Your heart's rhythm — a synchronicity of expansions and contractions — is fundamental to life.

Blood in need of oxygenation flows into the right atrium, down to the right ventricle to be pumped through the pulmonary artery to the lungs.

When that blood comes back to the heart, chock full of oxygen, it arrives in the left atrium, down to the left ventricle to be pumped up through the aorta to the rest of the body before returning to the heart.

It's a cycle that happens billions of times in the average lifetime.

It's a coordination we admire and appreciate. Supporting that beat it is essential to the work we do at Abbott. With February designated as Heart Health Month in the U.S., it takes on even greater significance to us.

"People in medical technology, especially cardiovascular, have really felt a responsibility to improve the technology, build upon previous innovations to come up with new innovations, as our primary purpose," said Jamey Jacobs, divisional vice president for Global Product Development in California. "And that would in turn advance health outcomes, making the patients a little better off."

Here's just a sample of our expanding portfolio to care for your heart:

- The CardioMEMSTM HF System is a game-changing invention that addresses heart failure. Heart failure affects more than 26 million people globally. In the U.S. alone, nearly 10 percent of all deaths include heart failure as a contributing cause. Some researchers have calculated the annual worldwide economic burden of heart failure to be as high as $108 billion, a cost primarily driven by hospital readmissions. The device is the first and only FDA-approved heart failure monitoring device that has been proven to significantly reduce heart failure hospital admissions when used by physicians to manage heart failure in certain classes of patients (NYHA Class III HF).
- The new EnSite PrecisionTM cardiac mapping system enables faster, more accurate heart mapping during catheter ablation to enable more efficient treatment1-3 of a wide range of arrhythmias — including atrial fibrillation and other complex arrhythmias (when your heart is beating too quickly, slowly or out of rhythm).
- XIENCETM, our drug-eluting stent, has been implanted more than 9 million times.
- MitraClip®, our transcatheter mitral valve therapy, is a safer option for surgical high-risk patients with severe degenerative mitral regurgitation (DMR) and has been chosen by more than 35,000 people around the world.
- AMPLATZERTM PFO Occluder to help reduce the risk of recurrent stroke in patients diagnosed with a patent foramen ovale. PFO is a small opening between the upper chambers of the heart. Researchers have long suspected that cryptogenic stroke (or strokes of unknown cause) could be linked to PFO. Worldwide, one in four people may suffer a PFO and be at risk for recurrent strokes. PFO closure with the AMPLATZER PFO Occluder has been shown to lower the risk of stroke by sealing the unwanted hole between the left and right chambers of the heart.
- After decades of heart valve innovation — including the smallest pediatric mechanical heart valve in the world currently being studied in a clinical trial — more than 3 million of our heart valves have been implanted worldwide. Our bi-leaflet valve, involving two half-disks that open and shut in unison, was FDA approved in 1982 and continues to be the industry standard.

So even as coronary artery disease is the leading cause of death worldwide for people over 60, life expectancy also is increasing, as are the demands for innovative healthcare. The costs run in the hundreds of billions of dollars.

"With Abbott's role as a leader in cardiovascular technology, we need to be a trailblazer in driving innovations that really improve patients’ lives and reduce the overall burden of cardiovascular disease," Jacobs said.
"Not only are we just pushing technology forward, we’re responsible for creating much better outcomes that in turn reduce the overall cost of healthcare and help solve this global healthcare economic challenge."

Abbott takes seriously its job to provide high quality technologies that improve lives by providing knowledge to patients and tools to doctors. Our 94,000-strong company employs more than 2,300 scientists.

The sooner we can help get you start feeling better, the sooner you can get back to living your fullest, healthiest life.

"I'm just really encouraged by the possibilities," Jacobs said.

Taking care of your heart? It's in our blood.

For more information
- For important safety information about CardioMEMSTM HF System, please click here.
- For important safety information about EnSiteTM Precision Cardiac Mapping System, please click here.
- For important safety information about XIENCETM, please click here.
- For important safety information about MitraClip®, please click here.
- For important safety information about AMPLATZER® PFO Occluder, please click here.
- For important safety information about Mechanical Heart Valves, please click here.

References

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