

Medical Staff Update

November 2017

Physicians Honored by Hospital

St. Jude Medical Center recently held its first Physician Recognition Dinner to honor doctors who have made a significant and commendable contribution to our ministry. Physicians were nominated in one of four categories by hospital employees and voted on by the Executive Leadership Team.

Below are the honorees as well as the finalists for each category. Congratulations!

Leadership

Sajen Mathews, MD
Kevin Khajavi, MD
 David Park, MD
 Daniel Oh, MD
 Harry Peled, MD

Clinical Excellence

David Park, MD
 Erwin Song, MD
 Panagiotis Bougas, MD
 Donald Greco, MD
 Jae Kim, MD

Culture & Teamwork

Sridhar Reddy, MD
 Robert McCoy, MD
 David Hicks, MD
 Kristin Koh, MD
 Tuan Trinh, MD

Humanitarian

Anne Ford, MD
 Eugene Yoon, MD
 Jason Cheung, MD
 Edmund Nichter, MD
 Timothy Downing, MD

Alistair Aaronson, MD: Medical Director of Utilization Management

Alistair Aaronson, MD, joined St. Jude last month after spending four years at Stanford University Medical Center, where he served as a hospitalist with increasing responsibilities in process and quality improvement. "I am excited and grateful to be here," explains the board-certified internist, who completed his internship and residency at Cedars Sinai Medical Center. "A powerful mission, great people, and a chance to do what I love fulltime: using best practices to improve clinical outcomes."

Dr. Aaronson will be working with physicians and staff to create improvements in two major areas: patient flow from admission to discharge, and population health management, with an emphasis on ensuring appropriate admissions.

Dr. Aaronson received his Master of Health Administration from USC and says he hopes physicians will see him as a resource for challenging situations. "If there are barriers to patient flow or opportunities to improve the discharge process or moving a patient to a different level of care, I can help mitigate for doctors," he says. "Please don't hesitate to call."

Dr. Aaronson can be reached on his cell phone at (714) 732-4879 or at ext. 5823 at the hospital.

Transfusions for Patients with Auto-Antibodies

*By Victor Lee, MD, Medical Director,
Transfusion Services*

Patients with autoimmune hemolytic anemia (AIHA) frequently have broadly reactive antibodies that react with their own red blood cells as well as the vast majority of donor red cells—making all donor red cells appear incompatible in the crossmatch. For these patients, we send the sample to our reference laboratory (American Red Cross) for a complete workup which includes antigen typing of the patients' red cells. We will select antigen-matched donor units and issue them as least incompatible units for transfusion.

While this practice ensures we provide the safest donor units, it still carries a minimally increased risk for these patients which should be considered when weighing the risks/benefits of the transfusion. Transfusion service personnel will call the physician or clinical care team to relay any pertinent information regarding such antigen negative least incompatible units. A Least Incompatible form will be sent to the floor and must be signed by the physician, acknowledging the information shared from the transfusion service, prior to the release of blood.

If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact me at (714) 446-7505 or the Blood Bank Supervisor, Angel Croston, at ext. 2705.

Medical Staff Meetings

No Medical Staff
Meetings in December



101 E. Valencia Mesa Dr.
Fullerton, CA 92835
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IV Fluid National Shortage

The manufacturing plant of IV fluids was located in Puerto Rico. Due to the damage caused by hurricane Maria, the plant will not be manufacturing for an extended period of time. Unfortunately there are very few additional suppliers. This is a national shortage and there is at least a 6-month backorder expected on IV fluids. In particular there is a serious shortage of the smaller bags of IV fluids that are used to mix our IV antibiotics. We are looking into all methods to procure additional IV supply. It is imperative that changes are made in order to conserve resources for long-term availability. Please review IV fluid therapy and saline lock whenever possible; some IV piggyback antibiotics may be substituted for IV push route during this time. Also, when possible, please convert antibiotics from IV to PO in an effort to conserve IV fluids. Zosyn is a high use antibiotic and is unable to be pushed, so please consider other less fluid intensive antibiotics (such as a cephalosporin + metronidazole) if appropriate. Please feel free to reach out to Eugene Kim, M.D., Chief Medical Officer at (714) 992-3994 if you have any questions or concerns.

Urgent Walk-in Physical Therapy Clinic

To assist physicians in caring for patients with acute musculoskeletal pain, St. Jude Centers for Rehabilitation offers immediate physical therapy evaluation and intervention Monday through Saturday morning. Patients with severe back pain, neck pain or other musculoskeletal pain can be referred to the clinic and will be given a same-day or next-day appointment.

"For patients in significant pain, this walk-in clinic gives physicians an important tool in beginning to address without delay the underlying causes of pain," explains Patti Nakagawa, PT, Manager of Ortho and Sports Outpatient Therapy.

To refer a patient, call (714) 732-2451 or fax referral to (714) 578-8717.

St. Jude Welcomes New Physicians

Kevin Balar, MD
Internal Medicine

Tanuja Bhandari, MD
Radiation Oncology

Christine Chen-Hsu, MD
Physical Medicine
& Rehabilitation

Joseph Ho, MD
Pain Medicine

Amer Khalil, MD
Neurosurgery

Thiri Khin, MD
Hematology/Oncology

Ameesh Parikh, MD
Interventional
Cardiologist

Hema Ramkumar, MD
Ophthalmology

Michael Stastny, DPM
Podiatry

Gigi Thomas, MD
Physical Medicine
& Rehabilitation

