



**Medical
Education &
Research Institute**

CONTACT: Amy Howell
Howell Marketing Strategies
Amy@howell-marketing.com
901.521.1453

For Immediate Release

Date 09/13/2011

**MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE (MERI)
OFFERS HIGH-TECH ANGIOGRAPHY CAPABILITIES FOR MEDICAL
RESEARCH AND PHYSICIAN TRAINING**

Memphis, TN (September 13, 2011) – Medical Education and Research Institute (MERI) announces the installation of a new Artis zee® (ceiling/floor)-mounted angiography system that provides physicians with the most highly detailed images of a patient's blood vessels during diagnostic and treatment procedures including stroke and aneurysm.

The fully digital Artis zee® features advanced technology in the form of flat-panel detectors, enabling physicians to obtain three-dimensional, high resolution images, without the distortion common with conventional x-ray techniques. These detectors not only enable physicians to visualize the smallest blood vessels, it also helps physicians visualize interventional devices, such as guidewires and catheters, in precise detail and from almost any angle.

"The Artis Zee® is a state-of-the-art angiographic imaging system that is better than what is offered in most hospitals. Having such a system at the MERI in partnership with Siemens Healthcare will allow us to pursue first class research and education for the next generation of surgeons," said Adam S. Arthur MD MPH FACS, MERI Board Member and physician with Semmes-Murphey Neurologic and Spine Institute.

The Artis zee® is specially designed to provide patients with the lowest possible radiation dose. Minimizing radiation dose is especially beneficial during angiographic procedures because they are often lengthy in duration. The ergonomic design of the system also eliminates time-consuming and uncomfortable repositioning of the patient in the exam room, making the procedure faster and less stressful for the patient. During interventions, the compact flat-panel detector technology enables virtually all anatomical regions to be easily imaged. System functions can be performed via an intuitive tableside touch-screen display. This enables full system control, and leads to improved confidence during the procedure.

Angiography is a procedure that helps physicians visualize blood vessels in various parts of the body, including the heart, brain, and kidneys. After a thin catheter is inserted into an artery leading to the desired body area, an iodine-based dye is injected to highlight the vessels when x-rays are taken. Angiography is often used to determine whether blood vessels are narrowed or blocked. It also makes it possible to combine diagnosis and treatment in a single procedure, as in patients who undergo surgery, angioplasty, or stent placement.

The Angiography Suite is made possible by a generous equipment loan from Siemens USA and support from Semmes-Murphey Neurologic and Spine Institute and Dr. Adam Arthur. This new imaging technology at MERI creates opportunities to bring new start-up companies to Memphis and provide training opportunities for cardiovascular surgeons, neurosurgeons, and interventional radiologists both locally and around the world. It gives our local residents, fellows and physicians an opportunity to improve their skills and do research that will improve patient care in Memphis and beyond.

About the MERI

The Medical Education & Research Institute (MERI) is a non-profit medical training and research school in Memphis, Tennessee, that conducts state-of-the-art, hands-on educational courses for physicians and other medical personnel from across the country and around the world. A first-of-its kind training and research school, the MERI's use of un-embalmed anatomic donors and virtual and electronic human patient simulators, offers physicians, nurses, nurse anesthetists, paramedics, EMTs and other healthcare professionals a unique and authentic training experience with new techniques, technologies and devices. MERI is supported by its Charitable Members Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation, Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare and Semmes-Murphey Neurologic and Spine Institute. Today, the MERI educates more than 10,000 students each year from all 50 states and more than 27 countries from around the world. MERI strives to be the leading medical education and research institute in the world.

To schedule a course using the Angiography Suite: Contact Tiffany Reed, Program Coordinator at 901-725-8876 or treed@meri.org.

For general information on the Angiography Suite: Contact Diana Kelly, Manager Institutional Development at 901-725-8884 or dkelly@meri.org