

community-based, not-for-profit



Rendering of the Behring Pavilion, John Muir Health, Walnut Creek Medical Center



Rendering of the UCSF-John Muir Health Jean and Ken Hofmann Cancer Center

BRIEFINGS

Transforming Cancer Care

VISIONARY DONORS PAVE THE WAY FOR THE UCSF-JOHN MUIR HEALTH CANCER CENTER

Thanks to two generous donors, John Muir Health is poised for a groundbreaking leap in cancer care.

The Hofmann Family Foundation's extraordinary \$25 million gift, the largest ever received by John Muir Health, will establish the UCSF-John Muir Health Jean and Ken Hofmann Cancer Center, and will propel advancements in cancer care, clinical trials, research, and support services in designated locations of the UCSF-John Muir Health Cancer Network.

The Behring Global Educational Foundation's (BGEF) remarkable \$20 million gift secured the naming rights for establishing the Behring Pavilion, which will house the Jean and Ken Hofmann Cancer Center.

These remarkable gifts are pivotal in providing cutting-edge treatments and a beacon of hope for cancer patients in the East Bay. As the Behring Pavilion prepares to open in February 2024, the impact of these visionary organizations is a testament to the effect of philanthropy in transforming health care now and for generations to come.

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE



Dr. Tiffany Svahn

MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF ONCOLOGY
JOHN MUIR HEALTH

PRESIDENT
JOHN MUIR HEALTH CANCER MEDICAL GROUP

BOARD MEMBER
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As the opening of the UCSF-John Muir Health Jean and Ken Hofmann Cancer Center draws closer, excitement in the community is building. The new Behring Pavilion, scheduled to open its doors in February 2024, will house the new state-of-the-art Cancer Center. There are many clinicians, leaders, and administrators working hard to ensure a smooth inauguration of what will be the pillar of premier cancer care in the East Bay.

The Cancer Center will bring together all of John Muir Health's cancer services, including Medical Oncology, Radiation Oncology, Specialty Oncology, Clinical Research, Infusion, Imaging, Pharmacy, Lab, Palliative Care, Genetic Counseling, Social Work, and Nutrition.

While these services already exist in the John Muir Health system, bringing them all together in one space will amplify their benefits and will allow for all of the care teams to work together in a cohesive, multi-disciplinary fashion.

The environment within the Jean and Ken Hofmann Cancer Center will be one of healing and natural beauty for our patients and visitors. While the building itself is very important, it is the people who will be practicing and the patients being treated inside the building that will elevate it to the very best level of care. Medical Oncology and Radiation Oncology services will be provided by clinicians and staff of the John Muir Health Cancer Medical Group—learn more in the Services Spotlight section of this newsletter.

Our partnership with UCSF Health will bring together leaders in the field of oncology and allow us to partner on education and research providing our patients with access to cutting-edge clinical trials and care while remaining close to home.

None of this would be possible without your continued and generous support of John Muir Health!

We look forward to welcoming you, our patients, our clinicians, our staff, and our community to this new, beautiful facility—come in and take a look!

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Multi-Disciplinary Breast Cancer Program Reaches a Significant Milestone

John Muir Health's Multi-Disciplinary Breast Cancer Program surpassed five years and has served nearly 1,000 patients. The unique program offers patients with breast cancer the opportunity to meet with a breast surgeon, medical oncologist, and radiation oncologist all in one day to develop an individualized treatment plan. Patients receive multiple medical opinions from a group of specialists, helping them feel confident that all options have been explored. For patients and their family members, the team approach reduces the anxiety and uncertainty of waiting days or weeks between individual appointments. The single-day setting minimizes the time between diagnosis and treatments, and allows patients to focus their energy on what is most important: getting well.

The Multi-Disciplinary Breast Cancer Program offers the most advanced therapies and the latest technologies available to diagnose and treat breast cancer. John Muir Health is proud of its accreditation by the Commission on Cancer (CoC) and the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC) and its recognition as a Breast Cancer Program that delivers the highest level of patient care with quality assurance practices that maintain it as a center of excellence. The health system's Radiation Oncology department is also nationally accredited by the American College of Radiology (ACR) and stays current with best practices and rapidly evolving treatment guidelines to provide the very best care to our patients.



Our goal is to ensure that patients receive the best treatment for their specific needs. Our multi-disciplinary approach leads to better outcomes with improved quality of life and survival rates for women and men with breast cancer.

—Dr. Tiffany Svahn

Medical Director of Oncology, John Muir Health
President, John Muir Health Cancer Medical Group



SERVICES SPOTLIGHT

World-Class Cancer Specialists Working Together

MEET SOME OF OUR CANCER SPECIALISTS

The John Muir Health Cancer Network continues to grow, with several significant steps forward in its vision to conquer cancer by improving prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care coordination for patients close to home.

One of those significant steps was establishing the John Muir Health Cancer Medical Group. In 2021, John Muir Health added three outstanding provider groups—Diablo Valley Oncology, Pacific Urology, and West Coast Surgical Associates—to expand the capabilities and excellence of its medical oncology, radiation oncology, hematology, and general and specialized surgical services.

Sarah Buenviaje, N.P.

My Work I have been an Oncology Nurse Practitioner for 27 years.

Why Oncology I can make a difference in a patient's life.

Hobbies Reading, exploring new restaurants, jigsaw puzzles, and fly fishing.



Gigi Chen, M.D.

My Work I see patients in the area of hematology and medical oncology. I also serve as the Medical Director of Oncology Research at John Muir Health. I enjoy working closely with my patients and their families through their diagnosis, treatments, and follow-ups.

Wish List To collaborate in more clinical trials so that patients do not need to travel to get the best trials for their cancer care.

Hobbies I enjoy traveling and learning about new cultures, and spending time with my family and children.



Christine Chung, M.D.

My Work As a radiation oncologist, I evaluate and treat cancer patients with radiation therapy. I consider it a privilege to help patients at a difficult moment in their lives.

Most Proud of The excellent care provided to our patients by the radiation oncology team, including our nurses, dosimetrists, physicists, and radiation therapists.

Hobbies I enjoy dancing, reading, and playing with my kids.



Babak Edraki, M.D.

My Work I am a gynecologic oncologist. I take care of patients with gynecologic cancers. My work revolves around the planning and implementation of treatments. Often, it includes complex surgeries as well as additional adjuvant therapy, if necessary.

Bucket List Seeing ovarian cancer disappear.

Hobbies Swimming, scuba diving, reading, community building through social service and activism.



Monica Eigelberger, M.D.

My Work I am a board-certified general surgeon with a primary focus on surgery for breast cancer and other premalignant breast lesions. I love to connect with patients and help relieve their fears and anxiety about their diagnosis. I try to treat each patient as if she were my mother, sister, or best friend.

Wish List More access to clinical trials for our patients without them having to travel to San Francisco.

Hobbies I spend most of my free time outdoors with my husband and two boys. We love skiing, mountain biking, swimming, hiking, and traveling.



Jewel Johl, M.D.

My Work I am a hematologist and medical oncologist. I diagnose and treat complex disorders of the blood and various cancers. I help patients navigate the complex and emotional journey of cancer treatment.

Most Proud of Providing comfort and reassurance during difficult times.

I recognize the emotional challenges faced by cancer patients and their families. I spend considerable time listening to my patients and providing guidance to alleviate their fears.

Hobbies Riding my road bike, hiking, traveling, painting, and plastering.



Arash Mohebati, M.D.

My Work I am a surgeon at John Muir Health, caring for patients with thyroid, head, and neck cancers. I have a particular interest in the surgical removal of thyroid cancer, nodal metastasis, and melanoma. As a surgical oncologist, I can positively impact people's lives with surgical intervention in treating their cancer.

Future of Oncology I am excited to be involved in the development of a comprehensive cancer center at John Muir Health, offering a collaborative and multidisciplinary approach to treating patients with complex cancers.

Hobbies Camping, skiing, and technology enthusiast.



Jeremy Lieb, M.D.

My Work After 20 years at John Muir Health as a urologist, I have learned to recognize the complexity of providing care to cancer patients. Simply understanding the treatment is only half the battle; the remainder is how to be a compassionate physician and provide comprehensive care to both the patient and their family.

Why Oncology The John Muir Health Cancer Medical Group is an incredible collection of top-quality doctors who can offer comprehensive care, which will greatly improve patient access to care and the quality of care delivered.

Hobbies Fishing, repairing old pinball and pachinko machines, working on my 1966 Thunderbird convertible, jazz, collecting Nike sneakers with my son, and cowboy boots.



James Rembert, M.D.

My Work I'm a radiation oncologist specializing primarily in Central Nervous System/Spine, genitourinary and gastrointestinal malignancies.

Why Oncology I had a lot of personal connections to oncology prior to medical school, losing both my father and brother to malignancies. These losses galvanized my interest in oncology.

Hobbies Traveling, cooking, and spending time outdoors with my family.



Lesley Martin, M.D.

My Work I take care of patients with blood disorders and cancer. I feel grateful to bear witness to the struggles, fears, desires, heartbreak, and joy of my patients and their families. Sometimes, the entire human experience happens during the journey through a diagnosis of cancer. I cannot imagine doing anything else.

Most Proud of My focus on educating patients and trying very hard to bring lightness and happiness into the clinic visit. Patients with cancer carry a heavy burden, and I'd like to help shoulder some of that load.

Hobbies I'm a political enthusiast. I like to spend time browsing small independent bookstores, and I really like hiking in the Oakland hills. But I really love crime podcasts.



Tiffany Svahn, M.D.

My Work I love working in oncology because it allows me to work in a field with cutting-edge research and treatments while also caring for my patient as a whole person, not just as a patient with a medical condition. Working as an oncologist is a privilege. Patients let me into their lives at a critical time, and I am able to walk alongside them during this difficult journey.

Most Proud of My two daughters—kind, intelligent young women who are socially and environmentally conscious, and active participants in the generation that will try to improve our world.

Hobbies Yoga and Pilates, reading, traveling, walking my dog, and spending time with family and friends.



OUT AND ABOUT

Philanthropy as a Foundation for Excellence

2023 Legacy Brunch

The 2023 Legacy Brunch was held on March 26 at the beautiful Lafayette Park Hotel. This was the first time since 2020 that the event was held in-person.

More than 50 longtime donors, many of whom have made formal beneficiary designations to John Muir Health in their estate plans, were treated to an engaging and interactive presentation from John Muir Health, President and CEO, Mike Thomas, about the value of excellence and the role of philanthropy in achieving John Muir Health's vision for success.



May and David Behring at the 2023 Legacy Brunch



Rupa and Shriram Parikh visit with a guest at the 2023 Legacy Brunch.



Mike Thomas, President and CEO, John Muir Health (top right), talking with Nevin E. Kessler, President, John Muir Health Foundation (bottom left).

A Conversation with Mike Thomas Presented on Zoom

On Wednesday, April 12, John Muir Health Foundation presented, *A Conversation with Mike Thomas*, an informative live virtual Town Hall event highlighting John Muir Health's vision for sustainable, high-quality health care today, tomorrow, and beyond.

Guests enjoyed a collaborative conversation with Mike as he shared the three primary priorities for the continued success of John Muir Health: Employee Engagement, Physician Alignment, and Financial Stewardship, of which philanthropy plays a critical role.

LEAVE YOUR LEGACY

Employee Laura Woltz's Enduring Gratitude to John Muir Health

Laura Woltz, a devoted longtime John Muir Health employee (29 years!), exemplifies the essence of giving back. After undergoing two knee surgeries at John Muir Health when she was 15 years old, and subsequently volunteering at John Muir Health as a teenager, Laura's connection to the organization runs deep, and she remains indebted for the exceptional care she received. Her unwavering commitment and gratitude to John Muir Health are commendable, as she generously donates monthly through employee payroll deductions and has also included provisions for John Muir Health in her estate plans. "I want John Muir Health to be there for me when I need it...not just for me," Laura comments, adding, "but also for my children, grandchildren, and for everyone in the community."

Laura's outstanding contributions during her tenure at John Muir Health have earned her numerous accolades and certificates. Her selflessness and dedication continue to make a significant impact on the lives of many, making her an inspiration to her colleagues, patients, and the community. Her story is a true testament to the transformative impact of philanthropy.

The benefits of an estate plan are:

- Provides peace of mind
- Avoids probate
- Provides clear instructions for loved ones to follow
- Reduces conflict/misunderstanding among heirs
- Facilitates care of minors
- Creates an opportunity for giving to your favorite charities

To create your free will today, visit: freewill.com/johnmuirhealthfoundation

or scan our QR Code to discover how simple planning can be.



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John Muir Health Employee Donor Laura Woltz at the 2023 Legacy Brunch

Create Your Own Legacy of Giving

Charitable estate planning can be financially beneficial for families and individuals of various ages and income levels.

Find out what planning a legacy gift to John Muir Health can do for you and your loved ones—now and in the future.

Gifts John Muir Health Can Use Today

- Appreciated Securities
- Real Estate
- Donor Advised Funds (DAF)

Gifts That Can Pay You Income and Reduce Taxes

- Charitable Gift Annuity
- Charitable Remainder Trust

Gifts That Take Effect After Your Lifetime

- Bequest
- Retained Life Estate
- Charitable Beneficiary Designations
 - Life Insurance
 - Retirement Plan



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WHY I GIVE

From Caregiver to Patient: A Journey of Strength and Healing

Nazreen Celestial is a John Muir Health oncology nurse manager. In her 20-year tenure, she has witnessed firsthand the courageous battles faced by those suffering from the effects of cancer. So, when she was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2021, she thought she knew what to expect.

“But being a patient myself,” says Nazreen, “I realized how difficult it was to hear the words, ‘you have cancer.’ And although I work with cancer patients every day, I was still very scared and knew the treatment would be rigorous.”

Nazreen found strength in her family, friends, and John Muir Health colleagues. “Cancer touches all of us in some way, whether through our own



Cancer touches all of us in some way, whether through our own experiences or those we love.

—Nazreen Celestial

experiences or those we love,” Nazreen says. “It’s a disease that knows no bounds and can strike at any time.”

Nazreen shares that she has a renewed sense of purpose and perspective. “As a nurse, I have always been passionate about helping others, especially cancer patients, but now I know intimately the importance of early detection, the power of hope, and the value of access to quality care,” says Nazreen. “This is a fight you can’t do alone.”

To amplify her desire to help cancer patients, Nazreen is now a John Muir Health Employee Giving Champion, dedicated to encouraging her fellow employees to support the new UCSF-John Muir Health Jean and Ken Hofmann Cancer Center, which will greatly benefit cancer patients and their families beginning in 2024...and for many future generations.