

Dr. Michael Black to Develop Pediatric Cardiac Program at St. Mary's

September 22, 2011



Dr. Michael Black, fellowship-trained congenital cardiac surgeon, is joining St. Mary's Medical Center in West Palm Beach to develop the new Pediatric Congenital Heart Program. Dr. Black's extensive experience, family-centered approach and advanced minimally invasive pediatric open heart procedures will set the foundation for St. Mary's pediatric open-heart surgery/ pediatric cardiac catheterization programs and bring much needed advanced cardiovascular surgery options to the Palm Beaches and the Treasure Coast.

"St. Mary's welcomes Dr. Black and looks forward to developing its pediatric heart program with more innovative congenital heart surgery options," said Davide Carbone, St. Mary's Medical Center's chief executive officer, in a prepared statement. "Congenital heart defects are fairly common and the need for surgical intervention can affect anyone at any age from a newborn to a child and even an adult. Palm Beach County residents once had to travel far in search for the advanced treatment of congenital heart defects. Now, St. Mary's can offer a very unique minimally invasive treatment option right here in the local community."

Dr. Black is joining the St. Mary's medical team as part of the pediatric open heart surgery/pediatric cardiac catheterization program, which was approved by Florida's Agency for Healthcare Administration. No other hospital in Florida has received such approval in more than 15 years.

The arrival of Dr. Black will be a significant asset to the pediatric open heart program at St. Mary's.

Dr. Black is renowned for developing highly specialized minimally invasive robotic procedures and techniques for performing complex congenital heart repairs.

He has successfully operated on adults, children and infants weighing as little as 400 grams (less than 1 pound). These minimally invasive procedures can allow for smaller incisions and faster recovery times. For many children and adults, this means less pain and a quicker return to daily activities. In addition, minimally invasive procedures can reduce scarring.

Dr. Black comes to St. Mary's Medical Center from California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco, where he was chief of the pediatric cardiac surgery and the adult congenital heart program. Prior to that, Dr. Black served as the chief of cardiac surgery at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford University and associate professor in the department of surgery at Stanford University School of Medicine.

St. Mary's Medical Center is a 463- bed acute care hospital at 901 45th St. in West Palm. The hospital, open for more than 70 years, offers an array of services, including medical, surgical, obstetrics, pediatrics, orthopedics, trauma and emergency services. †

http://palmbeachgardens.floridaweekly.com/news/2011-09-22/Healthy_Living/Dr_Michael_Black_to_develop_pediatric_cardiac_prog.html