

ARKANSAS HEART HOSPITAL®

THE HEART HOSPITAL

August 1, 2011

My dear patient,

In 1995, cardiology beds and resources to treat patients in Little Rock were in severe shortage and Little Rock Cardiology Clinic physicians and MedCath agreed to try and correct this. Arkansas Heart Hospital was built and opened in 1997 and quickly solved the unmet needs of cardiologists and patients. Our goal and accomplishment was to deliver patient-focused care with outcomes that set new local and regional standards.

Last year, the majority owner of Arkansas Heart Hospital, MedCath, announced the intention to sell their interest. Our collective desire was to preserve our hospital's culture, continue our successful programs and have in-state local ownership. Additionally, we felt that the physician direction of the management team had been instrumental to our past success.

We met with many potential suitors and investors in our hospital but none had the sincere focus of preserving and expanding patient care. Financial success seemed to dominate the discussions. All the potential buyers were found lacking.

Naturally, the physician owners and founders of Arkansas Heart Hospital were interested in finding a way to become majority owners. However, the Obama Healthcare Act of March 2010 legislated that physician ownership in hospitals could not increase. After tremendous efforts to find the right organization to assume control, I decided that the organization would be best if headed by myself. I knew that to remain within the present legislation, I would have to give up the practice of medicine. Although I am not ready to stop practicing medicine, this solution seems to be the best for the hospital, patients, and employees.

I am not leaving without a plan for succession. Dr. Vasili Lendel will take over my practice on August 15, 2011. He is a talented, American-trained, interventional cardiologist who shares many of my views on how cardiology should be practiced. Also, Dr. Ian Cawich has been helping in my practice for some time and he will continue to be available, should you desire to see him. Furthermore, there are 17 other gifted cardiologists in our clinic who would be happy to provide long-term cardiology care.

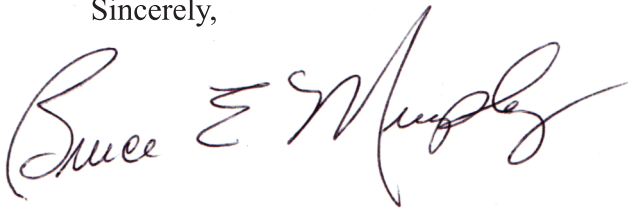
I am very, very sad to be saying goodbye to my friends who have entrusted the care of their lives to me. It is premature, never contemplated a year ago, and necessary only to satisfy what is a useless law.

My new job will be CEO of Arkansas Heart Hospital. As such, I am not leaving, but will devote my work to ensure that hospital care at Arkansas Heart Hospital will continue to be the best in the state. My nurses will remain and assist Dr. Lendel and Dr. Cawich and will provide continuity of working for me for more than 15 years.

I am planning a series of local meetings in several towns outside of Little Rock to answer questions, say hello and goodbye and introduce the new cardiologist. I will let you know directly when and where these meetings will be held.

Thank you all for providing me the opportunity to enjoy a sensational 25 year experience helping people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce E. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "B" and "M".

Bruce E. Murphy, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.C.