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Kidney transplant surgeon and urologist joins Ascension Sacred Heart, University of Florida

PENSACOLA, Fla. (Feb. 1, 2022) — Kidney transplant surgeon and urologist [Wen Xie, MD](#), has joined the kidney transplant program at Ascension Sacred Heart Pensacola, affiliated with University of Florida Health.

As a kidney-transplant surgeon, Dr. Xie cares for patients from across the Southeast needing a lifesaving transplant due to kidney failure. For information about the kidney transplant program at Ascension Sacred Heart Pensacola, please call 850-416-1080 or visit ascension.org/kidneytransplantpensacola.

Dr. Xie also joins the office of urologist [Joseph Plunkett, MD](#), of Ascension Medical Group Sacred Heart, located at 1549 Airport Blvd. in Pensacola. Dr. Xie and Dr. Plunkett will provide specialized care for conditions such as UTIs, kidney stones, urinary incontinence, overactive bladder, bladder prolapse, male infertility and erectile dysfunction, as well as several types of cancer. For information or to schedule an appointment, call 850-416-1950.

Dr. Xie is board-certified in urology and transplant surgery. She graduated with her bachelor's degree from Western University in Ontario, Canada, and she received her medical degree from the University of Toronto. She completed residency training in urology at Western University in Ontario, where she was named most valuable resident. Dr. Xie then received a fellowship in abdominal transplant surgery at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore.

Dr. Xie has contributed to medical textbooks, and her research has been published in various medical journals, including Urology, Pediatrics, Developmental Neurorehabilitation, Transplantation Proceedings, American Journal of Transplantation, Journal of Surgical Education, Transplantation Direct and the American Journal of Surgery.

She has presented at conferences of the American Urologic Association, the Canadian Urologic Association, and the American Transplant Congress. She is a fellow of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons, an international fellow of the American and Canadian Urologic Associations, and a member of the Society of Women in Urology and the Urologic Society for Transplantation and Renal Surgery.

Ascension Sacred Heart collaborates with University of Florida Health through its kidney transplant surgery division, part of the UF College of Medicine's department of surgery.

Kidney failure, or end-stage renal disease, occurs when kidneys are no longer able to function at a level needed for daily life. Once this occurs, the work of the kidneys – filtering the blood to remove waste and excess water – can be done by dialysis, or the kidneys may be replaced through transplantation. The advantage of transplantation over dialysis is improving patients' quality of life and enabling the return to a more normal lifestyle. The most common causes of kidney failure in the United States are diabetes and high blood pressure. Nationwide, more than 100,000 people are on the waiting list for a life-saving kidney transplant, and thirteen people die each day while waiting for a kidney transplant, according to the National Kidney Foundation.

About Ascension Sacred Heart

Ascension Florida and Gulf Coast includes Ascension Sacred Heart based in Pensacola, Florida, Ascension St. Vincent's based in Jacksonville, Florida, and Ascension Providence in Mobile, Alabama. Ascension Florida and Gulf Coast operates nine hospitals and more than 200 other sites of care, employing more than 13,000 associates. Across the region, Ascension Providence, Ascension Sacred Heart and Ascension St. Vincent's have served North Florida and South Alabama communities for more than 165 years. In fiscal year 2020, Ascension Florida and Gulf Coast provided more than \$237 million in community benefit and care of persons living in poverty. Ascension is a faith-based healthcare organization dedicated to transformation through innovation across the continuum of care. As the largest non-profit and Catholic health system in the U.S., Ascension is committed to delivering compassionate, personalized care to all, with special attention to persons living in poverty and those most vulnerable. The national health system operates more than 2,600 sites of care – including 145 hospitals and more than 40 senior living facilities – in 19 states and the District of Columbia, while providing a variety of services including clinical and network services, venture capital investing, investment management, biomedical engineering, facilities management, risk management, and contracting through Ascension's own group purchasing organization. Visit www.ascension.org.

About University of Florida Health

UF Health is the Southeast's premier academic health center. With main campuses in Gainesville and Jacksonville, UF Health includes six health colleges, nine research centers and institutes, 10 hospitals — including two teaching hospitals and five specialty hospitals — and a host of physician medical practices and outpatient services throughout North Central, Central and Northeast Florida. Our mission is to promote health through outstanding and high-quality patient care, innovative and rigorous education in the health professions and biomedical sciences, and high-impact research across the spectrum of basic, translational and clinical investigation. Visit UFHealth.org to learn more.

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