



*Sutter Medical Center,
Sacramento*

A Sutter Health Affiliate

SMCS Physician

Message from Tim Daly, Assistant Administrator

April 2009

SMCS Outpatient Surgery Expansion on Tap

Excitement is building as the new Sutter Medical Office Building nears completion kitty-corner to Sutter General Hospital and across 28th Street from the Buhler Building/Sutter Cancer Center. Set to open January 2010, it will mark the next major step in our journey of building "the medical center of the future" in midtown Sacramento.

While the third and fourth floors of the building will house specialty physicians, the new Medical Office Building will include a significant expansion of Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento's outpatient surgical program. The new Outpatient Surgery Center will occupy the entire second floor of the new MOB.

The new Outpatient Surgery Center will be owned and operated by Sutter Medical Center and will function under the license of the hospital. It is open to all physicians on the medical staff and will provide a variety of outpatient surgical specialties and services.

Features of the new state-of-the-art center include:

- 6 Operating Rooms
- 4 Gastroenterology Suites
- 3 Interventional Radiology Suites (2 angiography rooms, 1 CT room)
- 28 Pre-Operative rooms
- 15 Post-Anesthesia Care Unit Rooms
- Sterile Processing Department

The center will focus on providing efficient outpatient surgical services to meet the needs and expectations of physicians and patients. The center will be equipped to treat most surgical specialties and to perform gastrointestinal procedures.

Surgeon forums have been scheduled to discuss the new Outpatient Surgery Center at:

- **7-8 a.m. Thursday, April 16**, in Buhler Building Rooms 3 and 4.
- **7-8 a.m. Thursday, May 21**, in the Sutter Memorial Hospital 7th Floor Right Auditorium.

Physicians currently performing outpatient procedures at the hospital will be contacted to discuss how they can best take advantage of the new facility. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Jill Quinn, Nursing Director of Outpatient Surgery, at (916) 733-8597, or me at (916) 733-8334 or DalyT@sutterhealth.org.

Hard Hat Tours of Construction Sites Offered

Physicians and SMCS staff are invited to take behind-the-scenes tours of all the midtown construction sites, including the Medical Office Building and Outpatient Surgery Center. The Hard Hat Tours also include the renovation of Sutter General Hospital into the Ose Adams Medical Pavilion, and the current site work for the Anderson Lucchetti Women's and Children's Center.

The highlights in the Medical Office Building include one of the floors dedicated to specialist physician offices; the first and second floors that will include the Outpatient Surgery Center, the new home of cardiac rehab, radiological services and other SMCS services; and the Energy Center that will provide electricity, heating and air conditioning for the entire medical center campus.

Tours are offered the third Thursday of every month from 4-5:30 p.m. To sign up and for more information, go to <http://www.suttermedicalcenter.org/expansion/hardhat/>.

SMCS Welcomes New Medical Staff Members

Murray D. Batt, M.D.

11815 Education St.
Auburn, CA 95602
(530) 887-6978

Specialty: Internal Medicine

Briana C. Gleason, M.D.

Diagnostic Pathology Medical Group
3301 C St., Suite 200-E
Sacramento, CA 95816
(916) 446-0424

Specialty: Pathology, Anatomic,
Dermatopathology

Diego R. Gonzalez, M.D.

1020 29th St., Suite 480
Sacramento, CA 95816
(916) 733-3777

Specialty: Internal Medicine

Chiraag S. Patel, M.D.

2801 K St.
Sacramento, CA 95816
(916) 733-3777

Specialty: Internal Medicine

Kanwaldeep S. Randhawa, M.D.

77 Cadillac Drive, Suite 210
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 325-1040

Specialty: Pulmonary Diseases

Kulwinder S. Sehmbey, M.D.

3315 Watt Ave.
Sacramento, CA 95821
(916) 481-0777

Specialty: Anesthesiology

Dates Set for Medical Staff Appreciation Dinners

Save the dates: This year's Medical Staff Appreciation Receptions are scheduled for Tuesday, June 30, and Tuesday, Sept. 29.

Locations are still being determined, But look for an invitation closer to the dates.

New Regional Governance Structure Announced

Improving quality patient care, keeping prices affordable and serving those most in need are the essential aims behind a new governance structure being rolled out across the Sutter Health organization.

Sutter Health's new governance model, approved in February by Boards of Trustees across our system, creates five Sutter Health regions in Northern California. Sutter Health Sacramento Sierra Region will include:

- Sutter Amador Hospital
- Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital
- Sutter Davis Hospital
- Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento
- Sutter Roseville Medical Center
- Sutter Solano Medical Center
- Sutter Medical Foundation
- Sutter North Medical Foundation
- Sutter Regional Medical Foundation.

The other regions within Sutter Health are the Sutter Health Central Valley Region, the Sutter Health East Bay Region, the Sutter Health West Bay Region and the Sutter Health Peninsula Coastal Region.

Pat Fry, President and CEO of Sutter Health, announced the five regional presidents, which include Sarah Krevans as President of the expanded Sacramento Sierra Region. These regional presidents will work directly with their regional boards of directors in overseeing regional operations, developing regional strategic plans that are tightly integrated with those of the system and other regions, developing operating and capital budgets, and monitoring quality assurance, ethics, compliance and community benefit programs.

"With our experience in the existing Sacramento Sierra Region, we know that working together has helped us preserve and strengthen services for our communities, create new points of patient access, and dramatically improve clinical quality," Krevans said. "The affiliates who are joining the region also have some very innovative practices that we can implement across the expanded region. I am confident by working together we will enhance the care we provide to our patients and communities."

One of the first items to be accomplished for the expanded Sacramento Sierra Region is the naming of the board of directors made up on community leaders from the represented communities. In addition to Fry and Krevans, 18 community and physician leaders have agreed to serve as the initial Board of Directors for SHSSR and Sutter Medical Foundation. They are:

- **William Au, M.D.**, Neurologist, Sutter Neuroscience Medical Group; Sacramento
- **Edward Bonner**, Placer County Sheriff; Loomis
- **Ann Cousineau**, Director, Solano County Library; Fairfield
- **John A. DiMichele**, President, Chief Executive Officer, & Director of Community Business Bank; Fairfield
- **Mike Dourgarian**, Franchise President and General Manager for Manpower of Sacramento; Sacramento
- **Dan Flores**, CEO, Cambridge Career College; Yuba City
- **Scott Howell**, Partnership Executive, IBM, Public Sector in Western United States; Granite Bay
- **Dick Kramer**, President, R.J. Kramer Associates; Meadow Vista

ICU Mortality Reduction Plan

By Cecilia M. Hernandez, M.D.
SMCS Director of Medical Affairs
hernanc@sutterhealth.org

Last month, Chief Nurse Executive Shelly McGriff, Integrated Quality Services Director Jan Frain and I attended an IHI Reducing Mortality conference to learn what we could do at SMCS to reduce our mortality rates. Despite having great docs and nurses doing great work meeting our core measures, as of February 2009, we still have an overall mortality ratio of 1.2 and an ICU mortality ratio of 1.09. These ratios of observed deaths versus expected deaths are adjusted for severity of illness and risk of mortality. A ratio of 1.0 represents average performance.

As a result of what we learned in Boston, Shelly, Jan and I, along with ICU, RRT and additional staff, put together an ICU Mortality Reduction Plan to bring our mortality ratios to 0.7 this year. Fortunately, there are two other initiatives moving forward that should complement our efforts. We are focusing on three factors influencing the mortality ratio: documentation to support severity of illness and risk of mortality, appropriate management of end-of-life care, and quality of care.

In order to improve our documentation, SMCS retained Navigant Consultants to evaluate how well we document for severity of illness and risk of mortality. Consequently, we have two RN clinical documentation specialists reviewing all Medicare in-patient charts in real time to capture opportunities to improve documentation before the patient is discharged. They query physicians to clarify diagnoses to support the patient's actual clinical picture. In so doing, physician documentation will improve for those specific patients, but it should also improve for all their patients as they apply their learning.

Secondly, we are pursuing in-patient hospice services. Currently, if a patient is appropriately made comfort care and he passes away in the hospital, he is still counted in our ICU mortality statistics if he stayed in the ICU for any length of time during that hospital stay. However, if he is appropriately placed on comfort care and discharged to hospice, even if he stays in the hospital, he is no longer reflected in the ICU mortality database. This effort really addresses the need for appropriate end-of-life care. Our patients deserve to receive the right care, at the right time and in the right place.

Third, we will track raw mortality, review all deaths and apply a simple yet effect tool to evaluate these deaths. Briefly, all deaths will be sorted into whether or not the patient was admitted to the ICU and whether or not he was admitted on comfort care. These two parameters and the relationship between them will help us focus our efforts. For example, deaths of patients admitted to the ICU on comfort care may indicate that we may need to do a better job managing our resources. On the other hand, deaths of patients admitted to units other than the ICU and not on comfort care point to the possibility that we have a problem with patient safety overall. Deaths of patients admitted to the ICU not on comfort care and deaths of patients admitted to non-ICU beds on comfort care raise other issues. These analyses will drive future interventions by focusing our efforts on the problems with which we appear to be struggling most.

I have been impressed with the dedication of our staff as we begin this work. All want to put patients first and to provide perfect care. Thank you for your commitment and please let me know how else we can improve and how you can help.

New Regional Governance Structure Announced – Continued From Page 2

- **Patricia Fong Kushida**, President and CEO, Sacramento Asian-Pacific Chamber of Commerce; Sacramento
- **Daniel Kennedy, M.D.**, Internist, Sutter West Medical Group; Davis
- **Marion Leff, M.D.**, Family Medicine Physician, Sutter Medical Group; Sacramento
- **Dan Martinez**, Partner, Martinez Hayes Hyatt Hill Attorneys at Law; Yuba City, CA
- **Mike Newell**, Director of Business Development, HP Hood; Davis
- **William Pendergast**, Attorney, Law Offices of William J. Pendergast; Vallejo
- **Mike Slater**, Certified Public Accountant; Jackson
- **Joan Smith-Maclean, M.D.**, Family Medicine Physician, Sutter West Medical Group; Davis
- **Scott C. Syphax**, President & CEO, Nehemiah Corporation of America; Elk Grove

The merger process will be completed sometime this summer, at which time the new board officially will become operational.