

# Oregon's only hospital offering heart transplants shuts down

■ The hospital is looking to replace all three of its cardiologist positions

The Associated Press

The only Oregon hospital to offer heart transplants abruptly shut down its program Friday, leaving nearly two dozen patients on its waitlist to seek out-of-state treatment and hundreds of others in limbo for post-operative care.

It came just two days after Oregon Health & Science University in Portland said it was putting its program on hold for two weeks as it sought to replace three heart failure transplant cardiologists who had left or would be gone by Sept. 30.

The decision by the leaders of the 32-year-old program is unusual. Nationwide, only a handful of other heart transplant programs have shut down because of staffing issues or poor success rates.

Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center in Houston temporarily closed its world-renowned program in June after The Houston Chronicle and ProPublica investigated

the departure of several key doctors and an unusual number of patient deaths in a few years.

Hospitals in Philadelphia, South Carolina and Nashville, Tennessee, also have halted their programs, but all have since reopened, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported earlier this week.

In Oregon, the doctors are leaving for family and personal reasons, OHSU said.

The hospital initially said it would not accept donor hearts, do transplants or accept or evaluate new heart transplant patients for 14 days. It said, however, that the program's remaining doctor could handle post-operative care for patients who have already had the surgery.

But Thursday, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported that the final doctor also was leaving.

The hospital said in a statement Friday that all 20 patients on its waitlist will transfer to programs at other hospitals or have decided not to transfer but wait it out.

OHSU said it's aggressively recruiting heart specialists, but it was unclear if or when the program would reopen.

The University of Wash-

ington said eight patients have already been accepted into its program in Seattle.

An additional 327 patients who have had the surgery are being evaluated to determine the best way forward, the Oregon hospital said. Five others who were being evaluated for possible inclusion on the heart transplant waitlist were meeting with staff to decide what to do, it said.

The hospital also was encouraging patients who have left-ventricular assist devices, or LVADs, to seek care elsewhere. The devices keep the heart pumping as it weakens and are considered a bridge to a heart transplant.

The hospital's other cardiac programs and its liver, kidney and pancreas transplant programs were not affected.

The Portland hospital performed 30 heart transplants last year, compared with 18 in 2016, according to federal data. There are 3,930 people awaiting new hearts on the national transplant list.

The facility is not the first to run into trouble with its heart transplant program.

In 2016, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia paused its program for several months while it

recruited new surgeons and cardiologists, the newspaper reported.

The Medical University of South Carolina halted

its program in 2014 after a patient died and other transplant recipients had weak hearts. It resumed the following year.

St. Thomas Health in Nashville suspended its heart transplant program in 2011 when key staff left. It took five years to restart it.



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## OREGON IN BRIEF

From wire reports

### Arrest made in boat ramp shooting

Portland police have arrested a man on suspicion of fatally shooting another man at a Portland boat ramp in August.

According to law enforcement officials, 30-year-old Jamias L. Hart-Resberry was arrested Saturday on charges of murder, unlawful delivery of cocaine and violating his parole.

Police say Hart-Resberry is suspected of shooting 47-year-old Andre D. Pennington at the M. James Gleason Memorial Boat Ramp on August 20.

Details surrounding the shooting have not been released.

Police say 16 people have died via homicide in Portland so far in 2018. Thirteen of those deaths were because of shootings.

### Portland employee files lawsuit

A Portland city employee has filed a \$250,000 lawsuit contending he was subjected to fraternity-style hazing from other workers for months.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports that Adam Rawlins filed the lawsuit Friday in Multnomah County Circuit Court.

Rawlins says he endured horrendous pranks by other employees at the Portland Bureau of Transportation from August 2016 to December 2016.

The lawsuit says the pranks included being locked in a dark shed while being bound with duct tape and zip ties.

He also says he was frequently made to take off his shirt and then shot with metal screws and other projectiles fired from an air compressor.

The lawsuit says a supervisor knew about the hazing but failed to act.

City attorney Tracy Reeve declined to comment on the pending litigation.

### Man injured in overnight shooting at shopping center

PORTLAND — A shooting at the Gateway Shopping Center in Northeast Portland left one man injured early on Labor Day.

The Oregonian/Or-

gonLive reports that just before 3:25 a.m. Monday, Portland police responded to reports of gunfire at the shopping center.

Portland police spokesman Sgt. Chris Burley says officers searched for victims and found a man injured at WinCo Foods, which is across the street from the shopping center.

Police found evidence of gunfire between the Fred Meyer and Kohl's stores. Burley says investigators think the man was shot between the two stores and then ran across the street.

He was taken to a hospital with injuries that are not believed to be life-threatening.

Burley said police don't have a suspect description but investigators don't believe the public is in danger.

## Please welcome Dr. Adam Heisinger to our community.

"I grew up in a town a little smaller than La Grande. I'm looking forward to finally being able to build a practice and become a member of a community like this again."

Dr. Heisinger received his Doctor of Osteopathy from Des Moines University in Iowa. He completed both his Internship and Residency in Orthopedic Surgery at Affinity Medical Center, Ohio.

He has completed a Fellowship in Sports Medicine at Orthopedic Research of Virginia in Richmond.

He also served four years as a Flight Surgeon out of Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, and Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina.

Until his residency in Ohio, Dr. Heisinger had spent most of his life in rural communities and is eager to return to this lifestyle.



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**Dr. Heisinger sees patients at the GRH Specialty Clinic for Orthopedics & Sports Medicine**

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**Bryan Wolfe,**  
Hermiston resident

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