

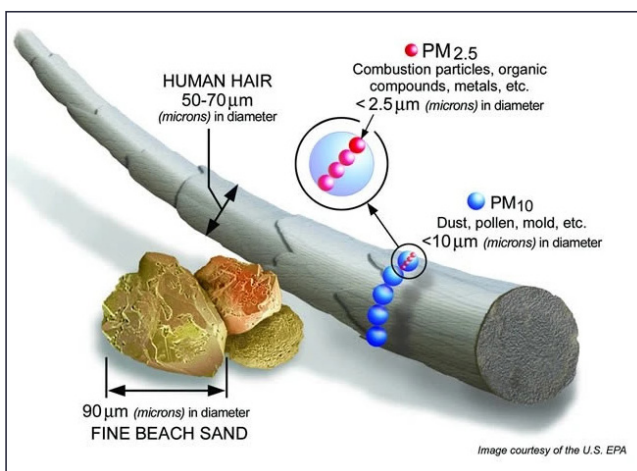


Wildfires in the Area

We are thinking of those members of our community whose families and friends are affected by the recent wildfires in our area. We may see patients evacuated from wildfire areas.

Wildfire hazards come in several forms. Particle pollution results from particles in the smoke, with 90% of the particles 2.5 microns or less in diameter, known as PM_{2.5}. Cardiovascular and respiratory effects result from exposure to PM_{2.5}, with greater

risk in those with asthma, COPD, bronchitis, chronic heart disease or diabetes. The risk of health effects is elevated in the elderly or young children, pregnant women, outdoor workers or those of lower socio-economic status. Another threat is carbon monoxide (CO) which binds to hemoglobin with 200-300 times the affinity of oxygen, decreasing oxygen transport to the tissues. Binding of one molecule of CO at one Hgb binding site increases the affinity of oxygen to Hgb at other binding sites, causing left shift of the oxyhemoglobin dissociation curve and decreasing tissue unloading, worsening tissue hypoxia. Partial pressure of oxygen (PaO₂) and pulse oximetry may be normal in patients with CO poisoning. Symptoms may include headache, malaise, altered mental status, shortness of breath, seizures or cherry red lips. A carboxyhemoglobin blood test is diagnostic.



Sources: epa.gov - [Why](#)

[Wildfire Smoke Is a Concern](#);

ncbi.nlm.nih.gov - [Physiology, Oxygen Transport And Carbon Dioxide Dissociation Curve](#)

Heart and Vascular Center Implants First Barostim



The Heart and Vascular Center recently achieved a new milestone by successfully implanting the first Barostim device at St. Joseph Hospital. The Barostim device is designed to improve heart failure symptoms by electrically stimulating the carotid baroreceptor, resulting in increased exercise capacity and an enhanced quality of life. Dr. Brian Palafox (3rd from left) performed the outpatient surgical procedure. The patient was referred by Dr. Daniel Kulick and Dr. Jay Tiangson of Mission Hospital, highlighting the collaborative efforts within Providence.

SJO in Becker's 2024 '100 Great Neuro & Spine Programs'

[Becker's Hospital Review](#) has unveiled its list of standout hospitals and health systems recognized for excellence in neuroscience and spine programs. These programs are celebrated for their exceptional patient outcomes, advanced surgical techniques and groundbreaking research; visionary leaders, top-tier specialists, robust research initiatives and pioneering clinical trials. *Becker's* reports: "Providence St. Joseph Hospital Complex Spine Center is a nationally recognized leader in treating spinal pain, injury and deformities, serving as a regional referral center for complex cases, including surgical revisions and spinal realignment. Utilizing state-of-the-art "smart operating rooms" with advanced imaging and navigation technology, the center performs procedures such as minimally invasive spinal fusion, artificial disk replacement and complex revision surgeries for scoliosis.

"In July 2024, the hospital made history by performing the world's first robotic spinal surgery using eCential Robotics' open spine platform. A participant in numerous FDA studies, the center provides patients access to groundbreaking treatments unavailable elsewhere in the region."

5th Magnet Site Visit Set for March 2025



Providence St. Joseph Hospital's Magnet site visit is set for March 10-12, 2025. This visit is an important step toward achieving our 5th Magnet designation.

Earning the Magnet designation is a significant accomplishment that underscores our commitment to providing high-quality patient care and a positive working environment. In preparation for the site visit, we will conduct a series of informational sessions, mock surveys and preparation meetings to help ensure that we are fully prepared to present our work and patient care standards. Everyone's participation is essential to our success. Look for further communication and schedule specifics.

MEDICAL STAFF BRIEFS

A Publication from the Chief of Staff and Chief Medical Officer

January/February 2025



1100 W. Stewart Dr.
Orange, CA 92868
www.providence.org/stjoseph

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



Visit sjomedicalstaff.org
for a message from
**Erik G. Wexler, Providence's
New President & CEO**

Commemorating Our Women Physicians on National Women Physicians Day

On February 3, National Women Physicians Day marks the significant and rising contributions of women in the medical field. Providence St. Joseph Hospital is proud to salute our 327 women physicians, who constitute 31.8% of our Medical Staff, and invite them to participate in the Women Doctors of Orange County networking group.

"When I left New York to join SJO's Medical Staff in 2000, as part of my welcome I was introduced to the hospital's Women Doctors of Orange County (WDOC) networking group. Since then, some of my closest friends and colleagues are from there," shares Dr. Laura Tangredi, a Family Practice physician in Batavia Woods. "It was a great way to meet people, and as a primary care physician, I really appreciated meeting new doctors from many specialties.

"Since our post-covid resurgence, the group's four chairs aim to each take one event a year. Our peak attendance so far has been about 50 women in one of our larger venues. At our first meeting in 2024, we toured the new Helen Caloggero Women's & Family Center. We've also met in some of the doctors' homes. Dr. Linda Zeineh did a lecture about newest and emerging plastic surgery techniques. In December we met at the Mining Company in Orange for a lovely dinner, white elephant gift exchange, and a lecture from the event's generous sponsor, Natera, on screenings for oncology and other diseases. Each doctor introduced herself with a fun fact. Participation was fantastic and it was lots of fun."

She adds, "What a great way to keep informed, keep up with technology, and network with fellow women physicians from numerous specialties. It benefits patients by facilitating care coordination. When I contact a specialist, she knows who I am. My patients will sometimes ask me, "Do you know Dr. so-and-so,

and I've been able to say, 'Yes, and she's phenomenal.'"

The group welcomes new Medical Staff women physicians, and may in the future open it to other Providence ministries. "Our current goal is to reach every woman physician on staff," she says.

The next WDOC meeting is slated for spring 2025. Anyone interested in attending is invited to email new Business Development Manager Heather Bianchi at heather.bianchi@providence.org.

WOMEN DOCTORS OF ORANGE COUNTY CHAIRS



Laura Mac Kenzie-Tangredi, DO
FAMILY PRACTICE,
MEDICAL EXEC. COMM.
MEMBER-AT-LARGE



Tanuja Bhandari, MD
RADIATION
ONCOLOGY



Shalizeh Shokooh, MD
CARDIOLOGY,
CARDIOLOGY
SECTION CHAIR



Melissa Rudolph, MD
EMERGENCY MED.,
VICE CHIEF OF STAFF