



Wrapping Up a Momentous Year

As of December of 2022, we are three years into the Covid-19 era. A year ago at this time we grappled with an Omicron surge that kept the Emergency Care Center full and caused a bed and blood shortage. We continue responding to pandemic-related issues, but we've also moved forward, experiencing a year marked by tremendous innovation and building on a number of noteworthy successes worth celebrating.

We've seen a record-breaking year, ranging from the number of emergency visits to new levels of fundraising for future excellence in patient care, thanks to increasingly engaged physicians and their grateful patients. Our new Aquabeam® Robotic System for minimally invasive treatment of benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) is just one example. We also surpassed 10,000 robotic-assisted procedures using Da Vinci and MAKO robots, and earned recognition by Surgical Review Corporation as a Center of Excellence in Robotic Surgery.

In the fall we broke ground on the 137,000-square foot Helen Caloggero Women's & Family Center, which is ahead of schedule with an anticipated opening as early as the end of 2023.

Knowing how hard working our physicians and hospital staff are, it's gratifying to see our outstanding rankings by *US News & World Report* and Healthgrades, as well as being named Large Business of the Year by the City of Orange and to the 100 Best Places to Work listing in *Modern Healthcare*. Now, with support

from Medical Staff, we are working with the Health System toward our "Drive for 5" stars from CMS. I have no doubt that with proper reporting and by continuing to prioritize quality care and patient experiences, we have what it takes to achieve this goal.

We welcomed the return of in-person events in 2022, such as Doctor's Day at Knott's Berry Farm in June. (Watch for details soon about plans for another great physician appreciation event coming in 2023.) The Celebration gala in October raised \$1.95 million to support The Center for Cancer Prevention and Treatment, which will enhance its technology, genetic testing and research capabilities. We also saw record physician participation in the Culture of Caring sessions, ensuring the values that St. Joseph Hospital embodies—which is why I personally enjoy and take pride in being on staff—will continue to be honored and honed.

May you and your loved ones enjoy the season's cherished traditions and all of us achieve even greater heights in the New Year.

More Federal Loan Forgiveness Eligibility

The U.S. Department of Education has released the final rule on the national overhaul of the broken Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program (PSLF). Included in the rule is the specific fix sought by the California Medical Association (CMA), so that all eligible California physicians can participate in the program, despite our state prohibitions on physician employment. This is a major win for physicians, hospitals and patients. It ensures California can compete equally with all other states for a physician workforce, which will ultimately protect patient access to medical care.

For years, CMA along with the California Hospital Association has urged the Dept. of Education to fix the inadvertent exclusion of California physicians. The PSLF program was intended to provide loan forgiveness to individuals who commit to community service for 10 years by working full time (30 hours/week) in non-profit organizations, such as non-profit hospitals/clinics. Unfortunately, the program's implementing regulations were narrowed to require physicians to be "directly employed." As a result, physicians were inadvertently excluded. The final rule now ensures that physicians in all 50 states have equal access to loan forgiveness. Applications will open in July 2023 under the new rules, which are retroactive for the last 10 years of work in public and private non-profit hospitals and clinics.

Medical Staff WINS CONGRATULATIONS, ROBOTICS SURGERY TEAM!



This past year, SJO received accreditation as a Center of Excellence for Robotic Surgery by the Surgical Review Corporation (SRC). This prestigious accreditation recognizes that SJO is among the best in the country in this specialty while providing the highest quality of care and patient safety. The last week of November, our Robotics team had a successful site visit from the SRC.

Manager of Robotic Surgery Programs Heidi Daniel, MSN, RN, CBN, PHN (standing in front of the tree) states, "The site inspectors were so impressed by our caregivers and the continuity of care throughout our ministry...our dedication to our mission, vision and values shone brightly."

Thank you to our entire Robotic Surgery team for your hard work and commitment in leading the way with the most advanced and innovative medical practices to provide quality medical care to our patients. We are honored to be the trusted medical provider in serving our community.

MEDICAL STAFF BRIEFS

A Publication from the Chief of Staff and Chief Medical Officer

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SUBMISSIONS SOUGHT: Please send
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WELCOME to New Providence St. Joseph Hospital Medical Staff



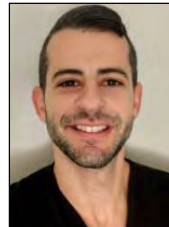
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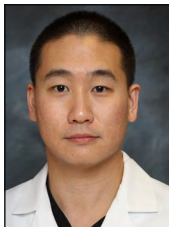
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*Warm Holiday & New Year's Wishes
from your Medical Staff Officers & Medical Staff Office Team*

