



PRESS RELEASE

**Aiken Cardiovascular Associates Celebrates 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Aiken, SC – January 17, 2011** - Aiken Cardiovascular Associates was formed on January 1, 1991 when Dr. David Cundey and his wife, Joan, moved their practice from Augusta to Aiken. This move was initiated by the installation of a catheterization laboratory at the hospital by then CEO Mickey Smith. Dr. Cundey was well-known in Aiken County at that time as a result of treating many patients from Aiken while in Augusta. When Aiken patients needed interventional care for their hearts, Drs. Don Pennington and Preston Conger would refer them to both Drs. Paul and David Cundey in Augusta.

When the 1990 expansion construction began at Aiken Regional Medical Centers, which included the cath lab, it was necessary to find an invasive cardiologist to perform the work there. As Dr. Cundey was already known to the community and owned property in Aiken, we received an invitation to consider the opportunity.

After much consideration and many negotiating visits, Dr. And Mrs. Cundey decided to “take the plunge” and close the eighteen-year-old practice in Augusta to bring invasive and interventional cardiovascular services to Aiken. They began work here in January, 1991. Since then, the practice has grown and the hospital has continued to expand. Partners in the practice are Dr. Ansermo Arthur, arriving in 1997; Dr. Gregory Eaves, 2000; Dr. Idris Sharaf, 2003; and the latest addition being Dr. Weems Pennington, III, 2010.

The expansion of cardiovascular services at Aiken Regional has included Interventional Coronary procedures, 1992; Open Heart Surgery, 1996; Peripheral Vascular Interventions, 1997; Stroke Intervention program, 1998; Elective Carotid Stenting, 1998; Device Therapy for Heart Failure, 2002; and most recently, Interventional Therapies for Structural Heart Disease, 2010.

We are most grateful to the citizens and medical community of Aiken County who have embraced our services as an extension of excellent medical care for all who live in this wonderful city.

For more information about Aiken Cardiovascular Associates, contact the Carolina Heart and Vascular Center at (803) 641-4874 or visit [www.carolinahvc.com](http://www.carolinahvc.com).

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