



ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL  
**msb**  
MEDICAL STAFF BRIEFS



A PUBLICATION FROM THE ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL MEDICAL STAFF OFFICE

## Transplant excellence bears fruit

Congratulations to **Ervin Ruzics, MD**, and the entire Kidney Transplant Center team, who successfully performed a record 13 transplants in March, with kidneys from five living and eight deceased donors. So far in 2009 they have performed 37 transplants. Additionally, Blue Cross has identified the St. Joseph Hospital Kidney Transplant Center as a Center of Medical Excellence. This is a direct result of the outstanding patient and graft survival outcomes achieved by Dr. Ruzics and the team.

## Have you checked your profile on the Internet yet?

Last month, the St. Joseph Hospital website received more than 71,000 hits from “unique visitors,” meaning each of those visitors were only counted once. A popular feature of the completely overhauled site, launched in January, is the free “Find a Doctor” function, profiling St. Joseph Hospital Medical Staff members. To ensure that your profile is up to date, please visit [http://sjo.org/Our\\_Doctors](http://sjo.org/Our_Doctors) and type in your name. If you are not listed or your profile needs updating, please email [mary.mertes@stjoe.org](mailto:mary.mertes@stjoe.org) or call (714) 744-8829. While you’re on the site, if you haven’t visited the Physician Only and Medical Staff Members Only sections lately, stop by to see what you’re missing.

## Welcome to new Medical Staff members

<b>Robert Baird, MD</b> ..... Orthopaedic Surgery	<b>Jeffrey Jednacz, MD</b> ..... Teleradiology
<b>Fayez Bany-Mohammed, MD</b> ... Neonatology	<b>Nimish Kadakia, MD</b> .. Orthopaedic Surgery
<b>Steven Becker, MD</b> ..... Orthopaedic Surgery	<b>Daniel Potter, MD</b> ..... Reproductive
<b>Edward Chai, MD</b> ..... Neonatology	Endocrinology
<b>Ravindra Chand, MD</b> ..... Psychiatry	<b>Ledford Powell, MD</b> ..... Thoracic Surgery
<b>Rebecca Coleman, MD</b> ..... Neonatology	<b>Mariam Razi, MD</b> ..... Internal Medicine
<b>Gregory Evans, MD</b> ..... Neonatology	<b>James Roh, MD</b> ..... Internal Medicine
<b>Manisha Goel, MD</b> ..... Internal Medicine	<b>Jack Sills, MD</b> ..... Neonatology
<b>Laura Hotchkiss, MD</b> ..... Teleradiology	<b>Feizal Waffarn, MD</b> ..... Neonatology
<b>Mehrdad Jalili, MD</b> ..... Peds Critical Care	<b>James Waisman, MD</b> ..... Hem/Oncology

## A golfing coup at Coto de Caza

The 24th Annual Todos Golf Tournament on March 30 raised more than \$250,000 towards Todos’ \$1.5 million pledge to The Center for Cancer Prevention and Treatment at St. Joseph Hospital. Congratulations to **Dr. G. Scott Smith**, **Dr. Anita York** and their spouses for winning the 1st Place Mixed Group award. Special thanks to Aramark, EMSOC, SJHMG, SJHAP and **Dr. Frank Villalobos** for sponsoring this year’s event; to **Dr. William Murphy** and Drs. Villalobos and Smith for serving on the Tournament committee, and to all participating physicians.

## Med Reconciliation form’s facelift

To better meet the needs of our patients, the Outpatient/SDC/INO Medication Reconciliation form was modified and arrived in all patient care areas in April. The process remains the same, with slight modifications to the form itself. If you have any questions, please ask the nursing staff for assistance or contact me on pager 1527.

*Tina Retrosi, RN, BSN, CEN, Patient Safety Officer*

## Primary Care Symposium

### Prevention Tactics in the Cancer Revolution

Saturday, April 25, 2009 at

The Center for Cancer Prevention and Treatment

*Breast Cancer Prevention and Screening  
Guidelines for High-Risk Patients*

**Michele Carpenter, MD, FACS**

*Imaging Strategies for the Early Detection  
of Breast Cancer*

**Kimberly M. Ray, MD**

*Smoking Cessation:*

*Programs, Results & Impact*

**Brian A. Palafox, MD, FACS**

*Early Detection CT Lung Screening*

**Dan Vu, MD**

*Colorectal Cancer: Prevention & Surgical Options*

**Anita Gregory, MD, FACS**

*Virtual Colonoscopy*

**Daniel Weissberg, MD**

*Prostate Cancer Prevention*

**Martin Weissman, MD, FACS**

*Prostate Cancer: Active Surveillance &  
Low-risk Disease*

**Matthew Greenberger, MD**

*Fertility & Menopause in the Cancer Patient*

**Lisa Valle, DO**

*Cervical Cancer: HPV Vaccine*

**Lilly Ramirez-Boyd, MD**

The registration fee is \$45.

Call 1-866-714-1777.

A Ministry of the  
Sisters of St. Joseph  
of Orange

## In the trenches with Hector Ho, M.D. Neurosurgeon

***Before moving your practice to Orange in 2006 you were performing 400 spinal cases per year in the Midwest. How does that compare with your current practice?***

My case load is currently about 50 percent intracranial and 50 percent spinal surgeries. Because of Cancer Services at St. Joseph Hospital we have the support here to perform complex procedures for intrinsic spinal tumors and metastatic diseases of the spine, along with degenerative cases.

The breadth and depth of the neurosurgical care at this hospital is incredible; we cover the full gamut of neurosurgery, including pediatric care. I suspect that some patients are still being sent to UCLA or Loma Linda for neurosurgical care, even though our capabilities are as advanced as any of those facilities and it's no longer necessary to send them elsewhere.

***What's new in Neurosurgery at St. Joseph Hospital?***

I'm very excited about our new Stroke Program. There is a definite need and with the availability of interventional radiology we are able to do treat complex cerebrovascular and intracranial vascular lesions. The Stroke Program is an important component of the growing neuroscience services at St. Joseph Hospital.

We're also working with Dr. (Lawrence) Wagman (Executive Medical Director, The Center for Cancer Prevention and Treatment) on launching a Brain Tumor Program later this year. The Cancer Center's Trilogy system will enable us to perform radiosurgery for the brain and spine.

***How is Neurosurgery evolving?***

Along with advanced understanding of biology and the neurological system, techniques are becoming more refined and less invasive, particularly with the advent of intraoperative navigation. Procedures are more precise and safer. Today we can take out a brain tumor and the patient will be discharged in one to two days, and radiosurgery can be offered as an outpatient procedure. That was unheard of 10 years ago, when the patient

was hospitalized for three to four weeks. Although the most devastating forms of brain tumors still shorten life significantly, advanced techniques enable these patients to lead a better quality of life and have less "downtime" from surgical procedures.

We're furthering cutting edge research. For example, working in the Brain Stem Research Lab at CHOC, William Loudon, M.D., Shengwen "Calvin" Li, Ph.D., and I recently coauthored and submitted an article for publication in the *Journal of Neurosurgery* on diverse biomarker expression in the glioblastoma multiforme patient.

***What are your pastimes outside of work?***

I don't have a lot of time outside of work, although I do enjoy traveling to new places (I went to China a few years ago) and hiking in the local canyons such as Crystal Cove. As a Christmas gift I received sailing lessons, and I'm looking forward to taking them, possibly this summer. Our kids are out of college and live in Chicago and we like to visit them frequently.

