

Letter from the Chairman of the Board

We are one big happy family!

Cardiac surgery in the state of Maryland has never before seen such a positive change in an organized, unified, and quality-oriented, patient-centered healthcare during its history. The communication between statewide cardiac surgeons has never been better than now. The interaction between governmental regulatory agencies and payers with cardiac surgery programs has never been more positive than it is now. The sharing of best and current practice knowledge has never been better. The Maryland Cardiac Surgery Quality Initiative (MCSQI) is responsible for one of the single greatest positive movements in cardiac surgery in the state of Maryland!



Kurt Wehberg, MD

Communication and sharing of knowledge amongst cardiac surgery programs in the state of Maryland has never been better. MCSQI is leading the state with accuracy in data management of detailed outcomes reported by the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS). MCSQI has taken the initiative to help organize all healthcare providers involved on the management of our cardiac surgery patients. State-wide cardiologists, cardiac anesthesiologists, perfusionists, Cardiac Surgery Critical Care Nurses, Advanced Professional Practitioners, and Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation specialists are now collaborating with MCSQI. We are sharing best and current practices with all of the healthcare providers in an organized fashion, all with the goal of improving quality of care for our patients.

The interaction between cardiac surgery programs and regulatory agencies has never been more positive. The MCSQI recently established accurate definitions of cardiac surgical procedures with the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC). We are working together to establish guidelines for the Certificate of Ongoing Performance (COP). We are sharing MCSQI-driven data for the important public disclosure of outcomes within our state. These interactions with our regulatory agencies are extremely positive team-building experiences. MCSQI is uniting with national organizations dedicated to improving quality of care with cardiac surgery patients. We are developing a VCSQI/MCSQI joint collaborative research project involving the CMS SAN 2.0 grant. Dr. Jeffrey Rich, Chairman of the VCSQI Board of Directors, recently stated as the keynote speaker of our recent bi-annual meeting, “I have never seen such excitement and collaborative input from so many clinicians at a statewide level than at the MCSQI.”

The enthusiasm and self-motivation within MCSQI is totally altruistic! All of the efforts above are done voluntarily with no remuneration other than doing it for the right reason! Let us keep the momentum, and continue to build upon the greatest movement in state-wide cardiac surgery history! We are one big happy family doing the right thing for our cardiac surgery programs and our patients.