



Heart Surgeons Bring Experience to OH

Owensboro Health's heart team has a strong reputation for clinical excellence, advanced technology, and care that always puts the patient first. We offer the latest techniques in Owensboro, meaning advanced care is available close to home. It's part of our mission to improve the heart health of the region, one patient at a time.

If your doctor recommends heart surgery, choose Owensboro Health for your procedure. You'll benefit from board-certified cardiac surgeons, minimally invasive options and advanced technology that improve your outcome.

The health system has recently added two cardiothoracic surgeons, who focus on both the heart and lungs, to the team. Dr. Kerry Paape and Dr. Fady Wanna each bring 30 years of experience to Owensboro Health.

Dr. Paape chose to join Owensboro Health after she finished re-building a heart program that had been closed in Pensacola, Florida. The program is currently doing well and achieving excellent outcomes.

"I'm not a big-city gal," she said. "I like getting to know my patients."

Dr. Paape said Owensboro is not only quality-driven, but excellence-driven, too. "The technology Owensboro Health offers is cutting edge," she said. "There is everything here a surgeon like me could want."

She is board-certified in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery by the American Board of Thoracic Surgery. Her academic credentials include a

three-year fellowship at Northwestern University in Chicago after a residency at the University of Utah Medical Center, where she performed heart and lung transplant research. She earned her undergraduate degree from Baylor University and her medical degree at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Dallas.

Outside the hospital, Dr. Paape volunteers with Dream Riders of Kentucky. Her passion for helping people and taking care of animals are put to good use as she helps Dream Riders fulfill its mission to provide therapeutic horsemanship and rehabilitation to people with disabilities.

Joining Dr. Paape to form an advanced cardiothoracic medical team is Dr. Fady Wanna. A familiar face at Owensboro Health, he's provided intermittent coverage to the cardiothoracic surgery department since 2018, before taking a permanent position in 2020. With 30 years of surgical experience, Dr. Wanna is a valuable asset to the heart team.

"I help patients get on the right track with their health, encourage them to stay committed to improving and provide the resources they need to succeed," Dr. Wanna said.

Before moving to Owensboro, and for more than 15 years, Dr. Wanna was president and CEO of a large multi-disciplinary group of cardiothoracic and vascular surgeons in Macon, Georgia. During that tenure, he also served as Chief Medical and Chief Clinical Officer for Navicent Health, while continuing to maintain a very busy heart surgery practice.

During the last three years, Dr. Wanna was responsible for rebuilding the heart program at Coliseum HCA hospital in Macon and increasing its surgical volume to more than 300 cases per year.

Having performed more than six thousand cardiac procedures with excellent outcomes, Dr. Wanna is well versed on all aspects of cardiac surgical procedures. He personifies the expression "experience you can trust."

Dr. Wanna is board-certified by The American Board of Thoracic Surgery and The American Board of Surgery. His academic credentials include research fellowships at the Salk Institute, Scripps Clinic, the Children's Hospital Oakland and Lawrence Berkeley Lab in California. After a general surgery residency at University of California, San Francisco – East Bay, Dr. Wanna completed his cardiothoracic residency at Emory University in Atlanta. A lifelong scholar, he went back to his alma mater in 2015 and received an MBA, graduating first in his class. He also holds a number of patents on medical devices.

In addition to providing excellent medical care, Dr. Wanna's hobbies include reading historical novels, trying his hand at golf and visiting the city's numerous antique shops. He laments the fact that is an avid antique collector. He also loves to spend time with his wife and children.

From advanced screenings and diagnostics to surgery and rehabilitation, you can trust Owensboro Health for quality care. For more information about the Owensboro Health heart program, call 270-417-7510 or visit OwensboroHealth.org/HealthyHearts.