

South Florida Hospital NewsTM

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PROFILES: Cardiology



Dr. Romualdo Segurola
Medical Director
The Heart Institute at
Palmetto General Hospital

Wireless technology, voice controls and advanced audio and video feeds have made their way into just about every aspect of our lives – even surgical settings.

At the recently opened Heart Institute at Palmetto General Hospital, Medical Director Romualdo Segurola, M.D., performs open heart surgery in the facility's "Smart ORs," which are the most advanced cardiac facilities south of Tampa.

The hospital boasts two fully integrated, voice-controlled operating rooms that provide Dr. Segurola and his associate, Dr. Alfredo Rego, with comprehensive access and control of critical devices along with networked digital documentation and telemedicine capabilities. They are able to consult with each other via two-way video and audio feeds located in the adjoining operating rooms and even with other cardiac surgeons in similarly equipped facilities across the country.

Contrasting typical cardiac ORs that are littered with hundreds of feet of equipment, Dr. Segurola benefits from Palmetto General Hospital's "Smart ORs" wireless design, which results in maximum efficiency and patient safety.

Instead of dictating instructions to nurses, Dr. Segurola now gives simple verbal commands to Sidne®, a voice-recognition network that turns on lights, raises or lowers the surgical table, instructs cameras to zoom in and out, takes pictures and performs a variety of other functions.

Once an operation is completed, patients are taken from the hi-tech "Smart ORs" directly to recuperate in one of Florida's most advanced cardiac Intensive Care Units. The 10-bed unit, with individual rooms for each patient, is wired to the ORs via television monitors so that nurses can begin preparing for a patient's arrival before he/she ever leaves the operating table.



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