St. Joseph Hospital Foundation’s annual Golf Tournament at the beautiful Pelican Hill Golf Club in Newport Coast on July 19 netted more than $500,000 in support of Providence St. Joseph Hospital’s new Progressive Care Unit (PCU). The sold-out tournament for more than 150 golfers was presented with the help of many sponsors, including Centaurus Financial, Inc. It featured an 18-hole tournament, driving range, putting contests, a variety of restaurant offerings, spirit and beer tastings, raffle drawings and physician honorees’ holes.

To meet a growing need for services for an aging population, many of whom have multiple health issues, the Foundation has prioritized an initiative adding an additional 20 beds with a higher level of care. The PCU’s supportive care services will include palliative and hospice support for patients and families in need.

Dr. Hamamji’s 1,000 Robotic Surgeries

Congratulations to general surgeon Sami B. Hamamji, MD, for completing his 1,000th robotic surgical procedure recently with the da Vinci robotic system. He states, “SJO’s minimally invasive program is a great benefit for the community and I’m happy to use the tools we have to advance quality patient care.”

Golf Lofts Progressive Care Unit Plans

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A Fond Farewell to Gemma Seidl

Gratitude goes to Executive Director of Acute Care, Operations Hub and House Supervisors Gemma Seidl, who is leaving our organization this month. Gemma devoted 12-plus years of service to our ministry, leading the acute care team through countless projects and change-initiatives to serve our patients. We deeply appreciate the expertise, dedication, and goal-focused leadership she provided over the years. We wish Gemma much success in her future professional endeavors.
COVID-19 Vaccination Compliance

If you have not done so already, please submit evidence of your COVID-19 vaccination or completed declination form to the Medical Staff Office at Michelle.Jimenez@stjoe.org or fax to 714-744-8695 no later than Sept. 30. Declinations are subject to approval by the Medical Staff. Failure to submit this information by Sept. 30 will result in your administrative suspension from the Medical Staff, in accordance with the Bylaws. If you are not fully vaccinated, you must complete twice weekly COVID-19 testing and report your results to this link: https://forms.office.com/r/xMGTCvQiw9 AND you are required to wear a surgical mask or higher-level NIOSH-approved respirator anytime you are on the campus. Pick up testing kits free of charge in the Medical Staff Office M-F, 8-5 p.m. to take with you. The Medical Staff Office does not have the ability to read test results on site. Questions? Please call the Medical Staff Office at 714-771-8056. Thank you for complying with the CDPH mandate and helping to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19 transmission.

SAVE THE DATE: Culture of Caring Sessions 2021

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Providence St. Joseph Hospital physicians are invited to join us on the hospital lawn for Culture of Caring 2021-Building Connections, Building Our Future at the times above. Hear from the Sisters of St. Joseph in a full one-hour session, and receive a PSJH backpack. RSVP to SJOMedicalStaff@stjoe.org or 714-771-8056.

IN MEMORIAM: Winston Ho, MD

With deep sadness we share the passing of St. Joseph hematologist-oncologist Winston Ho, MD. Born in 1943, Winston was the descendant of Chinese immigrants to British Guiana. He attended Smith Church Congregational School and Queen’s College in Georgetown, Guyana. He received a WHO scholarship to study medicine at Hebrew University’s Hadassah Medical School in Israel, where he served in the IDF as a medical officer.

Winston returned to his country of birth to serve at the Public Hospital of Georgetown. He then came to Los Angeles for his internal medicine residency and hematology fellowship at UCLA. Dr. Ho was one of the pioneers of bone marrow transplantation and a main founder of UCLA’s Bone Marrow Transplant Program. He also ran the blood bank at UCLA. He had the privilege of training other physicians around the world. Eventually, Dr. Ho moved to the Hematology Oncology Medical Group based at St. Joseph Hospital. He was a dedicated physician and beloved by his peers. He gave back to the underserved of his community whenever he could, and treated many patients at the St. Joseph Hospital Orange La Amistad Clinic.

The funeral was held privately in Jerusalem on Aug. 18. To send a card to the family, please contact Lisa Kohorn, MD, at Lisa.Kohorn@stjoe.org.