

Study Center in the Spotlight Charleston Area Medical Center

This month we are featuring Charleston Area Medical Center (CAMC) under the leadership of Dr. Assal. The site has been doing a fantastic job for the LONGEVITY Study with 32 patients enrolled as of April 30, 2015; and by maintaining an average monthly enrollment rate of 4 patients/month. Thank you for the Research team for taking time to introduce their team and to share their experience with the LONGEVITY Study.



Photo (left to right): Briana Knapp, Dr. Chafik Assal, Christina Bethea (back row, left to right): Dr. Brett Faulkner, Siegel White, Alicia Pekar; (not pictured-Dr. James Gallagher)

“We have always been interested in contributing to good quality research studies. The patient population makeup of our community provides an excellent opportunity for research,” says Dr. Chafik Assal, the Principal Investigator. “

At CAMC, we are lucky to have dedicated investigators, study coordinators, and Boston Scientific personnel who have developed open communication channels and work together to identify potential study subjects for enrollment and then provide great follow up.”

Patients are typically first approached the morning after their implant procedure for a discussion of the study and a review of the informed consent form. The research team feels this approach works best as the patient is in a relaxed setting (usually a private room in the hospital’s post-procedure unit) and has adequate time to ask questions of the coordinator/investigator as they await discharge. We find that many patients are amenable to participation knowing they will in part be helping future patients such as themselves. If desired, patients are given the opportunity to take the consent form home for further review and discussion with family. A study coordinator will then follow up with the patient at their one week post-implant office visit for further discussion and possible enrollment.

“We look forward to continuing our work on the LONGEVITY Study. We also look forward to participating in future studies that contribute to advancements in cardiac rhythm management,” Dr. Assal concludes.