



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Baptist Heart & Vascular Institute Brings Innovative Therapy to Northwest Florida

**PENSACOLA, Fla. (Jan. 6, 2021)** – Baptist Heart & Vascular Institute interventional cardiologist Luther Carter, M.D., FACC, FSCAI, and cardiothoracic surgeon Russell Ronson, M.D., FACS, FACC, have successfully performed a heart procedure using a new therapy called AngioVac. Baptist is the first hospital in Northwest Florida to use this innovative technology.

“This is the first procedure of this type done in our area,” said Dr. Ronson. “It reflects our commitment to bringing the most current state-of-the-art heart and vascular care to patients in the Panhandle.”

AngioVac is a device used in surgeries requiring heart bypass to treat endocarditis, retrieval of blood clots and other complex cardiac diseases. “This technology allows us to treat patients such as those with tricuspid valve endocarditis who were previously untreatable without major cardiac surgery to clear their infections,” said Dr. Carter. “In addition, we are able to treat patients with infected pacemaker leads potentially without having to remove the leads. Lastly, we can treat patients with large blood clots in veno-occlusive disorders such as lower extremity deep vein thrombosis (DVT.) As physicians, this technology allows us to remain on the leading edge in offering effective therapies to our patients.”

For more information about Baptist Heart & Vascular Institute, visit [eBaptistHealthCare.org](http://eBaptistHealthCare.org).

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### CONTACT BELOW IS FOR MEDIA USE ONLY

For more information about this press release or to schedule an interview, please contact Kathy Bowers at [850.791.5254](tel:850.791.5254) or [BHCMediaRelations@bhcpns.org](mailto:BHCMediaRelations@bhcpns.org).

#### *About Baptist Health Care*

*Baptist Health Care is a community-owned, not-for-profit health care organization based in northwest Florida that is committed to helping people throughout life’s journey. The organization is a proud member of the Mayo Clinic Care Network. A 2003 Malcolm Baldrige recipient, Baptist continuously strives to be a national leader in quality and service. Baptist Health Care includes three hospitals, four medical parks, Andrews Institute for Orthopaedic & Sports Medicine, Lakeview Center and a large network of primary care and specialty physicians. With more than 7,300 employees and employed physicians, Baptist Health Care is the second largest non-governmental employer in northwest Florida.*

*Baptist Health Care • Baptist Hospital • Gulf Breeze Hospital • Jay Hospital • Lakeview Center • Baptist Medical Park – Nine Mile • Baptist Medical Park – Navarre • Baptist Medical Park – Pace • Baptist Medical Park – Airport • Andrews Institute • Baptist Medical Group • Baptist Heart & Vascular Institute • Cardiology Consultants • Baptist Health Care Foundation*

