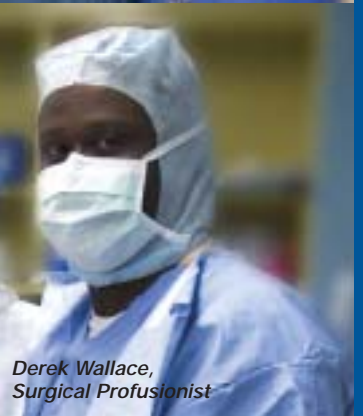


# Cutting-Edge Technology and Services



Debbie Gee,  
VP Surgical Services &  
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Surgical Profusionist



Dr. Robert Murray, scrubbing up



Mary Ann Cruitt, RN Chase Nurse, Marie Chambers, RN, Debbie Gee,  
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*“Excellence is the new forever.” —Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Dr. Baladi, Dr. Tosbath, Bedelia Banet, RN, Debbie Gee, RN, and Cynthia Sales, RN



Dr. Naoum Baladi

St. Mary's Medical Center provides a full compliment of surgical services in its 14 operating rooms, offering both inpatient and outpatient services in one convenient location. The surgery department's full array of services are provided by nationally recognized surgeons and supported by state-of-the-art equipment.

St. Mary's has surgical programs in open heart, bariatrics (*weight reduction/gastric stapling*), orthopedics including a highly regarded total joint program, full arthroscopic services, spine surgery including technology such as the Prodisc and X-stop which are only offered at a few institutions across the nation, ophthalmology, vascular, general surgery, advanced laparoscopic surgery, ENT, urology, and gynecology.

The surgery program has grown over 20 percent in the past year due in large part to recent technological enhancements that ensure we are delivering the most modern and highest quality care to our patients. For example, new video equipment was acquired for our minimally invasive surgery program which utilizes laparoscopes and instruments that fit through 5 or 10 mm incisions in the abdomen that are dressed with band-aids after surgery. This approach to surgery allows patients to recover from surgery quicker, going home the same day or within 24 hours, and getting back to work sooner. Prior to this technology, patients would have surgery involving an open

abdominal incision several inches long that would require a longer hospital stay and much longer recovery period.

The laparoscopic technique is used for cholecystectomy (*gallbladder removal*), gynecology surgery (*ovarian cyst removals*), and bariatrics as well as many other procedures.

Over the next few years, we hope to continue to build on St. Mary's surgical excellence with new technologies and programs like a minimally invasive surgical suite. This suite would include all the newest laparoscopic equipment such as voice recognition technology that could activate equipment in the room, video equipment with flat screens, ceiling mounts, and computerized peri-operative documentation. ♦

*“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act, but a habit.”*

*— Aristotle*