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PRESS RELEASE

International Cardiac Symposium in Memory of Former Blackpool Heart Surgeon

HEART experts from the Lancashire Cardiac Centre are hosting an international conference where delegates will be able to view live operations and hear about major developments in the treatment of heart disease.

The event, called Managing Mitral Valve Disease – David Sharpe Memorial Symposium, is being held on Thursday September 20th and Friday September 21st 2007 at Blackpool's new £52m cardiac centre. The symposium is being held in memory of David Sharpe, a Blackpool cardiac surgeon with a special interest in teaching and training who sadly passed away.

The event is aimed at cardiologists, anaesthetists and cardiac surgeons involved in the day-to-day treatment of the complexities mitral valve disease presents.

The Trust has been fortunate to secure national and international experts in this field. Speakers will include Professor David Adams from New York, Professor Robert Dion from Holland, Dr Frank Van Praet from Belgium, Professor Giles Dreyfus from London, as well as consultant anaesthetists, cardiologists and cardiac surgeons from the Lancashire Cardiac Centre.

Mr Joseph Zacharias, who is one of the key organisers of the event and is a Consultant Cardiac Surgeon at Victoria Hospital, said: "We wanted to take the opportunity to showcase our new unit and its facilities and hosting this symposium seemed the ideal way. We are delighted that we have been able to attract renowned speakers who are world leaders in the teaching and management of mitral valve disease.

"We feel that this event is unique as it is planned to be very interactive. We are fortunate to have some innovative technology in our Education Centre where delegates will be able to view live cases as they happen. There will also be a session in the wet lab run by Dr Robert Frater, a renowned cardiac surgeon from New York.

He added: "We hope that as many professionals as possible will join us in trying to help improve our understanding of mitral valve disease."

The full programme of the event, prices, information on speakers and booking details is available at www.bfwhospitals.nhs.uk/dsms/

For further information about this Press Release, please contact Caroline Hastie, Communications Manager, on 01253 303538.