



ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL
msb
MEDICAL STAFF BRIEFS



A PUBLICATION FROM THE ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL MEDICAL STAFF OFFICE

From the desk of Ashok Kar, MD, Chief of Staff

Delivering gratitude

I want to share with you details from an email the hospital recently received from a patient's husband. His letter illustrates why I am proud to serve in leadership for our outstanding Medical Staff. To summarize, the patient had a C-section delivery, a blood vessel in the patient's uterus burst, and with the help of the entire team, including Interventional Radiology, the patient recovered and returned home. The husband wrote: *"The two biggest thanks go to Dr. Juan Velez and our delivery nurse, Christina Baird. We were already extremely happy with Dr. Velez from our prenatal care, but that happiness turned to complete admiration and gratitude after the work and time he put in to get our little man INTO the work and keep my beautiful wife IN the world...I truly believe that without Dr. Velez and Christina's efforts my wife would not have seen the turnaround or success in recovery that she has seen ... When I walked to the Radiology wing with the look of a scared husband fearing for his wife's life, a doctor not associated with my wife's surgery took me aside to ask if I was okay. After assuring me of a positive outcome he voluntarily checked in with the doctors performing the surgery, and then updated me on the status of the operation. After the surgery I was visited by three doctors who explained how the surgery went and what the next step was...Every day the doctors would check in with us and reassure us of a positive outcome...A horribly stressful and unexpected event that could have been remembered as the worst moments of my life are now remembered as challenging moments that were made easier by the help of caring doctors and nurses...thank you for treating every patient like a family member, and thank you for helping me be able to spend the rest of my life with my beautiful wife and son."*

Bylaws update

The interviews with attorneys contacted for assistance with the Medical Staff Bylaws revisions are now online. You will find them in the Medical Staff Members Only pages of the Physicians Only section of www.sjo.org.

Registration automation

St. Joseph Hospital is the first St. Joseph Health System ministry to pilot electronic registration forms and document imaging, as of March 25. Forms are filled out online, signed electronically and insurance cards are scanned, making the data readily available for subsequent patient visits. This enhances satisfaction by eliminating the need to ask patients repeatedly for the same information and reduces paperwork.

New digs for Dr. Herndon

Roy Herndon, MD, Internal Medicine, has moved to the Medical Tower at 1010 W. La Veta Ave., #750. His phone number remains (714) 835-6042.

Ethics help a phone call away

The Ethics Resource Team (ERT) can help you when a family is in conflict and it is interfering with your caring for the patient; when there are no family members available to make end-of-life decisions; when a patient's wishes are not being honored by others or other ethical dilemmas. You can call for an ethics consult and get the help you need to provide the care that is in the best interest of the patient, without all the stress in trying to work out this dilemma by yourself. The ERT has the resource of the Ethical Resource Grid that states the policies and procedures, the state and federal guidelines and the ERD (Ethical and Religious Directives that guide this Hospital's standards).

Help is only a phone call away. Dial "O" and ask for the on-call Ethics Committee member or call the Spiritual Care dept. at x18137 during normal working hours.

Primary Care Symposium:

Prevention Tactics in the Cancer Revolution

Saturday, April 25, 2009

at The Center for Cancer Prevention and Treatment
Following presentation of the following topics, speakers will hold a Q & A session.

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 and Impact - **Brian A. Palafox, MD, FACS**

Early Detection CT Lung Screening - **Dan Vu, MD**
Colorectal Cancer: Prevention and Surgical Options - **Anita Gregory, MD, FACS**

Virtual Colonoscopy - **Daniel Weissberg, MD**

Prostate Cancer Prevention - **Martin Weissman, MD, FACS**
Prostate Cancer: Active Surveillance and 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 to register.

In the trenches

with **Bradley D. Noblett, M.D.**
Neurosurgeon

Are there capabilities within your practice not widely known to the Medical Staff?

Yes, we are so much more than the surgeons you call at 2 AM with an intracranial emergency. We are all well trained in the surgical management of complex spinal disorders. This might include spinal fusions, artificial discs, laminectomies, discectomies and tumor resections.

What are the strengths of your group?

We are board-certified adult and pediatric neurosurgeons with wide-ranging interests and abilities. We are able to manage complex disorders of the brain, spine, spinal cord and peripheral nerves.

What minimally invasive procedures do you perform?

We are able to perform minimally invasive procedures in and around the spine with a variety of available systems. Additionally, we can perform minimal access procedures in the brain with devices such as the ventriculoscope (akin to laparoscopy in the abdomen), and by using image guidance systems (IGS) which

allow us to minimize the size of our incisions and skull openings (craniotomy).

We are also trained in stereotactic radiosurgery, a technique whereby in a single sitting, a high dose of radiation can be targeted to deep tumors and vascular malformations of the brain previously considered inoperable. These techniques allow for smaller incisions, less pain and lower complication rates than traditional surgeries in many instances. These are procedures and techniques that neurosurgeons such as my father (now retired) would not have been able to fathom a few decades ago.

So your father was your inspiration for becoming a neurosurgeon?

Definitely. He was and is a very compassionate as well as humble man (which is unusual for a neurosurgeon) and was my most important influence in becoming a neurosurgeon.

Having just moved, how do you like your office in the new Medical Tower?

It's beautiful and nicely located...very convenient for our patients.

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?
Kiteboarding at Belmont Shores (in reality I

am simply trying not to drown), snowboarding with my son and lots of reading.

Brad Noblett is board certified in Neurological Surgery. After earning his medical degree from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville, TN, he completed a general surgery internship, a neurological residency and a fellowship in brain tumor research at the University of Utah Health Sciences Center in Salt Lake City, UT. He and his wife have daughters ages 17 and 15 and a son, age 12.



Hospitalists' Help

Our new Hospitalist Clerk, **Angela Lopez**, started in her new role on March 8, 2009. Angela has been with St. Joseph Hospital since 1997 as a unit secretary in the Medical Pulmonary Unit. She will be helping the hospitalists with various duties. To get in touch with her, page 1761 or call ext.15656.

April 26 Donate Life Run/Walk

The Kidney Transplant Center invites you, your family and friends to sign up for this event at Cal State Fullerton. Call ext. 18033.



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ST. JOSEPH
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SUBMISSIONS SOUGHT:

Please send your news items to:
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via fax to (714) 744-8670
or call (714) 744-8559.

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