



Sutter Medical Center,  
Sacramento

A Sutter Health Affiliate

# SMCS Physician

## Messages from Daryn Kumar, COO

January 2012

*NOTE: SMCS CEO Carrie Owen Plietz is on leave until March 15, 2012.*

### Heart Transplant Program Sets Record with 11 Transplants in '11

In 2011, 11 patients received new hearts as the Sutter Heart Transplant Program set a one-year record in its 22-year history. Previously, in the program's highest years, nine patients were transplanted, and the program has averaged six a year with a total of 133 heart transplants.

This record comes less than two years after the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) reviewed the heart transplant contract with Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento in 2009 because the program didn't meet its minimum volume requirement of 10 transplants per year. The certification was renewed because outcomes of the SMCS program were some of the best in the nation.

The record number of heart transplants was sparked by the SMCS's Ventricular Assist Device (VAD) Program, begun in 2007. A total of 34 VADs, temporary heart pumps that extend a patient's life, were implanted in 2011. In addition, there were 31 kidney transplants in 2011.

### New Electronic Transcription Launching at SMCS in March

Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento medical staff will gain a new dictation/transcription platform, eScription, on March 14. EScripton, which supports our electronic health record (EHR) implementation, has undergone pre-testing and enhancements based on physician input. Benefits include improved productivity, faster report turnaround times and reduced costs. By and large, dictation steps will

remain the same. One change will include electronic signature functionality, which may look different. Minor training will be available and step-by-step information will be available soon. The new dictation number is 1-855-255-5800.

For more info, contact SSR Chief Medical Information Officer Sundeep Desai, M.D., at [DesaiS@sutterhealth.org](mailto:DesaiS@sutterhealth.org).

### Satisfaction Survey Results Received

SMCS received the results from its 2011 medical staff satisfaction survey and will present them to medical staff members during January and February. The results will be shared with the Medical Executive Committee, each of the medical staff department administrative committees, and then the general membership. After the results are presented, the SMCS Administration Team will work with the medical staff to develop an action plan to address issues identified in the survey.

### Medical Directors Announced for Regional Neuro, Oncology Services

Sam Ciricillo, M.D., and Gregory Graves, M.D., have been named medical directors for the regional neuroscience and oncology service lines, respectively. Dr. Ciricillo specializes in pediatric neurological surgery and most recently served as the medical director of Sutter Neuroscience Institute. He will work alongside Rachael Albertson, the regional executive for neurosciences. Dr. Graves, a longtime Sacramento surgical oncologist, most recently served as medical director of Sutter Cancer Center. He will co-lead with Jennifer Maher, regional executive for oncology. Both physicians will continue their active medical practices as they serve as medical directors.

## 2012 Medical Staff Leadership Announced

The following physicians comprise the SMCS 2012 Medical Staff Leadership:

Michael Abate, M.D., Chief of Staff  
 Muhammad Afzal, M.D., Vice Chief of Staff  
 Dineen Greer, M.D., Secretary/Treasurer  
 Michael Aguilar, M.D., Member-at-Large  
 Harold Humphreys, M.D., Anesthesia  
 Robert Kincade, M.D., Cardiovascular Disease  
 Mylon Marshall, M.D., DIRO  
 Christian Feinauer, M.D., Emergency Medicine  
 James Lee, M.D., Family Medicine  
 Kristen Vandewalker, M.D., Lab Medicine  
 Richard Kim, M.D., Medicine  
 Thomas Melchione, M.D., Obstetrics/Gynecology  
 Angela Rosas, M.D., Pediatrics  
 Morris Pleasant, M.D., Psychiatry  
 Mark Endicott, M.D., Surgery

## Online Resource for Physicians, UpToDate, May Be Acquired

Sutter Health Sacramento Sierra Region is close to working a deal that will bring online clinical information resource UpToDate to physicians, clinicians and departments at all regional facilities. UpToDate offers detailed answers to clinical questions from the office, exam room and bedside. As part of the negotiations, if clinicians or departments have renewed an existing contract for 2012, those subscriptions will be eligible for a pro-rated rebate from UpToDate.

Meanwhile, SHSSR will continue to offer two other valuable online resources for physicians: MDConsult, which now includes access to First Consult, and Ovid journals. They are available to authorized users from home with passwords. For authorization and passwords, call the Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento Library staff at (916) 733-3880.

Information on UpToDate should be referred to SSR Chief Medical Information Officer Sundeep Desai, M.D., at [DesaiS@sutterhealth.org](mailto:DesaiS@sutterhealth.org).

## Patient-Centered Medical Home Pilot Debuts Within Region

The Sutter Health Sacramento Sierra Region is home to the first pilot site within our network for the patient-centered medical home (PCMH). The goal of PCMH, which launched in November at Sutter Medical Foundation's Davis Family Practice, is to improve overall efficiency, reduce total health care costs, enhance customer service and improve health outcomes within the ambulatory care setting.

With PCMH, patients' comprehensive primary care is coordinated in appropriate settings, including outside the care center. This care is delivered by an integrated, interdisciplinary team, similar to how patients are treated by various specialists in a hospital setting. Patients are engaged in the planning and coordinating of their care and proactively anticipating their health-care needs.

For info, contact Steve Smith, M.D., physician champion of the pilot, at [SmithST@sutterhealth.org](mailto:SmithST@sutterhealth.org).

## Sutter Heart Failure Program Sets Goals for Improvement

Sutter Health Sacramento Sierra Region has set a goal to reduce the 30-day hospital readmission rates of heart failure patients down to 17.7 percent in the first year, 14 percent in the second and third year and, eventually, to full performance of 9 percent, which is the system's five-year full performance target.

Two of the main elements to the regional heart failure program are improving patient discharge and following up with moderate- and high-risk patients within two days of discharge. Physicians can help by assessing the patient's risk of readmission, post-acute needs and appropriate level of post-discharge follow-up within 24 hours of admission to the hospital.

For more info, contact Director, Continuum Case Management Jan Van der Mei at [VanderJ@sutterhealth.org](mailto:VanderJ@sutterhealth.org) or (916) 643-6533.