



LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL

HEALTH CARE

2021 AWARDS



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HEALTH CARE

LEADERSHIP PANEL & AWARDS



Letter from the Publisher

Considering the extremely challenging times we have faced over the last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it has become more than clear that solid leadership in the health care sector — which has always been important — has become more essential than ever. Health care professionals at all levels, in our region and beyond, have been asked to do so much and have accomplished countless essential tasks. This industry's leaders have had difficult and transformational decisions to make every day, and we all owe them a debt of gratitude. Now more than ever, it is important to recognize not only first responders, but the leaders and teams who are running these healthcare organizations and making key decisions to help improve our communities.

We have set aside this special section of the Los Angeles Business Journal to honor the best health care leaders throughout greater Los Angeles. These individuals, organizations and programs have consistently elevated levels of care through some of the most turbulent scenarios we've ever seen.

This year's group of honorees have accepted the difficult task of making an impact to both the frontlines of health care, as well as the operational bottom lines. We were incredibly proud to recognize our 2021 Health Care Leadership Awards class of nominees, finalists and winners at our virtual event held Aug. 18th.

Sixteen inspirational honoree organizations and individuals were announced this year and are described in this section. We applaud each of them as well as the impactful collection of finalists, also listed in these pages. Congratulations — and thank you — to all the great health care leaders in Los Angeles who play such an integral role in our lives and the lives of our families, friends and coworkers — now more than ever.

Best regards,

Josh Schimmels
Publisher & CEO



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Through pioneering research that powers hundreds of clinical trials each year, City of Hope continues to discover new and innovative ways to triumph over cancer, including using your genetic and molecular profile to identify the best treatment for you. And delivering leading-edge treatments to your community is at the heart of everything we do – with more than 35 locations in our clinical network, unparalleled cancer care is never too far away. We focus on bringing you lifesaving therapies, so that you can focus on the people who make life worth living. **Discover more at [CityofHope.org](https://www.cityofhope.org)**



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The Los Angeles Business Journal proudly hosted the annual Health Leadership Awards as a free virtual event on Wednesday, August 18th.

Before launching into the virtual awards ceremony, the event brought together a diverse group of elite health industry insiders for a panel discussion about everything from vaccinations to social and racial inequity in care to the overall impact COVID-19 has had on the health care system and businesses in Southern California, and much more.

Below are some quotes from the event's esteemed panelists:



John Bishop
Chief Executive Officer
 MemorialCare's Long Beach Medical Center and Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach



"Our employees and community came together to manage a pandemic that we never imagined we'd face in our lifetime. The ongoing work of our employees and physicians to treat our COVID-19 patients and those with other conditions gives our communities trust that our care will be nothing less than exceptional."



Kevin Manemann
Chief Executive
 Providence Southern California



"Through digital innovation, Providence is transforming healthcare by providing high-quality, affordable, and seamless care when and how our patients want it."



Precious Mayes
CEO/President
 Pacifica Hospital Of The Valley



"Through the COVID-19 pandemic, there was no playbook on how to prepare and operate, yet with leadership and team Pacifica Hospital became a Regional Surge Center to help decompress southern California hospitals."



Tom Mone
Chief Executive Officer
 OneLegacy



"Lifesaving transplants would not be possible without generous donors who check YES at the DMV and by their families who, in the midst of tragedy, choose to find comfort and fulfill their loved ones' lives by creating a life-saving legacy for desperately waiting recipients."



Richard L. Seidman, MD, MPH
Chief Medical Officer
 L.A. Care Health Plan



"Addressing social and racial injustice, and the health inequity it brings, should be everyone's concern. We must do all that we can to invest in under-resourced communities of color and redirect resources to address social determinants of health."



Veronica Vasquez-Montez, MD
Emergency Department Medical Director
 PIH Health



"Restrictions in California are less stringent, but we still need to slow the spread of COVID-19. The higher the number of people vaccinated, the lower the number of new infections we will see. This is especially important with COVID-19 variants. Let's keep vaccination awareness a high priority and let's ensure we are back to getting the care we need, including preventative care, when we need it."

To view highlights from the webinar, visit labusinessjournal.com/HCPA2021



Saving Lives Through Organ Donation

Last month, OneLegacy held a “topping out” ceremony for its new **state-of-the-art headquarters in Azusa** that will serve as a critical connector for Southern California’s regional healthcare system. When open next year, this facility will greatly enhance OneLegacy’s ability to save and heal lives through organ, eye and tissue donation while also providing a **new home for critical research** that will improve donation and transplantation for all.

Working in partnership with 215 hospitals, 10 transplant centers and local coroners’ offices, the not-for-profit **OneLegacy is the bridge to life** for 20 million Southern Californians and waiting recipients across the country. Last year alone OneLegacy enabled the transplant of a

record 1,661 organs from 548 donors. In addition, **more than 190,000 lives were healed**, and their vision was restored, through cornea and tissue donation, marking the sixth year of record-breaking increases.

The opportunity to donate and to receive a lifesaving transplant knows no sexual orientation and no national, ethnic or religious boundaries. **By saying YES to donation**, we create healthier communities through the generous gift of life and transplantation, actions that remind us to look beyond our differences to help those in greatest need. Register to be a donor at your local DMV or at onelegacy.org/register.



Dedicated to saving and healing lives through organ, eye and tissue donation

OneLegacy.org

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HEALTH SYSTEM EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR HONOREE

ROB CURRY

Chief Executive Officer
Emanate Health

Under Rob Curry's leadership, Citrus Valley Health Partners transitioned from the community hospital down the street to become Emanate Health in 2019—the largest health care system in the San Gabriel Valley. In addition to the three hospitals, Emanate Health's footprint includes 16 primary and specialty care locations throughout the region as part of a growing, dynamic, and comprehensive health care system.

During his tenure of 13 years at Emanate Health, Curry has been the driving force behind building a mission-driven, comprehensive health care system to serve a diverse population of one million people with quality, compassionate care.

In the last decade, Curry has transformed Emanate Health into a financially sustainable health care enterprise. Fitch Ratings recently awarded Emanate Health an A+ rating for revenue bonds issued in 2020 and a stable outlook moving forward.

During the height of the pandemic, when public health guidelines were being observed, Emanate Health, under Curry's stewardship, launched a series of "Ask The Doctor" segments to provide valuable health care educational outreach and encourage the community not to delay their care. Research showed that community members were searching online for health-related information during the pandemic.

As an industry advocate, Curry has dedicated his more than 40 years of hospital leadership to expand access to care, address health care disparities, and promote greater health equity for all. He also serves as the Board Chair for Private Essential Access Community Hospitals (PEACH) – a network of private, core safety net hospitals in California that care for a disproportionate share of low-income, medically vulnerable patients.



AMAR DESAI

FINALIST

President and CEO of Optum Pacific West
Optum

Dr. Amar Desai is President and CEO of Optum Pacific West, overseeing Optum's care delivery organizations throughout Washington, Oregon, and California. Collectively, these organizations are comprised of more than 20,000 physicians and serve nearly 2.5 million patients. Dr. Desai's journey to become the visionary public health leader he is today began early in his career. As a doctor of nephrology, he grew concerned about the effect uncoordinated care was having on his patients and saw that he could have an impact at both the patient and population level by advancing a value-based care model where the whole person is treated, not just a sickness. Since then, he has developed innovative delivery models that improve clinical outcomes, increase affordability, and transform the experience of being a health care consumer. Under his leadership, California has become the leader in value-based care and serves as a model for healthcare systems across the country.



DR. BARBARA FERRER

FINALIST

Director
County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Health

Barbara Ferrer is a nationally-known public health leader with over 30 years of professional experience as a philanthropic strategist, public health director, educational leader, researcher, and community advocate. She has a proven track record of working collaboratively to improve population outcomes through efforts that build health and education equity. In a year of historic health achievements in the face of unprecedented global health challenges, she stands out for her unwavering commitment to science and the public health, even in the face of death threats and other forms of public hostility directed at her. As director of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health, Dr. Ferrer plays a key leadership role in the complex work to protect and improve health and well-being in the largest county in the United States, where Los Angeles County is home to over 10 million residents and a travel destination for millions each year.



FELIPE OSORNO

FINALIST

Executive Administrator of Continuum of
Care Operations and Value Improvement
Keck Medicine of USC

As executive administrator of continuum of care operations and value improvement with Keck Medicine of USC, Felipe Osorno oversees numerous strategies to create a culture of continuous improvement. In the fall of 2020, he received perhaps the biggest challenge of his career: to plan and execute a COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan for the health system. Osorno and his team of 40 people worked for months with colleagues across Keck Medicine and USC to create a system for the smooth and efficient delivery of vaccines to staff, patients and the community. When the health system received its first vaccines on December 17, Osorno and his team were ready. From the start of the vaccine process, Osorno worked closely with public officials to stay on top of the ever-shifting eligibility requirements of the vaccine and to keep the pipeline to vaccines open and equitable.



ERIK WEXLER

FINALIST

President, Operations & Strategy - South
Providence

Erik G. Wexler joined Providence Southern California in 2015 as regional chief executive, just months before Providence and Orange County-based St. Joseph Health came together under his leadership and soon became the Southland's largest health organization. Wexler pulled together an experienced, talented and diverse executive leadership team to unite two operations and steer the region's 13 hospitals, more than 100 clinics, outpatient centers, home care, hospice and community investment program on a singular path to aggressively bring to life the organization's vision of health for a better world. Early this year, his exceptional leadership and focus on clinical excellence, employee satisfaction, international medical outreach and his oversight of the response to the pandemic were cited in his appointment to a new role, president, operations & strategy – Providence South. He now oversees operations in both Northern and Southern California, as well as Texas and New Mexico.

Congratulations to our Chief Medical Officer, **Dr. Graham Tse**, for being recognized as a finalist for Hospital Executive of the Year!



Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Tse maintained his role as Chief Medical Officer and pediatric intensive care unit physician, while also taking on the role as physician in charge in the Hospital Incident Command Center for both MemorialCare's Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach and Long Beach Medical Center. Together, they make up the second largest medical campus in the Western U.S. He plays a critical role in ensuring the health of our communities throughout the pandemic. He also helped develop a comprehensive support system to address burnout and improve the well-being of our physicians and staff as they battled COVID-19.

Dr. Tse has called Miller Children's & Women's home for more than 20 years. Under his leadership, our clinical teams continue to achieve recognition at the local, state and national level.

We're proud to have such a compassionate leader, who truly makes a difference in the health of children across our region!



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HOSPITAL CEO OR PRESIDENT OF THE YEAR HONOREE

JOHNESE SPISSO

President, UCLA Health; CEO, UCLA Hospital System;
Associate Vice Chancellor of UCLA Health Sciences
UCLA Health

Johnese Spisso has been president of UCLA Health, CEO of UCLA Hospital System and associate vice chancellor of UCLA Health Sciences since 2016. With 30 years of experience, she is a nationally recognized academic health care leader, overseeing operations of UCLA's hospitals, clinics and the health system's regional outreach strategy. Spisso led UCLA's expansion to provide convenient access to care throughout Southern California, with more than 200 clinics recording more than 2.8 million outpatient visits in 2019.

Spisso also led the effort to accomplish essential clinical goals at UCLA Health: enhancing quality and safety of patient care, improving capacity and timely access to UCLA's health care facilities and ensuring financial stability. Her background in nursing has provided her perspective in understanding the full continuum of care and the needs of patients and staff with both Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and UCLA Santa Monica Medical Center earning the prestigious designation of excellence for its nursing programs as National Magnet Hospitals.

During her tenure at UCLA Health, she has made diversity a priority and hired more women, underrepresented minorities and LGBTQ leaders to her executive team. Spisso is also a leader in promoting LGBTQ health care at UCLA. She was instrumental in launching the LGBTQ Equitable Care Committee, which focused on patient access to care, quality of health care and workforce cultural competency issues. Under her leadership, UCLA Health was among the first health care systems in the country to fund an executive team position and office to advance health equity among all patient populations.



ALICE ISSAI FINALIST

President
Adventist Health Glendale

The list of Alice Issai's accomplishments throughout her 40-year career is long and distinguished. She is the first woman and the first Armenian to lead Adventist Health Glendale. Under her leadership, the medical center has expanded current services and introduced new ones, increased the number of primary care physicians and specialists, and grown key surgical subspecialties, including gynecologic oncology, colorectal and breast surgery, allowing us to increase our reach into the community. The medical center has also received numerous awards for safety and quality, including our 13th consecutive "A" grade from The Leapfrog Group, recognition for quality and safety by U.S. News & World Report, and a five-star rating from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, one of just five hospitals in Southern California to achieve this distinction. Her team leaders also describe her as visionary, passionate and relentless, which has served the hospital especially well throughout the pandemic.



ALINA MORAN FINALIST

President, California Hospital Medical Center
Dignity Health California Hospital
Medical Center

Alina Moran, MPA, FACHE, FAB, is the president at Dignity Health - California Hospital Medical Center (CHMC), a 318-bed non-profit hospital serving downtown Los Angeles and neighboring communities. The hospital offers a full complement of services including a Level II trauma center, Level III neonatal intensive care unit, comprehensive cardiac and surgical services, and outpatient women's center. Moran is committed to focusing on population health and serving the diverse communities in the heart of Downtown Los Angeles. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the hospital vaccinated 1,000 vulnerable community residents, most notably people of color who were disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. In addition, hospital staff screened over 250 chronically homeless patients to assist with housing and other needs, and trained 651 participants through its Cultural Trauma and Mental Health Resiliency Project.



ROBERT STONE FINALIST

President, CEO and the Helen and Morgan Chu
Chief Executive Officer Distinguished Chair
City of Hope

Robert Stone, president, CEO and the Helen and Morgan Chu chief executive officer distinguished chair at City of Hope is leading a visionary transformation of one of the world's foremost cancer treatment and academic research institutions, with deep roots in Southern California. This transformation will expand City of Hope's clinical and research footprint in the region, extend its world-class cancer expertise to patients in every corner of the country, and advance cancer science through innovations in genetic and personalized medicine. Under his leadership, City of Hope has begun a \$1 billion, 11-acre expansion into Orange County that will include a 200,000-square-foot cancer center and research facilities, and an innovative new "healthy living" community built around disease prevention. He also is the guiding force behind AccessHope, which enables employers nationally to provide workers access to City of Hope's cancer expertise.



PAUL VIVIANO FINALIST

President and CEO
Children's Hospital Los Angeles

Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) president and chief executive officer Paul S. Viviano demonstrated remarkable leadership in recent years while facing the compelling pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic with calm and confidence. He led his team in a coordinated approach to preserving a safe campus for team members, investing in workforce resilience, and providing flexibility for working parents and working caregivers. He also championed new initiatives to elevate the institution's focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion into the fabric of the hospital's operations. While engaged in this work, he rallied to prioritize the health information needs of the community at large and championing the needs of children across the nation. Under his leadership, CHLA has grown to provide care to manage more than 600,000 patient visits annually. The hospital also provides more than \$384 million annually in community benefits to the children and families of Los Angeles.

What did you inherit?

While our genes determine if we inherited Grandma's brown eyes or the "family nose," researchers are discovering that genetics can also determine if we're predisposed to developing certain diseases like cancer or mental illness. And if we are at risk, research shows that active participation in screening programs can help detect these diseases early, when treatment is most effective.

This is why researchers and scientists at the Providence Research Institute are driven to unlock the secrets of genetics and then share their discoveries with our medical groups and all physicians affiliated with Providence, as well as our 11 Providence hospitals in Southern California. This valuable information ensures that all our providers can more readily identify, treat and monitor their patients who are at high risk of developing a particular disease. And for those who are in advanced stages of disease, our highly trained specialists are knowledgeable about clinical trials and innovative therapies that can help restore their patients' health and quality of life.



Knowing genetic risk can help prevent disease

A woman whose mother had Alzheimer's was worried about her own recent memory loss. Did she inherit Alzheimer's? She made an appointment at the Pacific Brain Health Center at Providence Saint John's Health Center. While psychiatrist David Merrill, M.D., attributed her memory lapses to normal aging, tests revealed her genetic risk for Alzheimer's. Tests also found she had an elevated level of inflammatory blood markers – another indicator of the disease. The cause, however, proved to be a painless, yet inflamed tooth that was easily treated! Still, the woman is now aware of her genetic risk and knows through research conducted at Saint John's that there is significant evidence that nutrition, supplements as needed and combined physical and cognitive exercise can help prevent Alzheimer's.

The power of data collection

"If you don't provide research, you're not at the top of your game. And genetics is the most critical part of research," said neuro-oncologist Santosh Kesari, M.D., Ph.D., chief medical director of the Providence Research Institute and practicing at Providence Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica as well as other sites.

What makes it possible to identify unusual tumors and other diseases are Providence Research Institute's large specimen repositories. Most patients allow small tissue and blood specimens to be saved in deep freeze after their lab work is complete, knowing that others may benefit from the large data base of knowledge.

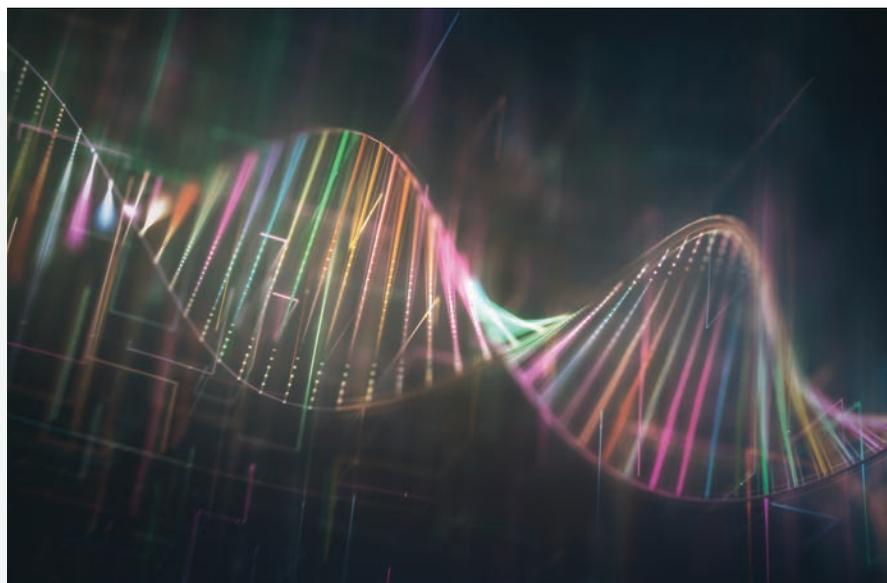
As the third largest health system in the United States, Providence's 52 hospitals share specimen repository data. "This has never been done before across 52 hospitals," said Dr. Kesari. "Because of the power of Providence through data collection, a rare disease – a brain tumor, for example – can be studied in large numbers. That translates to studies that open possibilities."

Groundbreaking research across a range of specialties

Providence research extends well beyond cancer. Clinical trials cover most diseases and include studies to prevent or delay Alzheimer's disease and the use of psychedelics to treat addiction and depression.

Dr. Kesari's philosophy is that research is medicine, and medicine is constantly changing. He points to a study that showed anti-inflammatory medication such as ibuprofen reduced the number of heart attacks. Researchers then noticed that the treatment also resulted in lower cancer rates. That led to promising studies that show anti-inflammatories can reduce tumor size, and may even prevent cancer.

This pioneering research is foundational for Providence's eight clinical institutes, which focus on advancing care for cancer, cardiovascular disease, orthopedics/sports medicine, neurology, women's services, mental health, digestive health and the one that ties them all together – research.



Los Angeles

Holy Cross • Little Company of Mary • Providence Cedars-Sinai Tarzana
Saint John's • Saint Joseph

Santa Monica Family Physicians • Facey Medical Group
Doctors of Saint John's • Providence Medical Associates

Orange County

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HOSPITAL EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR HONOREE

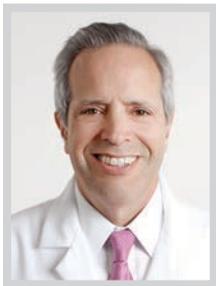
SHAWN SHEFFIELD

Chief Strategy Officer
 Keck Medicine of USC

In just under a decade, USC's hospital portfolio has become a top-ranked health system in one of the most highly competitive and fragmented markets in the country. Shawn Sheffield had much to do with that growth trajectory, with the annual health system revenue now approaching \$2.5 billion and consecutive years of recognition as one of the nation's top-ranked honor roll hospitals. In fact, 2020 was on course to be one of the best years yet for Keck Medicine of USC. When the pandemic hit hard in March, Sheffield, who oversees Strategy, Planning and Marketing for Keck Medicine, quickly pivoted strategies in ways that helped enormously with the system's COVID-19 response.

At the pandemic's start, Sheffield's team worked to provide real-time dashboards to monitor cases, ICU capacity and mortality for internal and external audiences. Within one week, Keck Medicine was providing best-in-class reporting to promote awareness for patients and employees.

Sheffield was also responsible for planning efforts related to surge capacity, as well as shifting a significant portion of Keck Medicine's 6,000 employee workforce to remote/telecommuting. Sheffield ensured that patient communications clearly explained operational changes due to the pandemic while remaining responsive to the needs of very sick patients who were now facing additional uncertainty. Under Sheffield's leadership, Keck Medicine participated in national public awareness campaigns to encourage safety during the pandemic, including the importance of wearing masks and of seeking emergency care when necessary. Despite the abrupt and unprecedented challenges this year, Sheffield's contributions allowed Keck Medicine to largely achieve health system financial and operating targets while continuing to provide outstanding care.



MICHAEL CALIGIURI

FINALIST

President
 City of Hope National Medical Center

Michael A. Caligiuri, M.D., president of City of Hope National Medical Center and holder of the Deana and Steve Campbell physician-in-chief distinguished chair, has provided visionary leadership and strategic direction over the past year. In a singularly challenging year across the health care landscape, and in the face of the pandemic, Dr. Caligiuri ensured access to safe care for patients at City of Hope's National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center. With Dr. Caligiuri's far-sighted guidance and direct input, City of Hope launched its own telehealth platform, Hope Virtual, in March 2020 – one element making the medical center well-positioned to meet the many complications of the pandemic – and ramped up implementation and improved services over the course of the year. In keeping with the institutional principle of personalized care that Dr. Caligiuri upholds and fosters, decisions about directing a patient visit to telehealth were made on a case-by-case basis.



GRACE OH

FINALIST

Senior Vice President and General Counsel
 Children's Hospital Los Angeles

Grace Oh, JD, MBA is the senior vice president and general counsel at Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) and an important advisor to both the hospital leadership and the Board of Directors. Oh and the CHLA team share a vision of equitable access to health care services and a commitment to excellence that has garnered CHLA recognition in the top ranks of children's hospitals in the US. Oh is a tireless advocate for CHLA. She oversees both the Office of General Counsel within CHLA, as well as the legal compliance and transactional function for a variety of strategic and operational initiatives for the CHLA health system. She is also responsible for risk management and the insurance portfolio and oversees the compliance and privacy program for the hospital, as well as all CHLA affiliates and subsidiaries.



DARLENE SCAFIDDI

FINALIST

MSN, RN, NEA-BC,
 Executive Vice President of Patient Care Services
 Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center

Celebrating more than 40 years of service at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC), Darlene Scafiddi, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, executive vice president of patient care services, began her legacy as a nurse in the hospital's medical/surgical unit in 1979. She also served in the telemetry, pediatric, intensive care, and cardiovascular units, where she developed and honed her skills in nursing and patient care. In her current role, Scafiddi collaborates with nursing teams to ensure PVHMC is delivering the safe, high-quality care that has earned the hospital national recognition. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Scafiddi directed the hospital's clinical response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Under her leadership, the hospital broke down the silos between departments and disciplines and increased cross-team collaboration, allowing the hospital to respond to rapidly changing public health guidelines.



DR. GRAHAM TSE

FINALIST

Chief Medical Officer
 MemorialCare Miller Children's &
 Women's Hospital Long Beach

Dr. Graham Tse has served as an intensive care physician at MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach for more than 20 years, and in 2017 added an administrative role to his responsibilities when he became chief medical officer. Dr. Tse upholds the culture of safety, ensures California Children's Services standards are met, promotes collaboration between hospital administration and more than 750 medical staff members. He leads the medical staff in identifying and implementing evidence-based best practices. During the pandemic, he also took on the role as the physician in charge in the Hospital Incident Command Center for both Miller Children's & Women's and Long Beach Medical Center. He contributed to the team in epidemiology and infection control decisions; physician support, communications, coordination and staffing; and creation and implementation of COVID-19 units, and clinical practices within the two hospitals.

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Glendale
White Memorial

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TRUSTED ADVISOR OF THE YEAR HONOREES

ADAM ABRAMOWITZ and JONATHAN BLUTH

Co-Heads of Healthcare
Intrepid Investment Bankers

Healthcare is in the midst of rapid consolidation and disruption across multiple sectors, with both strategic buyers and financial investors seeking companies that offer innovative approaches to cost containment, data analytics, self-pay management, value-based care, precision medicine, life sciences tools, and diagnostics. Intrepid Investment Bankers' Healthcare Group, led by Intrepid's co-heads of healthcare Adam Abramowitz (managing director) and Jonathan Bluth (director), is dedicated to providing strategic advice to businesses in healthcare services across a range of delivery settings and provider specialties; outsourced services including healthcare IT, staffing and revenue cycle management; and life sciences tools and services encompassing diagnostics and clinical trial services.

Abramowitz is truly a unique LA-advisor who has spent his entire career with the same partners. While Adam began his investment career working across a broad range of industries, for the past few years, he has helped to build and grow Intrepid's Healthcare Group to one of the most active in the Western U.S. Today, in healthcare, he advises companies in the physician practice management, life science and behavioral healthcare spaces working with dynamic entrepreneurs.

During a career spanning more than 19 years of healthcare finance experience, Bluth has assisted clients in mandates, including buy-side and sell-side M&A, capital raising and management consulting. Jonathan brings a unique perspective to M&A advisory services, leveraging his prior roles as management consultant and vice president of finance for a publicly traded healthcare services organization.

The team maintains extensive relationships with strategic buyers and financial sponsors across these sectors and have helped various middle-market companies realize an optimal value with various forms of financing and M&A initiatives.



RAHUL CHHAJED

FINALIST

Vice President and Senior Director
Matthews Real Estate Investment Services

Rahul Chhajed is a leading real estate broker under the Matthews Real Estate Investment Services' Healthcare Division, specializing in the acquisition and disposition of various healthcare facilities including surgery centers, dental facilities, multi-tenant medical office buildings, urgent cares, among many others. His understanding of the healthcare real estate industry, the needs of tenants and landlords, plus ever-changing consumer trends allow him to be a trusted and well-versed advisor to his clients. He has played a key part in the overall development of the healthcare division, hiring successful agents and curating opportunities for success. Joining the industry in 2015, Chhajed has quickly established himself as one of the most well-known healthcare brokers in the industry, successfully completing deals with a myriad of clientele including publicly traded and private REITs, developers, private equity companies, physician groups, single and multi-unit operators, as well as high net-worth investors.



JILL GORDON

FINALIST

Partner
Nixon Peabody LLP

Jill H. Gordon, JD, MHA is a partner in Nixon Peabody LLP's Health Care group, co-leader of the Life Sciences team, and a member of the firm's management committee. As a health law and life sciences lawyer, Gordon is highly regarded in the California market (and beyond) and serves as a trusted advisor to academic medical centers, hospitals, long-term care facilities, surgery centers, foundations and clinics, medical groups/IPAs, accountable care organizations, and other entities affiliated with the health care industry in California and throughout the U.S. She also represents companies in the health information, medical device, and telehealth fields. Health care providers and suppliers, and emerging companies routinely turn to Gordon for help navigating the complex health regulatory issues surrounding the creation and integration of new and innovative products and services for the ever-evolving health care market.



HOPE LEVY-BIEHL

FINALIST

Partner
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

Since the day she started practicing law 23 years ago, Hope Levy-Biehl has been helping health care organizations solve complex problems so they can focus on the important work of delivering health care and serving patients. She has cultivated a deep understanding of the industry and the regulatory framework in which it operates. She supplements that knowledge with a commitment to understanding and advising based on her individual clients' needs, preferences, and objectives. As a result, she is able to help some of the largest, most important health care organizations in Los Angeles and throughout the state create new programs and solve problems in a way that's in line with their vision and values—leading to healthier hospitals and better outcomes for patients. Levy-Biehl's decades-long career has also given her the opportunity to work with regulators in many of the health oversight agencies throughout the state.



CAROL LUCAS

FINALIST

Shareholder
Buchalter

Carol K. Lucas focuses her practice on healthcare law and general business law. She has extensive experience in mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, securities, private placements, state and federal regulations, entity formation and corporate representation of both public and private companies in the healthcare industry. Over the last several years, Lucas has represented numerous clients in connection with issues and disputes related to payment for healthcare services. She is also an expert on the establishment and representation of Federally Qualified Health Centers and related issues such as governance requirements, issues raised by hospital sponsorship of FQHCs, application issues, and the impact of health care reform on these entities. She also specializes in the representation of ambulatory surgery centers, med spas, imaging centers, and other ancillary providers in a variety of medical specialties, and in the legal and business issues that confront independent practice associations.



PIH Health Good Samaritan Hospital



PIH Health Whittier Hospital



PIH Health Downey Hospital

Here For All Your Healthcare Needs

PIH Health is a nonprofit, regional healthcare network that serves approximately 3.7 million residents in the Los Angeles County, Orange County and San Gabriel Valley region. The fully integrated network is comprised of PIH Health Good Samaritan Hospital in Downtown Los Angeles, PIH Health Whittier Hospital, PIH Health Downey Hospital, 35 outpatient medical office buildings, a multispecialty medical group, home healthcare services and hospice care, and more. We are honored to be your health and wellness partner. For more information, visit PIHHealth.org.



LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL

HEALTH CARE

LEADERSHIP PANEL & AWARDS

2021 AWARDS: INDIVIDUALS



OUTSTANDING HEALTHCARE INNOVATOR HONOREE

RICHARD DANG

Assistant Professor of Clinical Pharmacy
University of Southern California School of Pharmacy

Richard Dang, PharmD, APh, BCACP, FCPA is an assistant professor of clinical pharmacy and program director of the PGY1 and PGY2 Community-Based Pharmacy Residency Program at the USC School of Pharmacy, and is president-elect for the California Pharmacists Association. In addition to being California's first advanced practice pharmacist, Dr. Dang is a residency trained, board certified ambulatory care pharmacist.

Dr. Dang's expertise in immunizations, travel health, and community health programs has led to his role as a leading advocate during the COVID-19 pandemic. He is chair of the California Pharmacists Association COVID-19 Taskforce and is a member of the USC/Keck COVID-19 vaccine planning steering committee, California State Testing Taskforce, California Department of Public Health Immunization Branch Pharmacy Taskforce, and Adult Workgroup of the Immunization Action Coalition of Los Angeles. Dr. Dang is also the lead pharmacist and critical partner with the City of Los Angeles COVID-19 vaccination programs. Dr. Dang is also a medical consultant to international travel health and COVID-19 testing and vaccination companies.

During the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, pharmacies were one of the only essentially business that remained open to the general public. Dr. Dang stepped up to the plate, leading the state, through his involvement in taskforces and committees, in developing infection precaution protocols, practice and operational recommendations, advocating for COVID-19 testing, and most importantly, leading the implementation of a COVID-19 vaccination program, both in the State and, especially, in the City of Los Angeles.



DR. NANAEFUA B. AFOH-MANIN

FINALIST

Founder

Shared Harvest Foundation

Dr. Nanaefua B. Afoh-Manin (Dr. Nana) is an emergency doctor, public health practitioner, entrepreneur, and a champion for health equity. In 2018, Dr. Nana co-founded the Shared Harvest Foundation, a Black-owned and women-led social enterprise providing empathy-driven technology and holistic healthcare to under-resourced communities facing hardships, especially due to the coronavirus pandemic. Inspired by the charitable works of the legacy of African women in her family, Dr. Nana embarked on her own path of service. Dr. Nana has dedicated her career to raising awareness about the social determinants of health in refugee, urban, and disaster settings. She has trained clinicians and field officers and has been deployed during public health crises. Her efforts for health equity led her to create the Shared Harvest Foundation in 2018 to spread compassion through the promotion of service, wellness and debt relief.



STEPHEN CHEN

FINALIST

Founder and CEO

Scanwell Health

Stephen Chen is putting lab testing into the hands of people. He's the founder and CEO of Scanwell Health, a digital health company that's turning the smartphone into a clinical lab. Under Chen's stewardship, Scanwell's approach pairs proven diagnostics with patented computer vision technology, so there's no need to send samples back to a lab. Patients receive results in minutes. Testing takes place in the comfort and safety of people's homes. Chen has been at the forefront of at-home testing long before the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2017 he and his team received the first and only FDA clearance for an over-the-counter diagnostic smartphone app, and they've since leveraged the technology in a myriad ways. And in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Chen and his team partnered with Becton Dickinson on a COVID-19 antigen test that will play a significant role in reopening the economy, schools, and travel.



JAMEY EDWARDS

FINALIST

President, CEO & Co-Founder

Cloudbreak Health

Jamey Edwards serves as president, CEO and co-founder of Cloudbreak Health, a leader in unified telemedicine and health disparity solutions. Cloudbreak Health's goal is to level the playing field for the underserved population and promote health equity. He led the development of innovations that were first to market to help meet communication needs and improve clinical care and the encounter experience. The need is so great that Cloudbreak Health is in 1,900 different healthcare facilities, performs over 140,000 encounters per month on their platform and offers healthcare interpretation in over 250 different languages. During the COVID 19 pandemic, the company accelerated its product road map. Cloudbreak Health was the first to build and market their virtual "Telequarantine" solution, offering it for free to market as their contribution to fighting the pandemic. It was designed to protect front line workers (core to their mission) by reducing the risk of transmission.



ALI GHOLAMREZANEZHAD, MD

FINALIST

Clinical Emergency Radiologist and

Assistant Professor of Clinical Radiology

Keck Medicine of USC

Ali Gholamrezaezhad, MD, has had a busy 18 months, becoming one of the most prolific researchers to analyze COVID-19's effect on the body and mind and in doing so, transform the way the disease was tracked, diagnosed and how patients were treated. Since January 2020, he has gathered and analyzed a wide array of COVID-19 data and patient scans to be the lead or corresponding author on 48 COVID-19 articles, 38 of them published and 10 in pre-publication. And he's done it while holding down his dual roles as clinical emergency radiologist with Keck Medicine of USC and an assistant professor of clinical radiology at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. Early during the pandemic, Dr. Gholamrezaezhad was able to see the crucial role radiologists played in understanding COVID-19 and felt it was his duty to share his observations with other scientists and physicians.



The Oncology Institute
of Hope & Innovation

ROOTED IN THE COMMUNITY



The Oncology Institute is honored to be recognized by the LABJ as Community Clinic of the Year.

As one of the nation's leading community-based oncology providers, TOI is proud to be an integral part of the fabric of the communities we serve and committed to providing accessible care for all. We thank our incredible team of doctors, nurses, advanced practice providers, and clinic staff who put patients first every day.

LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL



LEADERSHIP PANEL & AWARDS

2021 AWARDS: INDIVIDUALS



INSURANCE EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR HONOREE

MARTHA SANTANA-CHIN

*President, Medi-Cal
Health Net*

Martha Santana-Chin, a Latinx of Mexican descent, grew up in extreme poverty. She is the first generation in her family to be born in the United States and knows the struggles that many people on Medi-Cal face – both in accessing traditional health care but also the social determinants of health such as food, housing, and racism. She is now the highest-ranking Latinx executive at Health Net, responsible for the company's Medi-Cal line of business serving more than two million members statewide, approximately one million of which are in Los Angeles. Her career exemplifies a commitment to advancing health equity, and serving vulnerable populations.

Over the last 18 months, her principled leadership has driven real progress in the quality of care provided to Health Net's members.

As the pandemic first became real for most Californians with stay at home orders in March 2020, Santana-Chin knew that telemedicine would be an increasingly important way for people to access care. She directed her team to provide access to telemedicine for every Health Net Medi-Cal member across the state – the kind of access you would have if you worked at a large corporation. Within seven grueling weeks, millions of people had easy access to telemedicine via their smart phone or computer. Santana-Chin also was a driving force behind Health Net's \$13.4 million in grants for providers to add or enhance their telemedicine capabilities. As vaccines became available, her team worked to ensure equitable vaccine administration, especially among Health Net's disproportionately-impacted membership.

**TOBIAS KENNEDY**

FINALIST

President

Montage Insurance Solutions

Tobias Kennedy was just promoted to the post of president at Montage Insurance Solutions. He earned the position after working his way up the ladder over his 14 years at Montage. He has personally saved Montage clients thousands to millions of dollars on their premiums, bringing forth great plan designs in large part because he holds the Montage core values of serving clients well with “Dedication, Service, and Integrity.” Kennedy attends employee enrollment events and wellness and employee engagement meetings, often bringing the crowd to their knees in joyful laughter due to his fun-loving style as a presenter. He is deeply knowledgeable about the insurance industry, its products and services, technology and beyond. He is an innovative leader that pushes forward to make sure Montage is a leader in its field and is always willing to help or coach his teammates.

**THOMAS MEANS**

FINALIST

*Health and Life Insurance Specialist
PCH Benefits & Insurance Solutions*

Tom Means, founder of PCH Benefits & Insurance Solutions, specializes in offering employee benefits products primarily throughout the greater Los Angeles area, a full scope of coverage and benefits solutions from conventional health insurance to a variety of creative ancillary benefits by representing national and global insurance companies providing a broad array of products at competitive prices. Not only a brilliant businessman, is an expert in strategic compensation planning and employee benefits structuring. He has been the recipient of numerous business and insurance awards including Insurance Professional of the Year, Certification of Appreciation from the City of Los Angeles, Certificate of Achievement from the State of California, and others. In addition to those coveted and prestigious awards/recognitions, he cares deeply about social services, children, health and wellness, politics and economic empowerment.



Los Angeles Business Journal
**Health Care System
Executive of the Year**

Emanate Health congratulates
CEO Robert H. Curry for being
named Health Care System
Executive of the Year.

Your vision and leadership have
inspired us all to live the mission
and help people keep well in body,
mind and spirit by providing quality
health care services in a safe,
compassionate environment.

Where **{ healthy }** comes from

Inter-Community Hospital, Covina
Queen of the Valley Hospital, West Covina
Foothill Presbyterian Hospital, Glendora
Emanate Health Hospice & Home Care, West Covina

emanatehealth.org

Robert H. Curry
Chief Executive Officer

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LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL

HEALTH CARE

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OUTSTANDING HEALTHCARE VOLUNTEER HONOREES

STEVE and SUE WILDER

Volunteers

USC Verdugo Hills Hospital

Steve and Sue Wilder have dedicated their time, talent and financial support of USC Verdugo Hills Hospital (USC-VHH) to ensure the availability of caring and quality health care for members of the Foothills communities for over two decades. Sue's involvement began 22 years ago when her father was a patient at what was then known as Verdugo Hills Hospital. So grateful for the wonderful care he received, Sue began volunteering at the hospital by directing visitors and assisting patients. Her involvement has grown over the years. Sue served two terms as the chair of the hospital's Foundation and currently serves as the chair of the hospital's Community Advisory Board and its Healing Arts Committee.

Together Steve and Sue will also be chairing the hospital's upcoming annual Golf Classic. Additionally, Steve has now logged almost fifteen years as a member of the hospital's Governing Board. Both Sue and Steve were staunch supporters and advocate for the acquisition of Verdugo Hills Hospital by USC and Keck Medicine over eight years ago now as they knew how important that merger would be in enabling the hospital to remain viable.

In addition to their investments of time and talent, the Wilders have made considerable financial investments in the hospital. The Wilder Healing Garden was established in 2018 as a serene spot of healing and reflection – for patients, families and staff alike. And most recently, Sue and Steve have taken up the reins to co-chair the committee that will raise funds to help build a new \$20 million Interventional Radiology/Cardiac Catheterization Lab at USC VHH.



ERIC BURROUGHS

FINALIST

Chairman Health and Wellness Action Group
100 Black Men of Long Beach, Inc.

100 Black Men of Long Beach, Inc. seeks to improve the quality of life within local communities through education, health and wellness, economic opportunities, and the provision of leadership and mentoring. The vision of the 100 Black Men of Long Beach is to be the premier community organization that serves as a catalyst to improve the quality of life for African Americans and provide the tools to become productive and community minded citizens. Eric Burroughs is the Molina Healthcare Inc., MolinaCares Accord Healthcare Foundation "Community Champion" award recipient for 2021 for his efforts as chairman of the Health and Wellness Action Group at 100 Black Men of Long Beach. He has helped over 4000 men, women, veterans and others with health education and resources. He also has distributed over 200,000 units of personal protective equipment during the pandemic.



STEPHANIE CHANG

FINALIST

Co-Founder

Health Matters Clinic

Stephanie Chang has worked tirelessly to recruit and train volunteers and to run events for Health Matters Clinic. She volunteered countless hours while doing her medical school rotations to cook, package healthcare kits, and manage health clinics. At the start of the pandemic, she took the initiative to find a place for herself where she could be most useful to help a community that she believed needed the most help. She felt that as a medical student but not yet a doctor, there had to be something she could still do to ease the burden of the pandemic in some way. She did not only provide practical/technical knowledge and time – she is always a friendly face when interacting with the community she served and always makes an effort to make everyone feel comfortable and seen and equal.



MANOELA MACIEL

FINALIST

Emergency Department Volunteer
Cedars-Sinai

When the first coronavirus patients began arriving at Cedars-Sinai in early 2020, the hospital's volunteer programs were mostly suspended. The medical center resumed the programs on a limited basis a few months later. That presented volunteer Manoela Maciel with an opportunity. Without missing a beat, Maciel immediately stepped forward and returned to the post she had occupied since 2016 in the Emergency Department. Maciel took on as many additional shifts as possible. When asked why she was one of the first volunteers to return the Emergency Department, her succinct answer speaks to the courage of so many healthcare heroes and reveals the heart of a volunteer: "I could see that people needed help." For many anxious patients, the presence of a courageous, empathetic and knowledgeable volunteer like Manoela Maciel made their visit a manageable one.



PAMELA JANE NYE

FINALIST

CEO

Operation Scrubs

The mission of Operation Scrubs is to have one billion people worldwide say "thank you" to the 27 million nurses around the globe, the unsung frontline heroes who care for us, who are the eyes and ears of the doctor. Pamela Jane Nye, CEO of Operation Scrubs, Inc., is an advocate for educating and honoring nurses. She asks that a billion people leave their 'thank you' on the permanent virtual Nurses Wall of Gratitude. She is leading the charge to get people to just say "thank you" by the end of the Year of the Nurse 2021. Operation Scrubs has rebounded after COVID hijacked the 2020 Year of the Nurse as proclaimed by the World Health Organization. "As a nurse, I know how meaningful this will be to nurses everywhere. There is nothing more powerful than being appreciated," she explained.

Celebrating Humankindness

Dignity Health is honored to be nominated for the **Exceptional COVID-19 Vaccine Roll Out Initiative**, and **Outstanding Collaboration of the Year** on the LA Better Together Campaign. We appreciate our partnership with the Los Angeles Business Journal, and thank you for honoring those who serve our communities.

LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL



2021 AWARDS: ORGANIZATIONS



TOP HOSPITAL OR MEDICAL CENTER OF THE YEAR HONOREE

CITY OF HOPE

City of Hope has been delivering outstanding compassionate care for more than a century, combining treatments at the leading edge of science for advanced cancer patients with a model that cares for the whole patient and their family – emotionally as well as physically. This unique patient experience, along with their innovative research, has earned City of Hope designation as a National Cancer Institute comprehensive cancer center, an honor earned by just 4% of U.S. cancer centers. In 2021, City of Hope also earned its first Magnet designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center, a recognition earned by only 9% of U.S. hospitals.

With this foundation, City of Hope has embarked on a visionary transformation that is expanding its physical footprint throughout Southern California, extending the reach of its world-class cancer expertise to a virtual audience around the country, and making advances in genetic and personalized medicine to make it possible to develop more effective treatments for more types of cancer, as well as other serious conditions like diabetes.

City of Hope's extension of its expertise encompasses new partnerships and new ways of reaching people in need of cancer treatment. An example is its subsidiary, AccessHope, where City of Hope partners with employers around the country to provide employees with direct access to City of Hope's cancer expertise – a level of access that would otherwise be unavailable to many of them.

City of Hope is also a growing leader in the biotech industry and has developed 87 investigational new drugs and is conducting its own clinical trials.



CEDARS-SINAI FINALIST

Since 1901, Cedars-Sinai has strived to be a blessing to Los Angeles, and during the pandemic it has proven again and again its value to the communities it serves. More than 50 organizations – public and private, within Cedars-Sinai's traditional service areas and beyond, have partnered with the hospital to rush to the aid of vulnerable Angelenos. Houses of worship, community clinics, city and county agencies and other organizations joined forces with Cedars-Sinai teams to support Black, Latino, Korean and Filipino communities. Cedars-Sinai facilitated the partnership between SoFi Stadium and the Los Angeles Unified School District to administer 37,000+ vaccinations to educators and staff. Also, more than 100 community partners received \$25 million in funding from Cedars-Sinai to advance access to care and address social determinants of health during the pandemic. And more COVID-19 patients received their care at Cedars-Sinai than at any other hospital in Los Angeles.



CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL LOS ANGELES FINALIST

Founded in 1901, Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) celebrated its 120th anniversary in 2021. It is the oldest, largest, and best hospital for children in an eight-county area surrounding Los Angeles, drawing families from all 50 states and more than 90 countries so that children can receive the very best care. The hospital's clinical teams treat patients ranging in age from newborn infants to young adults for everything from well-child visits to organ transplantation. It is home to the largest pediatric residency training program at a freestanding children's hospital of its kind in the western United States. Among the top ten children's hospitals for National Institutes of Health funding, The Saban Research Institute of Children's Hospital Los Angeles leads the field in innovative bench-to-bedside basic, translational and clinical research conducted in pediatrics. CHLA has grown to provide care to manage more than 600,000 patient visits annually.



KECK MEDICAL CENTER OF USC FINALIST

When the pandemic hit, Keck Medical Center's leadership team, physicians and researchers sprang into action on many fronts. The medical center, which consists of Keck Hospital of USC and the USC Norris Cancer Hospital, has already been recognized among the best hospitals in the country. And now, COVID-19 gave those at the medical center a chance to prove why it is nationally ranked. Keck Medical Center was one of the first medical centers in Los Angeles County to mandate face masks for everyone, whether in its clinics or offices. It was also among the first nationwide to implement COVID-19 testing for all people admitted or transferred to its hospitals. Throughout the pandemic, Keck Medical Center was there for its patients, making sure non-COVID patients continued to receive excellent and life-saving care while creating safe space and changing procedures for COVID-19 patients.



UCLA HEALTH FINALIST

For more than 60 years, UCLA Health hospitals have provided the best in health care and the latest in medical technology to the people of Los Angeles and throughout the world. Its four hospitals on two Southern California campuses include Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, UCLA Santa Monica Medical Center, UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital and the Stewart and Lynda Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital at UCLA. The hospitals' comprehensive preparation made them leaders in the COVID-19 response. Their clinical labs were among the first in the country to develop in-house testing for COVID-19, reducing the time to get results from several days to a few hours and increasing the hospitals' testing capacity. As a leading academic health system that regularly treats patients with infectious diseases and other complex illnesses, UCLA Health hospitals were uniquely positioned to support the fight against COVID-19.



We're proud to be of service.

All of us at Cedars-Sinai are thrilled to be recognized by the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* Health Care Leadership Panel and Awards. This acknowledgment serves as inspiration for our doctors, volunteers and staff, and motivates us to do what we do best: care for Southern California.



**Cedars
Sinai**

| *We're right here*

LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL



2021 AWARDS: ORGANIZATIONS



TOP COVID-19 RESEARCH ORGANIZATION HONOREE

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL LOS ANGELES

Throughout the pandemic, the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (PLM) and the Center for Personalized Medicine at Children's Hospital Los Angeles has played a vital role in keeping CHLA's environment safe for patients, families, and staff and in leading the organization in important research. It has led research on more than 17 studies on COVID and children resulting in valuable research data for the medical and research community. In February 2020, as the coronavirus was spreading through Italy and Iran, the Department of Pathology and Laboratory recognized the likelihood of a global pandemic. The initiative enabled CHLA to implement a SARS-CoV-2 testing very early in the crisis.

CHLA's Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine began the preparation to ensure that all the components required for continuous testing at CHLA, including test reagents and nasopharyngeal swabs, were procured, and fully stocked before the pandemic. This testing capability enabled CHLA to implement several protocols – testing of all CHLA staff exhibiting symptoms during daily health screenings – and testing all patients admitted for care and procedures. The laboratory expanded their operation to provide testing 24-7, testing with six-hour turnaround time to support clinical operations, as well as providing testing services to community partners and other institutions.

CHLA's Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine collaborated with members in CHLA's Center for Personalized Medicine to develop SARS-CoV-2 whole genome sequencing and bioinformatics tools to study the evolution and epidemiology of COVID-19, trace the origins of the virus, and develop genomic epidemiology tools to identify relatedness of infections within CHLA.



CEDARS-SINAI FINALIST

Early in 2020, as reports emerged of a new virus in China, Cedars-Sinai experts understood that California's population was at risk. Shortly after the first cases of COVID-19 appeared in Los Angeles, a rapid-response team formed comprised of our top clinician-scientists, epidemiologists, pathologists, immunologists, analytical chemists and biostatisticians. In a matter of days, several hundred medical investigators had set aside their research and turned their attention to COVID-19. The team's subsequent contributions to the global response to the pandemic have been significant. Cedars-Sinai researchers have conducted more than 100 studies of SARS-CoV-2, including 20+ clinical trials of new therapies, and discovered a Southern California strain of the coronavirus and tracked its explosive spread. They published game-changing discoveries in world class medical journals and forged a powerful COVID-19 research consortium across multiple U.S. institutions, igniting numerous studies involving thousands of healthcare workers and patients.

Keck School of Medicine of USC
Department of Population and
Public Health Sciences

COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESEARCH CENTER, KECK SCHOOL OF MEDICINE OF USC FINALIST

When USC made the decision to close its campus and move classes to online, faculty mobilized to generate new COVID-19 research and founded the COVID-19 Pandemic Research Center (CPRC). The CPRC aims to understand and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on community health locally and globally, with a focus on health inequities related to age, gender, occupation, race, and socioeconomic status. It has initiated or collaborated on more than a dozen far-reaching studies, many of them long-term in scope, including the Los Angeles Pandemic Surveillance Cohort, a collaboration with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to study up to 3,000 county residents over time to better understand social inequities exposed by COVID-19, and the Rapid Antigen Study, which examines the feasibility and effectiveness of using rapid antigen testing as a strategy to help prevent transmission of COVID-19.



We're all in this together.

We couldn't be prouder of our Kaiser Permanente nurses, physicians, and health care staff for their dedication in administering more than 2.7 million vaccinations in Southern California. These are still unprecedented times, and our teams are working tirelessly to protect the people of Southern California. Together, we will continue fighting to keep our communities healthy and strong.

kp.org/covidvaccine

 KAISER PERMANENTE®

LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL



2021 AWARDS: ORGANIZATIONS



EXCEPTIONAL COVID-19 VACCINE ROLL OUT INITIATIVE HONOREE

KAISER PERMANENTE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

On December 14, 2020, Helen Cordova, RN, at Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center, was the first individual to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in California. Since that day, Kaiser Permanente Southern California has activated its robust vaccination strategy, aimed at not only its 4.7 million members, but to all individuals in communities throughout Southern California. As of July, nearly 2.6 million vaccine doses have been administered throughout by Kaiser Permanente. This impressive accomplishment is the result of a wide variety of strategies and tactics, including operational practices, educational outreach, physician and employee engagement, robust community partnerships, internal and external communication – while ensuring efforts were informed by real-time research and data monitoring.

Kaiser Permanente has provided COVID vaccine information to its 7,820 physicians and its 75,600 staff representing all lines of work throughout its 15 hospitals and 235 medical offices via town halls, email communication, online modules and 1:1 direct conversations with COVID-19 vaccine ambassadors. COVID-19 experts have also served as trusted messengers by providing COVID-19 education to countless community partners including CBO's, business groups, advocacy organizations, churches, and elected officials' town halls via hundreds of virtual events.

The use of both traditional and digital media has been key to the vaccination campaign's success. On social media, Kaiser Permanente developed informational graphics and videos, many featuring members and staff. Thousands of posts were published on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook via 28 regional and service area social handles, garnering millions of impressions, and engagements.



DIGNITY HEALTH SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FINALIST

In February and March 2021, Dignity Health joined forces with AEG, the LA Galaxy, and the city of Carson to successfully vaccinate 20,248 people from across Los Angeles by hosting a large-scale event at the Dignity Health Sports Park in Carson. This massive undertaking didn't just happen once as a single-dose clinic, but over the course of two weeks, to deliver first and second dose Moderna vaccines to 20,248 people who otherwise may not have had a chance at receiving their doses. For those populations at highest risk, Dignity Health knew it needed to take the vaccination clinics out of its hospitals and into the communities. The most diverse communities in LA have been amongst the hardest hit. As such, Dignity Health worked directly with LA Care and the city of Carson to identify and register as many at-risk seniors in underserved areas as possible.



KECK MEDICINE OF USC FINALIST

As soon as the first COVID-19 vaccines received emergency use approval on December 11, 2020, Keck Medicine of USC hit the ground running to vaccinate staff, the community and patients. The first COVID-19 vaccines were administered on December 17, 2020. Teams from the USC School of Pharmacy, the Keck School of Medicine of USC and Keck Medicine of USC took the lead to provide vaccines for health care workers and next, patients over 65. Keck vaccinated nearly 300 relatives age 65 and older of its environmental services, cafeteria, parking and materials management workers. Health equity was always a top priority. In late February, Keck Medicine offered dedicated vaccine clinic appointments to residents 65 and older in the underserved communities which have been disproportionately affected by the coronavirus. As of the end of June, 2021, Keck Medicine has administered more than 80,700 doses of the vaccine.



L.A. CARE HEALTH PLAN FINALIST

In the spring of 2021 – as the supply of COVID-19 vaccines was increasing and becoming available to more segments of the population – L.A. Care Health Plan and Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan quickly mobilized to launch a series of free COVID-19 vaccine clinics in high-need areas near their jointly-operated Community Resource Centers. The drive-thru and walk-up vaccine clinics, which took place in April, were open to L.A. Care and Blue Shield Promise members – the majority of whom are low-income individuals and to the general public. Nearly 3,500 individuals were vaccinated through these vaccine clinics. The resource centers – which are located in hard-hit communities such as East Los Angeles, Pacoima, Lynwood and the Antelope Valley, where many of the health plan's members live – collaborated with local churches, community colleges and other community-based organizations to repurpose their large venues to assist in administering the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccines.



UCLA HEALTH FINALIST

UCLA Health was one of the first Los Angeles-based health organization to administer the vaccine when it was approved at the end of 2020 and actively vaccinated health care workers through January. At the end of January, UCLA Health began to administer the vaccine to the 65+ patient population. Constant and consistent email messages were delivered to its patient population, providing detailed instructions on who was qualified for the vaccine, at what time, and what the process was for receiving the vaccine. Invitations were sent to patients through the UCLA Health patient portal as inventory became available. By March, UCLA Health had administered more than 100,000 vaccinations in Los Angeles. Additionally, UCLA Health frequently had its experts answer new FAQs so it could empower patients with the most current information. Its COVID-19 resource center was, and still is, a great source for vaccine updates and more.

Congratulations, Darlene!

**DARLENE SCAFIDDI, MSN, RN, NEA-BC,
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF PATIENT CARE SERVICES**

Celebrating more than 40 years of service at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC), Darlene Scafiddi, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, Executive Vice President of Patient Care Services, began her legacy as a nurse in the hospital's medical/surgical unit in 1979. She also served in the telemetry, pediatric, intensive care, and cardiovascular units, where she developed and honed her skills in nursing and patient care. In her current role, Scafiddi collaborates with nursing teams to ensure PVHMC is delivering the safe, high-quality care that has earned the hospital national recognition.

Over the past 18 months, Scafiddi has overseen the hospital's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under her leadership, the hospital broke down the silos between departments and disciplines and increased cross-team collaboration, which allowed the hospital to respond to rapidly changing public health guidelines – and the hospital benefitted from bringing different perspectives into its problem-solving. Scafiddi also championed employee morale, inspiring the “We’re all in this together” theme to recognize the tremendous team effort in every area of the hospital. The hospital provided its Associates with meals, snacks, scrubs, cards and other items provided by business and members in the community to continually demonstrate appreciation for its Associates.



“Darlene has fostered a culture of clinical excellence and patient- and family-centered care, and she is a trusted leader within our organization and community.”

**-Richard E. Yochum, FACHE, President/CEO of
Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center**

LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL



2021 AWARDS: ORGANIZATIONS



The Oncology Institute of Hope & Innovation

COMMUNITY CLINIC OF THE YEAR HONOREE

THE ONCOLOGY INSTITUTE OF HOPE AND INNOVATION

For patients facing a cancer diagnosis, the treatment journey can be daunting. Finding the best doctor for your diagnosis, traveling long distances for treatment, and navigating new therapy options all while worrying about the cost of care can be scary and stressful. At its founding in 2007, The Oncology Institute of Hope and Innovation (TOI) set out to streamline oncology services for patients, leading to better outcomes and patient satisfaction. With nearly 50 community-based locations in four states, TOI tackles some of the biggest challenges in oncology care today, including:

Access: TOI clinics are intentionally located in the community setting to ensure patients have easy access to services. Whether a patient is taking public transportation or getting a ride from a family member, having your oncologist in your own backyard is a huge convenience.

Communication: A cancer diagnosis can be scary and confusing, so having a provider who speaks your language and understands your culture is critical. TOI clinicians speak more than 20 languages, making them perfectly suited to serve the diverse Los Angeles County population.

Cutting-edge care: At TOI, leading therapies often limited to academic institutions are offered in the community setting. With more than 130 clinical trials available to TOI patients, in-house transfusions, and an outpatient stem cell transplant program, TOI patients have access to the best available care.

This comprehensive, high-value approach to cancer care leads to positive outcomes and happier patients. In fact, 90% of TOI providers and locations receive a 4.0 rating or higher from an anonymous patient survey.



AIRPORT MARINA COUNSELING SERVICE FINALIST

During the COVID-19 pandemic, concerns about mental health and substance use have grown, including concerns about suicidal ideation. While many mental health clinics were unable to continue offering low-cost mental health services, especially at the outset of the COVID-19 outbreak, Airport Marina Counseling Service (AMCS) transitioned swiftly to a telehealth model that kept clients connected with their therapists at a time when they needed them most. There is no doubt that AMCS's swift actions helped save lives. Beyond that, the clinic continued to offer services on a sliding scale, enabling everyone, no matter what their economic status, to access care. AMCS was also a leader among traditionally disenfranchised groups. Through its LGBTQ Affirmative Therapy Center, one of the few such centers in Los Angeles, AMCS was able to focus specifically on the mental health of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual population.



KEDREN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER FINALIST

When faced with the COVID-19 pandemic and the vaccine misinformation epidemic of and hesitancy, no entity was as perfectly situated to serve the community as Kedren Health. Over the years, Kedren Health has built a reservoir of trust with the South Los Angeles community, providing primary care and behavioral health services. When vaccines were still scarce, Dr. Jerry Abraham (director of Kedren's vaccine program) was the squeaky wheel until county health officials directed a supply of vaccines to the community Kedren serves. Dr. Abraham was even covered by TMZ, calling his efforts an "awesome COVID vaccine model to service minority communities." When vaccines became plentiful, Kedren did the hard work of bringing vaccines directly to the community instead of waiting for the community to come to it. Thousands of South LA Residents are safer from COVID because of the groundbreaking work of Kedren Clinic.



Children's Hospital Los Angeles
is proud to congratulate

**the scientists, clinical researchers
and laboratory teams**

whose extraordinary work has been recognized in
the category of Top COVID-19 Research Organization.

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LOS ANGELES 

LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL



2021 AWARDS: ORGANIZATIONS



EDUCATIONAL OR INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAM OF THE YEAR HONOREE

PROVIDENCE

About the time the pandemic hit our shores, Providence was set to kick off its partnership with Charles R. Drew University of Medicine & Science, two other health systems and three low-cost clinics across Los Angeles. Partners Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Dignity Health's Northridge Medical Center and clinics in San Pedro, the Westside and the San Fernando Valley sought to develop a Community Health Worker Training Academy to help link vulnerable populations to resources such as food, health care and, unexpectedly, COVID-19 education and vaccination.

The program was funded by a grant from the California Governor's Office to create well-paying jobs for people in underserved communities who understand the needs of their neighbors and want to learn how to help meet those needs.

Providence has long trained community health workers as part of a wide-reaching community investment program of outreach to the elderly, the poor, those with chronic illness or mental illness, immigrants and other vulnerable populations. Partnering with community groups that are experts in food insecurity, housing, health education and other critical needs helps expand that outreach.

The partnership with the historically Black Drew University in Los Angeles altered its format before it began – providing virtual training to ensure safety. The six-month paid training includes five weeks of a standards-based curriculum that teaches the fundamentals of CHW roles, skills and responsibilities, followed by 21 weeks of on-the-job training in hospital and clinical settings throughout Los Angeles.

Providence and CDU plan to expand by connecting with more clinics and hospital partners in the region, intending to continue the academy beyond the two-year grant period.



CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL LOS ANGELES FINALIST

Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) has developed a training program to better serve the mental health needs of the community. During the pandemic, the number of patients presenting mental health issues at their pediatrician appointments dramatically increased so CHLA came up with a proactive solution: implement a training program and "warmline" to help its Care Network pediatricians better serve patients and families coping with mental health challenges. This program features providing network pediatricians with a screening questionnaire to help detect signs of depression and anxiety, and the tools to enable network pediatricians to triage and treat anxiety, depression and ADHD. Further, to provide patients and families what they need when they need it, CHLA established a "warmline" to assist pediatrician members of the CHLA Care Network with answers and advice regarding how best to support behavioral health needs of their pediatric patients before they reach crisis level.



DAVID GEFFEN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT UCLA FINALIST

As the youngest Top-10 medical school in the nation, the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA (DGSOM) is a groundbreaking community of problem solvers, caregivers, innovators and life-long learners with a noble mission: to heal humankind by delivering leading-edge research, education, patient care and community engagement. DGSOM leaders believe that a strong organizational culture is critical to the institution's ability to achieve its mission and vital to its well-being and cohesion as a community. In recent years, the DGSOM adopted an initiative called the Cultural North Star that helps build and maintain an inclusive, mission-driven culture by mapping decisions, actions and interactions to a shared framework that includes the pillars: Do what's right; Make things better; Be kind. As part of UCLA Health, which regularly treats patients with infectious diseases and other complex illnesses, the DGSOM is uniquely positioned to support the fight against COVID-19.

Congratulations to the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* **2021 Trusted Advisors in Healthcare**

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LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL



2021 AWARDS: ORGANIZATIONS



OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY OUTREACH HONOREE

COMMUNITIES LIFTING COMMUNITIES

Communities Lifting Communities (CLC) is a community health improvement initiative led by the Hospital Association of Southern California (HASC) focused on reducing health disparities in Southern California. CLC is working to advance significant systems change through a collective impact model involving hospitals and health systems, public health departments, community clinics, Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans and community stakeholders.

CLC launched Cherished Futures for Black Moms & Babies, a collaborative effort comprised of CLC and the Public Health Alliance of Southern California, to reduce Black infant mortality and improve patient experiences and safety for Black mothers and birthing people in Los Angeles County.

CLC has done continued work in Diabetes Prevention and Food Insecurity Screening projects which include CLC's Diabetes Prevention and Food Security Initiative in Ventura County, Kaiser Permanente and Providence hospital food recovery and redistribution projects, as well as Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital's "Recipe for Success" food program.

CLC hosts events such as Advancing Health Equity: Pathways for Hospitals to Improve Health Virtual Workshop which provides an overview of the role hospitals to advance health equity across their organizations and in the communities they serve.



**KAISER PERMANENTE
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**
FINALIST

From the first moments of the pandemic, Kaiser Permanente Southern California lived up to its longstanding commitment to serving communities. The organization began by providing the community with accurate and updated COVID-19 information from its medical experts via multiple communication platforms. Then, as vaccines were made available, it built on that outreach effort by administering vaccinations directly to hard-to-reach communities, and by establishing a mass vaccination site at Cal Poly Pomona that administered over 300,000 vaccines. It quickly leveraged its long-standing community relationships to provide life-saving information using trusted messengers, along with sharing expertise, critical resources, and grants via its broad community network. Information, connections, financial support to community groups, and vaccinations form the foundation of Kaiser Permanente Southern California's robust community outreach effort in response to COVID-19.



LACERS WELL

**LOS ANGELES CITY EMPLOYEES'
RETIREMENT SYSTEM**
FINALIST

Generally, wellness programs are administered by employers to improve attendance and productivity. The Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System (LACERS) is unique, as it is one of a few known retirement systems that has instituted a wellness program with the intention of helping its retired members achieve the best possible retirement. LACERS has approximately 20,000 retired members and administers its own health plans through Kaiser Permanente, Anthem Blue Cross, SCAN, United Healthcare, Delta Dental, and Anthem Blue View. In partnership with and through sponsorship from these organizations, a robust program has been developed that integrates social media, newsletters, emails, educational seminars by leading experts, multi-session workshops, and activities. Also, LACERS has assembled a group of volunteer retired members, their wellness champions, who lead various events for other LACERS retirees and guests (walks, book clubs, museum and garden visits, etc.).

**Keck School of
Medicine of USC**

**Department of Population
and Public Health Sciences**

**COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESEARCH
CENTER, KECK SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE OF USC**
FINALIST

In the "Stay Connected Los Angeles" educational campaign, Lourdes Baez-conde-Garbanati, PhD, MPH, a professor at the Department of Population and Public Health Sciences, Keck School of Medicine of USC, and her colleagues helped 333 residents from high-risk populations get a COVID-19 vaccination. The group has also secured vaccination appointments for 1,950 educators who live or work in East Los Angeles. In addition to tackling the logistical barriers, Baez-conde-Garbanati and the Stay Connected LA team worked with 11 artists in the Eastern area of Los Angeles to develop culturally grounded public health messages that resonate within the Latino culture. Artist Paul Botello's winning art led an outdoor media campaign that launched in July. The messages will be displayed outside as murals, bus bench signage, staircase artwork, and online as social media posts, digital murals and GIFs.



THE WALL LAS MEMORIAS (TWLM)
FINALIST

The Wall Las Memorias (TWLM) is a community health and wellness organization dedicated to serving Latino, LGBT, and other underserved populations through advocacy, education and building the next generation of leadership. Having started as a movement to build the first publicly funded AIDS monument in the nation in 1993, TWLM currently provides health prevention and awareness programs in the fields of HIV, Hepatitis C, substance misuse, and mental health. At its core, TWLM aims at addressing health and social disparities on a local, statewide, and national level, bridging grassroots outreach with long-lasting and effective health prevention campaigns. For more than 27 years, TWLM has garnered admiration for its tremendous work in serving marginalized communities of color and high-risk populations throughout Los Angeles County.



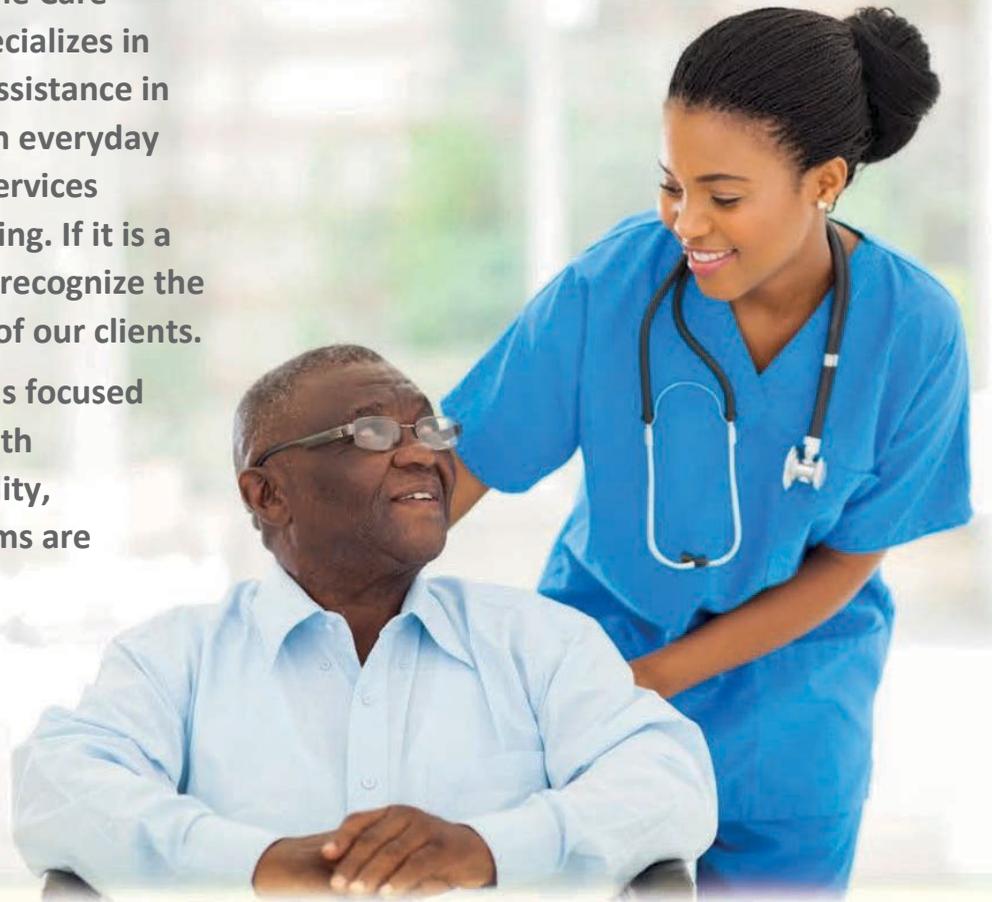
Home Guardian Angels

Personal Care



Home Guardian Angels (HGA) is a California licensed Home Care Organization (HCO) and Respite Service Provider that specializes in matching trained care specialist with people in need of assistance in their day-to-day life. We focus on helping our clients with everyday task while providing human companionship and all the services needed to help them reach the optimum level of well-being. If it is a physical or medical ailment, our dedicated professionals recognize the commitment and trust necessary to gain the confidence of our clients.

As well as caring for our seniors, Home Guardian Angels is focused on in-home care to meet the special needs of patients with developmental disabilities, including: Intellectual Disability, Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy and Autism. Our programs are designed to provide temporary relief from the demands of caregiving, which helps reduce overall family stress. When a family member or care provider has an illness, emergency or even vacation, Home Guardian Angels respite services can ensure that their loved one's needs are always met.



Extraordinary People Extraordinary Care



HOME CARE SERVICES

- Bathing • Dressing • Toileting • Ambulation & Transfers
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- Transportation/Escort • DX Specific Care • 24 Hour Care

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- Assist and strengthen the family as a unit
- Provide families time to rest, relax, and recreate
- Help families through periods of crisis and adjustment to improve long-term family stability

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2021 AWARDS: ORGANIZATIONS



BEST HOMECARE PROGRAM HONOREE

HOME GUARDIAN ANGELS

Home Guardian Angels (HGA) has become one of the premier providers serving the urban and inner city communities of Los Angeles County. The agency and staff risked their own health and safety throughout 2020 and 2021, making sure that over 500 families of seniors and developmentally disabled consumers were cared for throughout the pandemic. Providing relief to many lower income essential workers, allowing them to continue to provide invaluable services while still providing for their families. From assisting with zoom schooling, to respite and quality of life services to our most vulnerable, HGA has continued to stand on the front line providing support to our most forgotten.

During the height of COVID-19, HGA grew from about 100 employees to 600 plus employee to take on the volume of seniors, disabled, and special needs clients that needed additional help as resources including schools and businesses closed. While many Homecare Organizations said no or that “we are no longer accepting new clients,” HGA took on the challenge.

Especially hit hard were HGA’s clients and employees that are low income minorities who have fewer options. Marc Adderly, COO of Home Guardian Angels spent more time in the office than home – by far! With little administrative support, Adderly and a dedicated team spent time well into evenings and weekends to ensure that everyone needing care would have someone to care for them.

UCLA Health

CONGRATULATIONS, JOHNESE SPISSO, MPA

President, UCLA Health; CEO, UCLA Hospital System; Associate Vice Chancellor, UCLA Health Sciences — for being recognized as **Hospital CEO/President of the Year** by the **Los Angeles Business Journal Health Care Leadership Awards**. On behalf of the entire UCLA Health family and the communities it serves throughout Southern California and the world, thank you, Johnese, for your dedication, compassion and visionary leadership.

HOSPITAL CEO/PRESIDENT OF THE YEAR

#1

IN CALIFORNIA
AND **TOP 3** IN THE NATION



U.S. News & World Report Best Hospitals



24 HOUR HOME CARE
FINALIST

Providing reputable in-home care for over 12 years, 24 Hour Home Care serves one of the most vulnerable populations: seniors and people with developmental disabilities. The impact COVID-19 presented to this population gave 24 Hour Home Care a chance to step up and innovate by taking a stance to become a part of the solution. In March of 2020, 24 Hour Home Care became one of the only non-medical home care companies to support those with COVID-19. The company developed a safety-first approach called S.A.F.E.R. at home and has provided 211 COVID+ patients with over 69,460 hours of COVID-19 care. And it was done safely and securely, with less than 1% reported COVID-19 diagnosis by caregivers and clients from a possible workforce exposure. In total, 24 Hour Home Care has provided just under five million hours of safe care to seniors and individuals with developmental disabilities during the pandemic.



TEAM SELECT HOME CARE
FINALIST

With five offices in California and growing, Team Select Home Care has been a driving force in the home health space, promoting quality patient outcomes, best practices, new methods of reducing re-hospitalizations and compassionate care. Over the past year, Team Select Home Care has been proactively advocating for the Family CNA Program to be available in all 50 states. This life-changing program would allow parents of medically fragile children the opportunity to become certified caregivers at no cost to them or the state. This program would improve access to care, increase the quality of care these families receive, decrease daily costs, and allow hospital nursing staff to be available for other opportunities of care. With this program, existing nurses in the workforce would be able to operate at the peak of their discipline, resulting in increased capacity to care for a larger number of medically fragile children.



life happens. It's why we care



PACIFICA HOSPITAL OF THE VALLEY

24HR EMERGENCY CARE



2021 AWARDS: ORGANIZATIONS



OUTSTANDING COLLABORATION HONOREES

CEDARS-SINAI / DIGNITY HEALTH SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA / UCLA HEALTH / PROVIDENCE / KECK MEDICINE OF USC

Five prominent, highly competitive healthcare systems serving the Los Angeles region – Cedars-Sinai, Dignity Health Southern California, Keck Medicine of USC, Providence and UCLA Health – have been united 16 months with the online presence of BetterTogether.Health to jointly participate in a massive public service educational campaign. Spawnd by the COVID-19 pandemic, the campaign encourages community members to put health first and access care when needed, followed by initiatives that promote masking, staying safe, and now a new multi-channel campaign urging consumers to not delay critical, timely screenings that save lives.

Throughout the pandemic, and continuing through this current period of virus variants and vaccine hesitancy, these healthcare systems have seen patients avoiding proactive care and getting diagnosed with advanced stage diseases, especially cancer. Recent data show that 92% of all Americans put off screenings, doctor visits and preventive care last year—with devastating results.

Viewing this as a silent “sub-epidemic,” the five health systems banded together to tackle head-on what could become, if not curbed immediately, the next public health crisis with serious and avoidable health consequences. These leading health systems continue to be joined in this common purpose, believing it is their duty to reach out and let people know they are open and committed to maintaining the health of the communities they serve – and saving lives.

Among issues the educational campaign addresses are the continuing concerns by health professionals that many people are not seeking medical advice and assistance when critical to do so.

One of Los Angeles' first hospitals
CHA Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center
 launches a new state-of-the-art patient tower,
 opening in 2022.

Coming Soon!

Building for a Healthy Future



Our new tower will provide unparalleled services – innovative technology and therapies, infused with world class research by top medical experts – to deliver personalized, trusted care to our communities.

New Patient Tower

- An additional 33 private rooms with natural lighting, accommodating newborn-mother patients
- Emergency Room: Double the previous capacity, including exam rooms, resuscitation bays, CT, X-ray rooms
- NICU: Expanded to accommodate 21 newborn patients
- Labor/Delivery/Recovery: 11 New rooms with three equipped for C-Section delivery
- Seven additional state-of-the-art operating rooms (including a specialty unit for open-heart procedures)
- Newly created parking for 560+ cars



Modern NICU

Private Newborn-Mother Suite

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LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL

HEALTH CARE

LEADERSHIP PANEL & AWARDS



THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES COVID-19 COMMUNITIES LIFTING COMMUNITIES VACCINATION PROGRAM / CARBON HEALTH / COMMUNITY ORGANIZED RELIEF EFFORT (CORE) / CURATIVE / USC SCHOOL OF PHARMACY FINALISTS

This one-of-a-kind public-private collaboration was created to facilitate the mass distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to Angelenos between December 2020 and May 2021. The dedication and focused commitment of the collaborative partners played a vital role in the city's turnaround from an epicenter of the pandemic to having one of the nation's lowest case rates.



THE ROSALINDE AND ARTHUR GILBERT FOUNDATION / FAMILY CAREGIVER ALLIANCE FINALISTS

The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation (in partnership with Family Caregiver Alliance) created and funds an annual Innovations in Alzheimer's Caregiving Awards program. In the recent past, The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation undertook a review of issues facing caregivers of adults with Alzheimer's disease. In June 2007, the Foundation published an expert panel discussion report, Strengthening Caregiving for Alzheimer's Disease, which outlined promising practices, research recommendations, and key principles for caregiver support. It is against this backdrop that the Rosalinde Gilbert Innovations in Alzheimer's Disease Caregiving Legacy Awards program was initiated. The program promotes innovation in the field of Alzheimer's disease caregiving.



STAND UP TO CANCER / EXACT SCIENCES FINALISTS

In December 2020, Stand Up To Cancer unveiled a collaborative initiative with cancer screening and diagnostic test provider Exact Sciences, aimed at improving colorectal cancer screening, early detection and prevention. As part of this, a colorectal cancer "Dream Team" of researchers will identify communities near anchor institutions that serve minority and medically underserved communities, pinpoint the unique local needs of those areas, and turn participating communities into "Stand Up To Cancer Zones" with high rates of colorectal cancer screening. The team will implement at-home stool-based colorectal cancer screening programs at community health centers, ensure patients with abnormal test results receive a follow-up colonoscopy, and build a collection of samples for future research to ensure that low income and racial/ethnic minority populations are represented.



COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESEARCH CENTER, KECK SCHOOL OF MEDICINE OF USC / LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH / USC SOL PRICE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY / USC SCHAEFFER CENTER FOR HEALTH POLICY & ECONOMICS FINALISTS

USC and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health are launching a study that will follow up to 3,000 county residents over time to better understand social inequities exposed by COVID-19 as well as other impacts of the pandemic. The goal of the study is to closely track the continued impact of COVID-19 infections on communities and families, even as vaccination programs roll out. The study will allow the investigators to distinguish between those participants who are positive due to prior infection and those who are positive due to vaccination.



THANK YOU FOR GETTING VACCINATED!

Kedren Health is proud to equitably distribute and administer over 300,000 COVID-19 vaccines in South Los Angeles!

Thank you to our board, staff, volunteers, and supporters who have helped us achieve this monumental Herculean milestone!

Special thanks to: Governor Gavin Newsom, Mayor Eric Garcetti, County Supervisor Holly Mitchell, and our local LA City Councilmembers, community and business leaders for supporting our mission and vision!

Thank you to the Los Angeles Business Journal for recognizing our leadership and celebrating the 2021 Community Clinic of the Year LA Health Award!



John H. Griffith, Ph.D.
President & CEO



Kelly L. Jones, MD
CMO, Primary Care



Jerry P. Abraham, MD, MPH, CMQ
Director, Kedren Vaccines

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2021 AWARDS: ORGANIZATIONS



BEST NEW PRODUCT OR SERVICE HONOREE

CEDARS-SINAI

When COVID-19 arrived in California it was entirely new, exceedingly difficult to manage, and its long-term effects were unknown. When patients who survived the virus began reporting continuous, ongoing symptoms, Cedars-Sinai became one of the first hospitals in the nation to establish a COVID-19 Recovery Program.

The course of treatment in the program begins with a comprehensive in-person evaluation by an expert in infectious diseases or pulmonary medicine. Patients are then referred to a network of specialists that includes cardiologists, pulmonologists, neurologists and psychiatrists. Patients also can gain access to clinical research trials, where they contribute to a deeper understanding of the long-term health effects of COVID-19.

The COVID-19 Recovery Program works closely with two other Cedars-Sinai efforts: The Smidt Heart Institute’s Post-COVID-19 Cardiology Program, which enrolls patients who have been diagnosed with a heart issue associated with their recovery from the virus, and the Department of Medicine’s Post-ICU Clinic, which focuses on respiratory and neurological problems that develop in some intensive care unit patients after they are discharged.

The program’s multidisciplinary depth is key to its success in supporting COVID-19 patients as they cope with a range of significant problems and lingering effects that include shortness of breath, dizziness, brain fog, headaches, fatigue, anxiety, depression and loss of taste or smell.

Cedars-Sinai believes the program is a vital resource for the community, and is committed to its continued viability and success for those who are affected by this lingering virus.



Synergy.

We have professional relationships with our clients that produce long-term value, growth and sustainability.



SCANWELL HEALTH
 FINALIST

Stephen Chen is putting lab testing into the hands of people. He's the founder and CEO of Scanwell Health, a digital health company that's turned the smartphone into a clinical lab. Scanwell's approach pairs proven diagnostics with patented computer vision technology, so there's no need to send samples back to a lab. Patients receive results in minutes. Testing takes place in the comfort and safety of people's homes. And perhaps most importantly, Scanwell tests are clinical-grade, with similar accuracy to in-person tests. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Chen and his team have partnered with leading medical technology company Becton Dickinson on a COVID-19 antigen test; a type of test that will play a significant role in reopening the economy, schools, and travel. Scanwell is making it possible for lab tests to be performed in the home, both inexpensively and at scale.



USC VERDUGO HILLS HOSPITAL
COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER
FOR AGING
 FINALIST

To assist local older adults and their caregivers navigate the transitions of aging, particularly during the pandemic, USC Verdugo Hills Hospital (USC-VHH) launched the Community Resource Center for Aging (CRCA). Access to the CRCA is free to anyone in the community. The CRCA, which is funded by a generous grant from the Navigage Foundation, aims to improve the quality of life for older adults by connecting them with a broad network of support services from the hospital, as well as nonprofit and public health organizations. People can also receive guidance navigating both daily needs, like food and medicine delivery, mental health support or transportation, to major life decisions like long-term care, assisted living or even hospice care. Since launching, the CRCA has helped more than 150 older adults and their caregivers with more than 300 requests.



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*Top Hospital Nomination
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Vicki Palana Rollins
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LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL

HEALTH CARE

LEADERSHIP PANEL & AWARDS

Hope in a Bottle: Don't Hesitate – Vaccinate

“Hope in a bottle” has become the coined phrase that refers to the COVID-19 vaccine, which has proven to be a long-awaited solution to bring an end to the pandemic. Health care workers across the country, particularly hospital employees who have been on the frontlines of the fight against COVID, were first in line for the vaccines when they became available late last year.

“The one thing we know we can do to make things better and start to heal is to end the pandemic by vaccinating everyone,” stated Nicholas Testa, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Dignity Health’s Southern California Division.

In Los Angeles County, one of the very first doses of Pfizer was administered on December 17, 2020 at Dignity Health - Glendale Memorial Hospital and Health Center (GMHHC). Laura Kenegos, ICU Charge Nurse, was the first person to receive the COVID vaccine at the hospital, administered by GMHHC’s President, Jill Welton, MSN, RN.

Kenegos was overcome with emotion as she uttered the words, “This is hope.”

One of the most diverse communities in Southern California is the heart of Downtown Los Angeles and Dignity Health – California Hospital Medical Center (CHMC) is in the middle of it. Being in Downtown LA, the surrounding neighborhoods have suffered the worst of the pandemic. CHMC has cared for hundreds of COVID patients over the past 18 months, while also vaccinating thousands of Angelenos at the height of the pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has transformed all of our lives in different ways.

“We know that our communities of color are disproportionately impacted and we are doing our part to help save lives,” shared Julie J. Sprengel, President, Dignity Health’s Southern California Division. “To reach those populations at highest risk, we knew we needed to take vaccination clinics out of our hospitals and into the most diverse communities who were hit the hardest; those with limited access to health care, pre-existing conditions, comorbidities, housing, and financial impacts.”

To meet the needs of our communities, Dignity Health realized it could quickly vaccinate thousands at a much larger venue. As such, in February and March of this year, Dignity



Julie Sprengel, President, poses at Vaccine Clinic with city of Carson officials, and Katie Pandolfo, General Manager, Dignity Health Sports Park



Nursing Student Volunteer vaccinates elderly man at Dignity Health Sports Park vaccination event



Ron Yolo, CNE, administering COVID vaccine to Carson Mayor

Health joined forces with AEG, the world’s leading sports and entertainment company, the LA Galaxy, and the city of Carson to successfully vaccinate more than 20,000 people from across Los Angeles by hosting a large-scale event at the Dignity Health Sports Park in Carson, California. Dignity Health worked directly with LA Care and the city of Carson to identify and register as many at-risk seniors in underserved areas as possible. This massive undertaking didn’t just happen once as a single-dose clinic, but over the course of two weeks, to deliver first and second dose Moderna vaccines to 20,248 people who otherwise may not have had the opportunity to receive them.

The COVID-19 vaccine clinic was no small feat - it involved weeks of planning, allocation of vaccine supplies, more than 1,000 volunteers from Dignity Health hospitals, Dignity Health Sports Park, and nine nursing schools. This vaccination event provided hands-on clinical training hours for nursing students who struggled to receive clinical experience throughout the pandemic. Dignity Health thanks CBD College, Concorde Career College, Inland Career Education Center, Pacific College, Pasadena City College, Mount St. Mary’s University, University of San Francisco, US Tech School, and West Coast University.

The Dignity Health Vaccination Clinic would not have been possible without the incredible partnership and collaborative efforts

of AEG, the LA Galaxy, and the city of Carson, who all recognized the importance of protecting our communities from COVID. The success of the event included resources to safely operate the clinic from the LA County Sheriff’s Department and Cal State Dominguez Hills Police Department. Additional support came in the way of food and beverage donations to keep the volunteers fed and hydrated as they tirelessly served others from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Held as an outdoor event, volunteers weathered the elements – including a high winds day, a rainy day, hot days, and cold nights – all for the combined effort to save more lives.

At Dignity Health, the mission has always been to improve the health of the people it serves while addressing inequities in health care.

“The COVID-19 vaccine efforts have

been an incredible reminder of what can be accomplished when we work together,” noted Sprengel. “Being a part of vaccinating our most vulnerable means being a part of something truly special – healing our communities and providing hope for our future.”

If you are not already vaccinated against COVID-19, please get vaccinated as soon as possible. In addition to keeping those around you safe, COVID-19 vaccines are effective. Unvaccinated Californians age 12 and up can go to myturn.ca.gov or call (833) 422-4255 to schedule an appointment or go to myturn.ca.gov/clinic to find a walk-in clinic near you. If you are experiencing COVID symptoms, please call your health care provider.

To find a Dignity Health hospital or urgent care, visit dignityhealth.org.



CHMC nurse receives COVID vaccine



Marc Sakwa, M.D.



David Shavelle, M.D.

We Are Your Heart Partner for Life

Marc Sakwa, M.D., Medical Director, Adult Cardiovascular Surgery, MemorialCare Long Beach Medical Center

David Shavelle, M.D., Medical Director, Adult Cardiology & Interventional Lab, MemorialCare Heart & Vascular Institute, Long Beach Medical Center

Since joining the MemorialCare health system, we have seen the MemorialCare Heart & Vascular Institute at Long Beach Medical Center take great strides in growth and advancement in an already robust program. While Long Beach can often be overlooked when it comes to leading health organizations in Los Angeles County, Long Beach Medical Center has a rich history of advancements in heart and vascular diseases.

History of Innovation & Proven Results

Myrvin Ellestad, M.D., was instrumental in developing today's cardiac treatments, including the modern stress test to assess a patient's heart and predict the severity of heart disease. He also helped establish the MemorialCare Heart & Vascular Institute, where later, John Messenger, M.D., would spearhead cardiac technology into today's medicine. Dr. Messenger's innovative approach to cardiology was essential in the development of pacemakers. Since 1987, the MemorialCare Heart & Vascular Institute has continued its tradition of innovation.

Some of the many firsts at the MemorialCare Heart & Vascular Institute include:

- First to establish a coronary care unit in Southern California
- First with a cardiology computer registry
- One of the first to use a blood bank for open heart surgery
- First in Long Beach and the South Bay to implant an artificial heart valve
- First to demonstrate the power of the treadmill test
- First to do an angioplasty in Southern California
- First hospital in Long Beach and the South Bay to start an emergency chest pain center

Leading Today, For Your Future

Today, the MemorialCare Heart & Vascular Institute continues to reinvest in its programs and recruitment efforts to offer innovative care and cutting-edge research that transform patient care.

We've always treated the full spectrum of cardiovascular diseases and conditions, but we've further enhanced our current programs to ensure our patients have access to the least invasive approaches, so they can recover quicker and have better outcomes.

We offer more minimally invasive options than any other hospital in Southern California. Our specialists are board-certified and fellowship trained and have the experience and expertise required for excellent outcomes and improved quality of life for every person seeking heart care that walks through our doors.

Some of our latest advancements and achievements include:

- **Minimally invasive surgery**
Physicians at Long Beach Medical Center perform valve repair and replacement surgery through small incisions without cracking the breast bone. Our patients have less pain and recover quicker.
- **Repair of complex aortic disease**
Patients with aortic aneurysm, a bulge in the main blood vessel, can be treated either electively or emergently by our specialized aortic team. These procedures can be done surgically or with catheter technology in the least invasive way.
- **Advanced technology to support leading procedures and tests**
Whether it's the technology that supports patients during a high-risk interventional procedure or a heart failure specialist using the latest monitoring technology, we know that our patients deserve the best.
- **Transcatheter valve procedures for replacement and repairs**
Transcatheter approaches are important as the repair, replacement or treatment can be administered through the groin or the arm. It's less invasive than open heart surgery with a much faster recovery time.
- **MitraClip™ to fix mitral valves**
During the procedure, doctors access the mitral valve with a thin tube (called a catheter) that is guided through a vein in your leg to reach your heart. A small implanted clip is attached to your mitral valve to help it close more completely. This helps to restore normal blood flow through your heart.
- **CardioMEMs™ proactive care for heart failure patients**
The CardioMEMs HF System remotely monitors changes in pulmonary artery pressure, an early indicator of the onset of worsening heart failure. These early changes can often be addressed through simple adjustments to care, such as titration of medications, in real time, rather than waiting until symptoms are worse, or hospitalization.
- **Research efforts and clinical trials growth**
We are researching therapies, interventions and preventive approaches to treat all forms of cardiovascular disease in all walks of life. We are enrolling patients and participating in more studies than ever before.

We have so much more on the way, and our advanced capabilities don't stop with adults. Since we share a campus with Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach, we often partner to treat young adults diagnosed with pediatric conditions later in life. Why travel long distances when the future of heart care is here?

Rethinking Cancer Care: A Patient-Centric Approach

By BRAD HIVELY

For a patient facing a cancer diagnosis, nothing is more important than their treatment outcome. Will I survive? What will my quality of life be?

Unfortunately, healthcare delivery today is primarily incentivized by the amount of care provided rather than the results of that care. This traditional fee-for-service model is a major contributor to the rising costs of healthcare across the country and the financial burden that a serious diagnosis carries for patients and their families.

From our first clinic in Downey in 2007, to the nearly 50 practice locations across the country today, The Oncology Institute of Hope an Innovation (TOI) spends each day tackling the challenges of oncology care and rethinking how we can achieve the best possible outcomes for our patients.

WORLD-CLASS CANCER CARE, CLOSE TO HOME

At TOI, we offer the best of what you get from a local private practice with the benefits of a large academic institution. Our clinics are conveniently located in the communities we serve, removing transportation barriers and ensuring patients spend more time with family

and less time on the freeway. Additionally, because we offer specialized services including in-house labs, transfusions, and dispensary, patients can access more of the care they need in a familiar environment.

TREATING THE WHOLE PATIENT

Our High Value Cancer Care (HVCC) reorients care to focus on the patients and their outcomes, rather than the amount of care given. The HVCC program assigns every patient a healthcare coach who provides constant monitoring and adjusts patients' care plans to address side effects of therapy such as nausea and pain. It also allows for superior appointment coordination, whether in person or via telemedicine, dramatically improving patient experience and reducing the need to turn to overcrowded emergency departments or acute care facilities to make it through treatment successfully.

This model has been validated through independent research by Stanford University which concluded that patients under our care experience:

- 30% fewer hospitalizations
- 25% lower health care costs
- 14% higher patient satisfaction

Avoiding unnecessary hospitalizations

has been especially important to our often immune-compromised patient population during the Covid-19 pandemic.

CUTTING-EDGE TREATMENTS FOR ALL

Central to our mission is increasing access to leading treatment options. TOI is the only community-based provider on the West Coast offering outpatient stem cell transplants. This innovative approach to a critically important treatment allows patients to conveniently access care close to home and spend their recovery with their caregiver instead of alone in a hospital room.

Additionally, TOI rivals major academic institutions with the number of clinical trials offered through our research arm, the Innovative Clinical Research Institute (ICRI), which screens every patient for eligibility to more than 130 active trials. By going that extra mile, we can connect patients to lifesaving and life-changing treatments.

"None of the trials for Cold AIHA would accept me," said Nancy, a TOI patient. "But The Oncology Institute did. Today is my 732nd day on the clinical trial. 732 days of living!"

ROOTED IN THE COMMUNITY

Another benefit of our community-based approach to medicine is that our compassion-

ate medical staff is integrated into the fabric of the local community. Our team reflects the rich diversity of the communities we serve, providing culturally relevant care. In fact, our clinical team speaks more than 20 languages, ensuring every patient and family is heard.

PERSONALIZED CARE WITH A DEEP BENCH

Building a strong rapport with an oncologist is an important step in a patient's treatment journey. Our physicians feel a deep connection to their patients and are committed to learning about their unique goals and needs. In addition to that personal relationship, TOI patients get the benefit of the 80+ colleagues within our physician network. Our employed physician model breeds a strong culture of collaboration and mutual respect, meaning each patient has the knowledge and expertise of the entire TOI team at their fingertips.

By centering care on the patient, focusing on outcomes, and constantly innovating, TOI is changing oncology care for the better.



Brad Hively serves as the CEO of The Oncology Institute of Hope and Innovation.

Optum is proud to support the Los Angeles Business Journal.



Congratulations to **Amar A. Desai, MD, MPH**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Optum Pacific West, on being nominated for Health System Executive of the Year.

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Homecare for not Just the Few

By **KARIM ZAMAN** and **MARC ADDERLY**

As breakthroughs in science continue to ever increase the graying of America, we as a country must decide what is the government's role, family's role and the individual responsibility of preparing for one's own care in our golden years.

For those that have the income during their working years and possibly an incentive or benefit from their employer, they may be lucky enough to pay into long-term care insurance. For those that have wealth and assets, they can choose to either pay directly out of pocket for home care or choose a lavish senior community. In some cultures, it is traditional to have a multigenerational home where elders are respected and cared for by family members.

However, there is a large group of the working-class senior population that do not have the disposable income, long-term care insurance, family or government subsidies for care in their later years. The families of elderly and mentally disabled citizens are being left behind in the inner cities across America.

While many believed federal programs such as Medicaid for the poor and Medicare for the elderly would cover most Americans, the inner city is still deprived of health care provider options and populated predominately by poor

minorities unable to purchase health care in a competitive market. Some who are employed often hold low-paying, nonunionized jobs that do not provide health insurance, while others had full careers and even earned pensions, but are now in the precarious position of doing just good enough to get by but a little too well for any additional support when a medical issue arises. As a result, many are unable to remain in their homes and are forced to liquidate the few assets they have to qualify for Medicaid and find nursing and convalescent homes as their only alternative for assistance.

Hopefully this group of people will have new options if President Biden's pledge of \$400 billion for home care is passed. He has placed home care as a priority issue for his administration and the funding he has committed will change the focus to most seniors preferred goal of remaining in their homes. This will increase

money for Medicare, Medicaid and community care-based organizations, training, additional pay for home caregivers and tax credits for families providing care for a family member.

Home care organizations like Home Guardian Angels (HGA) who are based and mainly serve inner city seniors and the disabled truly support this new vision. Ultimately, the residents of inner cities, their health care providers and their governments must seek to correct the current inequities in the homecare system. Achieving real change will require new ideas for the redirection of resources, coordination and collaboration, and assisting individuals in helping themselves.

The conventional wisdom for most home care agencies has always been to solicit seniors who have private wealth through private pay or long-term care insurance. While a proven strategy, it has less personal meaning for us – the

Home Guardian Angels founders. HGA has taken the counterintuitive challenge of mainly serving the black and brown communities of South-Central Los Angeles. With a new plan of reorientation of funds and thinking, we truly believe we can be successful in assuring the health of these communities in the truest sense.

From creating new health care financing options, attracting more home health providers to the inner city and developing new delivery systems responsive to the needs of inner-city residents, HGA still believes the best way to improve the health of this community is to provide more access to jobs and training, increase incomes, and improve the socioeconomic status of the residents that live there.

We pride ourselves in improving the health of our inner cities by assuring our clients that there is a quality health care provider available in the community. By focusing attention on dismantling the race discrimination that permeates home health care and on developing new health care delivery systems that meet the needs of poor, inner-city, minority patients, we are committed to having a positive impact within the communities we serve.

Karim Zaman and Marc Adderly (executive director) are co-founders of Home Guardian Angels Inc. Learn more at homeguardianangels.com.

While many believed federal programs such as Medicaid for the poor and Medicare for the elderly would cover most Americans, the inner city is still deprived of health care provider options.



On behalf of our patients, community of supporters, volunteers, clinicians, staff and hospital leadership, **we congratulate**

Sue and Steve Wilder

for being named **Los Angeles Business Journal's 2021 Outstanding Healthcare Volunteers of the Year.**

Their over 20 years of service and visionary philanthropy to USC Verdugo Hills Hospital is unparalleled.

LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL

HEALTH CARE

LEADERSHIP PANEL & AWARDS

A Role Model for Equitable Vaccine Distribution

By JERRY P. ABRAHAM, MD MPH CMQ

Since 1965, Kedren Health has been compassionately serving the South Los Angeles community. As a Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH), Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), and an Acute Psychiatric Hospital our mission is to: provide quality integrated health and behavioral health services to children, youth, adults, and families irrespective of immigration or residency status, language, culture, gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or one's ability to pay.

In response to COVID-19, Kedren Health rallied around this mission, and founded the Kedren Vaccines program. To date, the program has administered over 300,000 COVID-19 vaccines throughout the Greater Los Angeles Metropolitan Area as well as hundreds of thousands of COVID-19 tests. Served by a dedicated core of over 400 volunteers and employees who rolled up their sleeves to play their part in ending the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kedren has strived to create a unique medical experience. We want people to experience the "Kedren Way" where we treat people like people. Building an atmosphere that's more akin to a weekend at Coachella than an exam

room, Kedren has transformed the medical experience. We take pride in our ability to respect the dignity and worth of each individual: providing music, laughter, food, and when needed a shoulder to cry on. We're working not only to cure the COVID-19 crisis but the mental health burden that COVID-19 has plagued our communities with, a weight disproportionately burdened by our black and brown communities of South LA.

Kedren Vaccines is a Center for Excellence and Exemplary Role Model for Equitable Vaccine Distribution. Removing every barrier between people and their vaccine: no appointment--that's ok. No internet, no address, no ID, you can't see, hear, talk, walk--no transportation--it didn't matter, Kedren found a way to get you vaccinated. These directives led to national notoriety, culminating with the program director Dr. Jerry Abraham delivering testimony before the US Senate Health Committee on the subject of equitable vaccine distribution, as well as a gubernatorial visit by Gavin Newsom and Mayoral Visit by Eric Garcetti (in addition to countless other leaders and media coverage).

At Kedren Vaccines, we engage, educate, vaccinate, and activate our patients. Engagement is about meeting people where they are:

actively listening, hearing their reservations and concerns, and seeing how best we can serve their needs. Education requires active learning not only from the patient but also staff, requiring constant updates on the latest recommendations and best practices. Vaccination is getting a shot of life-saving essential medicine into the patients' arms, and empowering patients by offering them their choice of vaccine. Activate--we encourage all of our patients to go out, get a friend, a neighbor, a cousin vaccinated, not be another passive participant but be actively engaged with the community. Kedren empowers you with the information to be an agent for change.

At Kedren, we've developed a mobile vaccination program to meet people where they live, work, worship, play, go to school and serving the homebound. Kedren has dubbed this the "Democratization of Health." We're striving to eliminate all barriers, all burdens, that needlessly stand in the way between people and their health.

We're also working on life beyond COVID-19. We see these vaccines as a 'gateway drug' to Primary Care, Mental Health, and Preventive Services. Where are we going? We are building a comprehensive, integrated health ecosystem that blends and aligns individual

and community health. Truly, we are creating whole person and whole community care. We're committed to laying down and building up public health infrastructure and revolutionized healthcare delivery, so that the carnage and atrocities of this pandemic don't occur again in our community.

Serving our community takes creativity and collaboration. Kedren is proud to have initiated partnerships with a myriad of community-based organizations as well as public-private partnerships for COVID-19 vaccinations. We would like to thank all our community and the 300,000+ individuals who rolled up their sleeve and took their shot and the over 400+ who rolled up both their sleeves and helped get our community vaccinated.

Building on this success, together we're going to take care outside of the traditional four walls of hospitals and clinics and bring health to people where they are in public housing developments, factories, houses of worship, parks and community centers, and schools. The Future is Bright!



Dr. Jerry P Abraham is the director of Kedren Vaccines in South Los Angeles.

Congratulations to Health Net's Martha Santana-Chin!

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The Importance of Having a Trusted Advisor When Dealing with Complex Healthcare M&A Deals

Intrepid Co-Heads of Healthcare, Adam Abramowitz and Jonathan Bluth are honored to accept the Los Angeles Business Journal's award as "2021's Trusted Advisors in Healthcare." As leaders of the eight-person healthcare M&A group at Intrepid, one of the largest and longest-tenured M&A advisory firms in the Western U.S., Adam and Jonathan have helped establish a healthcare ecosystem within Los Angeles and beyond that positions their clients to unlock optimal valuations with ideal partners.

Through networking events and Webinars, branded under the "Medicate" theme, Adam and Jonathan offer a unique pathway for their clients to prepare for M&A events by routinely bringing together established industry veterans and private equity investors with high-potential emerging executives for collaborative discussions and business development. Despite the unforeseen challenges of the past year, Intrepid's Healthcare Group successfully guided clients to complete transactions in telehealth, concierge medicine, outsourced pharma services, contract manufacturing, and aesthetics, with more than 10 active engagements underway that span the entire healthcare industry.

Highly Competitive Process for a Coveted Bioanalytical Lab with Untapped Global Potential for Its Proprietary Technology

Intrepid served as the exclusive financial advisor to Mosaic Laboratories, a Lake Forest, Calif.-based provider of bio-analytical testing services for pharmaceutical companies, on its acquisition by Caprion-HistoGeneX (later rebranded as CellCarta), a leading provider of specialized precision medicine laboratory services to the biopharmaceutical industry, and a portfolio company of Arsenal Capital Partners.

Mosaic pioneered proprietary multiplex immunohistochemistry (IHC) methods that provide a superior ability to evaluate multiple biomarkers in a single tissue section and built a reputation among the world's leading pharmaceutical companies to produce the most vivid IHC biomarker images. Mosaic's technology enables biopharma companies to better evaluate their drug candidates in a more efficient manner with massive untapped global potential.

Chris Kerfoot, co-founder and managing member of Mosaic, commented, "Intrepid's Healthcare team completed an extensive outreach which yielded tremendous interest and

helped us thoughtfully navigate the deal process during a complex COVID environment."

Leveraging the Power of Specialized Telehealth for a High-Profile Strategic Combination with Hims & Hers Health

Intrepid served as the exclusive financial advisor to Apostrophe, a leading tele dermatology platform, on its sale to Hims & Hers Health, Inc. (NYSE: HIMS). Based in Oakland, Calif., Apostrophe is a direct-to-patient tele dermatology platform that provides individuals with access to tailored, clinical-quality treatment plans that are prescribed by board-certified dermatologists.

Apostrophe built a specialized telehealth platform and vertically integrated pharmacy solution to address patient needs efficiently and conveniently in a single solution. Hims & Hers is a leading multi-specialty telehealth platform focused on providing modern personalized health and wellness experiences to consumers, which became a public company via a SPAC in early 2021.

Ben Holber, co-founder and CEO of Apostrophe, shared, "The Intrepid team was there for us every step of the way and was a trusted source of advice as we navigated this process."

Intrepid's Unique Client Value Add

Adam and Jonathan have deployed a novel process for their clients and prospects to consider possible future M&A events. For several years, Intrepid has hosted a series of carefully curated networking events that bring together established deal professionals from some of the country's largest healthcare companies, healthcare-focused financial sponsors, and senior executives from the most exciting emerging regional leaders.

"Medicate" empowers clients and prospects to learn about the M&A process in a safe, trusted environment from industry thought leaders. During the past year, Intrepid pivoted these events from in-person meetings into convenient and intimate virtual discussions. Recent topics included revenue cycle management, opportunities in diagnostics, and private equity investment opportunities post-COVID. Building upon the momentum that these events generate, Intrepid's entire Healthcare Group is actively advising on multiple transactions for clients across the U.S.

To learn more, visit intrepidib.com.

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Scientists Develop Faster COVID-19 Test

Scientists at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have developed a new sample preparation method to detect SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. The method bypasses extraction of the virus' genetic RNA material, simplifying sample purification and potentially reducing test time and cost. The method is the result of a collaboration among researchers at the National Eye Institute (NEI), the NIH Clinical Center (CC), and the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR).

Diagnostic testing remains a crucial tool in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Standard tests for detection of SARS-CoV-2 involve amplifying viral RNA to detectable levels using a technique called quantitative reverse transcription PCR (RT-qPCR). But first, the RNA must be extracted from the sample. Manufacturers of RNA extraction kits have had difficulty keeping up with demand during the COVID-19 pandemic, hindering testing capacity worldwide. With new virus variants emerging, the need for better, faster tests is greater than ever.

A team led by Robert B. Hufnagel, M.D., Ph.D., chief of the NEI Medical Genetics and Ophthalmic Genomic Unit, and Bin Guan, Ph.D., a fellow at the Ophthalmic Genomics Laboratory at NEI, used a chelating agent



made by the lab supply company Bio-Rad called Chelex 100 resin to preserve SARS-CoV-2 RNA in samples for detection by RT-qPCR.

"We used nasopharyngeal and saliva samples with various virion concentrations to evaluate whether they could be used for direct RNA detection," said Guan, the lead author of a report on the technique, which published this week in *iScience*. "The answer was yes, with markedly high sensitivity. Also, this preparation

inactivated the virus, making it safer for lab personnel to handle positive samples."

Hufnagel's team made their discovery by testing a variety of chemicals using synthetic and human samples to identify those that could preserve the RNA in samples with minimal degradation while allowing direct detection of the virus by RT-qPCR.

To validate the test, NIDCR's Blake M. Warner, D.D.S., Ph.D., M.P.H., and his team collected patient samples and stored them

in either viral transport media, or the newly developed chelating-resin-buffer at the NIH Symptomatic Testing Facility.

The samples in viral transport media were tested by the COVID-19 testing team at NIH's Clinical Center, led by Karen M. Frank, M.D., Ph.D., using conventional RNA extraction and RT-qPCR testing. The samples in the chelating-resin-buffer were heated and the viral RNA was, then, tested by RT-qPCR. The new preparation significantly increased the RNA yield available for testing, compared to the standard method.

"We think this novel methodology has clear benefits of increasing sensitivity, cost and time savings for testing," said Hufnagel, "The method stabilizes the RNA at room temperature for easier transport, storage, and handling in clinical settings."

NEI has protected the intellectual property around this technology and is seeking partners for co-development/licensing.

The National Institutes of Health Clinical Center (CC), America's research hospital, is located on the NIH campus in Bethesda, Md. Through clinical research, clinician-investigators translate laboratory discoveries into better treatments, therapies and interventions to improve the nation's health. For more information, visit clinicalcenter.nih.gov.

LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL

HEALTH CARE SPOTLIGHT

ALIGN YOUR BUSINESS WITH OUR EXTENSIVE **HEALTH CARE** PORTFOLIO

The **Los Angeles Business Journal** continues to recognize the important role the health care industry has played in providing the best medical care to our affluent readers. LA is home to so many world-class medical treatment and research centers and our readers are fortunate to have access to such exceptional care and choices. We are committed to educating our readers so they can be informed and lead healthier lives.

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