

# Michael Garippa Joins SynCardia as President

SynCardia

**Former CEO of TandemHeart to Champion**

**Sales, Clinical Support, Training and Marketing for World's Only Approved Total Artificial Heart**



*Michael Garippa, SynCardia's new president*

**TUCSON, Ariz. - July 8, 2010** - SynCardia Systems, Inc., manufacturer of the SynCardia temporary Total Artificial Heart, announced today that Michael Garippa, the CEO and President of TandemHeart for the last 8 years, has left the company to become SynCardia's new president. Rodger Ford will continue as SynCardia's CEO, concentrating on business development, while Mr. Garippa focuses on sales, clinical support, training and marketing.

"Now that the Freedom™ portable driver is undergoing an [FDA IDE clinical study](#) [1] in the U.S. and has received CE approval for use in Europe, stable Total Artificial Heart patients\* are able to wait for a matching donor heart at home," said Ford. "Michael's experience will provide the launching pad SynCardia needs to serve more of the world's top transplant centers and their patients."

Mr. Garippa was recruited by TandemHeart in 2002 as a turnaround expert and stayed on as CEO and President. He took the company from an R&D firm that had lost an aggregate of \$50 million and had no commercial sales to a successful company with over \$6 million in net income in the past 24 months. The TandemHeart, which provides short-term extracorporeal circulatory support, is

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currently being used in more than 125 of the top cardiac centers in the U.S. as recognized by *U.S. News & World Report*.

“The Total Artificial Heart has no equal,” said Mr. Garippa. “It is the only FDA, Health Canada and CE approved Total Artificial Heart in the world. There is no other approved device that provides biventricular replacement for patients with both sides of their heart failing.

“SynCardia already serves 30 of the top transplant centers in the world, with an additional 22 centers currently undergoing SynCardia certification training. The Freedom portable driver has provided us with the opportunity to train additional transplant centers in the U.S., Europe and Australia/New Zealand.”

Prior to joining TandemHeart, Mr. Garippa served as CEO and President of Gateway HomeCare. In addition, Mr. Garippa was Founder and CEO of Millennium HomeCare and The Prompt Care Companies. His background also includes being National Sales Manager at Omni Medical and Senior Analyst with the NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation. Mr. Garippa has a master’s degree from New York University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Rutgers University.

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### About SynCardia Systems, Inc.

SynCardia Systems, Inc. is the Tucson-based manufacturer of the world’s only FDA, Health Canada and CE approved Total Artificial Heart: the SynCardia temporary Total Artificial Heart. There have been more than 850 implants of the Total Artificial Heart, accounting for more than 190 patient years of life on the device.

Originally used as a permanent replacement heart, the Total Artificial Heart is currently approved as a bridge to human heart transplant for people dying from end-stage biventricular failure. The Total Artificial Heart is the only device that provides immediate, safe blood flow of up to 9.5 L/min *through both ventricles*.

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### **Links:**

[1] <http://www.syncardia.com/Medical-Professionals/clinical-trials.html>

[2] <http://www.syncardia.com/Medical-Professionals/sign-up-for-news-updates.html>

[3] <http://www.syncardia.com/>

[4] [http://twitter.com/SynCardia\\_News](http://twitter.com/SynCardia_News)

[5] <mailto://www.syncardia.com/2010-Press-Release/disaacs@syncardia.com>

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