

MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dr. Franco Joins Forum Hospitals

(WARREN/YOUNGSTOWN) Dr. Alejandro A. Franco, cardiothoracic surgeon, has joined Dr. Thomas A. d'Amato and Dr. Eugene V. Vitvitsky, Cardiothoracic & Vascular Specialists (CTVS) team and is now available to provide surgery at both Northside Medical Center and Trumbull Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Franco completed his fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and has a distinguished career in performing cardiac surgery in the Mahoning Valley for more than 20 years. His office, formerly at 540 Parmalee in Youngstown, is now located at the Trumbull and Northside campuses effective today.

“We are pleased to have Dr. Franco as part of our cardiac surgery team. Along with his experience, it is important for him to follow-up on his patients after surgery and be personally involved in their care. This attention is something we are proud to offer and support,” said Robert Wolleben, Chief Operating Officer, TMH. “This is what differentiates the care provided in our hospitals - patients know their surgeon and our physicians can easily communicate with local primary care physicians to assure seamless post-operative care,” he added.

Dr. Franco performs a full-range of adult cardiac, thoracic and vascular procedures including coronary bypass surgery, valve repair and replacement, atrial fibrillation ablation (MAZE procedure) and other complex cardiac and thoracic surgeries.

“We are able to provide very complex procedures without leaving town,” said Michael Seelman, Chief Operating Officer, NMC. “Our mission remains to provide patient’s nationally-recognized cardiovascular care close to home, family and in the care of physicians and healthcare professionals they know and trust. The national awards we’ve received and our outcomes are the testimonial to the quality care our patients receive at both Northside and Trumbull,” Seelman added.

The Heart Hospital at Forum Health, the first of its kind in the region, has achieved excellent clinical outcomes that compare to or exceed the national standards of the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS), including fewer post-operative complications, reduced length of stay and quicker recovery. Both NMC and TMH are Blue Distinction Center for Cardiac Care designation by Blue Cross Blue Shield Association reflecting our commitment and pursuit of excellence for heart care with clinical results as good as or better than tertiary centers in Cleveland or Pittsburgh.

Dr. Franco’s recruitment continues the tradition of providing area residents access to the expertise of highly skilled specialists, leading-edge technology, superior diagnostics, the latest medical interventional therapies and advanced surgical options.

Dr. Franco can be reached through the CTVS NMC office at 330.884.5790 or the TMH office at 330.841.9020.

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