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Hospital's Heart Center celebrates five years

By DENNIS J. WRIGHT

PHOENIXVILLE — The Phoenixville Hospital's Heart Center celebrated its fifth anniversary in a ceremony held at the hospital's cafeteria Wednesday afternoon.

Hospital CEO Steve Tullman addressed everyone in the cafeteria, proclaiming the center's anniversary.

"I've been here for four of these anniversaries," said Tullman.

He recognized Drs. Hans Haupt, Kathleen Magness, Herb Fischer and Nainnesh Patel, stating "We are fortunate to have this many cardiologists in this program."

Tullman further said, "This is where we should beat our chests and say how good we area. We are one of the best heart centers in the area. The patients that live here have it great. Our Cath Lab will do 1,600 cath procedures this year. That shows you the work we're doing here. By the end of this year, we'll do close to 200 heart surgeries."



The Phoenixville Hospital's Heart Center celebrated the fifth anniversary at a special ceremony held in the hospital's cafeteria Wednesday afternoon.

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The Heart Center was established in August 2003 when it expanded to six cardiologists, Dr. Paul Rogers, Dr. Magness, Dr. Fred Weber, Dr. Norman Rothstein, Dr. Herb Fischer and Dr. Jack Fornace.

Dr. Haupt, through the affiliation with PENN, joined the hospital as the Director of Cardiothoracic Surgery.

It was also in August 2003 when the

first cardiac intervention was performed by the Cath Lab, and the first open heart surgery took place.

One year later in August 2004, a total of 710 cardiac interventions had taken place, along with 91 open heart surgeries.

To date, almost 4,500 cath procedures and just over 500 open heart surgeries have been performed.

Dr. Fischer took to the podium to remember Dr. Rogers' efforts in getting the center

started.

"He was the one who got the program in place," said Fischer. "He brought this from the city and into the suburbs."

Teamwork was the focus of Dr. Haupt's words to the audience.

"The team is small but very tight knit," said Haupt. "Everyone reads each other's minds, which allows us to work well together. This makes for a seamless transition for the patients. The patient care has been excellent over the past five years."

Haupt also recognized Tullman's efforts with the center, "He really cares about the patients. He gets us the equipment we need for the patients."

Tullman led the audience in a singing of "Happy Birthday," followed by refreshments.

Dr. Magness said that the progression of the center has been steadfast.

"We started out slowly, building layers of performance," she said. "We expected growth, but speed was not anticipated. Most things slow down, but we haven't experienced that. Not just the volume but the surgeries as well.

"One of our biggest differences is the robot. We caught a glimpse of that in 2003, and now we've seen the advances in technology and medicine."

Magness was referring to the daVinci® Surgical System, which has been used in minimally invasive prostatectomy and cardiac procedures.

Phoenixville Hospital is currently one of only a handful of facilities across the country offering this minimally invasive procedures.

Dr. Patel said that he's proud of how the center can perform as well as their counterparts in the city.

"I'm most impressed is that we are able to do better than what can be done in the city, even better," he said. "Patients don't have to go into the city when they can come here for the same quality care."



The banner features a traffic light icon on the left with the text "Stop.. Hiring Real Estate Agents!" and "Go.. With a Local, Home Marketing Expert that Produces Results". The center contains a list of services: "Your Neighborhood Price/Sales Activity", "Your Personal Market Assessment", "Your Guide to Mortgage Finance", and "Your Dream Home", along with contact numbers "Office-610-363-1600" and "Cell 215-869-1373". On the right is a portrait of Nick D'Donnell, labeled "Nick D'Donnell" and "Expert Home Counselor".

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