



## Reflections from 2022-2023 Chief of Staff Peter Smethurst, MD

As I prepare to leave office, first and foremost I would like to thank all of you, the Medical Staff of St. Joseph Orange, for your support and tenacity over the last several years leading up to and including my term as Chief of Staff. There have certainly been challenges, but I am humbled and honored to have had the opportunity to serve you. Every day I feel inspired by what we are able to accomplish for our patients and the community. I am truly grateful to you and our fellow caregivers. Medical care is increasingly challenging and complex, but you really do make a difference. Locally the last year has been exceptionally challenging with the changes and turnover in hospital Administration. Through it all, St. Joseph's has remained strong, and you can rest assured that your MEC is working with Administration to make us stronger than ever. Here in the *Briefs*, I added a section called "Medical Staff Wins" as I felt it was important for us to see the great things happening around us. In that spirit, as the 2022-2023 MEC term comes to a close I'd like to highlight some things we can all celebrate.

Providence St. Joseph Hospital is a place you can be really proud of. The list of accolades is noteworthy and long, but just to name a few:

- 4th-in-a-row Magnet accreditation, placing us in top 1% of hospitals.
- One third of OCMA's list of top doctors are on our medical staff.
- Healthgrades gave us 5 star ratings in cardiac, orthopedics, vascular, gastrointestinal and critical care specialties.
- We have the busiest ER in Orange County with approximately 95,000 visits over the past year.
- *US News and World Report* named us a best regional hospital and recognized us in 15 types of care.
- Cancer Center is accredited by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer and recognized with awards in multiple sub-specialties.
- Rated one of America's Best Maternity Hospitals by *Newsweek*.
- We received the 2023 Women's Choice Award® as one of America's 100 best hospitals for patient experience.

On top of that, we continue to grow and improve:

- Our Structural Heart Program continues to flourish. The TAVR program is one of the top programs in the state by volume and is the only 3 star program in California. We are a top program for MitraClips as well and Providence is committed to us being a regional center of excellence in this and other state of the art procedures. Plans are in the works as well to add an ECMO program to further support cardiac and intensive care.
- Our highly successful Transplant program has been growing by leaps and bounds nearly tripling the number of transplants over the past 3 years. In the coming months we plan to begin performing combined kidney-pancreas transplants as well.
- Our Robotics program is also growing, having performed around 1500 cases this year alone including general surgery, colorectal, thoracic, gynecologic, urologic, and bariatric procedures. With a total of over 12500 cases, we have done the third most cases in the entire health system.
- The newly built Helen Caloggero Women's & Family Center is nearly complete and will begin opening in early 2024.

- Construction has begun on a new 20-bed Progressive Care Unit within the hospital, adding much needed critical care / step down beds to the acute care hospital.

Making a difference and helping us along the way has been the Providence St. Joseph Hospital Foundation, one of the top fundraisers in Orange County in 2022, receiving the single largest donation in Orange County and the second largest in all of Providence history. The charitable contributions they have received have funded or helped with numerous needs and projects including:

- The Helen Caloggero Women's and Family Center
- The Progressive Care Unit currently under construction
- A CT scanner in the Cancer Center
- Room remodels in Behavioral Health
- Eight nurse navigators and staff in the Cancer Services Program
- Dialysis and apheresis machines
- An Artic Sun Targeted Temperature Management System
- A hyperbaric chamber
- And much more.

I am also very proud to share that in the coming weeks we will be going live with a dedicated Medical Staff website. This site will allow us to better communicate with our members, providing fresh content, announcements, and important resources as well as information for physicians interested in joining our Medical Staff.

As our newly elected Medical Executive Committee takes the reins for the 2024-2025 term, I know you will give them the same vital support that you so graciously gave me. May your holidays be joyful and coming year be full of gratitude, purpose, and wins.

## In Memoriam: Leslie Nesbitt, MD



With a heavy heart we share the passing of Leslie Nesbitt, MD, on Oct. 13, 2023. Dr. Nesbitt joined the Medical Staff in 1969. An Active Staff member for 33 years, he founded and chaired the EENT Department in the 1980s. Find Dr. Nesbitt's obituary, summarizing his extraordinary life as a physician, veteran, athlete, and loving family man, at [ocregister.com](https://ocregister.com).



NATIONAL MEDICAL  
STAFF SERVICES  
WEEK CELEBRATED

Kudos to SJO's  
Medical Staff Office  
team on steadfastly  
protecting quality  
and patient safety.

L to R: Martha  
Copeland, Elvia Solis,  
Jannet Hernandez,  
Jen Francis, Beth  
Miller, Angel Carlson,  
Jen Mendoza and  
Michelle Jimenez.

# MEDICAL STAFF BRIEFS

A Publication from the Chief of Staff and Chief Medical Officer

November /December 2023



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



In November we recognized NURSE PRACTITIONERS. These vital team members embody the skills, dedication and compassionate care of the entire Providence St. Joseph Hospital Orange family, for whom we are thankful daily.

## Medical Staff WINS

### A Gamechanger for Heart Patients

Providence St. Joseph Hospital Orange implanted the first dual chamber leadless pacemaker on the West Coast on Nov. 8.

Dr. Brian Kim, cardiologist and electrophysiology specialist, successfully implanted a first-of-its-kind wireless pacemaker, [Abbott's Aveir Leadless Dual Chamber Pacemaker](#) that can control both heart chambers using synchronized wireless communication. The revolutionary pacemaker recently received FDA clearance. It consists of two small AAA battery-sized capsules that are inserted directly into the heart during a minimally invasive procedure in which patients can return home the same day.

Dr. Kim said because this leadless pacemaker works in both chambers of the heart, he expects it will revolutionize the industry. "I think this is the beginning of a paradigm shift," he said.



### Dr. Abtin Khosravi Celebrates his 2,000th Robotic Case at Providence St. Joseph



Congratulations to Dr. Abtin Khosravi (center seated), general surgeon and Medical Director of Robotic Surgery, on achieving his 2,000th da Vinci robotic procedure. With a total of 12,502 lifetime cases, Providence St. Joseph has completed the third most robotic cases in the entire Providence health system.

Dr. Khosravi's achievement represents the most robotic da Vinci cases at SJO. Dr. Khosravi has reached this milestone after six years of practice and says, "I believe we have provided patients with the best modality of care for minimally invasive surgery. On to 10,000!"

### Healthgrades: SJO Again in Top 10% of Hospitals for Gastrointestinal Treatment

Healthgrades named Providence St. Joseph Hospital among the top 10 percent of hospitals in the nation for gastrointestinal treatment for the second year in a row, and gave us five-star ratings in these specialties: Carotid Procedures; Treatment of Diabetic Emergencies; Back and Neck Surgery; Treatment of Gastrointestinal Bleed; Defibrillator Procedures; Hip Fracture Treatment; and Treatment of Sepsis. Congratulations to each of you contributing to these prestigious awards.