



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

St. Joseph Hospital   
ST. JOSEPH  
HEALTH SYSTEM

A PUBLICATION FROM THE ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL MEDICAL STAFF OFFICE

## Gallup names SJHS a world-class workplace

The St. Joseph Health System was named a “Gallup Great Workplace” for the third year in a row. SJHS is one of only 23 companies worldwide to receive this prestigious award, based on the most rigorous workplace research ever conducted. SJHS was evaluated by a panel of workplace experts and selected as a winner based on results demonstrating exceptionally productive and engaged employees. The study evaluated more than 10 million employees in more than 100 countries.

## Channeling new modes of therapy

*All new modes of parenteral medication therapy or devices delivering medication must go through the Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T) Committee for approval before use.* There have been some patient care issues and medication safety concerns when physicians implement new parenteral use of medication practices or when new medication infusion devices are brought into the hospital without first being approved by the P&T Committee. The P&T Committee, in reviewing new medication modes of therapy, considers safety and efficacy data from the literature as well as coordinating an approach to identify and address patient safety concerns and an education plan for staff involved. Per regulatory and national safety standards, the P&T Committee oversees all aspects of medication use in the hospital.

If you are planning to pilot or to introduce any new parenteral use of medication therapy (for example, delivering medication via an infusion, when it is currently only given IV push) or any new method of infusing medication in the hospital, please work with the St. Joseph P&T Committee to gain formal approval before implementing the new mode of therapy. Your initial contact will be **Patricia Nguyen, Pharm.D.**, Clinical Pharmacy Manager, at 714-771-8079. Patricia will get the necessary team together to work with you to help you address the safety, efficacy and educational components for approval by the P&T Committee. The P&T Committee will ensure that all who need to be informed are educated prior to use of the new mode of therapy to ensure safe and informed therapy for your patients.

*Gary Ostrowski, Pharm.D.*

*Medication Safety Officer & Medication Regulations, Pharmacy Services*

## Physicians transplanted to 1140 W. La Veta Ave.

**Teresa Garcia, MD** - OB/GYN - Suite 480, Ph (714) 547-8700

**Lilly Ramirez - Boyd, MD** - OB/GYN - Suite 410, Ph (714) 285-0612

**Brian Boyd, MD** - Neurology Suite 410, Ph (714) 285-0612 (by 3/30/09)

**Thomas Powell, MD, & Joo Hung Lee, MD** - Rheumatology - Suite 610, Ph (714) 245-0492

## Homage to healers

St. Joseph Hospital invites you to a **DOCTOR’S DAY RECEPTION** featuring a sushi bar and hors d’oeuvres on **Tuesday, March 31, 5:30 to 8 p.m.**, in the Mother Louis Room at 480 S. Batavia St.

A photographer will be taking photos for the SJO Physician Directory. Stop by a Physician Liaison’s table to schedule a free set-up/training visit to your office on the new Physician Connect Gen 2 remote access, single sign-on portal, giving you access anytime, anywhere to essential online information tools.

This year in honor of our valued physicians, SJO will make a donation to Bethany House and Taller San Jose. Bethany House provides a safe environment where women are guided, challenged and empowered as they transition from homeless shelters to independent living and self-sufficiency. Taller San Jose provides poverty-stricken, unskilled young adults the opportunity to finish their education and develop job skills.

## Don’t ask, do tell

Two new patient privacy laws took effect January 1 in California and impact physicians and other caregivers. Senate Bill 541 and companion legislation, Assembly Bill 211, impose fines on individual practitioners and healthcare institutions for unauthorized access to patient information. The law adds new state enforcement authority of long-standing state and federal privacy standards. Fines for hospitals range from \$25,000 to \$250,000; fines for practitioners range from \$2,500 to \$250,000.

Physicians and other caregivers are obligated under the new laws to report any suspected inappropriate or unauthorized access by calling (650) 724-2572, or anonymously to the compliance and privacy hotline, (800) 216-1784.

## In the trenches with George H. Garcia, M.D.

### *Is the predicted spike in Americans over age 40 with diabetic-related eye conditions impacting your practice?*

Although we're seeing many more diabetics, I'm pleased that the number of patients who have severe diabetes complications is down. Primary care physicians seem to be winning the battle with earlier diagnosis and diabetes treatment with better medications. They're sending patients to dietitians and classes on lifestyle changes, which makes our job easier.

Previously ophthalmology was an island, but we're now seeing more integration with other specialties. Those in primary care are more aware of conditions and their manifestations into the eyes, such as diabetes, thyroid disease or hypertension.

### *What else is changing in your world?*

St. Joseph Hospital is one of those rare hospitals that has embraced changes, which I find very rewarding for patients. Advanced lens implants that can now correct for far and near vision have revolutionized cataract surgery. We have some fantastic new medications to control glaucoma,

markedly decreasing the need for surgery. For those who do require intervention, the minimally invasive SLT laser procedures have proven very effective. We've also seen a shift in treating macular degeneration, a challenging area and the number one cause of vision loss in Americans over age 55. We're seeing amazing results using injections to treat patients who have wet macular degeneration which just a few years ago would have resulted in 90% vision loss.

When I started practicing in 1999 we were at the peak of the LASIK wave. About 2006 new techniques and computer-customized procedures reduced healing time and enabled us to detect contraindications for LASIK, so today it's safer and more effective.

Tear duct surgery, which previously led to scarring, is now done endoscopically through the nose. Blepharoplasty has also undergone a total shift in thinking in the past decade. Previously, fat was removed from puffy eyes. Today we're rearranging it and adding volume with impressive results. Botox, Juvederm and facial peels are less invasive and expensive alternatives to face lifts with less down time and more natural results.

Communication processes are also improving with electronic medical records (EMR). Our office was the first ophthalmology practice at St. Joseph Hospital to adopt EMR. Our goal is to improve coordination of care and help PCPs to have rapid, accurate information about their patients. What used to take a month to transcribe and send to the referring physician is now transmitted to them the same day as the exam or procedure.

*Dr. Garcia is Chairman of Ophthalmology at St. Joseph Hospital, President of the Orange County Society of Ophthalmology, an Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology at both the Jules Stein Eye Institute/UCLA and UCI Schools of Medicine, and a 2008 OCMA Physician of Excellence. He completed his pre-med studies at Cornell University in New York, his medical degree at UCLA, and a fellowship in Orbital and Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery at the Medical College of Wisconsin. These days his time away from work is spent with his children, ages three and 18 months.*



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### **SUBMISSIONS SOUGHT:**

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