

Lawrence D. Wagman, MD Executive Medical Director, The Center for Cancer Prevention and Treatment

What have been the major achievements in cancer services since you arrived here almost 18 months ago?

First, the move into our new building. Also, the inclusion of more physicians through Conditions of Participation agreements has been crucial to our progress. The physicians who stepped up and declared their commitment deserve a lot of credit. We also developed our website, which now has a lot of information about each of our modalities and is being used by patients and physicians. We launched our Liver Tumor Program. With the support and collaboration of the people who were already here, we have at least quadrupled the number of liver surgeries performed here.

We've also focused on our research efforts, and have a better understanding of the needs of the IRB. This has allowed us to facilitate study activation. There is also a rotation of the nurse navigators who now sit on the IRB as voting members. The navigators have learned a lot about clinical trials, and the IRB has gained nursing expertise.

We're now recognized as a principal site

for the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project (NSABP) cooperative research group, we're a collaborative site for Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG), and we've successfully maintained our Southwest Oncology Group (SWOG) affiliation. The number of patients accrued to clinical trials has increased due to the good work of (Research Manager) **Maria Gonzalez**, committed workers in the Research Department, and doctors who allow us to come to their offices to identify patients for participation (in a HIPAA compliant manner). There is a new screening system for evaluating clinical trials that maximizes our potential for selecting the best trials.

Through clinical trials we've brought some new technologies. For example, **Dr. (Hisham) El-Bayar** is the principal investigator of a trial that investigates a surgical tool for microwave ablation. Another is Therasphere, the radioactive beads used in the treatment of primary liver tumors.

Beginning IORT last week was another coup with huge potential for patients. This



*Dr. Wagman, second from left, ran the September 6 Disney® Half Marathon along with Orthopedic Spine Surgeon **Jack Chen MD**, Internist **Ruth Brandow, MD**, and Cardiologist **Jairo Marin, MD**, and nearly 14,000 other runners. "I wanted to start running more and was glad to have a goal," commented Dr. Wagman. St. Joseph Hospital was the exclusive medical sponsor for the event again this year. Thanks go to ED Medical Director **James Pierog, MD**, event medical director, and **Drs. Ian Bare, Aaron Castro, Jessica Pierog, Norman Rosen, William Murphy and G. Scott Smith**, volunteers providing first aid.*

is the third IORT "day one" I've observed. The others were at NIH and City of Hope. **Drs. Ash, Forouzannia, Carpenter and Harness** deserve all the credit for making it happen. I was very impressed with how well prepared and flexible they were.



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St. Joseph Hospital 
ST. JOSEPH
HEALTH SYSTEM

1100 W. Stewart Dr.
Orange, CA 92868



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