



ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL
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MEDICAL STAFF BRIEFS



A PUBLICATION FROM THE ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL MEDICAL STAFF OFFICE

Preparing for a busy influenza season

To protect physicians during this influenza season, St. Joseph Hospital will provide the Medical Staff with vaccination against the seasonal flu and H1N1, free of charge.

St. Joseph Hospital has the seasonal influenza vaccine and awaits the shipment of H1N1 vaccine. SJO employees and volunteers also have the choice of receiving or declining the vaccines. Employees and volunteers who do not obtain both vaccines must wear a protective surgical mask or similar protective device while on duty during the peak of the declared influenza season, December 1, 2009 - March 31, 2010.

To protect patients and staff, SJO has modified its visitation policy for the influenza season. No more than two visitors may visit at a time, and they cannot present with influenza-like illness (ILI). Only one person may accompany a patient in the Emergency Department, and that person cannot have ILI. All visitors must be over the age of 18. SJO will screen visitors for flu-like symptoms. If present, the visitor will be asked to call their loved one from home rather than visit. For end-of-life and other special circumstances, they will be allowed to visit with a mask.

In late October a multidisciplinary team of clinical and nonclinical staff met for four days and developed a comprehensive supplement to the hospital's existing Mass Casualty Influx Plan and Hospital Incident Command System (HICS). As part of this plan, physicians and office managers will receive web and fax updates of the H1N1 situation on campus as developments occur. H1N1 vaccine updates for the public and a list of area flu clinic locations is posted on www.sjo.org/flu. Resources for providers can be found at www.sjo.org/physicians_only, by clicking in the left navigation bar on H1N1.

Armenian Presidential Medal of Honor for Dr. Tertzakian

During his visit to Armenia this fall **Garo Tertzakian, MD**, was surprised to be awarded the "Mkhitar Heratsi" Medal of Honor by President of the Republic of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan. The medal was presented to Dr. Tertzakian by Dr. Haroutioun Koushkyan, Minister of Health of Armenia, on behalf of the president, during a formal ceremony on September 30, 2009. The "Mkhitar Heratsi" presidential medal is awarded to health professionals for their significant contributions to the advancement of healthcare in Armenia. Dr. Tertzakian is the first physician of Armenian descent residing outside of the Republic of Armenia to receive the Mkhitar Heratsi medal, which is named after an outstanding Armenian physician of the 12th century considered the father of Armenian medicine.

Since 1987 Dr. Tertzakian has traveled frequently to Armenia on medical outreach missions. He has contributed to the advancement of the practice of Urology in Armenia by introducing local urologists to modern approaches to urological clinical management and to new urological surgical techniques. In the early 1990s he helped establish a urology residency program and an audio-visual learning center at the Mikaelyan Surgical Institute, a leading teaching hospital in the capital city of Yerevan. He is a founding member of the Armenian Association of Urology. Over the years he has sponsored many promising young Armenian urologists for post-residency training in O.C. hospitals, including SJO. Dr. Tertzakian's comments about this honor appear on the back page.

Medical Staff perceptions have SJO seeing stars

Scores in the top 10 percent in 2008 of national medical staff perceptions have resulted in 10 5-Star Awards for St. Joseph Hospital from Professional Research Corporation (PRC), an independent research firm with a database of hospital medical staffs nationwide. According to PRC, staff physicians rated SJO among the highest in the nation in these areas:

- Radiology Services
- Nursing Care
- Laboratory Services
- As a Place to Practice Medicine
- Overall Quality of Care
- Medical Records
- Emergency Services
- Surgical Services
- Pathology Services
- Anesthesia Services

CVICU transferring

On November 1, CVICU relocates from the 1st floor of Building 1 to SICU (3rd floor of the new Patient Care Center) in Building 2. Please contact Cardiothoracic Nurse Practitioner **Megan Liego, RN, MSN, ACNP**, ext. 15470, with any questions.

Welcome new Medical Staff

- Hong Kim, MD**.....Internal Medicine
- John Lipham, MD** General Surgery
- Michael Louie, MD**.....Pediatric Urology
- Bhagwan Moorjani, MD**... Peds Urology
- Glenn Niegas, DO**Hospitalist-IM
- Pierangelo Renella, MD**... Peds Cardiology
- Swapneel Shah, MD** Anesthesiology
- Deepa Tom, MD**Hospitalist-IM
- Zhijun Wang, MD**.....Pediatrics

Dr. Garo Tertzakian's Armenian Presidential Medal of Honor

Continued from page 1

My grandparents were among the survivors of the 1915 Armenia Genocide, taking refuge in Lebanon, where I was born. When I was first invited to visit Armenia in 1986, it was still part of the Soviet Union. On that first trip I brought 18 boxes – 800 pounds - of medical supplies donated by area hospitals, including St. Joseph Hospital. My goal was to teach transurethral surgery as I found out that they did not perform transurethral procedures. Prostate surgery was done open, with lots of complications. I was met by Professor Aghajanian, the country's chief urologist, who welcomed me warmly. My apprehension of going to a "foreign" country evaporated. During that first visit, I was working with the Armenian urologists 18 to 20 hours a day, performing and teaching close to 60 various transurethral procedures over eight working days.

With that trip, I was hooked. I was back there when the city was under siege by Soviet troops, major demonstrations were being held against the regime, and right after their major



earthquake in 1988 as a member of the U.S. State Department's emergency relief team.

I've been back almost every year since 1987 to introduce new concepts and techniques, from cancer management to female urology. They have been quick learners and have progressed rapidly. Because the medical system had no strong concept of physician/patient relationships, I also strived to introduce them to concepts like patient rights, disclosure of risks and benefits of procedures performed, quality assurance, etc.

Over the years I've sponsored a number of Armenian urologists to spend time in select Orange County hospitals to see and learn new techniques. A few months ago, a senior Armenian urologist observed advanced urological surgeries at SJO, including a robotic prostatectomy performed by my associates **Drs. (Matthew) Greenberger** and **(William) Pearce**. Not a week passes without my doing an online consultation requested by my Armenia colleagues for unusual and challenging cases, which I greatly enjoy.

Every time I go back I see unmistakable signs of progress. In earlier years, when an Armenian citizen had a serious illness, his or

her first instinct was to head for Russia. Now, I routinely see foreign patients being treated in Armenian hospitals. Also, Armenians living outside of Armenia go there for high quality and affordable medical care.

A few years ago, a high-ranking political figure was waiting for me to come and perform his surgery. I found out it was a routine case and refused to do it. I told him the doctor there was as qualified as me for that procedure! I've transferred modern knowledge by being respectful to the local physicians and without getting involved in local medical politics. I've been privileged to do this work while seeing history in the making. I feel it has made me a better person and physician. And on top of it I have earned the gratitude of an entire nation.

Africa Medical Trip for Docs

Have you dreamed of using your medical talents to serve the poor, care for the sick, and educate the next generation?

Join Saddleback Church on a two-week Medical Missions trip to Kenya from March 2-15, 2010. They are looking for MDs who are flexible and willing to donate their time to make a difference in Kenya. For more information, contact **Kathy Keener, RN**, at Kathy.Keener@stjoe.org.



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