



ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL
msb
MEDICAL STAFF BRIEFS

St. Joseph Hospital 
ST. JOSEPH
HEALTH SYSTEM

A PUBLICATION FROM THE ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL MEDICAL STAFF OFFICE

America's Best Hospital for 3rd year in a row

In its annual listing of the top 50 hospitals in the nation in various specialties, *U.S. News & World Report* has again named St. Joseph Hospital of Orange for its Orthopedic program. The month-long "America's Best Hospitals" August issue hit news stands July 21.

St. Joseph Hospital is once again the only Orange County hospital listed for Orthopedics, and one of six in California. Nearly 5,000 hospitals nationwide were surveyed. The exclusive ranking is based on a reputation for being the best for patients with difficult or complex conditions, mortality, patient volume, nursing care and cutting edge technologies.

Chairman of the Orthopedics Department **Jeffrey Deckey, M.D.**, characterized the exclusive ranking as an incredible honor. He adds, "It reflects the extraordinary work done by the physicians and hospital personnel every day, and the strong commitment of the Administration to the Orthopedics program. We are performing extremely well with cutting edge techniques not available elsewhere in the region. It's very gratifying to be recognized."

Stroke Center accredited

St. Joseph Hospital has received a "Certificate of Distinction for Primary Stroke Centers" from the Joint Commission. Accreditation of St. Joseph Hospital's Stroke Center signals that the hospital has met scrupulous criteria for managing stroke care, and possesses the critical elements needed to achieve long-term success in improving stroke outcomes.

In May, the Orange County Health Care Agency announced a higher standard of care for stroke patients by designating St. Joseph Hospital and five other Orange County hospitals as Stroke-Neurology Receiving Centers. Care includes 24-hour availability of neurologists, neurosurgeons, radiologists, nurse and emergency medicine physicians who are expert in managing stroke patients. Orange County's Medical Director of EMS **Dr. Samuel Stratton**, stated, "Bringing patients to a hospital that specializes in treating acute stroke will provide a tremendous advantage in surviving and limiting stroke effects."

Meditech menu changes - how will you be impacted?

We are making improvements to MD user profiles in Meditech to facilitate roll-based access, prepare for house wide implementation of Electronic Signature and to comply with Security/HIPPA policy changes. How will this impact you?

Arrangement of icons on your Meditech desktop will change. As the project progresses, new reports may be added as needed. Go-live dates will be phased in between July 14 and August 4. Specialties will be notified via fax and email of specific dates. If you have questions please call CIS Physician Liaison/Educator **Vira Estrada-Morse**, ext. 17870.

Cutting edge clinical research learning opportunity

You are invited to the IRB Educational Meeting on Thursday, July 30, 2009 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. in Zoul Auditorium. **Mary P. Harward, M.D., FACP**, and **Tara Cowell, Esq.**, will speak on such topics as biospecimen/repositories for research, emergency use of an investigational drug or biologic, and ethics of human subject research. For more details or to RSVP please call (714) 568-5538.

Back to Budget update

On July 13 St. Joseph Hospital notified 97 employees impacted by workforce reductions. This has been a very difficult process for everyone involved. These decisions were made following the Ethical Decision Making Process, focusing on our mission and our values as we considered all options available to us, and keeping in mind our fundamental goal: sustaining the mission of our Sisters. Given the plight of our national economy and California's unprecedented financial crisis, we needed to give thoughtful consideration to those positions and programs that were absolutely crucial in serving our community today, and well into the future.

As we re-focus on our strategic initiatives, we will not lose sight of the contributions made by those who will be leaving the St. Joseph Hospital family. "Dignity of the Person" will guide us through this transition.

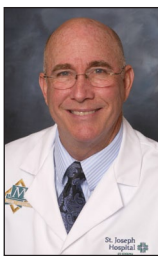
Thank you for your dedication to our patients and to each other during this difficult time for our ministry.

Larry Ainsworth
President and Chief Executive Officer

The Golden Rule, aka Code of Conduct policy

A new Code of Conduct (Acceptable Professional Behavior) policy was instituted at St. Joseph Hospital. Its purpose: "To create a work environment that fosters respectful and constructive relationships among and between patients, visitors, volunteers, physicians and employees in accordance with the hospital's core values." The policy is now online in the "Medical Staff Members Only" section of www.sjo.org.

In the trenches with Richard D. Dauben, MD Medical Director, Stroke Program



Does the recent successful Joint Commission survey for St. Joseph Hospital's Stroke Program signal a new focus on stroke care?

The Joint Commission's certification began in 2003, but we've been on the forefront of stroke care since the 1990s when we had a Neuroscience Institute. We were the first hospital in the county to give tPA and participated in several landmark trials on thrombolytic therapies. What we've built on that expertise has evolved into our current Stroke Center.

Our efforts over the past two years or so have culminated in our accreditation. This includes preparation by former Stroke Program Coordinator Jodi Caggiano, R.N., BSN; special training for our Med-Tele nurses; my becoming the medical director; mobilization of our stroke team neurologists and neuroradiologists; and rounding every week by the Stroke team, which includes myself, Jodi, the head nurse, physical, speech and occupational therapists.

Our volumes for stroke have steadily increased as we're an EMS receiving center

for stroke. With baby boomers aging we anticipate continued increases over the next 20 years.

What's the top priority for the Stroke Program?
Educating our community. Only five percent of patients arrive at the ER within the three hour window for intravenous thrombolytics and not many more within the six to eight hour window for interventional radiology. That's key to improving outcomes.

Does stroke care consume most of your time?
It's about 10 percent of my adult neurology practice. For the past 15 years I've also been the medical director of the Neurophysiology Lab here. I also do intraoperative monitoring for spinal surgeries via the Internet. From my office I'm communicating with the surgeons giving interpretations of testing. For CalOptima I'm helping develop an electronic referral program. I do iPhone programming, writing medical applications, including the NIH stroke scale in English and Spanish and a patient rounding program.

Tell us about your computer background.
I've been programming since my college days. Back when I started here in 1977, I used to tinker with computers, tearing them

apart and putting them together. Computers were my hobby, but it's paid off. More recently I was involved in the initial set up of our PhysicianConnect Gen2 system.

Do your colleagues embrace this automation?
Yes. Most like having everything online and welcome a better interface that provides immediate access to results and eliminates paper. Younger staff members in particular are very computer literate and eager to make use of new technology.

Aside from your practice with Pavilion Neurology Medical Group, Inc., how do you spend your time?

I play guitar and sing a variety of popular songs for small parties. I now have three neurology partners, so since 2000 I've been able to get away for two to three months each year on my 42 foot sailboat. I started in Newport Beach and sailed down the west coast and through the Panama Canal, learning Spanish along the way. I stopped at medical clinics and donated time, especially in Guatemala, and had fun playing music in the cantinas. Most recently I sailed from Cancun to Florida to Savannah, Georgia, where the boat is now docked. Next, I'm hoping to go to Cuba.



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