

## **New Outpatient Weight-Loss Surgery Option in Charlotte with NewHope Bariatrics**

NewHope Bariatrics Partners with Dr. David Voellinger, the First Charlotte-area Doctor to Perform LAP-BAND® Surgery, and Surgical Care Affiliates

*Charlotte, N.C., February 19, 2008* – NewHope Bariatrics announced today its third outpatient weight-loss surgery partnership for the treatment of severe obesity. NewHope Bariatrics has partnered with Dr. David Voellinger, a leading bariatric surgeon in the Charlotte area, to perform the LAP-BAND® System procedure in an outpatient surgery center operated by Surgical Care Affiliates, LLC, which owns and operates one of the nation's largest networks of ambulatory surgery centers. The LAP-BAND® System surgery is one of the only surgical options that can be performed in an outpatient surgery center. The procedure is performed laparoscopically, typically in less than one hour, and patients return home the same day.

“NewHope Bariatrics is thrilled to have the opportunity to work with a bariatric surgeon of Dr. Voellinger’s caliber,” said David Crane, President and Chief Executive Officer of NewHope Bariatrics. “And to be able to offer a safe and effective surgical weight-loss treatment for long-term health and happiness in our home town is especially rewarding. We are pleased to expand into a new market to continue to serve more people in need of this life-changing procedure.”

“I’ve made a life-long commitment to provide the best treatment options to my patients,” Dr. Voellinger said. “I believe the ability to offer the LAP-BAND® System procedure and other minimally invasive weight-loss procedures in an outpatient setting offers significant benefits to the community, such as decreased costs, increased patient satisfaction and improved clinical outcomes.

“The new relationship with NewHope Bariatrics allows us to offer the best in pre-operative education and evaluation specifically tailored to each patient and an intensive post-operative patient follow-up program designed for optimal weight loss and health results,” Dr. Voellinger added.

“The growing number of Americans dealing with the vast number of the health issues associated with obesity now have a less invasive surgical option. The ability to undergo the LAP-BAND® procedure in a convenient setting and with the knowledge that you will be home hours after surgery makes this type of procedure a much more appealing prospect,” said Kelli Collins, vice president of operations for Surgical Care Affiliates.

NewHope Bariatrics of Charlotte is located at 2300 Randolph Road, Suite A, and will begin performing LAP-BAND® System procedures immediately. Free educational seminars are offered to the public. To register, please call 1-877-NEW-HOPE (1-877-639-4673) or visit [www.newhopetoday.com](http://www.newhopetoday.com).

Dr. David Voellinger was the first surgeon in the Charlotte area to perform a LAP-BAND® System surgery in 2002. He now serves as a LAP-BAND® surgical proctor for Allergan, Inc., (NYSE: AGN), the product's manufacturer, and is one of 50 surgeons in a national multi-center clinical trial on the LAP-BAND® clinical experience.

NewHope Bariatrics (Charlotte, N.C.) develops and operates ambulatory surgery centers in partnership with highly regarded bariatric surgeons that serve the needs of the seriously overweight. The NewHope Bariatrics centers focus on adjustable gastric banding procedures (primarily the LAP-BAND® System), delivering compassionate care, excellent clinical results, and superior patient satisfaction ratings. For more information, visit [www.newhopebariatrics.com](http://www.newhopebariatrics.com).

Surgical Care Affiliates (SCA), with its affiliated physicians and partners, is committed to delivering high quality surgical services to ensure a superior patient experience and clinical outcome. One of the largest providers of specialty surgical services, SCA operates approximately 130 ambulatory surgery centers and surgical hospitals across the country with 6,000 employees and more than 3,000 physician partners. The Charlotte Surgical Center is a multi-specialty surgical center located at 2825 Randolph Road. For more information on SCA, visit [www.scasurgery.com](http://www.scasurgery.com).

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