

# MEDICAL STAFF BRIEFS

A Publication from the Chief of Staff and Chief Medical Officer



December 2023

## Meet Your New Medical Staff Leadership

*This year's election demonstrated the Medical Staff's notable engagement in our self-governance with several physicians submitting their interest as Medical Staff leadership nominees. The election results were very close, and the Nominating Committee and Staff Officers thank every physician who submitted an interest as a nominee. For those of you not elected, do not let this deter you from running in future elections. We sincerely hope you will consider serving in other committee roles, including membership on your department's core committee.*

*As our current Staff Officer roles near completion, we'd like to thank you for your continued support. Serving the Medical Staff has been an honor. Welcome, new leaders!*

*– Brian Boyd, MD, Nominating Committee Chair, and Peter Smethurst, MD, Immediate Past Chief of Staff 2022-23*

## 2024-2025 MEDICAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**Chief of Staff**  
John Cross, MD



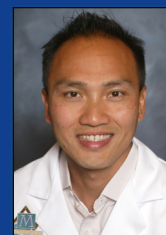
**Vice Chief of Staff**  
Melissa Rudolph, MD



**Secretary/Treasurer**  
James Roum, MD



**Member-at-Large**  
Laura Mackenzie-Tangredi, DO



**Member-at-Large**  
Desmond Sjaufwoekloy, MD



**Immediate Past Chief of Staff**  
Peter Smethurst, MD

## 2024-2025 DEPARTMENT AND SECTION OFFICERS

### ANESTHESIA DEPT.

Chair: **Afshin Shabanie, MD**

Vice Chair: **Da Wang, MD**

### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SCIENCES DEPT.

Chair: **Pravin Kansagra, MD**

Vice Chair: **Ashraf Ismail, MD**

### EENT DEPT.

Chair: **Dan B. Tran, MD**

(Ophthalmology Section)

Vice Chair: **Faramarz Shabdiz, MD**

(Otolaryngology Section)

### EMERGENCY DEPT.

Chair: **Daniel Gromis, MD**

Vice Chair: **Christopher Yao, MD**

### FAMILY PRACTICE DEPT.

Chair: **Lawrence Ehrlich, DO**

Vice Chair: **Thomas Badin, MD**

### MEDICINE DEPT.

Chair: **Amir Ghiassi, MD**

Vice Chair: **Shahid Hayat, MD**

### • Cardiology Section

Chair: **Shalizeh Shokooh, MD**

### • GI Section

Chair: **Hardeep Singh, MD**

### • Hematology/Oncology Section

Chair: **Madhavi Mummaneni, MD**

### OB/GYN DEPT.

Chair: **Cristina Hernandez-O'Day, MD**

Vice Chair: **Stephanie Lao, MD**

### ORTHOPEDIC DEPT.

Chair: **Nikita Bezrukov, MD**

Vice-Chair: **Travis Scudday, MD**

### PATHOLOGY DEPT.

Chair: **Pending\***

Vice Chair: **Pending\***

### PEDIATRICS DEPT.

Chair: **Sarah O'Loughlin, MD**

Vice Chair: **Carole Kohen-Diniak, DO**

### RADIOLOGY DEPT.

Chair: **Dan Vu, MD**

Vice Chair: **Jane E. Cambray-Forker, MD**

### SURGERY DEPT.

Chair: **Brian Palafox, MD** (Thoracic)

Vice Chair: **Eric Pham, MD** (General Surg)

### • General Surgery Section Chair:

**Eric Pham, MD**

### • Neurosurgery Section Chair:

**Hector Ho, MD**

### • Oral Surgery Section Chair:

**Monty Wilson, DDS**

### • Plastic Surgery Section Chair:

**Linda Zeineh, MD**

### • Thoracic Surgery Section Chair:

**Brian Palafox, MD**

### • Urology Section Chair:

**Hari Sawkar, MD**

### • Vascular Surgery Section Chair:

**Russel Montgomery, MD**

*\* Due to recent changes within Affiliated Pathologists Medical Group, they are in the process of nominating a Chair and Vice Chair for their department.*

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www.sjo.org

**SUBMISSIONS SOUGHT:** Please send  
news items to 714-771-8056 or  
SJO-MEDICAL-STAFF@stjoe.org



May you have abundant joy to share in 2024



## Elaine Lee, MD, Assumes Interim Chief Medical Officer Role

Dr. Elaine Lee will assume the role of interim Chief Medical Officer for Providence St. Joseph Hospital. Previously an emergency physician, Dr. Lee has been with our hospital since April 2022 in the role of Medical Director of Care Management,

and she will remain in that role while assuming the interim position.

Dr. Lee's contact information follows:

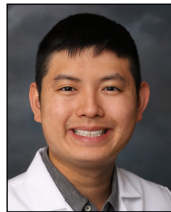
Email: [elaine.lee@providence.org](mailto:elaine.lee@providence.org)

Office: Sister Francis Dunn Building, 1st Floor

## Welcome New Medical Staff



**Benjamin Abney, MD**  
Anesthesiology  
Allied Anesthesia



**Frederick Chua, MD**  
Internal Medicine  
Zand Medical Partners



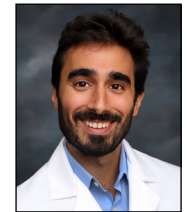
**Lex Herwen Barte, DPM**  
Podiatry  
Newport Foot & Ankle



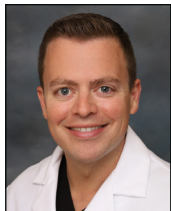
**Tavleen Bhatia, MD**  
Gastroenterology  
CHOC CS Gastroenterology



**Hsu-Hsiang Chang, DO**  
Emergency Medicine  
EMSOC



**Kyle Fierro, MD**  
Emergency Medicine  
EMSOC



**Brandon Haghverdian, MD**  
Orthopedics  
Orthopaedic Specialty Inst



**Christopher Hwe, MD**  
Pulmonary Disease  
Comprehensive Pulmonary  
& Primary Care



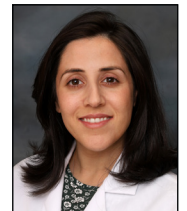
**Sithu Lin, MD**  
Nephrology  
Balboa Nephrology MG



**Izabela Oluwole, MD**  
Neonatal-Perinatal  
CHOC CS Neonatology



**Neil Patel, MD**  
Internal Medicine  
Tustin Irvine Internal  
Medicine MG



**Goli Shenasan, MD**  
Psychiatry  
OC Progressive  
Recovery