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## Public gets a look at new Heart Hospital

Clint Wolf  
Feb 8, 2017



Clint Wolf/Beloit Daily News Dr. Leo Egbujiobi and Dr. Maria Taveras, laugh with people who took a tour of the heart hospital is on the fourth floor of Beloit Memorial Hospital and it is expected to be completed later this ye

BELOIT ã4; Local residents were treated to a sneak peek at the Hendricks Family Heart Hospital and Packard Family Heart Clinic Tuesday during an open house.



Dr. Leo Egbujiobi, interventional cardiologist, led groups of people on tours of the portions of the heart hospital and clinic that have been completed on the fourth floor of Beloit Memorial Hospital.

The \$14 million project is being completed in three phases with the cardiology clinic and physicians' offices being the first phase. The second phase, a hybrid operating room and cardiac catheterization lab, is expected to be completed this month. The final phase, which will include an eight-bed critical care unit and an upgrade of existing cardiac catheterization labs, is expected to be completed in April and the entire project is expected to wind up in June, said Tim McKeveitt, president and CEO of Beloit Health System.

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“To see where we started, it really is phenomenal and humbling,” McKeveitt said of the progress in cardiac treatment at Beloit Health System.

Egbujiobi pointed out it has been 10 years since the first open heart surgery was performed at Beloit Memorial Hospital.

He said over the years other specialists came to Beloit, including fellow interventional cardiologist Dr. Haroon Chughtai, and cardiologist Dr. Maria Taveras.

Dr. Nissage Cadet, a vascular surgeon who joined Beloit Health System in January, said about 25 percent of patients who have vascular blockage have correctable cardiac disease. He said he has felt very welcome in the community and he looks forward to working with the team in Beloit. He also said the heart hospital is very impressive.

“I can tell you it is fantastic. It is the future of medicine,” Cadet, who came to Beloit from Boston, said. “It has the latest in technology and comprehensive treatment of heart disease.”

Egbujiobi said area health facilities in Rockford, Janesville, Madison and Milwaukee offer heart treatment, but now patients do not have to travel far from home to get top notch heart health care.

Beloit Health System Vice President Brad Ervin said the new heart hospital will bring benefits to patients including faster recovery times, shorter hospital stays and minimally invasive procedures. The professionals in the heart hospital have been serving patients and saving lives, he said.

“It’s really changing lives in our community,” Ervin said.

The 38,200-square-foot heart hospital will include a larger area for cardiac stress labs and doubling the space for treatment and diagnostic services. It will include the 1,200-square-foot hybrid operating room where many of the advanced surgeries and treatments will be performed.

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The Hendricks Family Foundation donated \$3 million for the project. The Hendricks family is known as the founders of the ABC Supply Company and other business enterprises. The family of James and Nancy Packard donated \$1 million to the heart hospital project. The Beloit Health System Foundation is raising additional funds.