

## An Update from the New Chief of Staff

We begin 2022 navigating a fourth Covid surge. Fortunately, two years' experience battling Covid-19 has prepared us for current conditions. I want to thank Immediate Past Chief of Staff Dr. Brian Boyd for his unflappable leadership throughout his 2020-2021 term, navigating uncharted and difficult territory.



**Peter  
Smethurst, MD**

Unfortunately, Omicron is causing an overwhelming ED volume and a bed crisis, so we've had to re-institute a review of surgeries and "non-essential" services requiring inpatient beds, the ICU and/or blood products. We have also

resumed required testing for Covid prior to aerosolized procedures and surgeries. Patients who are unable to test in the community may have testing done on the day prior to and up to three days before their procedure by utilizing our valet service in the ED circle, or may be dropped off. Registration and pre-procedural testing is in the old cancer center adjacent to our Emergency Care Center.

As an intensivist and Medical Staff leader, I am acutely aware of the ravages this disease has wrought on patients as well as medical and hospital staff. Adversity has also given rise to unprecedented teamwork, perseverance, ingenuity, and a newfound appreciation for well-being. I look forward to working with you in these challenging times.

## OCMA Recognizes 2022 Physicians of Excellence

*Orange County Medical Association (OCMA) honors the Physicians of Excellence for their services to their profession, lifelong dedication to their patients and commitment to the community they serve. Each year in January, Orange Coast Magazine, in conjunction with the OCMA, publishes its list of Orange County Physicians of Excellence. In 2022, 100 St. Joseph Hospital Medical Staff members were recognized.*

### ALLERGY AND CLINICAL IMMUNOLOGY

Donald S. Levy, M.D.

### ANESTHESIOLOGY

John M. Harris, M.D.  
Joseph Kim, M.D.  
Manoj Kulkarni, M.D.  
Afshin Shabanian, M.D.

### CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY

Richard Gates, M.D.  
Joanne Starr, M.D.

### CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

Brian Kolski, M.D.

### COLON AND RECTAL SURGERY

Anita Gregory, M.D.

### DERMATOLOGY

Jonathan Baron, M.D.

### DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY

Mark Masotto, M.D.  
Kenneth Meng, M.D.  
Kirk Ohanian, M.D.  
Hieu Truong, M.D.  
Dan Vu, M.D.

### EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Gregory S. LaSala, M.D.  
Brian S. Lee, M.D.  
Matthew Mullarky, M.D.  
Christopher Yao, M.D.

### ENDOCRINOLOGY, DIABETES AND METABOLISM

Priya K. Shah, M.D.

### FAMILY MEDICINE

Thomas Badin, M.D.  
Hal S. Shimazu, M.D.  
Laura MacKenzie Tangredi, DO

### GASTROENTEROLOGY

Alaa Abousaif, M.D.  
Haig Najarian, M.D.  
Hardeep Singh, M.D.  
David B. Stanton, M.D.

### GENERAL SURGERY

Michele Carpenter, M.D.  
Hang Dang, D.O.

### GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY

Lisa Abaid, M.D.  
John V. Brown, M.D.  
Krishnansu Tewari, M.D.

### INTERNAL MEDICINE

Jane Curtis, M.D.  
Victoria Leigh, D.O.  
Sonal Sakariya, M.D.  
Samy A. Younis, M.D.

### MATERNAL-FETAL MEDICINE

Tamera J. Hatfield, M.D.  
Jennifer Jolley, M.D.  
Carol Major, M.D.

### MEDICAL ONCOLOGY

Wade Smith, M.D.

### NEONATAL MEDICINE

Sudeep Kukreja, M.D.  
Jina Lim, M.D.

### NEONATAL-PERINATAL MEDICINE

Monica N. Sondhi, M.D.

### NEUROSURGERY

Lars Anker, M.D.  
Hector Ho, M.D.  
Michael G. Muhonen, M.D.  
Bradley Noblett, M.D.  
Daniel Yanni, M.D.

### OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY

Morris Ahdoot, M.D.  
Monica Aszterbaum, M.D.  
Jennifer Butler, M.D.  
Janis D. Fee, M.D.  
Kristine Kim, M.D.  
Manuel Porto, M.D.  
Carla Wells, M.D.

### OPHTHALMOLOGY

Sanford Chen, M.D.  
Charles W.G. Eifrig, M.D.  
John Hwang, M.D.  
Desmond McGuire, M.D.  
Aisha Simjee, M.D.  
Michael K. Tran, M.D.  
Timothy T. You, M.D.

### ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

Michael Gillman, M.D.  
Robert C. Grumet, M.D.  
Jonathan Kaplan, M.D.  
Eric W. Lee, M.D.

### OTOLARYNGOLOGY/HEAD-NECK SURGERY

Felizardo Camilon, Jr., M.D.

### PEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGY

Nafiz Kiciman, M.D.  
Wyman W. Lai, M.D.  
Gira S. Morchi, M.D.  
Pierangelo Renella, M.D.

### PEDIATRIC CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE

Gary Goodman, M.D.  
Andrea Guardenier, M.D.  
Juliette Hunt, M.D.  
Jason Knight, M.D.  
Paul Lubinsky, M.D.  
Adam Schwarz, M.D.

### PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGY

Jeffrey Ho, D.O.  
Mitchell Katz, M.D.  
Anup Patel, M.D.

### PEDIATRIC HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY

Amit Soni, M.D.

### PEDIATRIC SPORTS MEDICINE

Chris G. Koutures, M.D.

### PEDIATRIC SURGERY

Peter Yu, M.D.

### PEDIATRICS

Sinda Althoen, M.D.  
Angela S. Dangvu, M.D.  
Lisa Hoang, M.D.  
Renuka Kar, M.D.  
Romit Kar, M.D.  
Anjali Monga, M.D.  
Sarah O'Loughlin, M.D.  
Dilip Patel, M.D.  
Taylor Tran, M.D.

### PLASTIC & RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

Dong Jun (John) Park, M.D.  
Michael Sundine, M.D.

### PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION

Eric Chang, M.D.

### PULMONARY DISEASE

George M. Girgis, M.D.  
Devang Savani, M.D.

### PULMONARY DISEASE AND CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE

Jooby Babu, M.D.

### THORACIC SURGERY

John Maurice, M.D.

### VASCULAR SURGERY

Jeffrey L. Ballard, M.D.  
Russell Montgomery, M.D.  
Steven P. Posner, M.D.

# MEDICAL STAFF BRIEFS

A Publication from the Chief of Staff and Chief Medical Officer

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1100 W. Stewart Dr.  
Orange, CA 92868  
www.sjo.org

**SUBMISSIONS SOUGHT:** Please send news items to: 714-771-8056 or SJOMEDICALSTAFF@stjoe.org

**For new SJO physicians and those who need their photo updated:**

Drop in at Burlew Library between 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month for a professional portrait. Please wear a smile & your lab coat!



## NEW: Patient Placement Center

St. Joseph Hospital has become Providence's first Orange County hospital to go live with its 24/7 Patient Placement Center (PPC). The goal of the PPC is to provide better care for our patients, make high-acuity transfers easier for physicians, and enable physicians to more seamlessly access services available within the PSJH network.

With one call, the Providence Patient Placement Center provides access to 11 Providence hospitals in the LA and Orange County areas. As part of the SJO team's preparation for the PPC go-live, extensive interviews were conducted with ministry leaders to understand existing transfer protocols, pain points and best practices. Based in the Irvine Regional Office, it is staffed by RNs, case managers, LVN/social workers and financial review professionals.

The PPC uses the ED on-call schedule to facilitate communication with the specialist/hospitalist for consult and/or admission, taking this burden as well as authorization from insurance off SJO caregivers. The PPC will manage:

- Inbound/outbound transfer processes from end-to-end. Inbound includes requests from all acute care facilities, medical groups and urgent care centers

from the PSJH network and external organizations (excludes Kaiser, post-acute rehab, acute rehab, behavioral health).

- Direct admission from physician offices, clinics, home care, long-term care facilities.

Services provided include:

- Collect basic/essential patient and preliminary clinical information
- Triage calls, identify and connect with appropriate hospital and specialist
- Coordinate physician acceptance
- Collect/complete all necessary details for hospital admission
- Coordinate inpatient bed assignment
- Follow up with referring facility/provider

Physicians, medical directors, case managers, insurance providers and third-party or hospital representatives can initiate transfer/referral. Patients and families must request a referral through their physician or assigned case manager. All calls are recorded. Transportation is managed by the sending hospital.

If you have questions about the PPC, please contact Regional Director of Transfer Center Services Jaya Arawal, MA HSA, at 949-381-4951. To contact the Patient Placement Center call **844-900-XFER (9337)** or fax **949-381-4542** or **949-372-3556**.

## Welcome Medical Staff



**Lawrence Nguyen, DO**  
Balboa Nephrology  
Group  
Nephrology



**Nadav Nahumi, MD**  
EMSOC  
Emergency  
Medicine



**Michael Hernandez, DO**  
Family Medicine



**Ajay Reddy, MD**  
CHOC CS  
Neonatology  
Neonatal-  
Perinatal