

## **CROUSE HOSPITAL CARDIOLOGISTS ONLY ONES USING "ICE"**

**P**eering into the hearts of adult and pediatric cardiac patients has become easier and safer with the arrival of Intracardiac Echocardiography at Crouse Hospital. This new technology, referred to as "ICE" and available only at Crouse, lets pediatric and adult cardiologists view cardiac structures and function from within the heart itself, using an ultrasound probe inserted into a vein in the leg and advanced into the heart.

**I**CE is especially helpful to the physicians of Pediatric Cardiology Associates, LLC, including Piers Barker, MD, who uses the technology in the catheterization suite to better see certain congenital heart defects, such as a persistent hole between the upper chambers. ICE allows the other cardiologists on the case to safely and more accurately position a metal device to close this type of defect. Such collaboration permits select patients to avoid general anesthesia and transesophageal echocardiography, during which the ultrasound probe is placed in the esophagus. To date, this has been the traditional approach to closing such defects.

**T**he technology is also proving very useful in helping Crouse physicians treat complicated arrhythmias and preventing recurrent strokes in adults. Seeing the heart from the inside permits arrhythmia specialists such as Kwabena Boahene, MD, director of cardiac electrophysiology at Crouse, to more precisely treat the arrhythmia

while minimizing patient risk. Similarly, Joseph Battaglia, MD, medical director for cardiac care services, uses ICE to guide the placement of a different device in the heart, which closes a connection in the upper chambers that can lead to strokes. "The benefit of this technology is that it enables cardiologists to actually see where they are going inside the heart," says Dr. Barker. "It's a great addition to the range of services Crouse is able to provide cardiac patients."



Pediatric cardiologist Piers Barker, MD, is pictured in front of the Intracardiac Echocardiography unit holding the ICE navigation probe.