



*Sutter Medical Center,  
Sacramento*

A Sutter Health Affiliate

# SMCS Physician

June 2010

## SMCS Takes Steps to Mitigate Impact of State, County Cuts to Mental Health Care

*By John Boyd, PsyD, MHA, Chief Administrative Officer, Mental Health & Continuing Care*

The State of California and Sacramento County continue to deal with a challenging financial shortfall. Unfortunately, the impact of this shortfall has been strongly felt by thousands of our community's mental health consumers who lack a place to go to when they are in an acute psychiatric state. This is a result of the county closing its crisis stabilization unit, reducing its bed capacity from 100 to now 62 and significantly reducing mental health outpatient programs.

This situation may become more critical after September, when the final version of the state budget is expected to be approved. It's likely this will include additional cuts to mental health services that may require the county to make more program cuts, increasing the number of those who will rely on our Emergency Departments to receive mental health services including stabilization.

This crisis is being felt in all hospitals throughout the region; however, Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento has distinguished itself with a strong reputation for the steps we have taken to mitigate this impact. These steps include:

- Establishing strong community advocacy to identify appropriate destinations other than hospital EDs for those requiring acute psychiatric care
- Advocating for additional county psychiatric beds
- Leading planning efforts to rebuild the mental health delivery system for Sacramento with evidence-based best practices
- Offering ongoing education to internal staff
- Establishing the Psychiatric Response Team to serve SMCS's needs
- Admitting those who require a higher level of care to Sutter Center for Psychiatry to alleviate the demand placed on EDs

Our efforts will be ongoing and designed to meet the safety and care needs of our community and staff. If you have any questions or additional concerns, please contact me at [boydj@sutterhealth.org](mailto:boydj@sutterhealth.org).

I hear stories weekly about the positive impact we have made to individuals requiring our care. They do recover and our efforts make a strong difference in their lives. On behalf of the community of people who require emergency psychiatric care, thank you for all you do during this difficult time.

## SMCS Welcomes New Medical Staff Members

### **Belal S. Afridi, M.D.**

2100 Powell St., Suite 940  
Emeryville, CA 94608  
(888) 883-7362

Specialty: Emergency Medicine

### **Wei-Hsun Liao, M.D.**

2081 Arena Blvd., Suite 160  
Sacramento, CA 95834  
(916) 285-8977

Specialty: Psychiatry

### **Phillip Silverstein, M.D.**

2100 Powell St., Suite 940  
Emeryville, CA 94608  
(888) 883-7362

Specialty: Emergency Medicine

The following are new SMF/SMG radiologists onsite at Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento. To speak to a radiologist, call (916) 733-3061.

### **Matthew Chan, M.D.**

Specialty: Diagnostic Radiology

### **Mark Dowling, M.D.**

Specialty: Diagnostic Radiology

### **Daniel Gianella, M.D.**

Specialty: Diagnostic Radiology

### **Bang Huynh, M.D.**

Specialty: Diagnostic Radiology

### **Richard Karsh, M.D.**

Specialty: Diagnostic Radiology

### **Chirag Patel, M.D.**

Specialty: Pediatric Radiology

### **Donna Roberts, M.D.**

Specialty: Diagnostic Radiology

### **Thomas-Ray Sanchez, M.D.**

Specialty: Pediatric Radiology

### **Frederick Wendt, M.D.**

Specialty: Diagnostic Radiology

### **Khalil Zahra, M.D.**

Specialty: Diagnostic Radiology

## **Cardiology Hospitalist Program Launched at SMH**

A Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento cardiology hospitalist program was launched this month, providing coverage for cardiac patient care 24 hours a day, seven days a week at Sutter Memorial Hospital. This is the first cardiology hospitalist program in the Sacramento region.

The goal of the new program is to improve the quality of care in the SMCS cardiology division, assist with achieving lower docile for length of stay and, overall, to maintain the SMCS program as a center of excellence for cardiovascular care.

"We are very proud that our medical staff has stepped up to support this new and exciting program," said David Roberts, M.D., medical director of the Sutter Heart & Vascular Institute.

A cardiologist from Sutter Medical Group will be in-house from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. every day, and a physician from the on-call panel will be available from 5 p.m.-7 a.m. daily. This group will be comprised of both Sutter Medical Group Cardiology and Sacramento Heart and Vascular Associates. The on-call physicians will be required to respond within 30 minutes to requests by physicians and other clinical staff. Nurse practitioners will also be available to support the program once the program is fully operational.

All cardiology hospitalists and on-call physicians can be contacted by paging (916) 697-3500. In addition, the Interventional Call agreement will remain in place. To reach an interventional cardiologist, page (916) 697-3383. If you have questions, please call (916) 733-1081.

## **First Sutter Capitol Pavilion Move-Ins Set for Aug. 30**

As the Sutter Capitol Pavilion medical office building and outpatient services center nears completion, plans are under way for the first moves into the building on Aug. 30 and for grand-opening events in October.

Two physician groups and an outpatient service will be the first to move into the Sutter Capitol Pavilion on Aug. 30. They are: gastrointestinal specialists Drs. Altaf Jan, Abdoul Khaleq, Roger Mendis and Kuldeep Tagore in Suite 300; the urology group with Drs. Jonathan Eandi, Suzanne Generao, Louis Giorgi Jr. and physician assistant Tamara Mahmood in Suite 400; and Laboratory Services in Suite 100. Vascular surgeon Thomas Park, M.D., plans to move in Sept. 1. The rest of the move-ins are scheduled to be completed before the end of the year, and grand-opening event information will be noted in a future SMCS Physician.

To meet these opening dates, crews are working at a break-neck pace to complete the building. Landscaping has begun, and the dazzling copper panel finish is completed on the north side of the building facing Sutter's Fort. The street barriers on L Street and Capitol Avenue are scheduled to be removed in June, but the street barrier located on 28th Street will remain to help assist with access for deliveries of furniture and equipment.

## Appreciation Event Held for Physician Donors

*By Cecilia Hernandez, M.D., SMCS Vice President of Medical Affairs*

May 25 marked the first Sutter Medical Center Foundation Physician Appreciation Event at the Fab Forties home of Gloria Naify, incoming chair of the foundation board. SMCF is the philanthropic entity that supports programs and equipment at SMCS. The purpose of the event was to acknowledge the contributions of physicians who donated \$1,000 or more in 2009. In addition to providing excellent care to our patients, these physicians have demonstrated their commitment financially, thereby helping all of us to deliver the most up-to-date services and technologies available. Some of the physicians in attendance were Charlie Brownridge, Michael Chez, Bradley Chipps, Patrick Creehan, Kent Daft, David Dozier, Greg Graves, Forrest Junod, Marion and Stanley Leff, John Mesic, Arlyn Marrero-Nasirov, Teimour Nasirov, David Norene and ZJ Xu. My apologies to those I missed – not to mention many more were invited than were able to attend, more than 50 physicians in all! We had a great time, socializing and enjoying the beautiful surroundings and warm hospitality offered so graciously by Gloria.

Current SMCF Board Chair Ken Johnson shared his thoughts on the significance of physician philanthropy in furthering the mission of SMCF. He acknowledged that the foundation's primary donors are the grateful patients whom we serve and care for in our hospitals. For donors, there is no more credible supporter than a physician. When a physician makes a gift and endorses the work of the medical center and the foundation, it speaks volumes. It greatly helps the foundation do the work of funding critically needed programs, medical equipment and technology.

In addition to acknowledging our Cornerstone physician donors, SMCS CEO Tom Gagen thanked the dedicated people on the SMCF board, including former board chairs in attendance, Dick Osen and Alison Buhler. These individuals are absolutely committed to helping us provide the best medical care in Sacramento. Now more than ever, with the changing economic and healthcare reform environments, philanthropy is essential to the delivery of the state-of-the-art medical care our patients need and deserve. In 2009 alone, over 3 million philanthropic dollars were approved to fund programs and equipment. For more information about SMCF, visit [www.suttermedicalcenter.org/philanthropy](http://www.suttermedicalcenter.org/philanthropy).

For my part, it was a pleasure to say thank you to this special and select group of physicians. As physicians, we always share our expertise, but these docs went the extra mile and set a leadership standard. Every great medical center has a strong and growing philanthropic program. Supporting our foundation elevates our ability to serve our patients and it sets an example to our community about the importance of philanthropic gifts to the delivery of excellent medical care. Thank you for joining me as a donor. In addition to financial donations, physicians can help by educating board members, community leaders and grateful patients on clinical vision. Furthermore, physician champions play a huge role in specific fund-raising efforts. Last year, Drs. Michael Ingram, Jim Longoria, Bob Kincade and Dave Roberts were critical to our success in raising \$500,000 resulting in a matching grant for a total of \$1 million to fund the Hybrid Surgical Suite. Bravo!

For more information on the foundation and ways you can support SMCS and its mission, visit [www.suttermedicalcenter.org/philanthropy/](http://www.suttermedicalcenter.org/philanthropy/).

*Dr. Hernandez can be reached by e-mail at [HernanC@sutterhealth.org](mailto:HernanC@sutterhealth.org).*