

## **Saint Thomas Research Institute Chosen for Hypertension Device Trial**

Saint Thomas Research Institute has been chosen as the partnering site in Middle Tennessee for a study of the Rheos Baroreflex Hypertension Therapy System created by CVRx Inc. out of Minneapolis. The device-based treatment is designed to help the 32 to 40 percent of adult Americans with persistent high blood pressure.

The treatment calls for a battery-powered pulse generator to be implanted under the skin near the collarbone and for two carotid sinus leads to connect to the left and right carotid sinus in the neck. The system activates the baroreflex, which signals the brain that the patient's blood pressure has risen. The brain then acts to lower blood pressure by sending signals to various parts of the body to reduce blood pressure.

The Rheos Pivotal Trial is enrolling 300 patients at sites across the United States and in Europe. Three of the study's investigators are affiliated with Saint Thomas Health Services. They are: Dr. Mark Houston, Director of the Hypertension Institute of Nashville at Saint Thomas Hospital, who is enrolling and managing trial patients; Dr. Jon Levine, an endocrinologist and internist, who is enrolling and managing trial patients at Baptist Hospital; Dr. William Edwards, a vascular surgeon with The Surgical Clinic, who will implant the device in trial patients at Saint Thomas Hospital.