

University

Stony Brook University Hospital opens cardiac Cath/EP multifunctional lab

BY RITA J. EGAN
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Stony Brook University Hospital has taken a step in offering cardiac diagnosis and treatment that is even more advanced than in the past.

Recently, the hospital announced the opening of its Cardiac Catheterization and Electrophysiology Advanced Multifunctional Laboratory in the Stony Brook University Heart Institute at SBUH. The lab consolidates comprehensive cardiac catheterization and electrophysiology services into one location.

The multifunctional laboratory measures 845 square feet to allow room for various medical teams to perform emergency procedures at the same time if needed. The room includes anesthesia equipment, state-of-the-art angiographic suite equipment and the latest electrophysiology technology. In the lab, physicians are able to continue treating a patient even if the scope of a procedure changes from minimally invasive to more invasive.

When it came time to design the multifunctional laboratory, administrative and medical professionals were able to provide input including Cath Lab Director, Dr. Robert Pyo and EP Lab Director Dr. Eric Rashba.

Pyo said it was important to get input not

only from doctors but nurses and technicians, who play a crucial part in documenting procedures, information that will be used during a patient's treatment.

Rashba said time was spent with the construction group to ensure everything was laid out correctly and that it would work for both specialties in the multifunctional lab. He added that work began April 12 to renovate five existing labs, three Cath and two EP, adjacent to the new Cath/EP lab on the main level of the Heart Institute. One lab at a time will be worked on, and while the additional renovations will take several months, Rashba said the number of patients that Stony Brook doctors can treat will increase, and patients will be able to get appointments quicker than in the past.

"What we've seen over time in electrophysiology is that you see more and more patients with arrhythmias that need treatment," he said. "There's been an incredible growth in ablation procedures, in particular atrial fibrillation. This will allow us to meet the community need with less waiting times for procedures. So, we're looking forward to that."

Since the lab opened March 30, both doctors said the imaging has been superior to what they had been using before. The lab includes an image-guided diagnostic and therapeutic imaging system

called the Philips Azurion 7.

"We're replacing systems that have been installed for over 10 years," Rashba said. "First of all, we can see a lot better what the definition of the structures are we need to see, plus the radiation definition is a lot lower. So, we're getting better imaging with less dose to the patient."

Rashba added that some EP procedures can even be done without radiation.

Pyo said the new multifunctional lab also saves doctors precious time when treating heart patients with both catheterization and electrophysiology in the same room.

"The importance of timing, reducing the time to treatment, whether it's minutes or seconds, is relative," Pyo said. "I think that in any case, even in patients who come in electively, getting early diagnosis is crucial."

Being able to respond quicker is especially crucial with treatment of heart attacks.



The Philips Azurion 7 provides imaging capabilities at ultra-low radiation dose levels. Photo from Stony Brook Medicine

"Patients who are presenting with a heart attack, minutes, even seconds, count toward early diagnosis and treatment," Pyo said, adding if patients don't get treatment early enough they could suffer irreversible damage.

Perspective

Gyrodyne's Impact on the Three Village Area

BY TOWN OF BROOKHAVEN SUPERVISOR ED ROMAINE

As Brookhaven Town Supervisor, I just wrote to the Town of Smithtown Planning Board regarding the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Gyrodyne LLC. The FEIS is deficient in that it does not adequately address the substantive comments from Brookhaven Town received at the Jan. 8, 2020, public hearing and the subsequent written comment period ending on Jan. 24, 2020.

It is obvious that the groundwater and surface water issues associated with the realization of the FEIS Development Plan is more complicated than analyzed in the EIS. The protection of Stony Brook Harbor requires a "hard look" and honest analysis of impacts from the proposed sewage treatment plant.

The Town of Brookhaven has expressed their significant concerns regarding the proposed project including impacts to traffic, preservation of open space, impacts to aesthetics, historical concerns, lack of suitable alternatives, siting of the sewage treatment plant, water quality, adverse impacts to Stony Brook Harbor, economic

impacts, and climate change. These substantive concerns were dismissed and responded to in a series of non-answers that simply preserved the preferred alternative of the applicant.

A 125-room hotel, 153,110 square feet of office/medical office, and a 250 unit assisted living facility in addition to the existing development on the property as described in the FEIS and the associated traffic and environmental impacts were never envisioned nor belong in the Three Villages area and certainly not within the Long Island North Shore Heritage Area. The proposed project will forever adversely impact the overall scenic, aesthetic, historic, cultural, and physical character of the NYS Route 25A corridor area and the historic communities and landscapes that it connects.

The proposed sewage treatment plant, which as stated in my public hearing comments, is planned to be located on land directly abutting land located in the Town of Brookhaven and does not take into account the impacts to the adjoining neighbors in terms of odor, visual impacts, and use. The placement of the sewage treatment plant immediately adjacent to single family homes is

unacceptable. Furthermore, the proposed sewage treatment plant with a 100% expansion capacity for 200,000 gallons per day of sanitary effluent to be released to the subsurface leaching fields will taint Stony Brook Harbor for generations and perpetuate the current status quo of harmful toxic algal blooms, low dissolved oxygen, fish kills, and waters closed to shell fishing.

A failing of the EIS is the lack of consideration of the 2020 Suffolk County Subwatersheds Wastewater Plan. According to the SWP, Stony Brook Harbor is an impacted embayment with high levels of nitrogen and is identified as a high priority area for nitrogen reduction. The EIS claims that the volume of sanitary flow will increase due to the proposed development and that the resultant nitrogen will only slightly decrease at final development due to the sewage treatment plant. This does not comply with the SWP recommendations to reduce the current amount of nitrogen in Stony Brook Harbor by 37% which would require the sanitary flow from Gyrodyne to decrease by 37%, otherwise nitrogen traveling to Stony Brook Harbor will remain at levels that will continue to endanger

the viability of the harbor.

The EIS does not address how to mitigate the significant amounts of pharmaceuticals that will be contained in the sanitary effluent from patients and residents in the proposed medical offices and nursing home uses. It is generally accepted that current sewage treatment technologies are not effective at removing pharmaceuticals in the wastewater stream. More significantly, the EIS ignores the potential for doubling the projected sanitary flow due to the real possibility of the St. James business district connecting and sending the sanitary effluent to the proposed sewage treatment plant.

Finally, the impacts that this project will have on the adjacent communities in the Town of Brookhaven will be far reaching and affect the quality of life for our residents. I hope the Smithtown Planning Board considers a true alternative that represents the rural and bucolic nature of the community while preserving natural resources for future generations rather than the monstrosity that is the FEIS Development Plan.

Editor's note: For more on Gyrodyne, visit tbrnewsmedia.com.