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Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center

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The History of St. Luke's Heart Care, 1956-2002

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The History of St. Luke's Heart Care

- St. Luke's reputation as one of the top cardiac programs in the country is built on an ongoing tradition of innovation
- Our tradition includes over 25 firsts in the state, region or nation

- 1956 1st heart pump in Wisconsin
- 1960 1st cardiac catheterization program in Wisconsin
- 1961 1st pacemaker installed in Milwaukee
- 1968 1st heart transplant performed in the Midwest
- 1985 1st transmyocardial laser revascularization in the Midwest
- 1986 1st Jarvik-7 artificial heart as a bridge to transplant in Wisconsin
- 1987 1st state hospital to use TPA for emergency treatment of heart attacks
- 1989 One of only 12 centers nationwide to perform atherectomy procedure
- 1990 1st hospital to send patients home with semiautomatic defibrillator system in Wisconsin
- 1991 1st hospital to insert a coronary artery "stent" in Wisconsin
- 1994 1st hospital in the Midwest to implant Heartmate® ventricular assist device (VAD)
- 1998 1st hospital in the Midwest to implant a permanent VAD
- 2002 1st hospital in Wisconsin to perform robotic surgery

Research

- St. Luke's has always remained on the forefront of new research and technology for heart care. It is this research that leads to new treatment options and improved outcomes for our patients.
- Over 100 FDA approved clinical trials are continuously in progress at St. Luke's to investigate improved methods for medical and surgical management of heart disease, including heart failure, transplantation and atrial fibrillation.

[View current list.](#)

Continuing Medical Education

- St. Luke's Medical Center is accredited by the Wisconsin Medical Society to provide continuing medical education programs for physicians
- The mission of continuing education at St. Luke's, and Aurora Health Care, is to improve health care in Wisconsin through the application of the latest medical knowledge. View [Mission statement](#)

“We are committed to improving the quality of health care and health outcomes for people today, through the rapid and broad application of current knowledge. Aurora supports and encourages the education of health care professionals and the ongoing quest for new knowledge in order to contribute to quality of health care in the future. “

- We offer a variety of continuing education forums

conference seminars

workshop forums

lectures

panel discussions

case studies

chart reviews

small/large group discussion

question/answer sessions

Alternative technology and modalities will be utilized when appropriate, including but not limited to video, teleconferencing, computer assisted enduring materials and Web based activities.

St. Luke's Medical Center Heart Tower

The new St. Luke's Heart Tower offers the most state-of-the-art patient care designed to provide the highest level of care in the most efficient, advanced techniques available.

This facility is constructed around the idea that proficient patient care in a warm, healing environment leads to faster recovery and minimal complications.

Heart Tower features

- 192 private rooms
- 78 ICU rooms
- 8 dedicated high acuity cardiovascular ICU rooms
- decentralized nursing stations to allow for more patient and family interaction
- computerized patient charting for quicker access to information
- lab and radiology services on each floor for faster diagnosis and treatment
- patient and family education rooms

Quality Reporting to National Databases

- Quality benchmarking is critical to the continued improvement of the St. Luke's Heart Care program
- St. Luke's utilizes guidelines, care plans and quality improvement teams to measure individual patient progress as well as monitor groups of patients undergoing the same procedure
- St. Luke's also partakes in efforts with other national heart care programs to provide cutting edge improvements in the quality of our care
- Since 1993, we have participated in several national cardiac databases to benchmark patient outcomes nationwide
 - National Cardiovascular Network (NCN)
 - Society of Thoracic Surgery (STS)
 - American College of Cardiology – National Cardiovascular Data Registry (ACC-NCDR)

Advantages of a High Volume Program

- Studies show that hospitals performing a high volume of cardiac procedures can produce better outcomes, including low complication rates, shorter length of stay and lower mortality rates

The April 2002 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine* states:

“ . . . high-volume hospitals may have more surgeons who specialize in specific procedures, more consistent processes for postoperative care, better-staffed intensive care units, and greater resources, in general, for dealing with postoperative complications.”

- In 2002*, St. Luke's treated 10,894 heart care patients, more than twice the volume of any other Wisconsin hospital

*Source: BHI 2001 Q4 – 2002 Q3

- The Leapfrog Group, a national patient safety advocacy group, has set volume standards for select cardiac procedures. St. Luke's is the only hospital in Wisconsin to meet or exceed all of these standards.

*Nationally, St. Luke's ranks:

- 5th in the total number of heart surgeries performed
- 3rd in the number of angioplasties performed
- 7th in the number of bypass surgeries performed

*Source: BHI 2001 Q4 – 2002 Q3