



A Publication from the Chief of Staff and Chief Medical Officer

September 25, 2020

## Inaugural Friend of Physicians Award, 2020

By Brian Boyd, MD, Chief of Staff

Upon presentation of this year's annual Friend of Nurses Award (given quite deservedly to **Dr. Chris Bailey**, our Infectious Disease ministry guru, and to a random neurologist/palliative care doc), it occurred to me that the SJO Medical Staff had an opportunity to reciprocate. Thus began a journey to reach out to the different segments of our Medical Staff to attempt to recognize the individuals who have stood out so brightly. A special shout out was also made for the entire General Surgery ward that totally transformed itself to a COVID-19 ward; and the entire, extraordinary Emergency Department (ED/ECC) staff.

When I first conceived of this award, I thought to name it the Florence Nightingale award. It then occurred to me we have our own Florence Nightingale. Katie Skelton. In the 22 years we have been blessed to have Katie as our CNO, it is clear that she is the single most important and unstoppable driving force behind the amazing culture at St. Joseph Hospital. Nothing better exemplifies the transformation Katie has had on us all as well as the Magnet Designation for Nursing Excellence for which she has guided us on our journey to hopefully now receive our unprecedented fourth designation.

This led to a very "Magical Moment" at our last Medical Executive Committee meeting (Aug. 20, 2020). We invited our three nurse award recipients (with Katie always attending) to share with the docs of the MEC their perspective on the impact COVID-19 was having on them. Our panel of nurses shared impressive mechanics of their very efficient management of the huge burden of caring for COVID patients.

**Dr. Peter Smethurst** (Intensivist), presented the award to Katelyn Radford, RN, stating she is one of our many ICU nurses who dove headfirst into the pandemic to help – working extra shifts, learning new routines, and being champions for these patients. "The chair of our unit council, she has been an advocate for nurses, patients, and physicians alike throughout this challenging time. We are so proud of Katelyn and all of our ICU and DSU nurses," he said.

**Dr. Jason Caberto** (Hospitalist) presented the award to April Liwag RN, NP, stating, "The Hospitalist Service is honored to have selected April to be our first Nursing Friend of Physicians recipient. She exemplifies the core values of our institution and is always a team player by unselfishly supporting the work we all do together in providing best-in-class care. We thank you for the care you give our patients every day."

**Dr. Claudia Gold** (ED/ECC) presented the award to all the nurses in the department, with Kristianne Parral, RN, accepting.



After a socially distanced award ceremony, the recipients, their spouses and presenters gathered for a quick photo. L to R: spouse Johnny for April Liwag, RN (5W), with Dr. Jason Caberto, presenter. Dr. Peter Smethurst presented to Katelyn Radford, RN (ICU), with spouse Nick. Dr. Claudia Gold presented to Kristianne Parral, RN, accepting on behalf of all Emergency Care Center nurses; and Katie Skelton RN, CNO, for whom the Medical Staff named the award, presented by Dr. Boyd, standing beside her spouse, Ray.

Dr. Gold stated, "The ED nursing staff collaborated to essentially re-engineer the ECC overnight. The overall teamwork and morale were better than ever!"

When asked how they as a whole person were doing, we began to appreciate the true scope of all staff are going through. At this point the magical moment became even stronger as the great suggestion had been made to have the spouses attend to share in the award presentation. Their spouses' perspectives drew the curtain back further, revealing the home impact on our very dedicated nurses.

Nick Radford honored his wife, Katelyn Radford RN, an ICU night shift nurse. Nick shared how with grandparents sidelined, he assumed new daytime daddy duties of taking care of their two- and four-year-old year old children. He recalled, "After some convincing, some creative cobbling together of many blanket layers and an air mattress that almost fit, she started sleeping in the back of our car. It wasn't perfect. It wasn't even good, but it was quiet. At least somewhat. It killed me every day to see her crawl in there. To know that after everything she'd been facing at work, this is what she had to come home to. The back of a car. Man. That was real tough. She took it in stride, of course. For months."

Your MEC deals with multiple issues that can be complex and emotionally difficult. I think I speak for the entire MEC in saying that this Friend of Physicians award ceremony was clearly one of the high points of our experience all year. It felt like a cathartic moment where both nurses and doctors could share the feelings of everything we've been through together. Turns out everyone in that room had functioning nasolacrimal ducts as there weren't any dry eyes. This occasion reminded us all what a special place St. Joseph Hospital is and why we choose to practice here.



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## Sign Up Now for Doximity Professional Social Network

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## Secure Your Epic Provider Training Class



Epic training is open for sign ups through Oct. 16, 2020. Prior to go-live on March 13, 2021, all providers who care for patients at St. Joseph Hospital are required to go through training. It will be extremely difficult to care for patients after go-live if you have not had training, so please make this a priority. Sign-ups are for training that will take place from Jan. 5 - March 6, 2021. Most of the training sessions are online with a few in person sessions at each hospital.

Providers who are “refer and follow,” who do not write orders or document on hospital patients, will generally not need to go through training. You will be able to access Epiccare Link, which is a “read only” application. More information will follow in the coming months.

### Sign-up Process

**To sign up for training**, access the Epic Provider Training page at: [sjhclinicalinformatics.com/epicsignup.htm](http://sjhclinicalinformatics.com/epicsignup.htm).

Classes are available on a first come, first serve basis, so please complete your sign-ups early to secure the dates and times you prefer. While training may appear extensive, it was developed with Epic and leadership guidance to ensure patient safety. The structure has been designed to minimize overall disruption to your schedule. If you have questions about training sign-ups, email [epicquestions@providence.org](mailto:epicquestions@providence.org) and someone from the EPIC team will follow up with you.

## Welcome New Medical Staff Members



**Mrinali Gupta, MD**  
Ophthalmology  
Retina Associates  
of Orange County



**Breelan Kear, MD**  
Emergency  
Medicine  
EMSOC



**Matthew Abrishamian, MD**  
Emergency  
Medicine  
EMSOC

## Seasonal Flu Shots Have Begun!

St. Joseph Hospital is offering flu shots from Sept. 14 to Oct. 31. Shots will be administered in nursing units 24/7 and weekdays through Caregiver Health Services from 7:45 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

## Primary Care CME Conference Set for Oct. 3

St. Joseph and St. Jude Heritage Medical Group presents a 2nd Annual Primary Care CME Conference with a “virtual” location on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2020, 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

An impressive line-up of speakers includes keynote **Dr. Matthew Zahn**, Medical Director of the Communicable Disease Control Division of the O.C. Health Care Agency. Upon completion of lectures and evaluation form, 4.5 - 5.5 CME credit hours will be awarded. To register or for more information, email [RSVP.Annual.CME.Conference@stjoe.org](mailto:RSVP.Annual.CME.Conference@stjoe.org).