

# Mended Hearts of Central Ohio



Patient Panel – “Heart Success Stories”

Ross Heart Hospital

December 11, 2013

# Mended Hearts of Central Ohio

***We are blessed to be living in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with talented cardiologists and surgeons and genetic research that is saving heart patient lives every day! The following slides include some of our member's heart success stories.***

***(see more stories on our website and reach out to our panelists by e-mail if you are facing a similar heart issue – see last slide)***

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## **Senior cardiology fellows for Q&A:**

**Dr. Anish Amin – Electrophysiology**

**Dr. Grace Ayafor—Interventional Cardiology**

**Dr. Khadijah Breathett—General Cardiology**

**Dr. Nkechinyere Ljioma—General Cardiology**

**Dr. Sakima Smith—Heart Failure/Transplantation**

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# Phil Bowen, 58

## Aortic Valve Replacements and Endocarditis

At 20 years old I became very ill and spent the summer in the hospital being treated for **bacterial endocarditis**. It started with headaches and night sweats and was followed by fever and severe joint pain. My weight dropped from 160 to 135 in less than a month and my temperature would spike at around 104. I went to the ER and for the next two months, I was treated with I.V. antibiotics. I was released after the infection was wiped out, but not before it did considerable **damage to my aortic heart valve**.

Over the next 30 years, I had **5 open-heart surgeries to replace my aortic valve** —a pig valve, multiple mechanical valves (including the recall of a defective “Bjork Shiley” mechanical valve), and a human tissue valve.





# Courtney Williams, 35

## CHD Patient discussing: A-fib and ICD Issues

### **I was born with:**

Pulmonary and aortic valve stenosis

### **My other health issues:**

Congestive heart failure

Tricuspid valve failure

Irregular heartbeats and arrhythmias

Sudden cardiac arrest

Multiple ICD failures

Aortic and Pulmonary valves failures

### **My procedures:**

*Four years old:* 1st open- heart surgery

*10 years old:* 2nd open-heart surgery

*17 years old:* 3rd and 4th open-heart surgeries

*27 years old:* 5th open-heart and 1st (of six) ICD implants

*31 years old:* 6th open-heart surgery



# Ben Weisbuch, 40

## Sudden Cardiac Arrest Patient

On July 18, 2010, at 37, I suffered my first of 135 Sudden Cardiac Arrests. My wife saved my life by calling 911. I was placed in a hypothermic coma for five days and spent another 30 days at the Ross Heart Hospital with doctors exploring every diagnosis of what caused my sudden cardiac event.

Surgeons at the Ohio State University implanted an experimental device into my chest. Since that initial surgery, I have endured six defibrillators and four heart surgeries in six different hospitals.

In 2012, Dr. Peter Mohler at the Davis Heart & Lung Research Institute mapped my entire genome, discovered a gene mutation never seen before—and developed a cure for me!!



# Rebekah Salser Hambor, 28

## CHD Patient Story

### I was born with:

- Transposition of the Great Arteries
- Holes between each ventricle and each atrium
- Atrophied right ventricle

### My other health issues:

- Congestive heart failure
- Eisenmenger's Syndrome
- Pulmonary hypertension

### My procedures:

- *Eight months old*: “Palliative” procedure
- *Five years old*: Open heart surgery
- Heart –Double Lung transplant candidate in the future



# Jamie Lanier, 37

## CHD Patient Story

### I was born with:

- Tetralogy of Fallot
- Two holes in my heart (a "blue baby")

### My other health issues:

- Pulmonary valve failure
- Rapid heartbeat and arrhythmia

### My procedures (so far):

- *One year old:* 1st open- heart surgery
- *14 years old:* 2nd open-heart surgery
- *31 years old:* Pulmonary valve implanted in Cath Lab (part of new "Melody Trial")
- *36 years old:* ICD implant





# Melissa Justice, 35

## Congestive Heart Failure, LVAD

At 31 years old, I was diagnosed with cardiomyopathy (heart failure). Within two months, it progressed to end-stage. The only chance at surviving was to get a heart transplant; however, I was too sick for the transplant. So, in August 2009, I had a Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD) implanted through open-heart surgery to help my heart pump blood.

In December I was placed on the heart transplant list and on January 11, 2010 a heart became available. While on the OR table, the surgeons did one last scan and found that my heart had begun to heal.

A few months later in September 2010, I became the first person at my hospital to ever have their LVAD removed to their recovered heart—a miracle story!!



# Carl Smerdel, 59

## CVD Patient, Stents and Bypass Surgery

At age 53, I was found to have a 2" **total blockage** in my "**Widow Maker**" which I had naturally bi-passed and avoided a massive heart attack! Then suddenly at age 57, I was diagnosed to be living on less than a third of normal coronary blood flow, as the good collaterals that had literally saved my life were clogged up and the 3rd main artery on the face of my heart was over 90% blocked.

My cardiologist informed me that I was, "in the worst coronary condition he had seen in a long time"! This led to an urgent new procedure, part of a nationwide 11 hospital study at The Ross, "**Hybrid Cardio Revascularization**" - Open Heart Bi-pass Surgery (without stopping my heart), **and** a stent all in the same week.



# John Afek, 57

## Heart Transplant Patient

In 2005, medical tests found 95 percent blockage in my arteries. Five years, three heart attacks, and one congestive heart failure (CHF) diagnosis later, my doctors at Ohio State's Wexner Medical Center, Ross Heart Hospital declared that my heart was failing. I would need a heart transplant .

The call of a lifetime for my heart transplant came on December 22, 2011, as my children and I were unsure if I would be alive for the holidays. I was sick for so long with CHF that I consider myself incredibly lucky to be here today. At death's edge, the gift of an organ donor gave my children their dad back and a future full of possibilities. I am blessed every day!



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To Contact our Patient Panelists Via E-Mail:

John Afek	fex33@hotmail.com
Phil Bowen	bowen.phil@yahoo.com
Melissa Justice	missykaye2000@yahoo.com
Jamie Lanier	jamielanier@mac.com
Rebekah Salser Hambor	rebekah.hambor@gmail.com
Carl Smerdel	csmerdel@sbcglobal.net
Ben Weisbuch	bweisbuch@gmail.com
Courtney Williams	w.courtney@att.net

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