Interventional Cardiology
Greg Iannarelli's Story

Greg Iannarelli doesn’t remember much of what happened when he arrived at the Wooster Community Hospital Emergency Room. “All I know is that I got all the attention I needed,” said Iannarelli.

When Greg woke up in the middle of the night, he and his girlfriend, Beth Barner, thought maybe he had the flu. “I was really hot,” said Greg. “I kept getting ice water to cool myself down.”

“I went and got dressed and when I came back Greg was pointing to his heart,” Beth explained. Upon arrival at the ER, the team immediately went into action. “The emergency room was awesome,” said Beth. “They even kept someone with me until family arrived.”

Greg described how swiftly they moved to help him. As soon as Iannarelli’s heart was stable enough, he was transferred to the hospital’s new Cardiovascular Institute – Cath Lab. Beth has her own name for it: “Miracle Lab.”

Iannarelli had suffered a massive heart attack and needed immediate attention. If he had not arrived at the hospital quickly, and if the hospital had not been equipped with the necessary interventional cardiology services, the outcome may well have been tragically different.

“If we had needed to transport him to another hospital, it would have been a very difficult resuscitation,” explained Cardiologist, Dr. Daniel Newton. “Time is muscle, literally. Every minute that goes by, more and more heart muscle is dying.” Heart muscle does not grow back, so damage during a heart attack is permanent. “The key is activating the EMS sooner rather than later if you have any symptoms you think might be heart related. They hook up an EKG and it is transmitted back to the hospital so our team is triggered to come in.” That team can now address the problem locally with no need to add on the time of transporting to a larger hospital.

Dr. Newton and his team removed a clot that was blocking blood flow to Iannarelli’s heart. “His artery was 100% blocked,” explained Dr. Newton. “We removed the clot and put a stent in.”

A stent is a small wiry tube that is inserted into an artery permanently to help keep the artery open.

Greg Iannarelli experienced firsthand the new interventional cardiology services at Wooster Community Hospital. “It is definitely a benefit to the entire community,” he shared. “Without Interventional Cardiology, I wouldn’t be talking to you right now.”

“Interventional Cardiology is definitely a benefit to the entire community. Without Interventional Cardiology, I wouldn’t be talking to you right now.”

— Greg Iannarelli

(L to R): Dr. Daniel Newton, Greg Iannarelli, Beth Barner and Dr. Cyril Ofori.