



\*\*\*News Release\*\*\*  
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*Date: July 2, 2024*

## **Generosity brings state-of-the-art imaging technology to St. Luke's Wood River**

**KETCHUM, Idaho** – St. Luke's Health System and St. Luke's Wood River Foundation have partnered to bring a new, state-of-the-art Nuclear Medicine Spect Computed Tomography (CT) Scanner to the Wood River Valley. The new technology—the first of its kind in Idaho—provides advanced imaging for stroke and trauma patients and offers most Spect nuclear medicine scans.

St. Luke's Health System (SLHS) generously funded close to \$1,000,000 which covered the base technology of a 32 slice Nuclear Medicine Spect CT as well as the expense related to construction at the hospital in Ketchum. Working in partnership with the Emergency Department physicians and the Medical Imaging department, St. Luke's Wood River Foundation identified a crucial opportunity to enhance healthcare in the community by raising an additional \$660,000 to upgrade to the most advanced technology, a 64-slice Nuclear Medicine Spect CT. The funding is made possible through the kindness and generosity of the community to best serve the needs of the Wood River Valley. "We are grateful to our donors for recognizing the significance of making this cutting-edge imaging technology available at St. Luke's Wood River hospital," said Pete Smith, President of the St. Luke's Wood River Foundation Board of Directors.

A CT scanner plays a pivotal role in promptly and accurately evaluating a patient, especially in cases of potential stroke or traumatic injury. St. Luke's Wood River (SLWR)'s existing CT scanner has been serving the community since its installation in 2013.

The Nuclear Medicine scanner creates a 64-slice high resolution anatomical image to form a three-dimensional view of a patient's anatomy. "This is the only 64-slice nuclear medicine Spect CT that can serve as a nuclear camera and also serve as a backup CT unit, with the same diagnostic and quality abilities as our current scanner," explains Kandis Pedersen, Director of Imaging Services at SLWR. "For stroke patients-each minute counts for the patient outcome. Having the ability to have a backup scanner here is paramount so the patient can have the best outcome possible."

"This enhanced CT capacity helps with quick decision making for emergency patients in the case of a multiple patient trauma or a stroke. We couldn't be more excited to have this advanced imaging technology, which also serves as a second CT scanner machine, doubling the hospital's capacity for

care,” said Dr. Brock Bemis, Medical Director, SLWR Emergency Department and an emergency physician.

Pedersen adds, “This is the first 64-slice Nuclear Medicine Spect CT in Idaho. It allows us to keep most of our nuclear medicine patients here that require Spect imaging for their nuclear studies. Previously, many patients, including those with cancer for whom travel is difficult, needed to travel to Twin or Boise for these scans. When patients receive care closer to home it reduces total cost of care and leads to better experiences and outcomes. This elevates the level of care available to the residents and visitors of the Wood River Valley.”

To learn more about the St. Luke’s Wood River Foundation, please contact Betsy Mullins, Development Manager, St. Luke’s Wood River Foundation, at [mullinse@slhs.org](mailto:mullinse@slhs.org) or (208) 727-8419.

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