

SCAA Supports House Resolution Urging Americans to Learn and Use CPR/AED



In September, Representative Phil Roe (R-TN) came to the aid of a man experiencing sudden cardiac arrest at a North Carolina airport. On Thursday, the doctor turned legislator, continued on his mission to raise awareness of heart disease and bystander intervention by issuing a congressional resolution urging Americans to not only learn CPR and how to use an AED, but also step forth and apply those skills during a medical emergency. "The more we can educate and train individuals about CPR and AEDs, the more opportunities we have in this country to save lives when someone is suffering from an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest," said Roe in a statement.

SCAA is one of several medical and patient advocacy groups expressing support of the measure, including the American College of Cardiology and American Heart Association. "CPR and AEDs are the difference between survival and death from SCA, yet sadly, few people are prepared to act to save a life," noted Lisa Levine, president of SCAA. "We call upon the Congress to not only adopt this resolution but also use the opportunity to raise awareness about SCA and how crucial it is for bystanders to respond, affording people in large and small, urban and rural areas the same chance at surviving SCA."

Want to Learn How to SCA-ve a Life?



It's estimated that there are 600,000 EMTs in the United States. When compared to the entire U.S. population, it's clear that EMTs cannot be everywhere, every minute of the day. Sadly, it's also clear that only five to eight percent of SCA victims survive. This statistic won't change unless we do: by becoming trained bystanders who intervene, call 9-1-1 and begin the "chain of survival."

SCAA's new educational program, "[Keep it Beating](#)," is training the next generation of leaders to recognize the signs of sudden cardiac arrest, perform CPR and use an AED to save lives from SCA. Equivalent to other nationwide programs in that it provides universal lifesaving skills - from choking to full CPR to locating and using an AED to interacting with emergency dispatchers, "Keep it Beating" is unique in that it is currently offered to high school students at minimal cost. Time and time again, we see that teachers, mail delivery personnel, store clerks and other ordinary people do extraordinary things by coming to the aid of SCA victims. Visit the all new "Keep it Beating" page and learn how you can become skilled in CPR/AED to provide lifesaving assistance.

Catheter Entry Heart Valve Gets Federal Approval for Implants in U.S.



Earlier this week, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved a novel [artificial heart valve](#) that can be implanted without major invasive surgery. The Sapien heart valve, manufactured by Edwards Lifesciences, is inserted via catheter into a major artery stretching from the legs up to the heart. Composed of cow tissue, polyester and a stainless steel frame, the Sapien is the first transcatheter device to replace the aortic valve.

More than half of patients with "senile aortic valve stenosis," a condition in which calcium deposits build up in the heart's aortic valve causing it to narrow and allow less blood flow, die within two years of diagnosis. Currently the device is only approved for these patients too old or sick who cannot undergo open-heart surgery. Already the device has been used in most of Europe.

Stimulant Drugs Treating ADHD Deemed Safe for Kids' Hearts



A study commissioned by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to identify heart risks of [stimulant drugs](#) treating ADHD in children indicates that such drugs do not increase the risk of heart attack, stroke or sudden death. "We don't see any evidence of increased risk," said Dr. William Cooper, Vanderbilt University, and the study's lead author. Researchers examined medical records and prescription data from over one million youth who were either currently taking or had taken drugs such as Ritalin or Adderall. Previous reports in 2006 of adverse heart problems occurring in children taking these drugs prompted the FDA to conduct advisory committee hearings. The study is the first of three commissioned on this topic by the FDA and appears in the *New England Journal of Medicine* .

Airport Metal Detectors Safe for Patients with Heart Devices



New research from Germany indicates that airport security screening procedures with hand-held [metal detectors](#) are safe for patients with pacemakers and ICDs. It was previously thought that magnetic fields emitted by airport metal detectors interfered with functionality of pacemakers and ICDs. Led by Dr. Clemens Jilek of the German Heart Centre Munich, researchers discovered no adverse results when they swiped hand-held metal detectors on nearly 400 people with heart-regulating devices. Patients possessed devices ranging from 11 different manufacturers. "With this wide variety of rhythm devices tested, we have not seen any interference... and our conclusion would be that screening procedures with a normal, hand-held metal detector are safe," notes Jilek.

Extra! Extra! Read All About SCAA in the News



November 3, 2011

Check out how SCAA National and its chapters have been making news this week in the heart world.

[SCAA Supports Federal Resolution on CPR/AED Use](#)

State Column

November 3, 2011

[AED Donated to Volunteer Fire Department](#)

Laurel Outlook

**Mark Your Calendar and
be there with SCAA for these Exciting Events!**

[American Heart Association Scientific Sessions](#): November 12-16, 2011

[Parent Heart Watch Annual Conference](#): January 13-15, 2012

[EMS Today](#): February 28-March 3, 2012

[American College of Cardiology](#): March 24-27, 2012

[Heart Rhythm Society Annual Conference](#): May 9-12

[Emergency Cardiovascular Care Update](#): September 11-15, 2012

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