



ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL
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MEDICAL STAFF BRIEFS

St. Joseph Hospital 
ST. JOSEPH
HEALTH SYSTEM

A PUBLICATION FROM THE ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL MEDICAL STAFF OFFICE

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

By the end of July we will have received the revised Medical Staff Bylaws recommendations from Greg Abrams. The Bylaws Committee will review the Bylaws at a weekend retreat with the attorney. The Medical Executive Committee voted last week that the Bylaws will be reviewed as a “redline” version, with changes recommended by the Bylaws attorney. The Bylaws Committee recommendations will be presented as a “blueline” version, and both versions will be posted on the Medical Staff Members Only section of www.sjo.org. One month after the Bylaws are posted on the website, there will be a General Staff Meeting to discuss the Bylaws with Greg Abrams in attendance to address any concerns.

The Nominating Committee for the selection of Medical Staff leaders has formed. Immediate Past Chief of Staff **Robert Armen, MD**, is the chair. Committee Members are past Chiefs of Staff **Theodore Coutsoftides, MD**, and **William Collins, MD**, and MEC members **Michele Carpenter, MD**, and **Joseph Preston, MD**. To provide input about the nominated candidates, please contact a Nominating Committee member. They will meet August 11, 2009, and report the slate of nominees to the MEC at their September 17 meeting.

Physicians make Foundation functions flourish

The June 28 Circles of Life Fashion Show & Luncheon at the Anaheim Marriott was another success, netting nearly \$65,000 to support The Center for Cancer Prevention and Treatment.

Our wholehearted thanks to the physician sponsors, underwriters and supporters: **Drs. Michael Abdalla, Edward Alexson, Robert Ash, Robert Ball, Birbal Bhaskar, Timothy Byun, Michele Carpenter, Ray Casciari, Kim J. Charney, T. Coutsoftides, Richard Fischel, Afshin Forouzannia, Anita Gregory, Jay Harness, Winston Ho, Sam Huang, Edward Lee, Tariq Mahmood, David Margileth (Honorary Chair), George Moro, Julia Motherway, Madhavi Mummaneni, Brian Norouzi, James Padova, Brian Palafox, Nabil Phillips, Aaron Sassoon, Ivan Turpin, Sammy Younis and Lawrence Wagman.** We hope to see you again next year!

A message from Connie Bartlett, DO, Chair of Celebration 2009

“To accomplish great things, we must dream as well as act.” – Anable France

Many years ago, the Sisters of St. Joseph had a dream to come to Orange, California, and serve “their dear neighbors.” Today, their dream has transformed a community and inspired countless achievements. This year our vision for Celebration 2009 is to support the building of a Hybrid OR which will help to establish the Heart and Vascular Center at St. Joseph Hospital, to provide comprehensive cardiac and vascular care under one roof, and to continue our support of The Center for Cancer Prevention and Treatment.

Please join us to help realize our dream at Celebration 2009 on Saturday, September 26, at the Hilton Anaheim. For more information call the Foundation at 714-771-8211.

Robotics program reaches milestone

July 10, 2004, saw the first robotic prostatectomy done by SJO physicians **Ashok Kar, MD**, and **Fred Khonsari, MD**. Since then, almost 400 robotic prostatectomies have been performed. SJO robotics is also used for gynecology, pediatric surgery, and general and thoracic surgery, with nearly 800 cases performed over the past five years.

2nd in CA for surgical volume

Newly released statistics from the Office of Statewide Planning and Development show that in 2008 St. Joseph Hospital had the second highest surgical volume in the state of California, increasing 1.2 percent since last year when the hospital ranked third in the state for surgical volume. OSHPD data on patient volume was also collected for:

Emergency Services: SJO volumes again ranked first in Orange County, and third in the state with 101,341 visits. Volume increased 5.1 percent over 2007.

Deliveries: SJO remained second in Orange County with 5,010 deliveries.

CV Bypass Surgery: SJO’s 339 CV bypass surgeries for adult and pediatric cases ranked second for volume in O.C.

Cardiac Catheterizations: SJO became the volume leader in OC with 2,978 cardiac catheterizations (adult and pediatric).

Adult Cath Lab’s perfect timing

For the first time, in June (and most of July) all first cases of the day in room 5 of the Cath Lab began on time. Credit for this achievement goes to Medical Director of Invasive Cardiology and SJO Way Champion **Jairo Marin, MD**, fellow physicians, and staff from the Cath Lab as well as CVSSU, Cardiac Renal, Medical Telemetry and Critical Care Units. The team used a collaborative process that utilized the tools gained through the St. Joseph Way to improve flow, standardize work and to better track progress. On-time starts and room turnaround times of less than 30 minutes for all the Cath Lab rooms are ongoing goals established through the St. Joseph Way performance improvement program.

Computer virus alert: action required

A computer virus detected on St. Joseph Health System's network was quarantined and cleaned, but may have compromised some user login passwords. As a proactive step, all network login passwords should be changed. Those not already changed will automatically expire over the next two weeks. ***We strongly encourage all users to immediately change your passwords*** for Internet or web-based applications such as AllScripts, Amalga, CAREnet, GEN2 Physician Portal, PhysConnect, PeopleSoft, etc; and personal Internet accounts accessed from workplace computers, such as bank and shopping accounts (e.g., Amazon, iTunes). If you need assistance please call our HelpDesk, 877-552-7547, or CIS Physician Liaison/Educator Vira Estrada-Morse, ext.17870.

Netting resources via Burlew Medical Library

Have you noticed that the popup box asking for the ID and password for the library's website has been missing? The Internet Service Provider (ISP) that hosts the library website changed and had lots of technical difficulties with the password protection. Because our website has access to many electronic resources which are contractually restricted to SJO/CHOC, it is essential that we have a password protected website. It is now reinstated. When accessing the library website, <http://www.burlewmedicallibrary.org>, use the generic ID and password *library* and *web*. Once in the library website, if other electronic resources require a *different* ID and password, you are given that information right there.

Experience the freedom of E-Signature

The pilot for E-Signature of dictated report was successful and we're ready to Go-Live! On August 4 we will roll-out E-Signature housewide to all interested physicians. Training is required to participate. Information including a training class schedule has been sent out via email, fax and U.S. Mail. In August training will be done by appointment only; in September there will be group training available, and after September training will be by appointment. Please call the CIS Physician Liaison Vira Estrada-Morse, (714) 771-8000 x17870, for training and information.

Dr. Abdalla honored by alma mater

Congratulations to **Michael W. Abdalla, MD**, recipient of the Professional and Community Service Award from the University of Vermont College of Medicine.

As a board-certified orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Abdalla has spent 40+ years on the Medical Staff of St. Joseph Hospital and is a former chief of staff. He has been a member of the St. Joseph Hospital Foundation Board of



Directors since 2005 and is a former member of the Hospital Leadership Council. In 1990, he chaired the successful Physicians' Endowment Campaign.

In addition, he is a volunteer clinical professor at the UCI Department of Orthopedic Surgery, where he has directed the Prosthetic Clinic for more than 35 years. He has served as the president and treasurer of the O.C. Chapter of the Western Orthopedic Association as well as president of the California Orthopedic Association. He has been a Rotarian since 1971, serving as Rotary Club president and in many other roles. Through Rotary he has traveled to Santa Ana, El Salvador, eight times. There, he developed that city's first prosthetic/bracing clinic at the charity hospital that has been making low-cost prostheses and braces for the medically indigent.



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