Aug. 4, 2011

Consumer Reports Rates Creighton Heart Surgeons as Top Performers

Creighton heart surgeons earned a top rating in Consumer Reports September 2011 issue. Creighton was one of only three Nebraska physician groups to receive a three-star rating.

Using data from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS), the consumer publication made a state-by-state comparison of how well surgical groups performed heart-bypass surgery between July 1, 2009, and July 30, 2010. The ratings were based on overall performance, complications and other quality measures.

STS gathers information from more than 90 percent of about 1,100 U.S. surgical groups performing cardiac surgery. A total of 324 group practices, including Creighton’s, agreed to allow Consumer Reports to publish their results.

Of those, Creighton and 80 other groups were above the national average with the top ranking of three stars, 38 were average (two stars), and five were below average (one star). Alegent Health Bergan Mercy Medical Center and Nebraska Heart Institute and Heart Hospital in Lincoln also received three-star ratings.

The Creighton group was also cited for having fewer complications than the national average.

Phoenix Campus Appointments Announced

Two assistant deans have been named for Creighton’s regional medical campus, located at St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix.

Randy Richardson, M.D., has been named assistant dean for medical education and will be responsible for administrative coordination and management of the medical student curriculum in Phoenix.

Richardson, chair of the Radiology Department at St. Joseph’s, is board certified with American Board of Radiology, including a certificate of added qualification in pediatric radiology.

His clinical research focuses on cardiac magnetic resonance imaging, virtual imaging with computed tomography, magnetic resonance arthrography and genitography in children, imaging of segmental liver transplantation, and web-based resident teaching. His research has been published and shared through electronic exhibits, scientific papers, lectures and webinars around the world.

Richardson has been recognized for excellence in teaching, research and patient care with many awards, including the Caffey Award from the Society of Pediatric Radiology, the Lippincott Award from the American Society of Roentgenology and the Mimics Innovation Award.
He was a fellow in pediatric radiology at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital and Medical Center and completed a residency at David Grant Medical Center in Texas. He earned his medical degree from Loma Linda University School of Medicine.

**Robert Garcia, M.D.,** has been named assistant dean for student affairs and will be responsible for administrative coordination and management of student services at the St. Joseph’s campus.

Garcia is medical director of St. Joseph’s Family Medicine Residency Training Program. He is board certified in geriatric medicine and family medicine.

Over the past 25 years, Garcia has taught and mentored hundreds of medical students and residents. He has been selected as “Teacher of the Year” eight times by St. Joseph’s family medicine residents. In 2007, he was recognized by the Arizona Academy of Family Physicians for teaching and mentoring. He was also the Arizona nominee for a prestigious national teaching award, American Academy of Family Physicians Thomas W. Johnson Award for Career Contributions to Family Medicine Education.

In 2007, St. Joseph’s family medicine residents presented him with the Dr. Lee Parker Davis Humanitarian Award. In 2009, he received the Leo B. Hart Humanitarian Award from University of Arizona Alumni Association in recognition of his role in creating the university’s “Commitment to Underserved People at University of Arizona” curriculum, which focuses on teaching medical students about underserved populations.

Garcia is past president of the Arizona Geriatric Society and Arizona Academy of Family Physicians. He has been listed as one of the top family physicians in America by *Consumer Guide* for the past nine years.

Garcia received his medical degree from the University of Arizona. He completed a family medicine residency at St. Joseph’s and a faculty development fellowship at University of Arizona.

Both Garcia and Richardson will report to James Balducci, M.D., associate dean of the St. Joseph’s campus.

The regional medical campus will accept its first class of 42 Creighton medical students in 2012.

**In the News**

August is National Immunization Awareness Month and the perfect time to make sure your immunizations and those of your loved ones are up-to-date, says Archana Chatterjee, M.D., pediatric infectious disease specialist for Creighton Medical Associates and chief of the Division of Pediatric Infectious Disease for Creighton University School of Medicine.

The good news is that the United States has a robust vaccination program that has virtually eradicated such diseases as diphtheria, chicken pox, polio and more in this country, she said. The downside is that many Americans tend to downplay the importance of immunizations, mistakenly believing these diseases have actually disappeared, Chatterjee noted.  [View video](#)