

SJO First Hospital in State to Earn COPD Certification from The Joint Commission

Providence St. Joseph Hospital became the first hospital in California and just the fifth in the nation to earn The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® for Advanced Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

"To the physicians, COPD navigators, respiratory therapists, nurses and support teams who made this possible: thank you," Chief Executive Brian Helleland states. "Over the past couple years, this team built something remarkable – an interdisciplinary program rooted in evidence, driven by collaboration and held together by a genuine commitment to patients living with lung disease. They challenged themselves to identify new practices, measure outcomes, strengthen care coordination and continually raise the bar for excellence across inpatient and outpatient settings...Congratulations!"

According to the CDC, COPD is one of the top 10 causes of death in the U.S. with nearly 16 million adults in the country impacted by the condition, many without even knowing they have it. There is currently no cure for COPD, but it can be managed and treated with the appropriate care teams.

Joint Commission Designates SJO as Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Center

On May 27, our ministry received official confirmation of achieving Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Center certification. This major milestone marks a new level of designation since we became a Primary Stroke Center in 2008, and recognizes that we've met rigorous standards established by The Joint Commission, the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association for delivering safe, high-quality, advanced stroke care. Congratulations and thanks to all the medical teams contributing to the survey, and who respond each day to "Code Stroke" heard overhead.

During the survey, the Joint Commission surveyor followed the stroke patient's journey—from arrival in the Emergency Care Center, to rapid imaging and advanced medical and surgical interventions, and through the critical care and acute care units with rehabilitation services. They offered expert recommendations to further strengthen our program, and noted not only the team's strong knowledge and teamwork in coordinating care, but also how this excellence was clearly reflected in patient outcomes.

REBELS Luncheon

A Robert E. Ball Emeritus Legacy Society (REBELS) Luncheon for our Emeritus Staff physicians was held on June 3, with Brian Kolski, MD, Endowed Chair of the SJO Comprehensive Cardiac Program, speaking on the latest advances in cardiac care. If you are a retired St. Joseph Hospital physician and interested in attending future REBELS events, or if you have suggestions for future topics and speakers, please email SJOREBELS@providence.org, or call the Medical Staff Office at 714-771-8056.



St. Joseph Hospital

General Medical Staff Meeting

Please join us for an evening of connection, updates, and collaboration at our upcoming General Medical Staff Meeting

MONDAY | June 29th
5:30 – 6:00 PM | Social Hour & Appetizers
6:00 – 7:00 PM | Medical Staff Meeting
Spirituality Building – Motherhouse
***Please park at SJO in Physician Parking**

Speakers:

Melissa Rudolph, M.D., COS; Medical Staff Updates
Elaine Lee, M.D., CMO & Brian Helleland, CE; Administrative Updates

We encourage your input—please forward questions or topics for this or future meetings.

RSVP to

SJO-Medical-Staff@stjoe.org
or 714-771-8056

Advancing Community Health Providence President and CEO Eric Wexler' Remarks on the 2025 Annual Report to our Communities

Across Providence, our mission calls us to respond when people face barriers to health and well-being. In 2025, we answered that call through care, partnership and sustained community investment. Our *2025 Annual Report to Our Communities* outlines how we advanced community health throughout the seven states we serve. Last year, we provided \$2.1 billion in community benefit, including:

- \$113 million for community health improvement and like-minded partnerships
- \$183 million supporting health professions education and research
- \$104 million in subsidized health services
- \$407 million in free and discounted care
- \$1.3 billion to help cover the unpaid cost of Medicaid and other means-tested government programs

These contributions were made during a time of continued strain for healthcare, marked by inflation, workforce shortages and reimbursement pressures. Even so, our commitment to those who are poor and vulnerable remains strong and responded to what communities told us mattered most. That includes improving access to local services and care, expanding support for youth and families, increasing availability of fresh food and removing barriers to care, including addressing cultural and language needs. This work is only possible through collaboration with community organizations, caregivers and partners who share our dedication to serving others.

Find the report at www.providence.org/about/annual-report.

MEDICAL STAFF BRIEFS

A Publication from the Chief of Staff and Chief Medical Officer



Providence

St. Joseph Hospital

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1100 W. Stewart Dr.
Orange, CA 92868

www.providence.org/stjoseph



Please send news items to 714-771-8056 or SJO-MEDICAL-STAFF@stjoe.org. Find current and past Briefs by snapping the QR code, www.sjomedicalstaff.org/news-events/news/.



HONORING EXCELLENCE – On May 29, the Bravo, DAISY and Physician Honors award walls were officially unveiled. Many of the award winners joined the unveiling to celebrate this well-deserved honor, along with many caregivers. Find the recognition walls in the main hospital lobby near the Starbucks café.

Medical Staff Dues Due

It's that time of year to collect dues for the 2025 calendar year. Your dues, which are paid directly to the St. Joseph Hospital Medical Staff, are used to support the Medical Staff's self-governance and duty to oversee the quality of patient care services. Medical Staff dues invoices were emailed on June 1st by the Medical Staff's accounting firm, Eide Bailly, and are due on or before July 15. Please check your email for your dues statement from Bill.com. If you have any questions, please contact the Medical Staff Office at 714-771-8056.

Providence Women Physician Resource Group Networking Webinar

Providence South Division Women Physician Resource Group invites you to attend a networking seminar via Teams on Monday, June 22, from noon to 1 pm. The webinar will cover invaluable internal and external resources, real-world insight and tips from women physician panelists, and a networking opportunity. In [Teams](https://www.microsoft.com/join), enter Meeting ID: 251 190 295 025 602, Passcode: sJ9Rr6y9.



available at all Providence hospitals. View the three-minute video, see spectrumnews1.com/ca/la/health/2026/05/25/former-miss-ca-finds-high-cholesterol-cause-clues-in-genes.

LIFESAVING GENETIC TESTING — Genetic Counselor Carol Ko, MS, and client Bree Johnston were featured in a segment on Spectrum News called "Former Miss California finds cause of high cholesterol in genes." The May 28 story highlights how many are unaware that the BRCA gene for breast cancer may also have a genetic link to heart disease. Providence hospitals have the only cardiogenetic program in Orange County, with testing

NEW: Updates on Our Community's Health

To keep executive leaders updated about our Community Health team's programs, partnerships and initiatives, a newsletter with ministry-specific monthly briefs has been created.

"We hope to share success stories, event recaps and important updates," states Senior Director of Community Health Cecilia Bustamante, MPH, MHCML. "Feedback and suggestions are always welcome as we strive to improve our communication."

Find the newsletter at www.sjomedicalstaff.org/news-events/news/.

