

# Medical Staff Update

June 2015

## St. Jude's Stroke Program Named One of the Nation's Best

St. Jude Medical Center has joined an elite group of hospitals certified by The Joint Commission as an Advanced Comprehensive Stroke Center – a recognition earned by fewer than 100 in the entire nation.

“St. Jude is one of only a handful in the state to receive this certification, and the vast majority are large academic hospitals,” explains Erwin Song, MD, Co-Medical Director, Stroke Center. “To have achieved this recognition as a community hospital is remarkable and speaks volumes about the commitment at every level.”

The Joint Commission conducted a rigorous on-site review of the SJMC Stroke Center in February, evaluating performance in areas from stroke research and neurosurgical capabilities, to patient outcomes and post-hospital care.

“It was evident to the surveyors that in every area, we aren’t just meeting the standard, we are innovating and leading,” explains Dr. Song. “That includes consistently and often dramatically outperforming national benchmarks.”

Over the last several years, SJMC has become a leading stroke referral center in Southern California, successfully treating more stroke patients than almost any other hospital. “We routinely receive patients transferred from hospitals all over Orange, Los Angeles, and Riverside Counties,” explains Hamed Farid, MD, Medical Director, Interventional Neuroradiology. “In addition to offering the entire spectrum of capabilities, we have the volumes necessary to offer patients excellent outcomes.”

Congratulations to the following physicians for this well-deserved national recognition: Lars Anker, MD; Amit Balgude, MD; Kiran Bath, MD; Panagiotis Bougas, MD; Anthony Ciabarra, MD; Hamed Farid, MD; William Foley, MD; Afshin Forouzannia, MD; Timothy Greco, MD; Hector Ho, MD; Michael Katz, MD; Linda Lam, MD; Johnson Moon, MD; Bradley Noblett, MD; Fred Nowroozi, MD; Harry Peled, MD; Erwin Song, MD; Tuan Trinh, MD; Stephen Yoon, MD.



**American Heart Association  
American Stroke Association  
CERTIFICATION**

Meets standards for

**Comprehensive Stroke Center**

## New CMO Announced



Riad Abdelkarim, MD, MHCMA, FACP, was recently named Chief Medical Officer (CMO). A board-certified internist with a Master of Science in Health

Care Management from Harvard's School of Public Health, Dr. Abdelkarim brings over 17 years medical experience and leadership.

He joined St. Jude Medical Center nine months ago as the Medical Director of Medical Center Operations. Dr. Abdelkarim was the Medical Director at Al Noor Hospital in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. He has also served for six years as Medical Director and acting Chief Medical Officer at Tawam Hospital. His primary areas of focus were patient safety, utilization management, revenue cycle improvement and clinical documentation process improvement. Prior to his international experience, Dr. Abdelkarim was a partner/physician with Southern California Permanente Medical Group followed by an individual practice in Anaheim. He received his medical degree from UCSD School of Medicine and completed his internship and residency at Harbor – UCLA Medical Center.

In addition to his responsibility as CMO, Dr. Abdelkarim assumes oversight of Pharmacy, Respiratory, Rehabilitation Services, Imaging Services and Laboratory Services. His skills, emphasis on partnerships, and extensive experience are expected to provide a valuable resource in advancing and improving SJMC's Integrated Delivery System. Dr. Abdelkarim's office is located in Administration on the second floor of the EEC. He can be reached at (714) 446-5545.

## St. Jude Physician Spotlight

Hamed Farid, MD, Medical Director, Interventional Neuroradiology, was a principal investigator in the nationwide SWIFT-PRIME study that concluded in November 2014 after establishing intravenous t-PA followed by stent clot retrieval can significantly improve outcomes among stroke patients with large vessel occlusions. Results were published in the April 17 issue of The New England Journal of Medicine. "The effect on mortality and disability was dramatic," explains Dr. Farid, "an outcome which will establish mechanical thrombectomy as the new standard of care for treatment of ischemic stroke."

## Allied Health Committee

Physician Assistants (PA) and Nurse Practitioners (NP) are an integral part of the care offered at SJMC. To help ensure the quality and consistency of medical services provided by the PAs and NPs – as well as provide a vehicle for education, feedback and peer review – an Allied Health Committee has been created.

Similar to the Medical Staff meeting requirement for physicians, attendance at Allied Health Committee meetings will be mandatory: to retain practice privileges at the hospital, all NPs and PAs must attend at least two of the four quarterly meetings in a reappointment cycle. Enforcement begins in January, 2016.

Meetings allow PAs and NPs to keep up-to-date on professional standards, changes in scope of practice, quality measurements, and new hospital policies. "It will not only keep them informed about topics that directly affect their ability to do their jobs, but will offer them a more active role in impacting the care offered at SJMC," says Stewart Shanfield, MD, Chairman of the Allied Health Committee. In addition, ongoing chart reviews by peers will identify areas for additional education as well as help ensure clinical competency and regulatory compliance. "Every physician benefits from having an allied professional staff that is engaged in improvement activities, fully current on scope of practice and legal requirements, and has a voice in hospital quality efforts," Dr. Shanfield explains.

## Medical Staff Meetings

Attendance earns points toward membership requirement. Meetings held in the EEC. All members are invited to attend.

Surgery: 6/3, 7 a.m.

Medicine: 6/4, 12:30 p.m.

Anesthesia Clinical Svcs: 6/9, 7 a.m.

Cardiothoracic: 6/10, 7:30 a.m.

Women & Children's: 6/10, 12:30 p.m.

General CME Programs:

6/9 & 6/23 at 12:00 pm.

## St. Jude Welcomes New Physicians On Staff

**John Kim, MD**  
Ophthalmology

**Jason Sabat-Payman, MD**  
Ophthalmology

**Rebecca Penea, D.P.M.**  
Podiatry