

INAUGURAL PHYSICIAN HONORS AWARDS

"I'm honored to recognize the winners of the inaugural Physician Awards," states Brian Helleland, Chief Executive. "We developed these awards to recognize the extraordinary contributions and achievements of our medical team at Providence St. Joseph Hospital. The awards shine a spotlight on the physicians who embody the spirit and values of St. Joseph Hospital, leading with compassion and a deep commitment to serve the people of our community. All the nominees are exemplary physicians and today we celebrate them and the ways that they have improved their patients' lives while advancing the mission of our ministry."

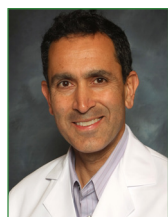


COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD—**Sudeep Kukreja, MD**, a highly regarded neonatologist, has earned numerous accolades over his decades-long medical career, but what stands out is his commitment to service. As the founder of the nonprofit Arpan Global Charities, Dr. Kukreja has organized 26 volunteer medical missions to dozens of countries, including Armenia, Puerto Rico and Tanzania. His most recent medical mission was to Vietnam, and he has an upcoming mission to India. Dr. Kukreja's commitment to our global community has inspired fellow physicians, surgeons, nurses and pharmacists to join him to provide vital care. His actions reinforce how service can transform a team and hospital.

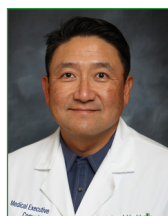
CULTURE & TEAMWORK AWARD—**Sami Hamamji, MD**, has impacted the lives of thousands of patients as an accomplished Bariatric Surgeon. Highly respected and known for his clinical expertise and unwavering commitment to excellence, Dr. Hamamji sets an example for many across the hospital. Equally admirable is his relationship with nurses, surgical staff, and service lines. Caregivers are drawn to work with him because of his professional, kind, and collaborative attitude. He cares about our staff, appreciates the opportunity to teach and train, and radiates a spirit of camaraderie that extends from the OR to patients' bedsides.



CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD—**Robert Naraghi, MD**, is known locally and nationally for his exceptional skill, tenacity, generosity and advocacy for patients seeking kidney and pancreas transplantation. Over the last 25 years, he has performed more than 2,500 kidney transplants and more than 300 pancreas transplants. Dr. Naraghi joined SJO as Primary Transplant Surgeon and Medical Director in 2020, leading the Kidney Transplant Center in exponential growth, ultimately driving our patient survival rates to be among the highest in the nation. His expertise is reinforced by the transplant center's recent recognition as the #1 Rated Kidney Transplant Program in California. He oversaw the our recent designation as a multi-organ transplant program, elevating SJO to a new tier.



LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE AWARD—**Brian Lee, MD**, is a steadfast, dedicated and devoted member of our Medical Staff. His drive for continuous improvement inspires everyone around him. He holds himself and colleagues to the highest levels of performance, whether collaborating with fellow physicians, hospital leadership, or front-line nursing staff. His passion for delivering exceptional care is widely recognized. Known for his support and commitment, Dr. Lee has a reputation for giving 150% in all he does. His dedication to emergency medicine is only surpassed by unrelenting love of St. Joe's, also demonstrated last year as an SJO Foundation Physician Champion.



MEDICAL STAFF LEADERSHIP AWARD—**John Cross, MD**, co-recipient of this award with Peter Smethurst, MD, is a dedicated anesthesiologist at St. Joseph Hospital. His passion and commitment to our mission and to the Sisters of St. Joseph are what earned Dr. Cross this award. As Chief of Staff, Dr. Cross showed a drive and commitment to collaboration, bringing the hospital's executive leadership team into conversations with Medical Staff and the board of directors to ensure consistent growth and improvement while maintaining a positive environmental for all. Dr. Cross is a natural leader who goes above and beyond to advocate for the hospital, including traveling to Sacramento to speak with lawmakers about issues affecting our hospital.

MEDICAL STAFF LEADERSHIP AWARD—**Peter Smethurst, MD**, award co-recipient with Dr. Cross, is a close partner of our leadership team as one of our critical care intensivists. As the Immediate Past Chief of Staff, he similarly engaged with staff officers and the medical executive committee to support the growth and improvement of the hospital. When Dr. Elaine Lee went out on maternity leave, Dr. Smethurst stepped in to serve as interim chief medical officer and provide support so that all teams could continue to operate at full capacity. His drive and deep competency make him an invaluable leader, relied on for a myriad of roles from donor engagement to devil's advocate when necessary. He fulfills every role with integrity and honesty, and we're honored to have him on our team.



2025 Award Nominees

Congratulations to the above six honorees and to the below nominees, all of whom have demonstrated exceptional skill, innovation and leadership. We're grateful for all of you and the work you do for your patients, team members, and for the St. Joseph Hospital community that relies on you to advance our mission and vision – thank you.

Community Partner Award

Brian Kolski, MD
Dan Vu, MD
Thomas C. Kim, MD
Sudeep Kukreja, MD
Michael Malouf, MD
Brian Palafox, MD
Aisha Simjee, MD

Culture & Teamwork Award

Jooby Babu, MD
Jason Caberto, MD
Sami Hamamji, MD

Clinical Excellence Award

Aaron Fowler, MD
Thuy Le, MD
John Maurice, MD
Robert Naraghi, MD
Mahmood Razavi, MD

Leadership Excellence Award

Maged Azer, MD

Jack Canton, MD
Brian Lee, MD
Jeffrey Tyler, MD
Tiffany Wu, MD

Medical Staff Leadership Award

Nikita Bezrukov, MD
John Cross, MD
Amir Ghiassi, MD
Melissa Rudolph, MD
Peter Smethurst, MD

MEDICAL STAFF BRIEFS

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SUBMISSIONS SOUGHT:

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

Save the Date for the 2025

Soiree

Presented by the St. Joseph Hospital Foundation

Saturday, October 4, at the Balboa Bay Club

Benefitting Neurosciences

Announcing Event Co-Chairs:



Lars Anker, MD



Mahmood Razavi, MD



Erick Westbroek, MD

Contact sjofoundation@providence.org or 714-347-7900



Three SJO Specialty Centers Earn National Recognition

The **Center for Cancer Prevention and Treatment** has been reaccredited for a three-year term in radiation oncology following a recent review by the American College of Radiology (ACR). The **ACR seal of accreditation** represents the pinnacle of quality and patient safety, earned by just 700 sites across the country.

St. Joseph Hospital garnered top honors from *Newsweek* in its 2025 rankings of America's **Best Hospitals for Specialized Care**. We were recognized among the nation's best for **Neurological Care** and **Orthopedic Care** in 2025. These rankings are derived from an evaluation of hospital performance, including quality of care, patient outcomes and accreditations from health organizations.

These recognitions reflect the dedication of SJO physicians and caregivers consistently delivering top-quality healthcare to our community. Your inspiring efforts drive all that we do. Thank you for your commitment to our success.

– Brian Helleland, Chief Executive

Contributing to Our Communities

At Providence, our care extends far beyond the walls of our hospitals and deep into our communities. Each year, our not-for-profit health organization provides hundreds of millions of dollars in community health services such as essential medical care and resources, accessibility to affordable housing, community hub centers, healthful foods and more.

Across the South Division, Providence, often working with community partners, contributed \$625 million in programs, charity care, unpaid costs of Medicare and MediCal in California, with \$437 million allocated to Southern California and \$188 million in Northern California according to the 2024 *Annual Report to Our Communities*.

Health for a better world.



We invest in Southern California's health.



Total benefit to our communities in 2024
\$437 MILLION



\$38.4 MILLION
Community health improvement and strategic partnerships



\$2.5 MILLION
Health professions education and research



\$5.5 MILLION
Subsidized health services



\$50.1 MILLION
Free and discounted care for the uninsured and underinsured



\$340 MILLION
Unpaid cost of Medicaid and other means-tested government programs

* Data is consolidated based on unaudited financial reporting and includes entities that are not a part of Form 990 Schedule H reporting. The numbers include home and community care investments and joint ventures by percentage ownership.