



The ORTHOPAEDIC CENTER *at Springhill*

Orthopaedic Care & Surgery Under One Roof

By scheduling its first surgery, The Orthopaedic Center at Springhill solidified a unique, win-win joint venture between an orthopaedic physicians' practice and a medical center. Working together to pool resources, Springhill Medical Center and Alabama Orthopaedic Clinic, P.C. (AOC) established a \$12-million orthopaedic facility on the medical center campus.



Top Photo: The Orthopaedic Center at Springhill utilizes a new boom system which promotes a safer surgery room where wires and cables go up through the ceiling instead of across the floor. Pictured are orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Michael Granberry and director of nursing Janet Everett, R.N.

Right Photo: Surgery center nurses Sharon Haugen, Jayne Huber and Erin Ervin-Dumas set up a new EKG monitor and other equipment at the nurses station for the patient pre-op and post-op areas.

Cover Photo: The Orthopaedic Center at Springhill is a joint venture of Springhill Medical Center and Alabama Orthopaedic Clinic. Pictured left to right: Randy Sucher, Executive Vice President for Southern Medical Health Systems, Inc. and Celia Wallace, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer for Southern Medical Health Systems, Inc. (the health care company that operates Springhill Medical Center); Arden (Art) Johnson, CEO, Southern Companies, Inc. (design builders and medical developers); Ardell Blanchard, Superintendent, Southern Companies, Inc.; Dr. Robert J. Zarzour, President, Alabama Orthopaedic Clinic, P.C.; and Dean Brown, Administrator, Alabama Orthopaedic Clinic, P.C.

"Anticipating, then answering health care needs in our community is the reason we exist," said Ms. Celia Wallace, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer for Southern Medical Health Systems, Inc. - the health care company that operates Springhill Medical Center. "The Orthopaedic Center at Springhill fills a need for outpatient orthopaedic care and offers tremendous convenience to the patient. We're excited that the formation of this joint venture has enabled us to open this type of facility in our community."

The Orthopaedic Center at Springhill is located at 3610 Springhill Memorial Drive North and is a one-stop health care facility for patients with orthopaedic medical needs. The central location saves patients the inconvenience of driving from place to place for doctor's visits, diagnostic services, rehabilitation and surgery.

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Celia Wallace
Chairman of the Board and CEO,
Southern Medical Health Systems

SURGERY CENTER

The three-story facility features the surgery center and pain management center on the first floor. An open magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) for diagnostic procedures is also located on the first floor. The surgery center will include about 18 nursing, clinical and clerical positions.





Ambulatory surgery centers such as The Orthopaedic Center at Springhill are being constructed in communities all over the nation. This 78,000 square-foot building features orthopaedic medical specialty services.

“Ambulatory surgery centers have proven to be an efficient, productive and patient-friendly outlet for common, low risk outpatient surgical procedures,” said Art Johnson, CEO of Southern Companies, Inc., the design builders and medical developers for the project. “This project is a model partnership in the way surgery centers are established. Usually you see a physicians’ group or a hospital involved in building an ambulatory surgery center, but rarely do you hear of this type of a partnership. It shows progressive thinking on both the medical center and the physicians’ parts.”

The number of ambulatory surgery centers has grown by close to 200 facilities a year during the past decade, according to industry officials. Johnson said surgery centers are a proven course for high quality patient care at a reasonable price. Because an increased number of surgical procedures are available today on an outpatient basis, an ambulatory surgery center has become a necessity for most communities.

OUTPATIENT PROCEDURES

Janet Everett, R.N., director of nursing at The Orthopaedic Center at Springhill, explains that, “Basically we’ll be performing any orthopaedic procedure you can do on an outpatient basis in the surgery center as long as the patient is healthy and meets certain criteria.” The list includes knee and shoulder arthroscopy, anterior cruciate ligament repair, foot and ankle surgery, neck and spine surgery, hand surgery, sports medicine, and pediatric orthopaedics.

AOC is a team of 16 orthopaedic surgeons, a pain management specialist, a physical medicine and rehabilitation specialist, and a radiologist. The orthopaedic surgeons are board certified in general orthopaedics, with specialists

trained in surgery, adult and pediatric spine, total joint replacement, pediatric orthopaedics, hand, sports medicine and foot and ankle.

Ms. Everett predicts that in the first year the surgery center will perform about 4,000 procedures in the four surgery rooms, plus an additional 1,200 pain management procedures at the facility.

AOC Administrator Dean Brown describes the venture as monumental for the Mobile community. AOC will occupy the second and third floors of the The Orthopaedic Center at Springhill. Their clinical offices will be located on the second floor with administrative, business offices and physical therapy services on the third floor.

If you are interested in contacting an orthopaedic surgeon call Springhill Medical Center’s Physician Referral Service at 460-5207.

New Technology Featured at the Center

- **Two new Swissray units** - offer 100 percent digital X-ray services - the most technologically advanced X-ray equipment available and a first for AOC and Mobile.
- **A wireless network (Wi Fi)** - physicians can show patients digital images of X-rays on a tablet personal computer.
- **Hitachi Altaire** - the first open MRI in Mobile to provide all of the advantages of an open magnet while providing the quality images of a closed (high field) magnet.
- **New Software System** - physicians can view MRI, X-ray, and other diagnostic images throughout the new building on any computer that has Internet access. Surgeons will be able to view X-rays or MRI images on a flat screen during surgery.
- **Electronic Medical Records** - enables clinics to go completely paperless (initially in the physical therapy department) to increase security and efficiency. The surgery center and clinic will follow suit and implement an EMR within the next two years.