



ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL
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MEDICAL STAFF BRIEFS



A PUBLICATION FROM THE ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL MEDICAL STAFF OFFICE

Emergency waits cut

When **James Grimes, M.D.**, came to St. Joseph Hospital's Emergency Room sick with pneumonia, he was confronted with multiple forms before receiving care. "Once I got inside the ER treatment was outstanding, but initially it was frustrating," he recalls. Feedback from his experience was used by Administration, ER physicians and staff to improve the process.

A "St. Joseph Way" performance improvement team formed in 2007 for the Emergency department and is led by **James Pierog, M.D.**, ER Executive Director **John Senteno, R.N.**, and CNO **Katie Skelton, R.N.** The team conducted a "Value Stream Analysis" of current operations and have completed six process improvements known as "Rapid Improvement Events" (RIE) to streamline patient flow, with more in the works. REIs to date include:

- Notification time to ED RN that a bed is assigned/ready reduced from as much as 45 minutes to less than 15 minutes
- Time from patient's arrival through triage to patient exam room reduced from 29 to 20 minutes
- Reduced registration form from three pages to one. Patients previously waiting an average of 31 minutes before they were called to triage to complete paperwork now wait less than eight minutes.

States Skelton, "St. Joseph Way is a 10-year initiative. We've begun with teams in the ER as well as the Cath Lab, whose team has enhanced patient and anesthesiologist scheduling, reduced pre-procedure wait times for the patient and improved Cath Lab utilization and turn around time. We're looking forward to eventually bringing St. Joseph Way to all of our service lines."

The Future is Now: Innovations in Breast Cancer Prevention, Detection & Treatment

Physicians are invited to a free educational program and dinner on Wednesday, October 28, at 6:30 p.m. at The Clubhouse in Costa Mesa. **Michelle Carpenter, M.D.**, Medical Director, Breast Cancer Services, will discuss self-awareness, lifestyle, genetics and prevention; **Jay Harness, M.D.**, Breast Surgeon and Principal Investigator for NCI Community Cancer Centers Program, will cover radiation therapy of the future, including Mobetron intra-operative electron radiotherapy, and **Kimberly Ray, M.D.**, SJO Radiologist, will speak about breast MRI in clinical practice. To register for this limited seating program call (866) 714-1777.

Barrier removed for HIV testing

A letter from the California Department of Public Health, signed by **Michael Roland, M.D.**, has notified us that medical care providers are now only required to provide information about HIV testing to patients and advise them they have a right to decline the test. Assembly Bill 682 has eliminated the requirement that patients must give written consent before their medical providers can provide HIV testing. According to CDC, more than one million Americans are living with HIV, and 24 to 27 percent of these people are unaware of their HIV infection.

Oops! Physicians in action missing

OCPMG, Inc., St. Joseph Hospital pathologists, along with cardiologists and MRD radiologists also participated in the Access OC project at SJO on September 13, but were not mentioned in the September 30 *Briefs* report. **Shu-Yuan Liao, M.D.**, spent her Saturday doing frozen sections and intra-operative consults for these Access OC patients. Several days later, she and **Michael Schoen, M.D.**, performed anatomic pathology services for these Access OC patients and signed out approximately 16 cases, some of which were diagnostically complex. **Aaron Sassoon, M.D.**, signed out an 8-part prostate case for Access OC. The SJH Clinical Lab also provided free pre-op clinical laboratory tests. Thanks again to all of our fine physicians and staff voluntarily providing ambulatory surgical care at no charge for members of the community without access to medical services.

"This was our first time to partner with Access OC and the organization did a fantastic job," said surgeon **Anita Gregory, M.D.**, who took part in the event. "They made it easy for physicians to participate and took care of all of the pre-op testing, filling of prescriptions, etc. Patients were incredibly grateful. It was a nice day. Everyone there was happy to help out."

Preserving fertility in cancer patients

Attend a luncheon presentation on "Fertility Preservation Education for Cancer Patients" by **David G. Diaz, M.D., FACOG.**, Medical Director, West Coast Fertility Centers, on November 4 at 12:30 p.m. in The Center for Cancer Prevention and Treatment Todos Conference Rooms. Call (714) 771-8985 for details.

In the trenches

with **Lisa Kohorn, M.D., Chair,**
St. Joseph Hospital Dept of Pathology

What facts should the Medical Staff know about our "behind-the-scenes" pathologists? We're unique in that every one of our pathologists is triple board certified, by the American Board of Pathology in Anatomic Pathology (surgical pathology), Clinical Pathology (laboratory medicine) and a subspecialty. The subspecialties within our group are Dermatopathology, Cytopathology, Pediatric Pathology and Hematopathology. Three of our pathologists have done an additional fellowship in surgical pathology. Most of us trained at UCLA or Stanford University. Because of the knowledge and expertise within our group, we're able to provide the highest level of Anatomic and Clinical Pathology services in Orange County.

I'm very proud to be in Orange County Pathology Medical Group, Inc. (OCPMG), which is like a second family. We all get along and work in a collaborative way. Each of us serves as a resource for others in the group. For example, we promote the practice of intradepartmental consensus on diagnostic malignant biopsies. It's not required by the College of American Pathologists, but we do this in order to provide the highest quality of patient care.

While most of our work is done here in the basement at a microscope, we're also found in the Lab or the OR, and doctors in the hospital also see us participating in over 40 meetings a month including tumor boards, clinical conferences and hospital meetings. We're a very approachable group. Physicians can always call us with questions and if they want to see cases they can call ahead and we'll have the multi-headed scope set up for them. We're always available - someone is on call 24/7.

Tell us about your Pathology family.

Dr. Bijan Haghghi is the Director of Dermatopathology Services and Director of Pathology for The Melanoma Program at SJO, and Director of Pulmonary Pathology Services. He has remained a clinical instructor at Stanford.

The only pathologist I didn't know when I came here is **Dr. Shu-Yuan Liao**, and I'm grateful we have her. She has been my mentor and is a very talented surgical pathologist. Dr. Liao has published extensively in Gyn pathology. She is our Director of Breast and Gyn Pathology and maintains her clinical professorship at UCI in the Department of Epidemiology.

Dr. Mark Lones, who I met while a UCLA resident, recruited me to SJO. He is the Director of Hematopathology and GI Pathology Services.

Dr. Aaron Sassoon and I became friends

during our residencies at UCLA. We were very fortunate to recruit him away from St. John's Hospital. He is the Pathology Liaison for The Center for Cancer Prevention and Treatment, Director of Urologic Pathology and serves as head of our National Community Cancer Center Pilot Biospecimen Repository. Dr. Sassoon was recently named National Cochairman for the Biospecimen Repository Project.

I met **Dr. Michael Schoen**, SJO Laboratory Medical Director, while I was a fellow at Stanford. His subspecialty is Cytopathology and he is the Director of this service. He is also Director of Head and Neck Pathology Services.

I did my residency at UCLA, surgical pathology fellowship at Stanford and pediatric fellowship at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles before coming here 14 years ago. In addition to being SJO and CHOC Pathology Chair and President of OCPMG, I'm Medical Director of our outpatient laboratory, Pathology Diagnostic Consultants, Inc., a division of OCPMG, and serve as the Director of Pediatric Pathology at SJO and CHOC. My husband, Larry, and I enjoy spending our time away from work with our 17-month-old son, Joshua, who was born at St. Joseph Hospital.



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