



Manu'a
Healthcare
Foundation

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NEW ADVANCED CARDIOVASCULAR CENTER TO BE ESTABLISHED IN AMERICAN SAMOA

Manu'a Healthcare presents its vision of Healthcare to Governor Lolo



PAGO PAGO, American Samoa, April 24, 2014– Manu'a Healthcare Foundation (MHF) held meetings with American Samoa's Governor Lolo in Honolulu, Hawaii on April 22nd and 23rd to review Manu'a Healthcare's plans to establish an Advanced Cardiovascular Center of Excellence in American Samoa. The meetings were attended by Governor Lolo, ASG Honolulu Office Director Gus Hahnemann, Governor's Assistant Joseph Iu Pereira, Directors' Barney Sene, Malo Tuiolosega, MD (by video conference) and Peter Katsiyannis, MD from Manu'a Healthcare Foundation, and Tim Henry, MD and Chief Cardiologist at Cedars-Sinai Los Angeles.

“Our plans and proposal to establish an Advanced Cardiovascular Program and Center of Excellence in American Samoa has far reaching implications for American Samoans”, says Doctor Katsiyiannis, Chief of Manu’a Healthcare Cardiovascular Center of Excellence. “It brings the solution to cure back home where Cardiovascular disease is the greatest health threat, both in morbidity & mortality facing American Samoans today. Our Center based in American Samoa will not only excel in diagnostic & therapeutic modalities, but also prioritize education & aggressive preventive strategies.”

By establishing an Advanced Cardiovascular Center in American Samoa, patients can be diagnosed, tested and treated locally as compared to today where patients are not tested or diagnosed in advance, ultimately leading to a heart attack requiring immediate and urgent off-island medical evacuation and treatment that is expensive, has time delays, and creates greater risk to patient including but not limited to paralysis and immediate death before treatment.

To help address these needs, Manu’a Healthcare plans to establish an Advanced Cardiovascular Center of Excellence at the LBJ Tropical Medical Facilities in Faga’alu, upon finalization of agreements with the LBJ Medical Authority and ASG. By initially locating the Advanced Cardiovascular Center at LBJ, it allows for quick and easy patient access to cardiovascular services in alignment with other services offered at LBJ. Manu’a Healthcare will partner with other prominent medical and educational facilities in the United States to support and expand the Advanced Cardiovascular Center and program into other areas.

“We find a Partnership with Manu’a Healthcare and the establishment of an onsite Advanced Cardiovascular Center in American Samoa, with support facilities in the United States as a promising and interesting prospect”, says Doctor Henry of Cedars-Sinai. “It opens up great opportunities in helping address the critical healthcare needs of American Samoans not just in American Samoa, but in the greater Los Angeles area where Cedars-Sinai is based. Quality of Care is important and this is one initiative that will help deliver it.”

Upon finalizing agreements with ASG and LBJ, Manu’a Healthcare plans to begin developing the Advanced Cardiovascular Center of Excellence in phases; with first phase involving the shipment of a Manu’a Healthcare standalone Nuclear Imaging trailer unit to American Samoa that houses the initial equipment for diagnosis and early treatment. The second phase involves the acquisition and shipment of a Cathlab Trailer Unit to pair up with the Nuclear Imaging unit, allowing for onsite surgical heart procedures to occur.

“This is an exciting initiative and long overdue.” Says Doctor Tuiolosega, Medical Director of Manu’a Healthcare South Pacific Institute of Health. “We have been falling behind over the last 20 years in advancing healthcare in American Samoa. The establishment of an advanced cardiovascular center will not only add and improve healthcare quality of services in American Samoa, but also provide a vehicle for adjacent Island Country Patients from Samoa, Tonga and Fiji to leverage the Center; where such centers do not exist today.”

Once fully operational, to cover its high operating and maintenance costs, Manu'a Healthcare plans to leverage the Cardiovascular Center by expanding into the Medical Tourism field to offset its costs.

“Medical Tourism is a great, untapped opportunity for American Samoa particularly in the Manu'a Islands.” Says Gus Hahnemann. “Our people prefer to be around family for support when it comes to medical procedures and recovery. This brings it home. We also have a lot of empty homes in Manu'a that could be leveraged and used for patient recovery in the future. I see this initiative as the beginning of a new Medical Tourism industry particularly in Manu'a.”

Manu'a Healthcare Foundation is an American Samoa-based non-profit entity, focused on delivering advanced healthcare, medical research, medical tourism and educational programs to advance healthcare in American Samoa. Manu'a Healthcare Foundation has offices in American Samoa and in Los Angeles, California with physicians at each location to serve the Samoan and Pacific island communities.

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