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Dear Colleague:

We want to update you on our activities in Cardiac Surgery at Northwestern Memorial Hospital's Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute (BCVI) because we've made significant strides in the three and a half years since we've formed the BCVI and just added new staff.

**Edwin (Ed) McGee Jr., MD**, who directs our heart transplant and Ventricular Assist Device (VAD) program, and I were recently joined by 2 new surgeons. Please help us welcome them.

**Dr. Richard (Rick) Lee** is a Chicago native who trained in general surgery at Rush, did his Cardiothoracic Surgery fellowship at Washington University, and then received advanced Cardiac Surgery training (including cardiac transplantation) five years ago at the Cleveland Clinic with Ed McGee and myself. During his training, Rick investigated new surgical therapies for atrial fibrillation. He brought that work into clinical practice at St. Louis University where he worked while his wife completed her radiology fellowship. Rick joined us in May 2007 as the Surgical Director of the Center for Atrial Fibrillation. He is a busy adult cardiac surgeon with a specific focus on minimally invasive surgery for atrial fibrillation, and he also is our Associate Program Director for the Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship.

**Dr. Chris Malaisrie** trained in General Surgery at Loyola and did his Cardiac Surgery fellowship at Baylor College in Houston, where he became interested in aortic surgery. He then did an advanced cardiac surgery fellowship at Stanford University with a particular emphasis on advanced aortic surgery, including aortic endograft stenting and cardiac transplantation. Chris joined us in July 2007 as our Surgical Director of Thoracic Aortic Surgery. He has extensive experience with valve sparing aortic root reconstruction, complex aortic work including aortic arch and descending aortic surgery, endovascular stent grafts, and he is now helping me launch our percutaneous aortic valve replacement program.

Although we each have individual areas of expertise, all of us are experienced in complex adult cardiac surgery and continue to perform procedures such as: valve repair and replacement, minimally invasive surgery, complex reoperations, aortic surgery and arterial grafting as part of coronary bypass (CABG) and surgery for patients with heart failure. **Ed McGee** will continue to direct our heart transplant and VAD program. We are extremely proud of what he has accomplished at the BCVI already.

We know that you have a choice as to where you refer your patients and we appreciate the wide support from our rapidly growing network of referring physicians. We hope that you have been satisfied with your patients care at Northwestern, and we will be happy to take care of your patients again in the future. Please feel free to contact any of us at the numbers below.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick M. McCarthy".

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Co-Director, Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute  
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Surgical Director,  
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Heart Transplantation and  
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### **Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute Cardiac Surgery Highlights:**

- Top Fifty Heart and Heart Surgery Programs according to *U.S. News and World Report*.
- Highest ranking from Society of Thoracic Surgery (STS) for cardiac surgery programs 2007.
- Highest ranking for cardiac surgery and coronary artery bypass, Health Grades.
- Highest ranking for Cardiac Surgery from the UnitedHealth Premium® Designation Program.
- Top 1% survival for U.S. Medicare heart failure patients, the best in Illinois.
- 100% hospital survival for heart transplant patients as of November 2007 (N=49) and 98% one and two year actuarial survival.
- In 2006, zero mortality for Aortic Valve Replacement (AVR) and Mitral Valve Repair.
- 96% repair rate for patients with myxomatous mitral valve disease (mitral prolapse).
- 86% of isolated AVR were performed minimally invasive in 2006.
- 18.9% CABG patients received bilateral internal mammary arteries vs. national average of 4.4% (STS data).
- 89% of patients who had a history of AF underwent AF ablation at the time of other surgery (such as valve, CABG, or aortic surgery) versus 55.9% nationally (STS data).
- Novel therapies including percutaneous AVR, stem-cell therapy for heart failure and intractable angina (under the direction of Dr. Doug Losordo), Sunshine Heart mechanical assistance, clenbuterol for cardiac recovery on LVAD support, and other new VADs are being investigated.

***To refer patients simply call one of the surgeons, or their office staff directly.***