



# Your Questions...Our Answers

## Voices from the Medical Directors at Pacific Shores Medical Group

### What is Pacific Shores Medical Group?

Pacific Shores Medical Group is our private practice and consists of a hematology/oncology medical practice entirely dedicated to the care of patients with cancer or blood disorders. With 12 hematologists/oncologists on staff working together with over 100 oncology professionals, ours is among the largest hematology/oncology practices in the United States and the world.

### Where are you located and what hospitals are you affiliated with?

We have five offices located in San Gabriel, Glendale, Long Beach, Los Alamitos, and Huntington Beach. We have specific physicians and staff assigned to each of the offices and hospitals, and this provides steady continuity of care. On the other hand, the entire group functions as a unit as we communicate on an ongoing basis, and that adds to the experience and strength of the entire team. As specialists, we are attending physicians at many hospitals:

- Garfield Medical Center, Monterey Park • Glendale Adventist Medical Center, Glendale
- Glendale Memorial Medical Center, Glendale • Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian, Newport Beach
- Long Beach Memorial Medical Center, Long Beach • Los Alamitos Medical Center, Los Alamitos
- Orange Coast Memorial Medical Center, Fountain Valley • Pacific Hospital, Long Beach
- San Gabriel Valley Medical Center, San Gabriel • St. Mary Medical Center, Long Beach • Verdugo Hills Hospital, Glendale

Our main focus is to provide patients with the best possible care, and we are fortunate to be affiliated with the finest hospitals in our region. In addition, when necessary, we will refer the patient to the center we consider will provide the best care anywhere in the country. When it comes to offering our patient the best options available, we will not limit ourselves in any way.

### What insurance plans do you accept?

As one of the largest hematology/oncology groups, naturally we work with a wide range of health plans. A selection of the most common ones is listed below.

#### MAJOR INSURANCE CARRIERS AND PLANS

|                             |                                  |                              |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Admar                       | Cigna PPO                        | Medicare                     |
| Aetna                       | C.C.N., (Custom Care Network)    | Multiplan                    |
| American Benefit Plan Adm   | First Health                     | One Health Plan (Great West) |
| Beech Street and Capp Care  | Galaxy Health Network            | Pacificare PPO               |
| BPS Health Care             | GEHA (Government Employees       | PHCS                         |
| Black Lung Provider         | Hospital Association, Inc.)      | PPO Alliance (One Source)    |
| Blue Cross PPO and Medi-Cal | GHI, (Group Health Incorporated) | PPO Next (Formerly PHN)      |
| Blue Shield                 | Health Net                       | Tricare (Champus)            |
| California Advantage        | Interplan PPO (PROAMERCA)        | United Healthcare            |
| Choice Care                 | LA Foundation for Med. Care      |                              |



(Left) Kalust Ucar, MD and Simon Tchekmedyan, MD

### Do you have clinical trials as treatment options?

Indeed we have one of the broadest and deepest clinical research programs in the country. A selected list of our major clinical trials currently available is on page 13-14. These trials cover a wide range of disease types, including cancers that are commonly seen as well as less frequent ones. The latter include thyroid cancer, kidney cancer, pancreatic cancer, malignant melanoma, ovarian cancer, and others. For example, we are conducting clinical trials of the investigational medication AMG 706 in thyroid cancer, sorafenib in kidney cancer, the PANVAC vaccine trial for pancreatic cancer, and CTLA 4 in melanoma. In addition, we have clinical trials that focus on the quality of the life of patients, and we have been working intensely on that front for the last 20 years.

We devote great efforts to this program. Over the last 20 years, we have led or participated in over 300 clinical trials leading to the approval of many new and effective cancer treatments, as well as new therapies that enhance or improve the quality of life of patients. We are thankful to the patients who have participated, as well as to our entire team, for this effort.

### Is there room for fun in an oncology/hematology practice?

A bit of humor can go a long way in order to reduce fear, anxiety, and stress. There is a lot of laughter in our practice. Over the years, our team has developed a trustworthy, friendly, and mutually respectful bond with our patients, and so many of them tell us how they enjoy visiting with us and even coming for their treatments. There is also friendly communication among patients who share their experiences. The ability to obtain information through personal conversations, as well as through interactions at the various support groups, in many instances, helps diffuse the fear and anxiety when facing the unknown. We also have our hugely successful patient parties. Indeed, we have the patient recognition parties in the summer, which are theme parties, and our holiday celebration parties in December. We have had these parties for many years; hundreds of patients attend and enjoy the entertainment and each other's company.