

Emergency Medical Services
Partners



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EMS UConn Health Cardiac Arrest Miracle Save 50 Minutes of CPR

A New Britain man whose heart stopped for more than 45 minutes is living proof of how fast response, teamwork, and unrelenting care can be life saving.

Several doctors and nurses who cared for him during his two and a half weeks at the **UConn John Dempsey Hospital** refer to John Sienicki, 74, as “the miracle man.”

Sienicki was doing yardwork the morning of Nov. 3 when he started feeling dizzy, sweating, getting nauseas, and experiencing chest pain. His wife called for help right away.

American Medical Response paramedic Edward Hampton and his partner Chantal Grenier along with **East Farms Fire** EMTs Jadon James and Dennis Frazao responded almost instantly. James and Frazao gave the patient aspirin, took vitals signs, and then relayed their findings to Hampton. Hampton did an immediate 12-lead ECG which revealed the patient was having a lateral ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI).

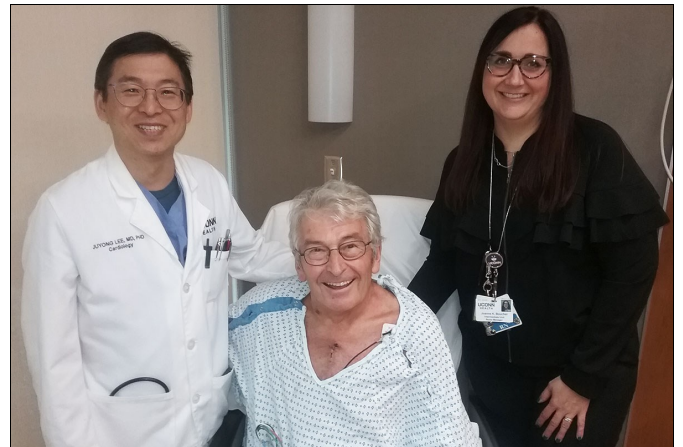
This happened at their son’s home on Middle Road in Farmington, “basically across the street” from UConn Health, as heard in paramedic Hampton’s radio transmission.

The proximity enabled a fast response—35 minutes from first medical contact to the insertion of the first stent to try to open up the first artery blockage. But things got complicated on the way to the cardiac catheterization lab.

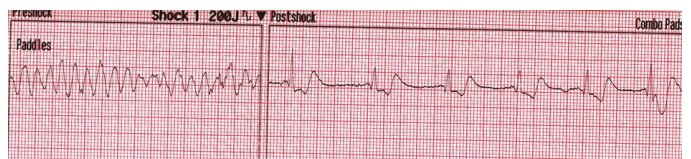
The cath lab was activated and ready for his arrival because the paramedics had determined at the scene that Sienicki indeed was suffering a heart attack. They placed defibrillator pads on him right away and transported him.

Sienicki was still alert and responsive when he arrived at the hospital but then went into cardiac arrest. With the defibrillator pads already in place, the paramedics shocked his heart back into rhythm. This happened twice on the stretcher on the way to the cath lab, where Dr. JuYong Lee started the stenting procedure.

But then Sienicki’s heart stopped again, and this time it didn’t respond to the defibrillator. The staff started chest compressions, with transportation aide Brian Schramm and UConn Health firefighters Neil Prendergast, Eric Colantonio, and Brian Jooss all taking turns.



John Sienicki (center) is almost ready to leave the hospital two and a half weeks after his improbable survival of a heart attack. With him are two of the clinicians who were instrumental in his care: Dr. JuYong Lee, interventional cardiologist, and nurse manager Joanne Boucher. (Photo by Chris DeFrancesco)



Patient went into v-fib on way to cath lab, shocked twice back to perfusing rhythm.



Edward Hampton

“There had to be 20 people in the room,” says Anita Sienicki, a staff nurse at UConn Health who was offsite the day her father was rushed to her hospital. Coworkers were keeping her updated by phone as she made her way there. “The entire cath lab team was phenomenal.”

The staff and paramedics were taking turns keeping his blood pumping while Lee, with CPR happening in the middle of his intervention, carefully proceeded to alleviate the blockages.

“It looked hopeless, but I didn’t want to let him go,” Lee says.

This continued for 50 minutes. Then someone mentioned that Anita Sienicki had arrived.

Within seconds, her father’s eyes opened and he started moving his hands and arms.

He was back.

“It was an amazing moment,” Lee says.

“Dr. Lee was phenomenal,” Anita Sienicki says. “And I thank the people who did the chest compressions. They were able to open up the blockage, but you worry about brain function when the heart is stopped for this long.”

Dr. Christopher Pickett, one of the cardiologists who cared for Sienicki during his hospital stay, says, “Thanks to great CPR, he has no cognitive deficits.”

“His brain is completely intact,” Anita Sienicki says. “His heart damage is very minimal. ut the fact that his brain activity is good, his quality of life will be excellent. The teamwork of everybody was incredible.”

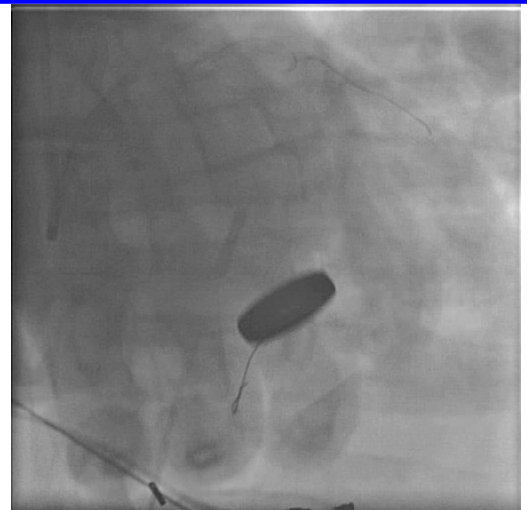
Her father says he has no recollection of the drama that day, or the subsequent procedures that followed. She says she had to explain to them that “they fixed his heart.”

The day before Thanksgiving, he left the hospital for a short-term rehabilitation facility. If all goes well he’ll be home for the holidays.

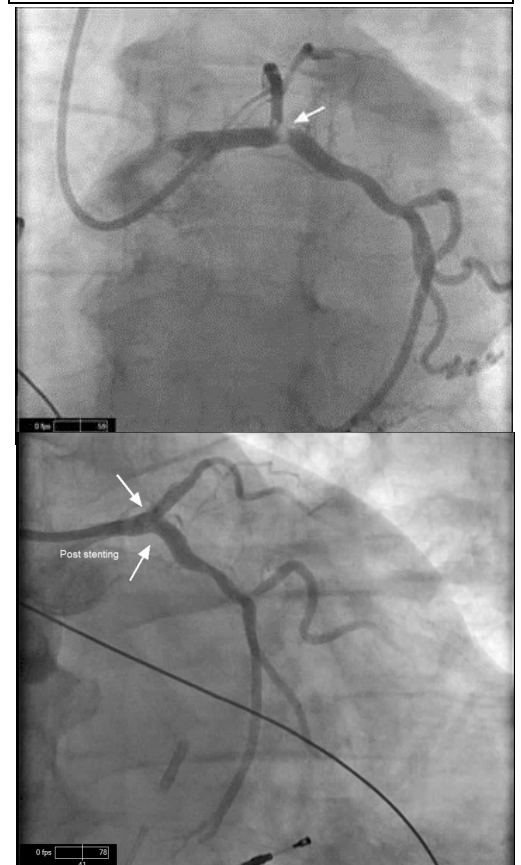
“I feel much better,” Sienicki, in a thick Polish accent, said on his discharge day. “The doctors, nurses, everybody here are very, very nice people. They work hard – very, very hard.”

Anita Sienicki, who admits to still being shaken up by the thought of her father’s improbable resuscitation, credits the efforts of the responding paramedics, the emergency department, the cath lab, the nursing staff, nurse managers Joanne Boucher and Annie Niziolek, the UConn Health Fire Department, cardiologists Pickett and Dr. Sara Tabtabai, and Lee, the interventional cardiologist who restored the flow of blood from his heart.

“I think that this patient success case symbolizes how each and every day UConn Health successfully saves lives from heart attacks whenever they strike,” Lee says. (Story by Chris DeFrancesco in *UConn Today*).



X-ray imaging used to guide the placement of a stent in the patient’s artery shows the wedding ring of UConn Health Fire Lt. Neil Prendergast and the wires in the coronary artery as he administers CPR during the stenting procedure in the cardiac catheterization lab.



Before and after stenting cath lab photos showing occlusions of the Left Anterior Descending Artery (LAD) ostium and the ostium of the Left Circumflex Artery (LCX).

Campion Ambulance Cardiac Arrest Save

Campion Ambulance paramedic Mary McCallister and her partner Sarah Curulla were transporting a cardiac patient from Charlotte Hungerford to Hartford Hospital when the patient went into prolonged Ventricular tachycardia, receiving multiple shocks from his defibrillator without improvement, and then went into cardiac arrest. They began CPR, and defibrillated the patient at 200 Joules, restoring pulses. McCallister started an Amiodarone drip and the crew diverted to **UConn John Dempsey Hospital**. The patient spent two days in the ICU, and then was discharged home doing well. Great job by the Campion crew!



Farmington CPR Save

East Farms Fire EMTs Jadin James, George Sticca, Mark DeGrandis and Frank Duncan and **American Medical Response** paramedic Richard Bergen and his partner Liam Bauer responded for an unresponsive male in cardiac arrest. The responders worked flawlessly together. The patient regained pulses after 1 milligram of epinephrine. The crew continued to ventilate the patient. At **UConn John Dempsey Hospital**, the patient was treated for hypercapnic respiratory failure, aspiration pneumonia and septic shock. He showed great progress and was discharged home six days later. Kudos to EMS!



51 Minute Door-to tPA

Great job by **American Medical Response** paramedic Keith Slater and his EMT partner Lyndsay Ryan calling in a **Stroke Alert** for a patient with sudden onset confusion and left-sided weakness. The patient was taken directly to CT scan on the EMS stretcher, and after consultation with family was given tPA within 51 minutes of arrival.



STEMI Honor Role

Bristol EMS paramedic Alan Green, his partner EMT Evan Geltman and paramedic student Tom Horkan responded for a man with severe substernal chest pain radiating into his back and jaw. They performed a 12-lead ECG that revealed ST elevation in the inferior and lateral leads. The crew called in a **STEMI ALERT** to **UConn John Dempsey Hospital** where the lab was activated prior to the patient's arrival. En route, the patient's 12-lead normalized, but because the EMS crew had captured the elevation, the patient was still sent to the cath lab where the team found a 99% occlusion of the patient's left circumflex which they successfully cleared and stented.

62 Minute Door- to-Balloon. 92 Minute First Medical Contact-to-Balloon Time.

Bloomfield EMS paramedic Dave Roper and his partner EMT Tabbi Heavner responded for a man with chest pain. They performed a 12-lead ECG that revealed ST elevation in the inferior leads with reciprocal change.

The crew called in a **STEMI ALERT** to **UConn John Dempsey Hospital** where Dr. Paul Kaloudis activated the cardiac cath lab prior to the patient's arrival. The patient was taken to the cardiac cath lab still on the EMS stretcher.

37 Minute Door- to-Balloon. 74 Minute First Medical Contact-to-Balloon Time.

Burlington EMS paramedic Mary Ellen Maynard and her partner Ryan Sanford and

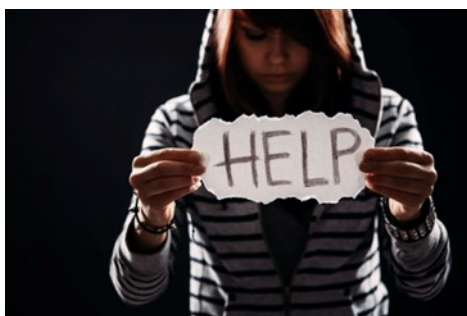
Harwington EMS EMTs Katie Curry and Jaclyn Nemcik responded for a man with chest pain. Maynard performed a 12-lead ECG that revealed ST elevation in the inferior leads. The crew called in a **STEMI ALERT** to **UConn John Dempsey Hospital** where the cath lab was activated prior to the patient's arrival. In the lab, the team found a 100% occlusion of the patient's Right Coronary Artery (RCA), which they successfully cleared and stented, restoring perfusion.

32 Minute Door- to-Balloon. 87 Minute First Medical Contact-to-Balloon Time.



Training the Trainer: Introduction to Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking in CT

UConn Health is helping the **Department of Children and Families (DCF)** host a train the trainer class for EMS on the topic of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking. It is a two day course.



Day 1 - Dec 4, 2017 8:30-12:30

Day 2 - Dec 7, 2017 8:30-4:30

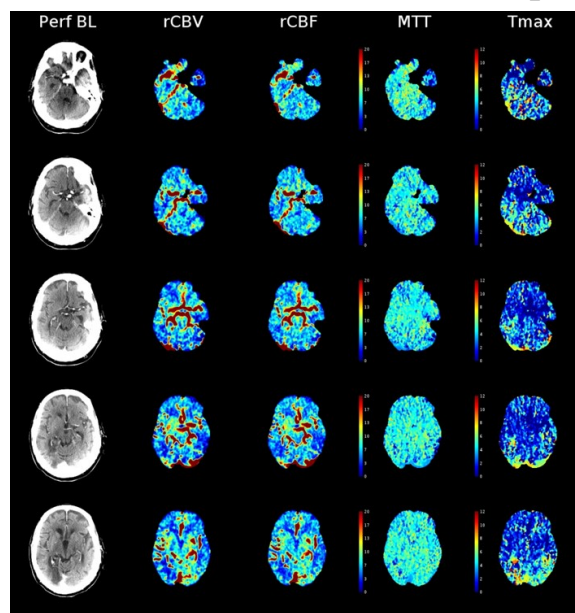
Day 1 Location: **Bloomfield Volunteer**

Ambulance, 12 Southwood Drive, Bloomfield, CT

Day 2 Location: **UConn John Dempsey Hospital**,
263 Farmington Avenue, Farmington, CT

Please contact Linda Lukin at linda.lukin@ct.gov with any questions related to this training.

The Future is Now: Up to 24 Hour Stroke Window at UConn Health John Dempsey



Call in a Stroke Alert for any patient suspected of an acute stroke (up to 24 Hours).

Opioid Overdose Epidemic: EMS Role

EMS Responders can sign onto to **Train Connecticut** and take a free one- hour CME on the opioid epidemic and the role EMS can play in helping fight the battle. Here is the link:



<https://www.train.org/connecticut/course/1072448/>

The Opioid Overdose Epidemic: The EMS Role
Course Number: 1072448

One (1) Hour CME with downloadable certificate.

The program discusses the background of the opioid epidemic, Connecticut death statistics, Connecticut CORE initiative, the science of addiction, the dangers of fentanyl and fentanyl analogs, opioid overdose treatment, provider safety, prevention initiatives, data collection, harm reduction, and stamp bag recognition.

UConn Health JDH EMS Website

For news, educational information, CME schedule and past copies of our newsletter *Partners*, check out our website at:

health.uconn.edu/ems

UConn EMS CONTINUING EDUCATION (3 Hours)

OB/GYN Emergencies
TBA



Case Reviews
Richard Kamin, M.D.



Research Review
Peter Canning, Paramedic, R.N.

December 20, 2017
8:30-11:30 A.M.

Cell and Genome Building
400 Farmington Avenue, Farmington, CT

ALL EMS RESPONDERS WELCOME

CONTACT US:

Any questions or suggestions about EMS?
Looking for patient follow-up?



Contact EMS Coordinator Peter Canning at
canning@uchc.edu or call (860) 679-3485.