At Stony Brook Medicine, we focus on improving the lives of our patients, families and communities, educating skilled healthcare professionals, and conducting research that expands clinical knowledge.

Our cardiothoracic team is committed to providing you with excellent care. Part of that care is to educate you and furnish information that will help you regain good health. By becoming an active, involved and well-informed member of the healthcare team, you will play a vital role in your treatment and recovery.

We are pleased to provide this Patient Guide, which contains general information about heart surgery, including what you and your family can expect. However, please be aware that the experience may be different for each person, depending on specific procedures and the needs of each individual.

**We encourage you to bring this binder with you to appointments with your surgeon, as well as when you come to the hospital for your surgery.**

On behalf of our entire cardiothoracic team, we invite you to allow us to provide the best care possible.

Sincerely,

James R. Taylor Jr., MD, FACS  
Co-Director, Stony Brook Heart Institute  
Chief, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery  
Professor of Surgery

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Co-Director, Stony Brook Heart Institute  
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