



ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL
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MEDICAL STAFF BRIEFS



A PUBLICATION FROM THE ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL MEDICAL STAFF OFFICE

Hospice Service begins at St. Joseph Hospital

St. Joseph Hospital will introduce an inhouse Hospice Service by early 2009 for patients and families who have decided to stop acute treatment; patients who need a few days to get ready for their next stay, whether at home or at another facility, and patients who meet criteria for hospice care.

Inhouse service will begin with two Medical/Pulmonary Unit beds. Eventually, as staff are trained, it will be offered wherever the service is needed. Patients will be discharged from inpatient care and have a full readmission to Hospice. Attending and Hospice physicians may admit to the Hospice as primary care physicians. The new service is an extension of St. Joseph Hospice, under the medical direction of **Michael Malouf, MD**. Once the patient leaves the hospital, he or she will continue to be followed by St. Joseph Hospice.

"The program will allow the patient and family time to bridge to the next phase of the patient's life," states **Alexandra Wiggins, RN, MSN, CNS, BC**, Executive Director, Medical/Surgical Services, ext. 18997. "It places patients at the right level of care, allows for reimbursement for hospice care, will have a positive impact on mortality data and is the right thing to do for our patients."

Celebration 2008 a jumpin' success

"Celebration 2008 was one of the very best 'Benefits' that Jean and I have ever attended," raves **Michael W. Abdalla, MD**, who with his wife served as a Steering Committee member. "The entertainment was terrific with standing room only on the dance floor. Most importantly, it was wonderful to share the evening with fellow physicians and friends as we celebrated the many accomplishments of the hospital this past year."

Thanks to generous support and efforts by many, Celebration 2008 on October 4 was a huge success. Guests were treated to the acrobatics of Les Serveurs Acrobatique and the amazing vocals of JerseyMania. Proceeds of \$169,000 will go towards the new Hybrid Operating Room and The Center for Cancer Prevention and Treatment.

A special thank you to the entire Medical Staff, whose support and presence at this year's event made such a significant impact.

One is all you need

Just one password is all you need to get access anytime, anywhere to the information tools to provide the best possible care for your patients by logging on to Physician Connect Gen 2 web portal (GEN2). This new portal will replace SAM which will be phased out after the first of the year.

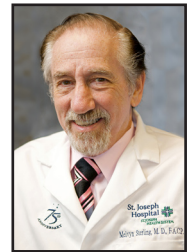
GEN2 sets a new standard for the next generation of SJHS supported applications, such as MEDITECH and PACS, as well as

evidence-based resources like Up-To-Date and Zynx on demand. Benefits of GEN2 include:

- Remote access to SJHS Applications
 - Single Sign On
 - Peer to Peer Collaboration
 - Specialty Specific Automated Clinical Alerts
 - Access to Evidence Based Practice tools
- GEN2 begins December 1 with a pilot

Sterling's Mastership

Congratulations to **Melvyn Sterling, MD**, who was named a Master of the American College of Physicians. Masters comprise a small, elite group of highly distinguished physicians, selected from among ACP Fellows, who have achieved recognition in medicine by exhibiting preeminence in practice or medical research, holding positions of high honor, or making significant contributions to medical science or the art of medicine. Of the 125,000 members nationwide, 48 were named for 2009 as permanent Masters.



Last year, the ACP presented Dr. Sterling with the Outstanding Volunteer Clinical Teacher Award. The award is for physicians who have demonstrated outstanding teaching prowess, displayed exemplary characteristics of care and concern for individual patients at the bedside, and served as a role model and mentor.

His award will be presented in April, 2009, at the ACP Convocation Ceremony in Philadelphia, PA.

Dr. Sterling serves as St. Joseph Hospital's Internal Medicine Chair and Co-Medical Director of Palliative Care.

group of 200 physicians, with a subsequent rollout to the rest of the Medical Staff. MAC and Mozilla Fire Fox users, who previously were unable to access SJO sites, will now be able to use this new portal.

For more information, please contact **Vira Estrada**, Physician Liaison, at ext. 17870.

It's who you know



Lee Judson, CPMSM, who has served in the U.S. Navy for 34 years, was promoted to the rank of Captain this past summer. In December she begins travelling to New Orleans one weekend a month as she assumes command of a unit with a defense intelligence mission of continued support of the war on terrorism.

Director of Medical Staff Services **Lee Judson, CPMSM**, cites several major achievements involving her department this past year, the first being successful completion of the Joint Commission survey. Another was "serving as a cog in the wheel" for Crew Training, with virtually all proceduralists and surgeons having completed the course.

Changes in how the Medical Staff is supported came to the department this past year as **Raymond Casciari, MD**, stepped into the role of Chief Medical Officer. "He is very enthusiastic and has such vision. He challenges and supports our staff, often telling us to 'stretch yourself,'" says Lee, who has worked in medical staff administration for 31 years, the past seven with St. Joseph Hospital.

On deck: Medical Staff Services is streamlining the Medical Staff database and credentialing process with a new, state-of-the-art software program funded by the Medical Staff. Software training is underway. "Going to a paperless system is a big transition for us, with all of the work being done on-

line," remarks Lee. "It will save time, postage and frustration."

For 2009, Lee is focusing on "making sure we are on board with focused peer review that meets Joint Commission requirements." She adds, "We're working closely with Quality Management to implement opportunities for improvement that will demonstrate best practices." An additional initiative to maximize efficiencies is to become "involved up front" with physician recruitment, so that new doctors can get through the system faster.

Lee would like Medical Staff to know, "We are here to support and serve, and we encourage the physicians to email their questions and requests. We will respond ASAP. I know it can be frustrating for doctors to be shuffled around on the phone. If they email us, they always get an answer, even if it's 'We'll research it and get back to you,' or a reply with a forward to the person who can respond." Lee can be emailed at Lee.Judson@stjoe.org.

Meet the rest of the Medical Staff Services team in future *Briefs*.

Alexandra R. Wiggins, RN, MSN, CNS, BC, Executive Director, Medical/Surgical Services, joined St. Joseph Hospital in August 2008. She comes to us from Torrance Memorial Medical Center.

She states, "Now that I'm on the inside, I can truly see the innovative and cutting edge way St. Joseph Hospital 'works.' This is evident not only in the technology used, but also in how work is done and how everyone is treated on a day-to-day basis. Patients and family are always placed first and all staff are nurtured and cared for with every effort to bring out the best in each person. This approach is based on St. Joseph's values and is felt each day I am at work. I am so blessed to be a part of this exceptional organization!"

Alex can be reached at (714) 771-8997 (ext. 18997).



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St. Joseph Hospital
ST. JOSEPH
HEALTH SYSTEM

1100 W. Stewart Dr.
Orange, CA 92868



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