



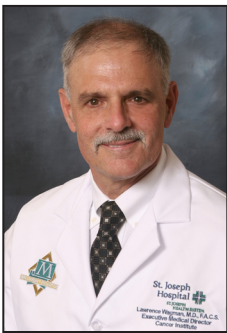
ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL
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MEDICAL STAFF BRIEFS

SPECIAL EDITION



A PUBLICATION FROM THE ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL MEDICAL STAFF OFFICE

SJO Cancer Center welcomes Executive Medical Director



St. Joseph Hospital Cancer Institute and Cancer Center is pleased to announce the recent appointment of **Lawrence D. Wagman, M.D., FACS**, as its Executive Medical Director. Dr. Wagman is nationally known as a leading oncologic surgeon and researcher specializing in breast and liver cancers. Dr. Wagman was most recently at City of Hope for more than 20 years where he served in numerous leadership positions, among them Chairman Emeritus of the Division of Surgery and the Associate Director of the Surgical

Oncology Training Programs, including a Society of Surgical Oncology-approved fellowship in surgical oncology. His current research focuses on clinical issues related to breast cancer treatment and prevention, colorectal cancer metastases to the liver, primary hepatic tumors and palliative surgery. He also initiated and developed a highly respected Liver Tumor Program, a multidisciplinary approach to the diagnosis and treatment of liver tumors. He has authored more than 100 medical journal articles, book chapters and abstracts, including a book he co-authored on the multidisciplinary management of cancer.

Dr. Wagman expressed his excitement about further developing St. Joseph Hospital's world-class cancer care and collaborating with those he refers to as, "some of the nation's leading cancer experts in their fields on our campus." He added, "With current advancements in surgery, oncology medications and alternative therapies and support systems, we've moved from treating cancer as a one-time, acute-stage disease to more of a long-term, chronic condition that is treatable. Quality of life has become a very important issue for all of us who have dedicated our lives to helping cancer patients. We are paving the road to better outcomes, improved quality of life and a very comfortable and accessible new cancer center for Orange County residents."

Among Dr. Wagman's numerous professional roles are boards of director positions for the Los Angeles Chapter of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project. He is a past president of the Los Angeles Surgical Society and past state chair for the Commission on Cancer. He is currently the chair of the California Department of Health Services Clinical Protocols Workgroup, a governor-appointed member of the State of California Breast Cancer Advisory Council, and a member of the board of governors of the American College of Surgeons.

Countdown to Cancer Center opening

On Monday, July 21, the St. Joseph Hospital Cancer Center will open with all departments at full capacity, with the exception of the Radiation Oncology department. The Medical Office Building will phase in after July 21. ***The Medical Staff is invited to a Grand Opening Celebration on Thursday, June 19 at 6:30 p.m.***

"Outstanding," compliments CoC

The American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer has named St. Joseph Hospital Cancer Institute as an Outstanding Achievement Award recipient. The award follows the recent onsite accreditation survey by the CoC. The three-year approval was granted with commendation status in all nine areas of the CoC survey with no deficiencies cited. According to the CoC, only one in four cancer programs has earned the voluntary CoC approval. Less than five percent of those earned the Outstanding Achievement Award.

Cancer Center Medical Leaders

Glenn Allison, MD Medical Director, Head and Neck Program
Robert Ash, MD Medical Director, Radiation Oncology
Birbal Bhaskar, MD Chairman, Cancer Committee
Brian Boyd, MD Co-Medical Director, Palliative Care Program
Michele Carpenter, MD Medical Director, Breast Cancer Services
Raymond Casciari, MD Chief Medical Officer;
..... Co-Medical Director, Lung Program
Theodore Coutsoftides, MD Co-Medical Director, Colorectal
Anita Gregory, MD Co-Medical Director, Colorectal Program;
..... Co-Medical Director, Cancer Genetics
James Padova, MD Medical Advisor, Cancer Institute
Jay Harness, MD Principal Investigator, NCCCP Program
Ashok Kar, MD Chief of the Medical Staff
Brian Palafox, MD Co-Medical Director, Lung Program
Martin Weissman, MD Medical Director, Prostate Program
George Moro, MD Co-Medical Director, Colorectal Program
Kim James Charney, MD Medical Director, Melanoma Program
Winston Ho, MD... Medical Director, Bone Marrow Transplant /HPCT
David Margileth, MD Co-Medical Director, Cancer Genetics
Aaron Sassoon, MD Pathology Liaison & Chair, Biospecimen Comm
Michael Schoen, MD Medical Director, Pathology
Melvyn Sterling, MD . Co-Medical Director, Palliative Care Program
Daniel Weissberg, MD Medical Director, Radiology
Lawrence Wagman, MD Executive Director, SJH Cancer Institute

In the trenches with

Melvyn Sterling, M.D., FACP, FAAHPM
Co-Medical Director of Palliative Care at
St. Joseph Hospital

In 1995 Melvyn Sterling got a call from the dean of UCI's medical school about the formation of a task force to develop a palliative care curriculum. He recalls, "To my knowledge that curriculum did not exist in the U.S. What we initially developed addressed end-of-life care in a pragmatic way. It was originally called the Death and Dying Task Force, but we quickly changed the name as it created the wrong image and restricted the scope of palliative care." Thirteen years later, about 30 percent of leading U.S. hospitals offer palliative care, with more on the way.

"Palliative care has broadened to include advanced symptom control; end-of-life care as well as difficult pain management problems," states Sterling, who helped establish a Palliative Care Program at St. Joseph Hospital in 2004.

Since then the program's multidisciplinary specialists, one and a half full-time nurse practitioners and a part-time social worker and non-denominational chaplain, have seen more than 1,100 patients. "No other hospital in

Orange County has this level of palliative care," claims Sterling. "You'd have to go to the City of Hope or further to find a program this robust. Sending the patient elsewhere creates a burden on families and there's no reason for it, given our palliative care resources. The hospital leadership has been fully supportive and understands that this is an essential element in our state-of-the-art care. Extraordinary diagnostic and therapeutic services, aimed at making the patient comfortable during treatment and beyond, are up to the minute. We are constantly surveying new literature and attending conferences to do a better job. St. Joseph Hospital's formalized program for advanced symptom control has been studied and emulated by hospitals throughout California and beyond."

A majority of the Palliative Care patients seen by Sterling, Co-Medical Director Brian Boyd, M.D., and the team have a cancer diagnosis, but not all. "Whether we're talking about a patient coming for tumor removal surgery, or one who has severe arthritis and is here for a joint replacement, ideally we're on board prior to admission," says Sterling. "Frequently these patients have been on high-dose opiates. If they've developed a high tolerance, the meds they might receive in the hospital could be inadequate, and

the patients and families could be unhappy. We can do a better job of pain control and symptom management through early intervention.

"The Palliative Care Service is often called in to help patients and their families deal with the agonizing problems that can occur at the end of life. An example might be a stroke patient who is severely and irreversibly brain damaged and on a ventilator. We can help the family as they deal with the difficulty of the situation," he said.



In 2008 Dr. Sterling marks 30 years of practicing medicine. He has served as medical director for the Visiting Nurses Association Hospice Program, chaired the AMA Council on Scientific Affairs and for five years represented the AMA on the American Hospital Association's Circle of Life Committee. He continues to serve as an AMA delegate for the Orange County Medical Association. Dr. Sterling's palliative care expertise has been shared nationally through numerous CME programs, courses and lectures. In addition to serving as co-medical director of our Palliative Care Program, Dr. Sterling chairs St. Joseph Hospital's Department of Internal Medicine.

COUNTDOWN TO THE CANCER CENTER OPENING: 79 DAYS



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