



*Sutter Medical Center,  
Sacramento*

A Sutter Health Affiliate

# SMCS Physician

**Message from Tom Gagen, CEO**

**December 2009**

## **Sutter Medical Plaza, Sacramento to Be Premier Center for Pediatric, Women's Services**

When plans were made to construct a new Women's and Children's Center at our Sutter General Hospital campus, we began searching for a new home for our outpatient services and physician offices that was separate from the hospital but in close proximity. Not only did we find a suitable location, but I feel we found the perfect site at the corner of Alhambra and Stockton boulevards.

The extensive renovation of the former home of Blood Source into the new women's and children's outpatient center is nearly complete, and the building has a new, formal name: Sutter Medical Plaza, Sacramento. The 140,000-square-foot building is being transformed into the area's premier, comprehensive center for children's and women's outpatient services.

Children's services will occupy the entire first floor and will include physicians representing all pediatric specialties and creating a "one-stop" experience for patients. OB/GYNs and other women's service physicians will be located on the second floor. The building will provide medical office space to any women's and children's physicians on staff who would like to locate there.

The building is being readied for a March 2010 grand opening, with pediatricians and pediatric gastroenterology physicians from Sutter Medical Group currently located at 5301 F St. and Sutter Neuroscience Medical Group's pediatric neurologists moving in first. In addition, the Children's Specialists Medical Group is also expected to move to Sutter Medical Plaza, Sacramento, as are Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento outpatient clinics currently at the Sutter Memorial Hospital campus. The children's floor also will include a lab, X-ray and pediatric rehabilitation services.

The project team did a lot of research before designing the new Sutter Medical Plaza, Sacramento. We held focus groups with patients and their families from all pediatric clinical areas, and we received invaluable feedback. We incorporated most of that information we received into the design and features of the building. These features include accessible parking and easy-to-use automatic doors for wheelchair-bound patients; a bright, colorful, patient-centric interior environment; and pediatric neurology rooms without the bright colors and loud patterns that can be detrimental to those patients.

The building also looks different from the outside. More windows were installed to create natural lighting inside, and the exterior was designed to mirror the current Alhambra look, with Spanish mission-style elements such as mosaic tiles, arches and lighting attached to the building.

"The City of Sacramento wanted this to be an anchor on Stockton Boulevard," said Eric Rasmussen, Sutter Medical Foundation's Director of Growth and Development. "What has been accomplished is a successful, pleasing building for the city, its residents and our patients."

For information on the new Sutter Medical Plaza, Sacramento, please contact Rasmussen at (916) 454-6639.

### SMCS Welcomes New Medical Staff Members

**Saleha Abbasi, M.D.**

2180 Harvard St., Suite 210  
Sacramento, CA 95815  
(916) 567-3500  
Specialty: Psychiatry,  
Child/Adolescent

**Leanne M. Camisa, M.D.**

500 University Ave.  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
(916) 830-2000  
Specialty: Family Medicine

**Emilia Cho, M.D.**

77 Cadillac Drive, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
(916) 561-5911  
Specialty: Pediatrics, Neonatology

**Ashutosh Raina, M.D.**

2800 L St., Suite 340  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
(916) 454-6667  
Specialty: Pediatric, Neurology

**Rajdeep V. Ranade, M.D.**

1115 Cottonwood St.  
Woodland, CA 95695  
(530) 666-9500  
Specialty: Psychiatry

**SouCheun Saechao, D.O.**

1020 29th St., Suite 480  
Sacramento, CA 95816-5173  
(916) 733-3777  
Specialty: Internal Medicine

**Neelima G. Vallurupalli, M.D.**

5301 F St., Suite 117  
Sacramento, CA 95819  
(916) 733-1788  
Specialty: Cardiology

### Referring Patients to Sutter Rehabilitation Institute

The Sutter Rehabilitation Institute, located on the Sutter Roseville Medical Center campus, provides a high-level team approach to care for patients recovering from traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, stroke, orthopedic conditions and degenerative neurological conditions.

With state-of-the-art technology and an experienced staff, SRI's services are targeted to patients who require 24-hour rehabilitation care and are able to tolerate an intensive therapy program of at least three hours a day. The center treats the whole patient – physically, emotionally and socially.

To refer a patient to Sutter Rehabilitation Institute or for a free onsite assessment, call (916) 878-2588. Or, if the patient is in the hospital, simply prepare an order asking for "screen admission to SRI." Physicians, case managers and family members can refer patients to the SRI, but a physician order is needed for the patient to be admitted.

If you would like a consultation by SRI physiatrists, you may write up an order. Greg LeBleu, M.D., or Karanjit Basrai, M.D., will do the consultation, which includes a screen for admission. However, a consultation is not necessary to have the screen for admission completed.

A Community Resource Coordinator will meet and screen your patient and will work with the case managers to facilitate the admission both in the hospital and with referrals for patients at home.

To be eligible for admission to SRI, a patient must:

- Require daily access to a rehabilitation physician, who will oversee the patient's medical needs and functional plan of care;
- Require 24-hour rehabilitation nursing;
- Need at least two types of therapy;
- Be able to tolerate a relatively intense therapy program, consisting of at least three hours of therapy per day, five days a week;
- Have the ability to achieve rehabilitation goals in a reasonable time period.

### Physician Satisfaction Survey Response Rates Announced

Five percent fewer physicians on the SMCS Medical Staff completed the 2009 Press Ganey Physician Satisfaction Survey this fall compared to last year, but the response from 41 percent of physicians is still strong enough to give SMCS important feedback. Results from the surveys are expected during the first quarter of 2010.

"The Physician Satisfaction Surveys provide invaluable insight for our hospitals and lead to improvements for our physicians, hospital staff and patients," said John Mesic, M.D., the region's Chief Medical Officer. "We hope more physicians next year will take the opportunity to respond."

## Heart Transplant Program Proves Benefits of Physician Alignment

By Cecilia M. Hernandez, M.D., SMCS Vice President of Medical Affairs, [hernanc@sutterhealth.org](mailto:hernanc@sutterhealth.org)

Last month I had the opportunity to celebrate the Medicare recertification of our heart transplant service in style at the home of John and Celeste Chin. It was a celebration of the focused efforts of clinicians, administration and community, bringing back to life a much-needed and highly successful service to our community. I was struck by the mutual appreciation and respect of everyone in the room, and I was proud to be celebrating with the best and the brightest, fully committed individuals. These are people who have invested their hearts and souls to working together to create a program greater than the sum of its parts and, let me tell you, it was no small feat.

Among the many distinguished attendees – which included Dr. Chin, Doug Schuch, M.D., and Paul Kelly, M.D., the father of the transplant service – was Ann Gerhardt, M.D., who has provided medical support to the transplant service for years. Ann is a passionate and committed physician who never lets the opportunity to raise the bar slip by. She has challenged me over the years to examine myself and my performance in service to our patients and to all of you. I took advantage of a few moments alone with her to ask if my commitment to you, the medical staff, is apparent in my actions. Although she was able to acknowledge that I put patients and their well-being at the top of my priority list, she was not able to acknowledge that YOU and your well-being are right up there as well. To quote Ann: “I get the sense you care that we take care of the patient. I don’t get the sense directly that you care about us, the medical staff.” When I queried her about how I might better demonstrate my commitment to you, she responded, “Talk to us like you are talking right now.” I did not take her words lightly and felt a renewed vigor to demonstrate my commitment to you in every way I can. Thank you, Ann, for your candor, as always.

Jane Koenig, M.D., was also there and beaming as this year’s recipient of the Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society’s Golden Stethoscope award. Those of you who know Jane know how deserving she is of this award. I am so proud of you, Jane. You have always been an inspiration to me in so many ways. Congratulations! Bill Koenig, M.D., J.D., was also present and deserving of recognition in his own right. Bill played a significant role in securing the recertification of the transplant service. From what I understand, it was his expertise as a physician and as an attorney that was able to get the certifying body to recognize the clinical value of our program in statistically significant terms. Bravo and thank you, Bill!

Although I was exhausted after working a swing shift the night before and attending a training meeting all day, I felt it was important for me to attend to acknowledge all the hard work done and to celebrate with my colleagues. We have to celebrate our successes, and I am grateful to the Chins for making that possible. Happy faces, slaps on the back and hugs all around. We are a community. We are aligned, sharing common goals. I heard that John Chin thinks of our heart-failure patients as “little chickens in a coop,” stating that “we keep a close eye on our little chickens and we take care of them and know exactly right where they are and how they are doing.” We provide superior service for our local community – and beyond – and we achieve better outcomes. The benefits of alignment are personal, professional and ultimately benefit the patient. Alignment does not equal submission, nor does it equal hierarchy. Alignment equals shared goals and shared vision.

I also ran into Z.J. Xu, M.D., a Sutter Medical Group cardiologist who joined SMG this year along with many of his colleagues from Northern California Cardiology Associates. I asked him how the transition has been and was pleased to hear that he is happy in his new home. He most appreciates the infrastructure and the culture. He acknowledged the supportive relationship between Sutter Medical Group and Sutter Medical Foundation and stated that “being supported allows for growth.” He referenced the STEMI program championed by Dave Roberts, M.D., and Tom Rhodes as cutting-edge and making strides in achieving the quality goals we need to achieve.

Once again I am struck by the overwhelming benefits of these relationships. Alignment means mutual accountability, support, collaboration, influence and engagement. It is a two-way street. Know that I am here for you, aligned with you, accountable to you, supportive of you, collaborating with you, influenced by you and fully engaged with you ... and I am loving every minute of it.