippa. “We applaud the teamwork and vision of the forward-thinking THI physicians in cardiology and cardiac surgery in the treatment of these seriously ill patients. Therefore we are extremely pleased to realize this historic milestone of 200 cases with the TandemHeart System, designed to become standard of care in extracorporeal circulatory support.”

(more)

About Texas Heart Institute

The Texas Heart Institute, founded by world-renowned cardiovascular surgeon Dr. Denton A. Cooley in 1962, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing the devastating toll of cardiovascular disease through innovative and progressive programs in research, education and improved patient care. Together with its clinical partner, St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital, it has been ranked among the top-10 cardiovascular centers in the United States by *U.S. News & World Report’s* annual guide to “America’s Best Hospitals” for the past 18 years. The Texas Heart Institute is also affiliated with the University of Texas (UT) System, which promotes collaboration in cardiovascular research and education among UT and THI faculty at the Texas Heart Institute and other UT components. For more information about the Institute, please visit www.texasheart.org.

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