

## **Randy Chitwood joins VXI Medical Advisory Board.**

**June, 2009. Denver** – ValveXchange Inc. is pleased to announce that Walter Randolph Chitwood, Jr., M.D., FACS, FRCS has joined the VXI Medical Advisory Board. Dr. Chitwood is a leading international pioneer in minimally invasive and robotic heart surgery. Dr. Chitwood is the Eddie and Jo Allison Smith Distinguished Professor of Surgery at East Carolina University, Founder and Director of the East Carolina Heart Institute and Senior Associate Vice Chancellor of Health Sciences. He was born in Virginia and educated at Hampden-Sydney College, the University of Virginia and Duke University. Immediately after finishing his residency at Duke, he joined the faculty as a full professor and Chief of the newly formed Cardiac Surgery Program at East Carolina University. The Robotic Surgical Center at East Carolina University has trained over 350 surgeons worldwide and Dr. Chitwood has personally performed the first robotic heart operations in ten countries. Currently, Dr. Chitwood's research activities relate to myocardial preservation, surgical simulation, and endoscopic and robotic cardiac surgery. He was the principal investigator of the FDA robotic mitral valve trials that led to approval for this use in the United States.



Dr. Chitwood is a member of 25 professional societies and has been on many of the most important committees in each of these societies. He is the immediate Past President of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, the largest cardiothoracic surgery professional organization in the world. He is Past-President and a founding member of the International Society of Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery as well as past-president of the Society for Heart Valve Disease, the North Carolina Chapter of the American Heart Association, and past Vice President of the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association.

He has served on the editorial boards of the *Annals of Thoracic Surgery*, the *Journal of Cardiac Surgery*, the *Journal of Heart Valve Disease*, the *Asian Annals of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery*, *CTS Net*, the *Heart Surgery Forum*, *Chest*, the *American Heart Journal*, and the *Journal of Robotic Surgery*. Currently, he is on the editorial board of the *Journal of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery*. He reviews manuscripts for *Circulation*, the *New England Journal of Medicine*, and the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*. In the past, he has authored over 175 peer reviewed scientific and clinical articles, as well as many book chapters and several monographs. He is in the process of writing a book entitled, *Atlas of Robotic Cardiothoracic Surgery*.

In 2003, he was elected to Fellowship in the prestigious Royal College of Surgeons of England, an honor to which few Americans are selected. In 2004, he received the O. Max Gardner Award from the University of North Carolina Board of Governors that recognizes a faculty member of the 16 system institutions, who during the scholastic year, made the greatest contribution to the "welfare of the human race." It is the only statewide honor given to faculty members by the UNC Board of Governors. In 2005 he received the national Mended Hearts - Harken Award, which recognizes excellence in the field of cardiovascular medicine. In the same year he received the National Phi Kappa Phi Scholar Award for outstanding teaching, research, practice, and service. In May 2009, he received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Dr. Chitwood is a busy, active cardiac surgeon and has special expertise in complex valvular surgery, including mitral repair, as well as aortic valve and cardiac rhythm surgery. He continually writes and lectures internationally on innovative techniques in minimally invasive and robotic cardiac surgery. He has given over 60 visiting professor and invited lectures. Today, he is the world's leader in robotic mitral valve surgery.