



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

## Barristers for Bylaws

**Paul Beck, MD**, reported to the Medical Executive Committee (MEC) regarding attorneys' names he received from the California Medical Association (CMA). All three have excellent credentials and have worked with the CMA for bylaws review. The names, listed in alphabetical order, are: Gregory Abrams, Tom Curtis and Elizabeth Snelson.

The MEC is developing five to six questions to interview each attorney and

will present them with a real-life situation for their advice. This will be done at a special meeting of the MEC in early 2009. Once the interviews have been completed, the MEC will decide which attorney will represent our Medical Staff for bylaws reviews (existing and future).

In the spirit of transparency, we expect all proposed bylaws changes will be posted on a Medical Staff web page for review and input by early 2009.

## Bundling a Celebration of Life

To enhance services provided to maternity patients and families, St. Joseph Hospital has initiated a "Celebration of Life" package. First offered to a family on November 17, 2008, the package includes a special celebratory meal for the mother and partner/guest and gifts of sparkling cider, flute glasses, a relaxation CD and a note from the hospital, all wrapped up and waiting in one of the unit's 19 private rooms. "Celebration"

is available for a flat fee of \$300 and is based on availability at the time of delivery.

**Michael Linzey, MD**, who has delivered babies at SJO for 30 years, called Celebration of Life a good idea, a reasonable price, and worth sharing with his 400 or so patients delivering here annually who almost always want a private room. "I deliver here because they have great staff to back us up...this will be a plus," he said.

## Planning, communicating a smooth CHOC transition

As reported last spring, CHOC has advised us that in five years they will begin to provide almost all pediatric services currently provided through the Shared Services Agreement in their new patient tower. In September the St. Joseph Hospital Executive Management Team (EMT) attended a retreat with CHOC EMT to begin dialoguing about the future. While each EMT shared strategic directions and identified areas that require further research, the overall theme focused on the continuation of a positive, mutually supportive relationship.

In the spirit of this theme, SJO and CHOC have formed a joint communica-

tions team responsible for providing timely updates on physical changes on and around our campus, as well as answering stakeholder questions and reporting on factual decisions. Physicians with questions or concerns are encouraged to contact Chief Medical Officer **Raymond Casciari, MD**, at (714) 771-8056.

Both hospitals will spend the next five years actively planning and implementing a positive transition. And, through the development of the joint communications team, we will keep you informed by providing relevant, factually correct information.

## Cath Lab on the SJO Way

Significant improvements have come in 2008 through eight "Rapid Improvement Events" (RIEs), intensive week-long gatherings of physicians and staff from in and outside of the Cath Lab. Their hard work is evidenced by a 94.61% patient satisfaction rating for the Cath Lab. Here are a few of many other specific achievements:

- Reduced overtime from 18% to 8.6%.
- Improved timeliness, efficiency and staff satisfaction with scheduling procedures with implementation of the PICIS scheduling system.
- Anesthesia Availability/Coverage: From 68% to 90.7% of requests fulfilled.
- Cut CVSSU pre-procedure process time for patients from 43 to 30 minutes.
- Room 5 turnover time decreased from 33 to 15 minutes.
- Inpatient pre-procedure readiness: Developed pre-printed cath order sets for MD use and educated nurses on "must haves" for a complete consent and "patient ready" checklist.

Several more Cath Lab RIEs are in the works. Heartfelt thanks to **Jairo Marin, MD**, and all RIE team members for reducing waste and increasing satisfaction.

## Breast Center moves

The Comprehensive Breast Center moved to The Center for Cancer Prevention and Treatment on November 24 and will resume seeing patients on December 1. This will be a temporary move while their new center in the St. Joseph Medical Tower (MOB) is being completed. Please help direct these patients to this new location at 1000 W. La Veta Ave. All phone numbers will remain the same.

# It's who you know

Meet your St. Joseph Hospital Medical Staff credentialers, from left: Linda Byrd, CPCS, CPMSN, Elvia Solis and Martha Copeland. With a collective 44 years of medical staff experience they are well prepared to serve our 1,048-member Medical Staff. Along with reappointments, these ladies have processed applications for 100+ applicant physicians in the past six months. Since the new applicant and reappointment verification process came inhouse about a year ago, initial appointment time has dropped from an average of 4-6 months to 30-60 days. Coming soon: look for SJO Medical Staff membership and reappointment applications to be online by early 2009.



## Find yourself on Find A Doc

Are you participating in the free online physician referral program? If so, is your profile correct and up to date? Find out by visiting [www.sjo.org](http://www.sjo.org). Our Doctors, Find a Doctor, and typing in your name. To find out if you are listed in appropriate specialties, type in just your specialty(ies).

If you do not have a profile, you will need to complete a referral application. To obtain an application or update your profile please email [mary.mertes@stjoe.org](mailto:mary.mertes@stjoe.org).

## Educational Opportunity & Dinner ADVANCES IN SPINE SURGERY

Wednesday, December 10, 2008, 6:30 pm  
Fleming's Prime Steakhouse, Newport Beach  
featuring **Jeffrey Deckey, M.D.** Register for this free program at (866) 714-1777.

## FREE for your patients who smoke

St. Joseph Hospital Thoracic Oncology Program and Santiago Canyon College partner on smoking cessation services for the community, free of charge. Classes provide nicotine replacement therapy and behavioral therapy for permanent smoking cessation. Invite patients to call (800) 441-0110.

## And the winners are...

**Lawrence Ehrlich, MD**, and **Jesus Hernandez, MD**, both won Dell All-in-One color printers (that print, scan, fax and copy) by completing the Clinical Informatics (CI) Physician Survey. This survey was sent to all physicians in August in an effort to obtain feedback in planning future CI training. The survey showed that 35 physicians use and 31 do not use MediTech, and 10 would like to learn more.

Thank you to the 68 respondents. As we move forward with future online documentation and CPOE, physician input is critical. Please contact Physician Liaison Vira Estrada-Morse (x17870) with any Meditech or other questions and feedback regarding information systems at SJO.

## Library searches for your input

Burlew Medical Library wants to know if it is meeting your knowledge-based needs. By completing a quick needs assessment survey by December 16 you will be entered into a raffle for two \$50 bookstore gift certificates. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey, found at [www.sjo.org/For\\_Physicians\\_Only.aspx](http://www.sjo.org/For_Physicians_Only.aspx), and fax it back to (714) 744-8533.



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