



1st to Implant New Dialysis Technology

Providence St. Joseph Hospital has become the first hospital in Orange County—and the first across the Providence health system—to offer VasQ™ (Laminate Medical Technologies), an FDA-cleared nitinol external vascular support implanted at the time of arteriovenous fistula (AVF) creation. Vascular surgeon Dr. Xuan-Binh (Ben) Pham (*above, foreground*) and the hospital's Operating Room team recently completed the first implantation, expanding local options for surgical hemodialysis access. Published data, including a pivotal U.S. study and subsequent analyses, have reported favorable rates of physiologic maturation, functional success, and safety, with no device-related serious adverse events identified in the pivotal cohort.

AVF remains the preferred long-term access for patients with end-stage kidney disease. Functional success, however, is limited by failure of maturation and juxta-anastomotic stenosis, often driven by disturbed flow, elevated wall tension, and adverse remodeling after vessel mobilization. These events contribute to delayed two-needle cannulation, prolonged central venous catheter dependence, and additional endovascular or surgical interventions.

VasQ is placed externally around the artery and vein during standard AVF construction to reinforce the juxta-anastomotic segment, maintain anastomotic geometry (arterial arch and venous taper), and promote a more laminar inflow transition. The intended effect is more consistent outward (dilative) remodeling, improved maturation and usability, and a lower burden of stenosis-related reintervention.

Dr. Pham coordinates with SJO's multidisciplinary team of surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses, technologists and perioperative staff. VasQ is consistent with our broader strategy to expand advanced vascular and cardiovascular care locally and system-wide. The clinical objective remains the same: more durable, usable AVFs and fewer access-related complications for patients requiring maintenance hemodialysis.

BRAVO: Standing Ovations for Extraordinary Care



Catherine Artoun, DO
OB/Gyn



Kevin Pham, MD
Nephrology

Dr. Artoun's unwavering kindness, encouragement, and patience takes the stress out of overwhelming situations for expectant mothers.

Dr. Pham was lauded for his clinical expertise, compassionate presence and advocacy for kidney disease patients. Read more about their BRAVO awards at sjomedicalstaff.org/news-events.

Heart & Vascular Team Receiving Prestigious Prize

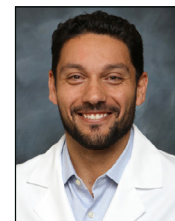
Congratulations to Mahmood K. Razavi, MD, Director of Clinical Trials at the St. Joseph Heart & Vascular Center, and his coauthors on receiving the 2026 Mark A. Creager Prize for Research Excellence.

The Society for Vascular Medicine (SVM) selected their article in *Vascular Medicine*, "Noninvasive therapeutic ultrasound to increase perfusion in chronic limb-threatening ischemia: An early feasibility study," doi.org/10.1177/1358863X241305093, as the most meritorious research paper published in the journal in 2025 (Volume 30). The work contributes to an emerging area of investigation for patients with limited revascularization options.

The Creager Prize will be presented at SVM's Vascular Scientific Sessions in Atlanta, GA, Sept. 24-27, 2026. Along with Dr. Razavi, please join us in recognizing all the authors: from St. Joseph Hospital, Meena Archie, MD; formerly on staff, Bhavraj Khalsa, MD; and from the University of Washington, Babak Nazer, MD.



Mahmood Razavi, MD



Meena Archie, MD

2nd Annual Physician Honors Awards



Celebrating, L - R: Brian Palafox, MD, Community Partner Award – Leading 11 medical missions that delivered advanced surgical care and complex cardiac procedures to underserved communities.

Jason Caberto, DO, Leadership Excellence Award – for multi-disciplinary rounds, communication, and care-transition improvements.

Melissa Rudolph, MD, Medical Staff Leadership Award – Strengthening medical staff operations, physician engagement, communication, care standards, and well-being through collaborative leadership.

Jack Canton, MD, Culture & Teamwork Award – for collaborative leadership as Medical Director of General Anesthesia.

Jeffrey Tyler, MD, Clinical Excellence Award – for advancing cardiogenic shock care and raising survival from ~45% to over 75%.

Congratulations to these five honorees and to all 25 of the nominees, each demonstrating exceptional skill, innovation and leadership. For more on the honorees and a list of nominees, see sjomedicalstaff.org/news-events.



September 2026

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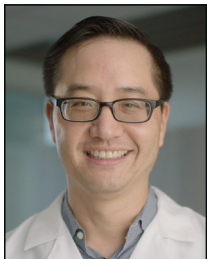
During National Suicide Prevention
Month in September and at all times,
Marvin is here to support you.



Marvin
Behavioral Health

Providence St. Joseph Hospital Foundation Soirée 2026 Medical Honorees

Roger Chang, MD | Hospitalist



Providence St. Joseph Hospital is proud to recognize Roger Chang, MD, at Soirée 2026 for his role in a remarkable patient journey.

After a young woman was hospitalized

with severe neurological symptoms, seizures, and worsening cognitive decline, Dr. Chang identified a critical connection between her diagnosis and a hidden ovarian dermoid tumor. His persistence and clinical insight led to life-changing treatment and recovery. Dr. Chang's dedication to uncovering answers exemplifies the expertise, compassion, and commitment that define exceptional patient-centered care.

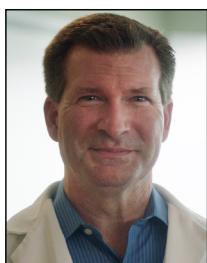
Joseph Preston, MD | Intensivist



Providence St. Joseph Hospital is also proud to honor Joseph Preston, MD, at Soirée 2026 for his role in helping solve a rare and complex medical mystery. When a young woman experienced progressive

muscle weakness that left her unable to eat, dress herself, or walk independently, Preston continued searching for answers. His determination led to a critical muscle biopsy and the diagnosis of necrotizing myositis, setting her on a path toward recovery after a lengthy hospitalization. Dr. Preston exemplifies the perseverance and excellence that change lives.

Eric Wellmeyer, MD | Anesthesiologist

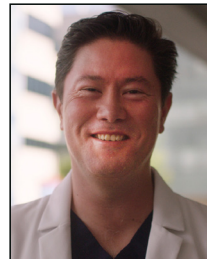


We proudly recognize Eric Wellmeyer, MD, for his extraordinary response during a rare and life-threatening malignant hyperthermia crisis. While caring for a patient undergoing

a planned cardiac procedure, Wellmeyer quickly recognized the warning signs of this potentially fatal reaction to anesthesia and immediately initiated treatment.

His rapid action and clinical expertise were instrumental in saving the patient's life and helping him return to work and normal activities. Wellmeyer's commitment to patient safety reflects the highest standards of care.

Christopher Yao, MD | Emergency Medicine



Providence St. Joseph Hospital also proudly honors Christopher Yao, MD at Soirée 2026 for his role in the lifesaving care of a retired law enforcement officer who suffered cardiac arrest

while receiving treatment in the emergency department. Yao's swift assessment, decisive action, and collaboration with the care team helped save the patient's life and paved the way for a full recovery. His leadership, expertise, and dedication reflect the lifesaving impact emergency medicine physicians have on our community every day.

These stories remind us of the extraordinary impact our physicians have on the lives of those we serve. They also embody Providence St. Joseph Hospital's ongoing commitment to advancing compassionate, leading-edge care while honoring our mission to treat every patient as our Dear Neighbor. To celebrate that work, we are pleased to highlight these physicians and their patients in a special film premiering at the gala on Oct. 17, 2026, and available following the event.