Welcome to the Penn State Heart and Vascular Institute, the only integrated program in Central Pennsylvania providing a comprehensive focus on heart and vascular health. I am Dr. Robert Atnip, and I have the privilege of being the Director of the Vascular Services Program for the Institute.

Although most Americans are well aware of the enormous impact of heart disease on health and longevity, it’s important to understand that the heart does not function alone. It needs help to perform its very important work of pumping blood to the organs and tissues throughout the body. The circulatory system includes a very large and complex network of blood vessels that transport flowing blood from the heart to every part of the body, and then back to the heart again. The vessels are called arteries and veins, and together make up the vascular system.

Vascular specialists are experts in what is called the peripheral vascular system, meaning all blood vessels except those near the heart or inside the brain. One of the most common problems seen by vascular specialists is peripheral artery disease (PAD), which can cause stroke, limb loss, or aneurysms. The vascular team in the Heart and Vascular Institute understands how to keep blood vessels healthy, and how to treat vascular problems when they arise. They are trained in the diagnosis of vascular disease, and have many tools at their disposal to treat a very wide variety of vascular disorders. When prevention and medical therapy do not suffice, vascular specialists also have the skills to repair blood vessels using either minimally invasive catheter techniques (angioplasty and stents) or reconstructive surgery.

I hope you will feel free to contact me and my colleagues in the Vascular Services Program if you have any questions or concerns regarding your vascular health.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Atnip MD
Professor of Surgery and Radiology
Program Director, Vascular Services
Director of the Vascular Diagnostic Laboratory
Penn State HVI