

# Cardiothoracic Surgery

## State-of-the-Art Cardiothoracic Surgery in Delaware

Beebe Healthcare offers a comprehensive surgical program with expertise in the full spectrum of cardiac and thoracic surgery, including surgical procedures to correct complex medical conditions.

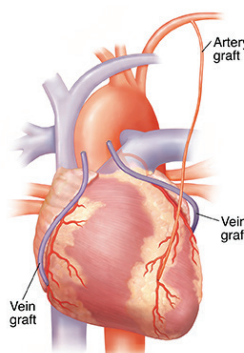
In collaboration with a network of cardiologists, cardiac critical care teams, cardiac and thoracic surgical teams, the cardiothoracic surgery team at Beebe provides advanced and innovative care to patients with heart, pulmonary, and esophageal disease.

The team guides patients through a continuum of care, including education, support groups, and the latest surgical treatments.

### CARDIAC SURGERY CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

Beebe's cardiac surgeons operate six centers of excellence when it comes to heart surgery.

- **Congestive Heart Failure:** Statistics show patients with CHF are admitted to the hospital an average of three times per year. In addition, nearly 50 percent of patients die within five years of the initial diagnosis. At Beebe, our CHF Center of Excellence completes procedures including high-risk CABG, Impella device implantation, CardioHelp pulmonary-heart support, and LV aneurysmorrhaphy/resection.
- **Atrial Fibrillation:** Studies show that by 2050, nearly 16 million Americans are expected to have AF. Beebe's AF Center of Excellence provides a full spectrum of treatments for abnormal heart rhythms, including education, surgical procedures including modified Maze, pulmonary vein isolation, robotically assisted device implantations and minimally invasive LV epicardial lead. The comprehensive program includes post-discharge follow up and recovery plans.
- **Myocardial Revascularization Program:** For patients with ischemic heart disease who may not be able to tolerate other procedures, Beebe's surgical team can perform procedures including CABG, da Vinci robotically assisted LIMA harvest and MIDCAB, and other alternative procedures. Following procedures, patients can go through cardiac rehabilitation to continue their recovery and for the best outcomes.
- **Pericardial Disease Program:** Under the direction of Dr. Kurt Wehberg, the surgical team performs pericardial window and biopsy procedures with the option for robotically assisted surgeries, as well as pericardial resection and excision of tumors and cysts either during traditional surgery techniques or using the da Vinci robotically assisted surgical system.



## Beebe Cardiothoracic Surgery

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[www.beebehealthcare.org/cardiothoracic](http://www.beebehealthcare.org/cardiothoracic)

### Cardiac Surgery



#### M. L. RAY KURETU, MD

*Board Certified in Thoracic Surgery  
Co-Chief, Cardiothoracic Surgery*

Dr. M. L. Ray Kuretu received his medical degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn. He completed Fellowship training in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery at Shadyside Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pa., at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center in New Jersey, and completed a Special Fellowship in Cardiothoracic Surgery at Hahnemann University Hospital in Philadelphia. He served as both an attending surgeon and assistant professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Hahnemann for 28 years.



#### EDWARD STEPHENSON, MD

*Board Certified in Cardiothoracic Surgery*

Edward Stephenson, MD, received his medical degree from University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. He has been practicing for more than 20 years. Most recently, he worked at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center in Pennsylvania.



#### KURT E. WEHBERG, MD

*Board Certified in Cardiothoracic Surgery;  
Fellowship Trained in Cardiothoracic Surgery;  
Co-Chief, Cardiothoracic Surgery; Chief of  
Robotics; VP Clinical Innovation*

Kurt E. Wehberg, MD, received his medical degree from Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, Va., and completed his residency in General Surgery at University of Maryland Medical System. He earned a Fellowship in Cardiothoracic Surgery from University of Maryland Medical System. Dr. Wehberg is leading Beebe's Center for Robotic Surgery. Previous to Beebe, Dr. Wehberg served as Medical Director of the Thoracic Oncology program, Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery, and Director of Robotic Cardiothoracic Surgery at Peninsula Regional Medical Center in Salisbury, Md.

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- **Structural Heart Program:** Under the direction of Dr. Ted Stephenson, Beebe's structural heart team can perform procedures, including: sAVR, MisAVR, MVR, TAVR, and others. Valve clinics are held Fridays and a multidisciplinary team discusses treatment plans for patients on a weekly basis.
- **Thoracic Aortic Disease:** Under the direction of Dr. Ray Kuretu, surgical team perform ascending aortic replacement, ascending aortic dissections, and aortoplasty.

## THORACIC SURGERY CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

Thoracic surgery or procedures of the lungs, chest, and esophagus, are performed based on the patient's needs and wishes. There are multiple treatment options, including traditional, minimally invasive, and robotically assisted surgeries.

Beebe's Center for Robotic Surgery utilizes the da Vinci Xi Surgical System—the latest advance in robotic surgery technology. Thoracic procedures performed in the Center include wedge resection or segmentectomy, lobectomy, and pneumonectomy.

- **Thoracic Oncology Program:** Under the direction of Dr. Kurt Wehberg and Dr. James Spellman, surgical procedures include robotically assisted wedge resection, anatomic segmentectomy, lobectomy, and bi-lobectomy. Additional procedures include pneumonectomy, pancoast tumor resection, and chest wall resection.

*Find out more about Dr. Spellman: [www.beebehealthcare.org/spellman](http://www.beebehealthcare.org/spellman)*

- **Pulmonary Nodule Clinic:** Under the direction of Dr. Kurt Wehberg and Dr. Mudiwa Munyikwa, surgical procedures include EBUS (endobronchial ultrasound), robotically assisted "Tattooing" wedge resection, and anatomic wedge resection. Clinics are held Tuesdays and each week a multidisciplinary team discusses patient treatment plans.

*Find out more about Dr. Munyikwa: [www.beebehealthcare.org/munyikwa](http://www.beebehealthcare.org/munyikwa)*

- **Mediastinal Disease Program:** Benign or cancerous tumors in the area of the chest, often found during chest X-rays or scans, can be removed robotically using the da Vinci Xi surgical system. Procedures include: resection of anterior and/or posterior masses and thymectomy.
- **Chest Wall Disease Program:** Under the direction of Dr. Ray Kuretu and Dr. Kurt Wehberg, procedures to accomplish the reconstruction or resection of the chest wall include: ORIF sternum, ribs; pectoralis and omental flap coverage; pancoast tumor resection; and chest wall tumor resection.
- **Esophageal Disease Program:** Under the direction of Dr. Kurt Wehberg and Dr. James Spellman, surgical procedures include minimally invasive complex hiatal hernia repair (Belsey-Mark IV repair), esophageal cancer surgery, and robotically assisted esophageal tumor and cyst removal, including leiomyomas.
- **Diaphragm Disease Program:** Surgical procedures include: repair of diaphragm hernias (Morgagni, Hiatal-Belsey Mark IV Fundoplication, Bochdaleck Hernias) and diaphragm plication for eventration (VATS and robotically assisted procedures).
- **Pleural Disease Program:** Under the direction of Dr. Kurt Wehberg and Dr. Mudiwa Munyikwa, surgical procedures include PleurX (malignant pleural effusion), VATS (video-assisted thoracic surgery), robotically assisted decortication, and pleural tumor resection.

## Thoracic Surgery



### MUDIWA MUNYIKWA, MD

*Board Certified in General Surgery*

Dr. Mudiwa Munyikwa received his medical degree from University of Zimbabwe. He completed his residency at University of Tennessee Medical Center and his Fellowship at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. He performs robotic and VATS Lung Resection for lung cancer patients.



### JAMES E. SPELLMAN, JR., MD

*Board Certified in General Surgery;*

*Fellowship Trained in Surgical Oncology*

Dr. James E. Spellman, Jr., received his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. He completed his Fellowship training at University of Chicago. He developed Delaware's first HIPEC program for the treatment of abdominal cancers and is a long-standing member of the Delaware Cancer Consortium.



### KURT E. WEHBERG, MD

*Board Certified in Cardiothoracic Surgery;*

*Fellowship Trained in Cardiothoracic Surgery;*

*Co-Chief, Cardiothoracic Surgery; Chief of Robotics; VP Clinical Innovation*

*Read Dr. Wehberg's bio on the front page.*

## Cardiothoracic Surgery Physician Assistants

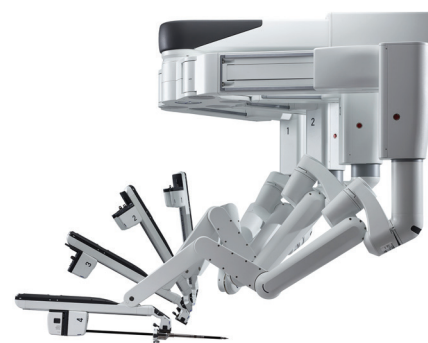
TY HUSKEY, PA-C

EUGENE ISAAC, PA-C

ALICE ISIDRO, PA-C

BRIAN C. MCCARTHY, PA-C

ROBIN WEEMS, PA-C



For more information, call

(302) 644-4283 or go to

[www.beebehealthcare.org/  
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