

# HERO AT HEART

Dr. Srinivas Koneru



*This year, 1.2 million Americans will have a heart attack. Half of them will die.*

*The truth is that heart disease is still the number one cause of death of adults in America — and in Michigan. But the heart doctors of Providence Heart Institute are working to change that. And that's why we salute this week's Hero At Heart.*

*Meet Dr. Srinivas Koneru, Cardiologist at St. John Macomb Hospital in Warren.*

**Q: Dr. Koneru, when did you know you wanted to be a doctor?**

**A:** Since childhood, really. My dad was a general practice physician, and I would help out around the clinic for pocket money. I didn't really consider being anything else. I went into general medicine as well, but ended up finding my interest in interventional cardiology.

**Q: What do you think are the challenges of practicing medicine?**

**A:** I would have to say living up to the satisfaction of my patients and esteem of my colleagues. In today's world of medicine, it can be very difficult to keep up with all the new information. Finding time to really learn the 'ins and outs' of new procedures to provide quality care is a time commitment that you can't let take away from time with your patients.

**Q: What makes a good patient/physician relationship?**

**A:** Compassion and spending enough time with the patient. Quality care means a lot of things, and establishing a relationship through setting guiding principles is a good place to start. As a doctor you do whatever is best for the patient, which requires you to listen to the patient and then recommend a course of treatment.

**Q: What's on the horizon in heart care?**

**A:** There is a lot of exciting news for cardiologists these days. As an interventionalist, new scanning devices are now allowing us to accurately diagnosis patients with non-invasive procedures, which is great for our patients. In a few more years I expect technology to grow even more rapidly, which will transform traditional and interventional cardiology, as we have known it.

**Q: What is some medical advice the world can't do without?**

**A:** From a cardiology standpoint, I recommend that everyone be aware of the three key issues of proper diet, regular exercise and managing the heart disease risk factors. Incorporating healthy habits and leading a good life will keep you well.

**Q: Why did you choose St. John Health?**

**A:** I came to Detroit from New York to practice with Dr. Devireddy, who has been practicing at St. John for over 30 years. I was hired to assist in the development of the new heart care program, and I am impressed by the system's level of cooperation with their physicians. Now I see why Dr. Devireddy has stayed with St. John for so long. But I have to say that physicians aren't solely responsible for patients' care, and the nursing staff at St. John Macomb is the best I've ever seen.

To find out your risk for heart disease, visit us online and take our 2-minute heart assessment at [www.realmedicine.org/heartcheck](http://www.realmedicine.org/heartcheck)

You can find Dr. Koneru in his office in Warren. If you would like to make an appointment, please call 888-440-REAL or visit us online at [www.realmedicine.org](http://www.realmedicine.org).

Dr. Koneru is an independent physician on the medical staff at St. John Macomb Hospital.



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