



ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL
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MEDICAL STAFF BRIEFS



A PUBLICATION FROM THE ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL MEDICAL STAFF OFFICE

Crew Training advisory

So far, close to 100 physicians have signed up for crew training being conducted now through April 19. Slots are still open but filling fast and seating is limited. At this time, the hospital is offering Crew Training to the Medical Staff free of charge; on its own, the 4-hour, 4-CME course costs \$800.

After June 30, 2008, physicians who have not completed crew training will not be allowed to perform procedures in St. Joseph Hospital facilities. For more information and to sign up please call Tina Retrosi, Patient Safety Officer, at (714) 771-8000 ext. 17798.

No VAP in ICU / CVICU

For the past 12 months, St. Joseph Hospital has had *zero* ventilator-associated pneumonias, one of the more common and deadly hospital-acquired infections. These life-saving results can be credited to excellent attention to detail by physicians, nurses and respiratory staff.

According to the CDC, hospital-acquired pneumonia occurs in 0.5% to 1% of patients admitted, representing 10% to 15% of all nosocomial infections. It is the most common cause of nosocomial infection in ICUs and is associated with high mortality rates.

WANTED: Patients for Lung Cancer Vaccine Trial

St. Joseph Hospital is enrolling patients with lung cancer in a randomized clinical trial testing a vaccine intended to stimulate the immune system and achieve disease-free survival. The Primary objective of this study is to demonstrate the clinical efficacy of recMAGE-A3 +AS15 versus placebo in NSCLC after complete surgical resection. The co-primary objectives are (a) efficacy in the overall population and (b) efficacy in the population of patients who did not receive adjuvant chemotherapy. The secondary objectives are (a) to evaluate and compare recMAGE-A3 +AS15 versus placebo with respect to other clinical and biological indicators of safety and

efficacy, and (b) translational research: to examine the gene expression profile of the primary tumor by microarray as defined prospectively in the protocol and the possible correlation with the clinical outcome to the treatment.

Hematologist/Oncologist **Timothy Byun, MD**, is overseeing the trial. St. Joseph Hospital is the first of two hospitals in Orange County to conduct this Phase III trial, and one of 105 hospitals nationwide. The hospital is recruiting patients who are 18 years of age and older. For more information please call Maria Gonzalez, St. Joseph Hospital Cancer Research Manager, 714-771-8949.

Hit the suds for C. Dif

Contact Precautions for *Clostridium difficile* requires the use of soap and water for hand hygiene (avoid alcohol gel) and hypochlorite (bleach) containing disinfectants for environmental cleaning.

C. difficile is a spore-forming, gram-positive anaerobic bacillus that produces two exotoxins: toxin A and toxin B. It is a common cause of antibiotic-associated diarrhea (AAD) accounting for 15-25% of all episodes of AAD. Clinical symptoms include watery diarrhea, fever, loss of

appetite, nausea, and abdominal pain or tenderness. Patients with diarrhea that are suspected (or confirmed) to have *C. difficile* are appropriately placed in Contact Precautions until 48 hours after the resolution of diarrhea. Physicians may reduce the risk of AAD by minimizing the use of antibiotics. Any antibiotic may be associated with this disease, but some are more strongly associated, including: ampicillin, clindamycin, third generation cephalosporins, erythromycin, fluoroquinolones, and tetracycline.

*Brian A. Rowe, BS, MT(ASCP), CIC
Infection Control Professional*

NICHE: The greatest care for the greatest generation

St. Joseph Hospital is participating in the Nurses Improving Care for Health System Elders (NICHE) initiative. This international program provides best practice guidelines specifically for hospitalized older adults.

For the past two years, St. Joseph Hospital has sent nursing teams to attend the national NICHE conference to further their understanding of research-based protocols. NICHE is committed to cultivating a new way of thinking about geriatric care through increased knowledge and attitudinal change. Currently three of

the nurses involved have obtained their geriatric specialty certification, currently possessed by less than one percent of nurses nationwide.

Chief Nursing Officer Katie Skelton noted, "Patients over 65 years of age make up 47 percent of our Emergency department admissions. We intend to provide our growing population of older patients with safe, sensitive and age-specific care that promotes healing and well-being. Our team has enthusiastically welcomed NICHE and we look forward to positive results."

There are about 250 hospitals in 40 states,

Canada, and the Netherlands, taking part in NICHE. St. Joseph Hospital is the first hospital in the St. Joseph Health System and the only hospital in Orange County to begin this journey toward exceptional senior care. Participants report that elderly patients experience greater patient satisfaction, decreased lengths of hospital stay, reduced readmission rates and increased length of time between readmissions.

Below the surface of the Melanoma Symposium

On Saturday, May 17, the Melanoma Program, in conjunction with St. Joseph Hospital, will present the 11th annual Melanoma Symposium.

Kim James Charney, MD, Medical Director of the Melanoma Program at SJH since its inception in 1994, has organized the annual symposium since it began in 1997. In a recent interview with Dr. Charney, he discussed the uniqueness, value and goals of the Melanoma Program as well as the Melanoma Symposium.



What do you hope to accomplish through the Melanoma Symposium?

We hope to educate physicians about the epidemic growth of melanoma and its full spectrum of management. We want to provide a valuable educational experience for all melanoma-related disciplines as well as provide an overview of new and innovative ideas in the management of melanoma.

We also want physicians in our area to know that we have a nationally recognized, complete program with dedicated melanoma physicians and state-of-the art capabilities. The Melanoma Program has all of the major

features that any other major melanoma program in the United States has, and therefore, referring physicians do not need to send patients outside of Orange County to receive best practice treatment.

What is unique about the Melanoma Program at St. Joseph Hospital?

Orange County has the highest rate of melanoma in California and the rate is increasing at epidemic proportions. Therefore, the need for melanoma expertise has never been greater. We are the only community hospital in Orange County with a Melanoma Program. Our melanoma nurse navigator answers calls and emails from across the nation and assists in providing proper guidance and direction to patients and their families. We review each case referred to the Program and make arrangements for appropriate referrals to dermatologists, plastic surgeons and oncologists. After we receive a referral, the patient is seen within two to three days.

We are the only designated high dose IL-2 center for the treatment of stage IV melanoma in Orange County. We offer clinical research trials for stage III and stage IV melanoma patients. St. Joseph Hospital is the first and only hospital in Southern California to provide a

Digital Skin Imaging Center. We also recently instituted a genetic counseling program for the evaluation of hereditary melanoma. Patients are being entered into clinical research protocols.

What is exciting at this year's Symposium?

The symposium will feature melanoma experts from the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida, the University of California, San Francisco, and St. Joseph Hospital. Speakers will provide important presentations on melanoma diagnostics and therapy. I am also very pleased that the symposium will be held at the Balboa Bay Club and Resort.

Who attends the Melanoma Symposium?

We draw physicians from the Inland Empire, San Diego, Los Angeles and Orange Counties. The majority of attendees are dermatologists and primary care physicians, including gynecologists. Because the symposium encompasses so many areas of expertise, we also draw pathologists, dermatopathologists, surgeons, plastic surgeons, medical oncologists, and others.

Physicians interested in attending the Melanoma Symposium on 5/17/08, can RSVP to (866) 714-1777. There is a \$45. registration fee, which includes lunch and breakfast.

COUNTDOWN TO THE CANCER CENTER OPENING: 108 DAYS



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