



Dr. Vigneshwar Kasirajan



Dr. Abe DeAnda Jr.

Cardiac Surgery Welcomes Two New Surgeons to MCV

Two top surgeons from two of the country's most recognizable and reputable medical facilities are now calling MCV "home." These two cardiac surgeons in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery bring expertise and experience in the areas of aortic surgery and cardiac assist devices to the MCV team.

Dr. Vigneshwar Kasirajan and Dr. Abe DeAnda Jr. both will join the strong

team of Dr. Robert S. D. Higgins, Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery.

"The addition of these two excellent young surgeons further builds our team," says Dr. Higgins. "We have a team of highly trained and skilled physicians who work together, focused on providing good outcomes for patients and striving to advance the field of cardiovascular medicine.

"We are positioning ourselves as *the* best choice for top-notch, innovative surgical heart care in Richmond."

Dr. Kasirajan joins MCV from the prestigious Cleveland Clinic Foundation. The Cleveland Clinic Heart Center recently was named best in the country—for the sixth consecutive year—by *U.S. News & World Report's* annual guide to "America's Best Hospitals." Dr. Kasirajan finished his general surgery training and training in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery at the Cleveland Clinic. He specializes in cardiac assist devices and non-transplant surgical options.

Dr. DeAnda comes to MCV from Stanford University. Dr. DeAnda completed medical school, his internship, and his general surgery residency at Stanford, then finished his training in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery and cardiopulmonary transplantation there. His specialty is aortic and cardiac surgery.

MCV Joins the Fight Against #1 Genetic Killer of Infants

SMA is a deadly neuromuscular disease affecting about 20,000 children and adults nationwide. For the 80 percent of those infants with a severe form of SMA, life expectancy is only two years. Unless personally touched by the disease, most people have never heard of SMA—despite the fact that one in 40 people are carriers of the crippling gene.

A 51-city tour to raise awareness of and research funds for SMA—spinal muscular atrophy—stops in Richmond on July 28, and MCV will be lacing up its bowling shoes to support the cause. That's right, bowling shoes.

The Guinness record holder for marathon bowling, 35-year-old Thomas Becker, teamed with AMF Bowling Inc. and FightSMA to organize a unique fundraising tour. The event is expected to raise \$1 million to advance SMA's promising genetic research. FightSMA is a program of Andrew's Buddies, a Richmond-based nonprofit group dedicated to the fight against the disease.

To be part of the MCV bowling team on July 28 at AMF Hanover Lanes, call 828-3800. For more information about SMA or the tour, visit www.fightsma.com or call 877-9AMFSMA.