

## UCSD Medical Center Receives American Heart Association Achievement Award

*Award Recognizes Excellence in Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke*

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UCSD Medical Center recently received the American Heart Association's "Get with the Guidelines" Coronary Artery Disease Annual Performance Achievement Award. The award recognizes UCSD Medical Center's success for implementing a higher standard of care for all patients hospitalized with coronary artery disease.

To receive the award, UCSD Medical Center consistently complied for 12 consecutive months with the requirements of the American Heart Association program. Under the program, patients are started on aggressive risk reduction therapies such as cholesterol lowering drugs, aspirin, ACE inhibitors and beta-blockers in the hospital, and receive smoking cessation and weight management counseling and referrals for cardiac rehabilitation before they are discharged.

"The American Heart Association applauds UCSD Medical Center for its success in implementing the appropriate standards of care and protocols to reduce the number of events in coronary patients," said Gray Ellrodt, M.D., of the American Heart Association. "UCSD Medical Center is well above the national average in terms of implementing these life-saving treatments."

"UCSD Medical Center is dedicated to making our cardiac unit the best in the region," said Ori Ben-Yehuda, M.D., director of the coronary care unit. "The therapies that we prescribe our patients have been shown to prolong life. We know that they return home having received the best possible care and the knowledge to achieve a healthier lifestyle. UCSD Medical Center looks forward to a second year of success as we break ground for the Sulpizio Family Cardiovascular Center."

According to the American Heart Association, cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, affecting more than 58 million Americans. More than 1.5 million new and recurrent heart attacks occur each year.

In September 2007, UCSD Medical Center will break ground on the Sulpizio Family Cardiovascular Center. The 128,000 square foot expansion of Thornton Hospital on the UCSD Medical Center-East Campus will unify ambulatory, clinical, and inpatient care in one convenient location. The Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center reflects the next step in the transformation of UCSD's East Campus into a lifeline of leading edge care and translational research in Southern California.

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