

Dan Vu, MD

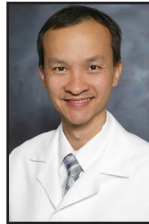
Radiologist

What's it like being an SJO Radiologist?

St. Joseph Hospital is a dream place for me to work with its state-of-the-art equipment and talented Medical Staff. It is exciting to be the first hospital in Orange County to obtain a PET CT scan, the latest technology in the work-up and staging of many types of cancer. Fusing two different scans, the anatomic CT and physiologic nuclear PET, we can now localize abnormal metabolism to a specific region of the body. It has revolutionized oncologic imaging. Recent acquisition of two SPECT CT scanners has positioned us at the forefront of the nation.

A favorite aspect of my work week is Lung Tumor Board on Mondays. Multidisciplinary specialists in thoracic surgery, pulmonary medicine, medical oncology, radiation oncology, radiology and pathology collaborate to have one of the best lung cancer programs in the U.S., with survival rates higher than national data.

I also have a passion for cardiac imaging. We have the expertise and Orange County's only advanced cardiac MRI scanner, but it's underutilized. I encourage referring doctors to take advantage of this modality, shown to be superior in evaluating cardiomyopathy,



myocardial ischemia/viability and congenital heart disease.

I consider my MRD colleagues to comprise the best radiology group in Southern California, with fellowship-trained radiologists having expertise in every organ system and radiologic modality. I've also found our medical staff to be compassionate and skillful and enjoy our collegial atmosphere. The recent opening of IPOC, a collaboration between SJO and MRD, is another example of the fine quality MRD brings to our community and hospital.

Tell us about your background and how it led you to choose a medical profession.

My grandfather was an herbal medicine doctor in a village in Vietnam. As used to be common practice, his entire life was devoted to providing medical care for free! This was possible because his parents gave him land that he could lease, and all was done out of kindness. He inspired me to always help others in need through the practice of medicine. In this challenging time of healthcare reform, remembering what my grandfather represented puts me back on track by focusing on the patients.

After the fall of Vietnam in 1975, life became difficult for my family. Their fish sauce company

was seized, and as Catholics, we were not free to practice our religion. Higher education would have been very difficult to achieve, so we left the country in 1979 when I was 9. Fishermen with boats were paid to help families like ours to escape. We went to a refugee camp in Malaysia before settling in Los Angeles, which was predominantly Hispanics and Asians. I appreciated growing up in a diversified environment. We moved to Fountain Valley where I attended high school, and subsequently went to UCI for my B.S. degree, graduating first in my class. I stayed there for medical school, internship and residency, and then went to UCLA for fellowship training in cardiothoracic imaging. In 2001, I joined MRD and the medical staff of St. Joseph Hospital and CHOC. Currently being the president of the Orange County Radiological Society, I enjoy helping the community and teaching CHOC and UCI residents.

I fell in love with my wife across a cadaver during my first year of medical school. She is a practicing physical medicine and rehabilitation physician. We are blessed with three kind and inquisitive children ages 11, 7, and 6. Our lives revolve around our kids. We spend our free time traveling to tropical places. At home in Villa Park, I enjoy gardening and tending to our exotic fruit trees.



A PUBLICATION FROM THE ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL MEDICAL STAFF OFFICE



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