



Our Sincere Gratitude to Outgoing CNO Katie Skelton for Her Leadership

It is with much gratitude, respect, and appreciation that I share with you that Katie Skelton, our Chief Nursing Officer, has submitted her letter of resignation from St. Joseph Hospital. Her last day with St. Joseph Hospital will be Jan. 11. We have been blessed to have her leadership over the past 22 years and she has led us to be a four-time Magnet designated hospital, a top decile hospital for patient experience and caregiver engagement, a hospital known as much for “how” we care for patients as “what” we do, a place where we come together as a whole team and support each other, and a culture of mutual respect and collaboration with our Medical Staff. I’d like to share some of the comments Katie shared with me in her letter:

“From the moment I stepped on this campus, I knew this was no ordinary community hospital. Or, for that matter, it was no ordinary faith-based hospital. What I have found over my 22 years is a ministry steeped in its values and mission, with extraordinary caregivers who consistently go above and beyond to do the right thing for our patients, their families, and each other. I have been so blessed to work alongside some of the most talented leaders, physicians, directors, managers, and front line caregivers. I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to have served with such an outstanding

team of people.

I will continue my Magnet work for the ANCC, but will be mainly focused this next year on grand parenting five little boys in various parts of the United States. And getting my golf game in order!

I may not be here every day come January, but my heart will always be here! I am committed to a smooth transition and helping you and your amazing team serve the Dear Neighbor.”

We have begun working with our Providence executive recruitment services and will be conducting a full national search as well as assessing and interviewing our strong internal candidates. We will be working diligently to make the selection, but we also want to take the time to find the right person for this key role at St. Joseph Hospital. To that end, we have asked Patti Aube to be the interim Chief Nursing Officer should the need arise and we haven’t made the selection by the Jan. 11 date.

Please join me in congratulating and thanking Katie for her wonderful service and leadership at our Ministry.

Jeremy S. Zoch, PhD, MHA, FACHE
Chief Executive



THANKFUL: SJO Again Designated Magnet

St. Joseph Hospital attained Magnet recognition for the fourth time in November, a testament to our hospital’s continued dedication to high-quality nursing practice. The American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Magnet Recognition Program[®] distinguishes health care organizations that meet rigorous standards for nursing excellence. This credential is the highest national honor for professional nursing practice.

Research demonstrates that Magnet recognition provides specific benefits to health care organizations and their communities, such as:

- Higher patient satisfaction with nurse communication, availability of help and receipt of discharge information.
- Lower risk of 30-day mortality; lower failure to rescue rates.
- Higher job satisfaction among nurses.

As the gold standard for nursing excellence, Magnet recognition is a factor when the public judges health care organizations. *U.S. News & World Report’s* annual showcase of “America’s Best Hospitals” includes Magnet recognition in its ranking criteria for quality of inpatient care.



Good News in Sight with New Vaccine(s)

According to Infectious Disease Medical Director **Charles Bailey, MD**, two new vaccines with a 94 percent effective rate will be available in the new year; four other vaccines are currently undergoing testing.

At St. Joseph Hospital, a team of leaders is working through a distribution process. SJO will be a distribution site for the vaccine. When initially available, it will be in small quantities and limited to the highest-risk populations. Over time, we expect supply to increase and be made more widely available.

When we have more information, we will update you with details about how to determine caregiver eligibility and when, where and how to get the vaccine, when available.



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

EPIC UPDATE: Empowerment via POWs

If you need to attend a Provider Optimization Workshops (POWs), you should have received an email the week of Nov. 16 with registration details. POWs will help you optimize your Epic experience and save you time once the system launches on March 13, 2021. POW signups will take place Nov. 18-Dec. 18, 2020, and the POWs will be held Feb. 17 - March 10, 2021. These in-person sessions will be available on a

first come, first served basis. They will follow CDC guidelines for safety and social distancing and thus will have limited capacity, so be sure to sign up early.

Epic training is required to attend POWs, and a POW is required to get Epic access. Questions? Please email the provider engagement team at PSJHProviderEngagement@providence.org.

Building the Physician Champions Wall and Legacies in the New Progressive Care Unit

Thank you to all of our physicians who have committed to being a Physician Champion for our new Progressive Care Unit! The \$12 million effort by the Foundation will build the new Progressive Care Unit, and will bridge the gap between the Intensive Care Unit and the medical-surgical telemetry units and treating medical and surgical telemetry patients, whose needs are not serious enough for the Intensive Care Unit, but too complex for the regular hospital floor. The new unit will nearly double the amount of intermediate-care beds (20 additional beds), moving our patients along their care path quicker, thereby reducing wait times and lengths of stay for all patients.



As a Physician Champion, you will continue to provide excellent care to our Dear Neighbor, while leaving a legacy at St. Joseph Hospital and providing important funds to continue the care we give each day by meeting the needs of our growing population.

This year, only through the CARES Act, your tax deductions can be up to 100 percent of your adjusted gross income. For more information on tax benefits, creating a legacy and to commit to being a Physician Champion, please email katie.mcinerney@stjoe.org.