



LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL  
**HEALTH CARE**  
2024 **LEADERSHIP AWARDS**

**THE HONOREES,  
FINALISTS & NOMINEES**  
**2024**

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LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL  
**HEALTH CARE**  
 2024 LEADERSHIP AWARDS



## Letter from the Publisher



**H**ealth care leaders in our region have, in recent years, been asked to do get particularly creative while accomplishing countless essential tasks and helping pioneer innovative new technologies and treatment protocols. The leaders of this industry have had transformational decisions to make every day and we all owe them a debt of gratitude.

The importance of the leaders and teams who are running health care organizations and making key decisions to help improve our communities cannot be overstated. This section of the Los Angeles Business Journal is designed to honor the particularly outstanding leaders in health care for our region. These individuals, organizations and programs have made remarkable strides helping Los Angeles (and beyond) to provide outstanding levels of care and treatment while fighting to help us navigate through uncharted waters and beyond.

Included in this special section you are reading now are spotlights on the honorees we celebrated as part of our annual Health Care Leadership Symposium & Awards event on Wednesday, August 21st at the Biltmore Los Angeles.

Before launching the awards ceremony, the event brought together a diverse group of elite health industry insiders for a panel discussion about everything from providing to underserved populations to the biggest challenges the system is facing to the overall impact new protocols are having on Southern California, and much more.

The esteemed panel included insights from **John Baackes** (L.A. Care Health Plan); **George Greene** (Hospital Association of Southern California); **Rod Hanners** (Keck Medicine of USC); **Johnese Spisso** (UCLA Health); and **Paul Viviano** (Children's Hospital Los Angeles).

During the award ceremony portion of the event, 13 inspirational honoree organizations and individuals were announced and are highlighted in this section. We applaud each of them, as well as the impactful collection of finalists, also recognized 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.

Best regards,

Josh Schimmels  
 Publisher & CEO

## CONGRATULATIONS!



**TOM PRISELAC**  
 President and CEO, Cedars-Sinai



**JOHN BAACKES**  
 Chief Executive Officer, L.A. Care Health Plan



**GEORGE GREENE, ESQ.**  
 President and CEO, Hospital Association of Southern California

**The Hospital Association of Southern California is proud to honor the recipients of the Lifetime Excellence in Healthcare Award, our distinguished leader, and all the outstanding honorees who have significantly enhanced healthcare delivery in Southern California.**



**Communities Lifting Communities (CLC)** would like to recognize and thank **Tom Priselac**, President and CEO, Cedars-Sinai, for a lifetime of service and for supporting CLC's mission since its inception. With the help of your leadership, we have advanced systems change and promoted intercultural health equity. **Congratulations!**





**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL**

**UCLA Health honorees of the Los Angeles  
Business Journal Health Care Leadership Awards**



**Johnese Spisso, MPA**

President, UCLA Health  
CEO, UCLA Hospital System  
Associate Vice Chancellor, UCLA Health Sciences  
**Winner, CEO of the Year**

**UCLA Health Medical Centers**

Finalist, Top Medical Center of the Year

**Keith Vossel, MD**

Nominee, Outstanding HC Innovator of the Year

**The Homeless Healthcare Collaborative**

Nominee, Outstanding Community Outreach



# INDIVIDUAL NOMINEES



**JOHN BAACKES**  
Chief Executive Officer  
L.A. Care Health Plan



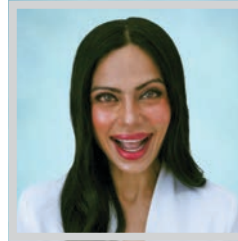
**STEVE BARBER**  
President of Disability Services  
24 Hour Home Care



**SIGMAR BERG**  
Author and CEO  
Lovetuner



**HOWARD BERGER**  
CEO  
RadNet



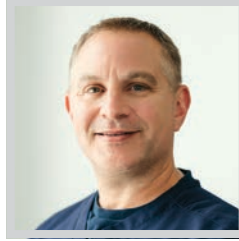
**KAVITHA BHATIA**  
President and Chair, Prime Healthcare  
Foundation; Chief Medical Officer of  
Strategy, Prime Healthcare



**SUNNY BHATIA**  
President & Corporate CMO  
Prime Healthcare



**CARYN BRADLEY**  
CEO  
NeoCare Innovations Inc.



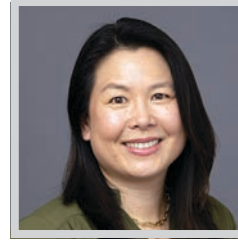
**SCOTT BRAUSTEIN**  
National Medical Director  
Sollis Health



**DANIEL CASTOR**  
Physician Scientist  
Harbor UCLA Lolita Family Medical Center



**GINA CHANG**  
Principal  
CO Architects



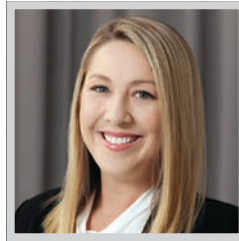
**HUNVEY CHEN**  
Regional Leader of Healthcare  
HOK



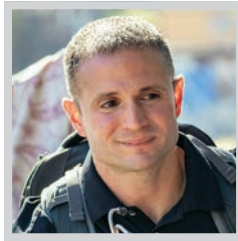
**RAM DANDILLAYA**  
Clinical Chief  
Atelier Health



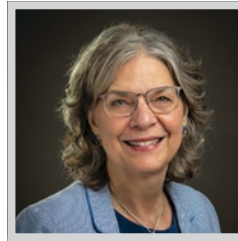
**KATHRYN EDGERTON**  
Member  
Mintz



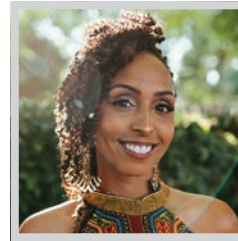
**CARLIE ELWELL**  
Senior Regional Director of Healthcare  
Servicon



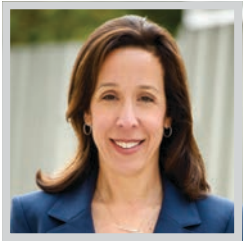
**BRETT FELDMAN**  
Director of Street Medicine; Clinical  
Associate Professor of Family Medicine  
(Clinician Educator)  
Keck School of Medicine of USC



**DEBORAH FERRINGTON**  
Chief Scientific Officer  
Doheny Eye Institute



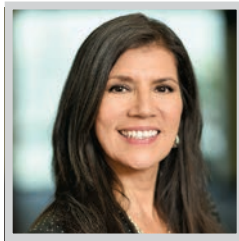
**NAKEYA FIELDS**  
Founder and Executive Director  
Therapeutic Play Foundation



**CARRIE FOGLIANI**  
President  
General Counsel West



**PAUL GILBERT**  
Orthopaedic Surgeon  
Keck Medicine of USC



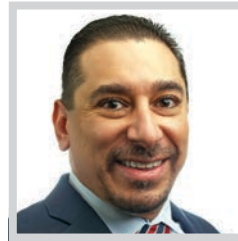
**MARISSA GOLDBERG**  
CEO  
Doheny Eye Institute



**JAY GOSS**  
General Partner  
Wavemaker Three-Sixty Health



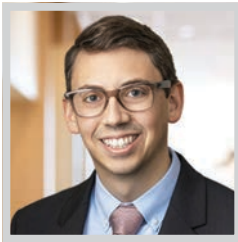
**GEORGE GREENE**  
President / CEO  
Hospital Association  
of Southern California



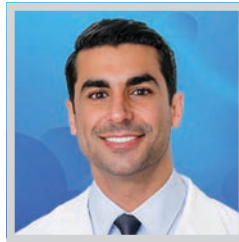
**SHERIF HANNA**  
Chief Executive Officer  
HRC Fertility



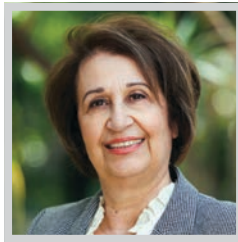
**ROD HANNERS**  
CEO  
Keck Medicine of USC



**ADAM HEPWORTH**  
Partner  
Foley & Lardner LLP



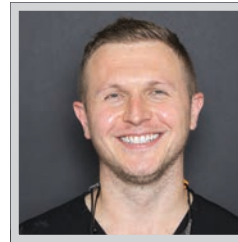
**JUSTIN HOUMAN**  
Medical Director  
Bastion Health



**ALICE ISSAI**  
President  
Adventist Health Glendale



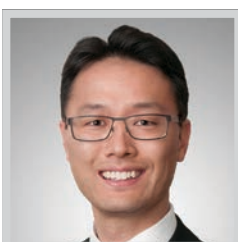
**AZAR KATTAN**  
Chief Operations Officer  
Harbor-UCLA Medical Center



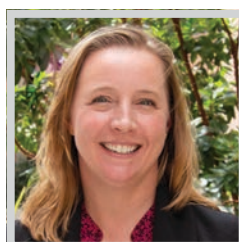
**SEAN KUTLAY**  
Owner and Principal Practitioner  
Dr. Sean Kutlay D.D.S.



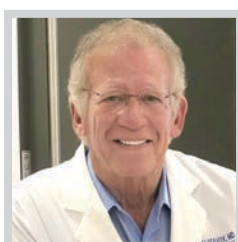
**BARRY LANDSBERG**  
Partner  
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP



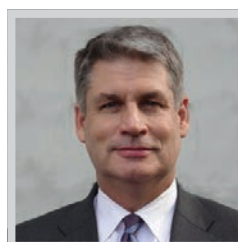
**DAVIS LEE**  
Chief Medical Information Officer and  
Chief Innovation Officer  
PIH Health



**ANNIE LEHATTO**  
Senior Medical Planner  
HOK



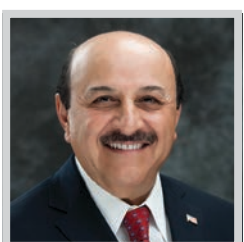
**MALCOLM LESAVOY**  
American Board of Plastic Surgery  
Certified Surgeon  
Lesavoy Plastic Surgery



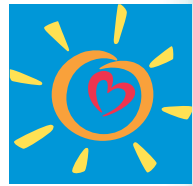
**M. SCOTT LIEBERENZ**  
Chief Financial Officer  
Children's Hospital of Los Angeles



**JON MARASHI**  
DDS, APDC  
Dr. Jon Marashi



**EDWARD MIRZABEGIAN**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Antelope Valley Medical Center



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# INDIVIDUAL NOMINEES



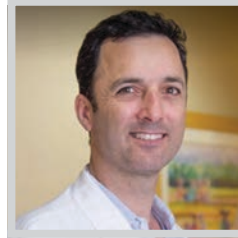
**LYNSEY MITCHEL**  
Partner  
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP



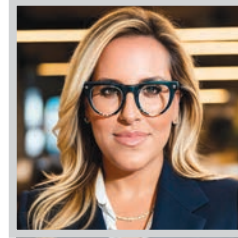
**ALINA MORAN**  
President and CEO  
Dignity Health-California Hospital Medical Center



**JORGE NIEVA**  
Medical Oncologist and Lung Cancer Specialist  
USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center



**JONATHAN NISSANOFF**  
Medical Doctor  
Nedavah Foundation



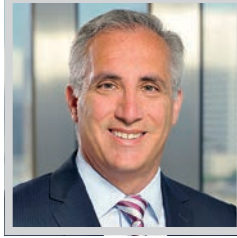
**JESSICA NOUHAVANDI**  
President  
Honeybee Health



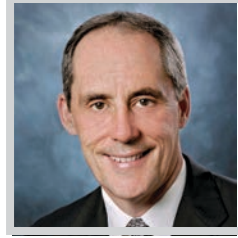
**BABRY OREN**  
Founder, CEO  
BAO Health Resources Corp.



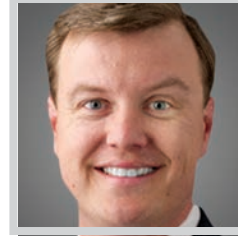
**GLENN PASCUAL**  
Director of Operations  
Kaiser Permanente West Los Angeles



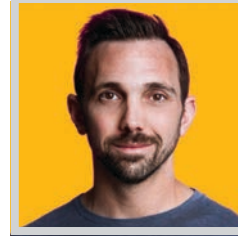
**GREGORY PIMSTONE**  
Partner  
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP



**TOM PRISELAC**  
CEO  
Cedars-Sinai



**TIM REIMERS**  
Partner  
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP



**JOSH SACKMAN**  
President and Co-Founder  
AppliedVR



**MARTY SARGEANT**  
CEO  
Keck Medical Center of USC, part of Keck Medicine of USC



**DOROTHY SELESKI**  
Vice President of Medi-Cal Product Performance  
Health Net



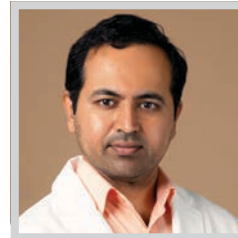
**ROGER SHARMA**  
President & CEO  
Emanate Health



**WENDY SMITH**  
Psychotherapist / Retired Clinical Professor of Social Work & Associate Dean of Curriculum Development & Assessment  
USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work



**JOHNESE SPISSO**  
President, UCLA Health; CEO, UCLA Hospital System



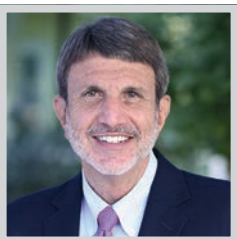
**VASU SUNKARA**  
Medical Director - IPA  
AltaMed



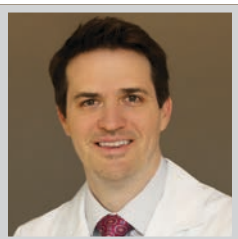
**ANNETTE SY**  
Chief Nursing Executive  
Keck Medical Center of USC



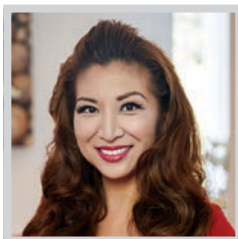
**JAYCEON "THE GAME" TAYLOR**  
The Game / Cal Dental USA



**PAUL VIVIANO**  
President & CEO  
Children's Hospital Los Angeles



**KEITH VOSSEL**  
Director, Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer's Research and Care  
UCLA HEALTH



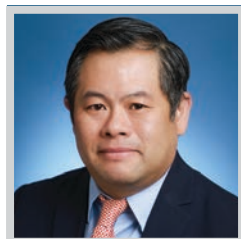
**PANNEY WEI**  
General Partner  
Harpe Ventures



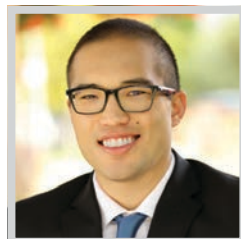
**JAMES WEST**  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
PIH Health



**MARGO WILLIAMS**  
Respite Care Health Worker  
Cambrian Homecare



**PHIL WONG**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Gateways Hospital and Mental Health Center



**BRIAN WU**  
Director of Psychiatry  
Executive Mental Health Psychiatry

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL'S 2024 HEALTH CARE LEADERSHIP NOMINEES

Keck Medicine of USC is proud to honor our leaders and programs recognized by the Los Angeles Business Journal at the Health Care Leadership Symposium & Awards. The outstanding work of our teams is focused on one goal — delivering world-class care tailored specifically for our patients.

**Together we are Limitless**



**Rod Hanners**  
CEO  
Keck Medicine of USC  
Health Care Executive of the Year



**Inderbir Gill, MD**  
Founding Executive Director  
USC Urology  
Outstanding New Health Care Product  
or Service of the Year for its AI-automated  
Physician Co-Pilot led by Dr. Gill





LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL  
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 2024 LEADERSHIP AWARDS

ORGANIZATION NOMINEES



100 BLACK MEN OF LONG BEACH INC.



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ADVANCED ONCOLOGY REDONDO BEACH



ANTELOPE VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER



APPLIEDVR



CAL DENTAL USA / THE GAME



CEDARS-SINAI



Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science



CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL LOS ANGELES



CITY OF HOPE



DENTAL ASSOCIATES OF TORRANCE



DOHENY EYE INSTITUTE



EMANATE HEALTH



EXECUTIVE MENTAL HEALTH PSYCHIATRY



GARFIELD HEALTH CENTER



HARBOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS



HARBOR UCLA MEDICAL CENTER



HRC FERTILITY



KECK MEDICAL CENTER OF USC, PART OF KECK MEDICINE OF USC



KECK MEDICINE OF USC



L.A. CARE HEALTH PLAN



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MEDVECTOR CLINICAL TRIALS



MOLINA HEALTHCARE



ODOM RECOVERY



OXY DENTAL



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REVELEER



SOLLIS HEALTH



SOUTH CENTRAL FAMILY HEALTH CENTER



SPEAR RECOVERY



SUTTER HEALTH



UCLA HEALTH HOMELESS HEALTHCARE COLLABORATIVE



USC NORRIS COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER



USC VERDUGO HILLS HOSPITAL



WOMEN'S SHELTER LONG BEACH



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CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY  
FOR OVER 135 YEARS

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LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL  
**HEALTH CARE**  
 2024 LEADERSHIP AWARDS

# INDIVIDUAL AWARDS



LIFETIME EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH CARE HONOREE

## JOHN BAACKES

Chief Executive Officer  
 L.A. Care Health Plan

Since taking the helm at L.A. Care Health Plan in 2014, CEO John Baackes' visionary leadership, relentless dedication and commitment to advancing health equity have made a lasting impact on L.A. Care's members, providers and employees.

Recognizing that non-medical factors can significantly impact health outcomes, Baackes has prioritized reinvesting in the community to address the health and social needs of its members and their communities, including generous support for the safety net providers who serve L.A. Care members.

One of the ways L.A. Care is building healthier communities thanks to Baackes' leadership is the Community Health Investment Fund (CHIF), which strengthens community health and fills gaps in health coverage for low-income Angelenos. To date, CHIF has invested \$138 million via 970 grants to support programs that improve the health and support the social needs of under-resourced community members. Also, L.A. Care's Elevating the Safety Net initiative is designed to address a looming physician shortage. The \$205 million initiative is comprised of programs to train, recruit and retain diverse and highly qualified primary care physicians for the LA County safety net. Another impactful success is L.A. Care's Community Resource Centers are jointly operated with Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan. L.A. Care has invested \$71 million in 14 centers, which provide a range of health-focused classes, programs and services that promote the well-being of members and the communities where they live.

Baackes also currently serves as chairman of the Board for Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science located in South Los Angeles. It is the only federally designated institution on the "Historically Black Colleges and Universities" list west of Texas.



**GATEWAYS HOSPITAL**  
 AND MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

[www.gatewayshospital.org](http://www.gatewayshospital.org)

## Improving the health and wellbeing of Los Angeles' underserved community

*by bridging the gap among physical, behavioral and emotional illnesses*

*Founded in 1953, Gateways Hospital and Mental Health Center has been providing comprehensive mental health services across the greater Los Angeles area for seven decades. Gateways Hospital's qualified healthcare professionals treat all mental health conditions, providing a spectrum of care that includes outpatient, residential, forensic, and inpatient treatment, and covers children from ages 6 up to adult to and throughout adulthood.*



Gateways Hospital's primary campus is in Echo Park, with outlying programs housed in cottages and multi-unit buildings throughout Los Angeles. Children, adolescents, and adults access a full range of mental health services treating diagnoses such as depression and schizophrenia, as well as bipolar, adjustment, and behavior disorders. Gateways Hospital's newest achievement is the opening of our psychology

testing lab allowing the community access to state-of-the-art comprehensive psychodiagnostics testing that can enable individuals to access a variety of resources and inform treatment planning.

Gateways Hospital and Mental Health Center is proud of the work we do. We look forward to hearing from you about ways we can collaborate, provide needed services, and offer valuable information about mental health services.

Gateways is proud to support the  
**LA BUSINESS JOURNAL**  
**Health Care**  
 LEADERSHIP PANEL & AWARDS



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LIFETIME EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH CARE HONOREE

## TOM PRISELAC

CEO  
Cedars-Sinai

Tom Priselac, CEO of Cedars-Sinai, exemplifies the very essence of excellence in health care, due to a career built on exceptional leadership, a commitment to patient-centered care and a vision for a healthier future. Priselac’s leadership has demonstrably improved the lives of patients and community. Under his guidance, Cedars-Sinai has achieved significant strides in healthcare. This commitment to excellence extends beyond clinical care, with Priselac fostering a culture of innovation and collaboration that empowers staff to deliver exceptional service.

Priselac, who recently announced his plans to retire, has demonstrated leadership over the last 30 years as Cedars-Sinai’s president and CEO. He significantly expanded the scope and quality of its clinical, educational, research and community benefit programs, has announced his plans to retire. Under Priselac’s leadership, Cedars-Sinai developed from a well-known regional hospital into one of the nation’s highest-regarded academic health systems, broadening its services throughout the region to enable more Southern California residents to access high-quality healthcare.

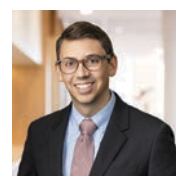
Priselac also greatly expanded the institution’s focus on medical research and education, leading to many scientific advances that have benefited patients around the world, while providing training for thousands of physicians and other healthcare professionals. Throughout his tenure as president and CEO, he focused on improving the health of the region’s underserved communities, establishing hundreds of partnerships with local community organizations designed to strengthen them and those they serve.

Priselac is also a health care leader who has always inspired trust and confidence. His unwavering commitment to ethical decision-making and patient well-being has positioned Cedars-Sinai as a beacon of quality care.



# Recognizing Success

Foley is proud to congratulate our colleague, Adam Hepworth, *Los Angeles Business Journal’s* 2024 Health Care Leadership Awards as Trusted Advisor of the Year nominee.



For more information about Foley, please contact:  
Adam Hepworth | Los Angeles | [ahepworth@foley.com](mailto:ahepworth@foley.com)

[FOLEY.COM](http://FOLEY.COM)

**FOLEY**  
FOLEY & LARDNER LLP





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 2024 LEADERSHIP AWARDS

# INDIVIDUAL AWARDS



HEALTH CARE EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR HONOREE

## ROD HANNERS

CEO  
 Keck Medicine of USC

**R**od Hanners, CEO of Keck Medicine of USC, oversees USC's clinical activities, including USC Care Medical Group (Keck Medicine's network of physicians who provide outpatient services and procedures); Keck Medical Center, which includes Keck Hospital and USC Norris Cancer Hospital; USC Verdugo Hills Hospital; USC Arcadia Hospital; and more than more than 100 unique clinics in Los Angeles, Orange, Kern, Tulare and Ventura counties, as well as Las Vegas.

Hanners is highly regarded for promoting a culture of trust and teamwork and is deeply committed to ensuring that physicians and staff receive the support they need to care for themselves and provide exceptional patient care.

Under Hanners' leadership, Keck Medicine continues its exponential growth and expansion as well as is nationally recognized for excellence. For example, in the fall of 2023, Keck Hospital earned five stars, the highest rating possible, on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) 2023 quality star rating report. Only approximately 16% of hospitals across the country, 483 out of 3,076, received five stars out of a one-to-five-star rating system.

Hanners also led Keck Medicine through the launch of its new transplant clinic in Las Vegas for pre- and post-transplant care. Up until now, most patients in the area had to find services out of state. He also oversaw Keck Medicine's topping off (putting the last beam on construction) for the state-of-the-art medical complex in Pasadena that will bring 100,000 square feet of services to the San Gabriel Valley when it is finished in the spring of 2025.



**HOWARD BERGER**  
 FINALIST  
 CEO  
 RadNet

**H**oward Berger, MD, began his career as a physician and along the way, became a visionary in healthcare. He saw that screening and diagnostic imaging procedures were fundamental to finding and treating diseases early and that access to these services should be available to everyone, in every community. Dr. Berger continues to be at the forefront of improving the lives of people in the Los Angeles community and beyond.

In 1980, Dr. Berger founded RadNet based upon a model of outpatient advanced medical imaging services, provided for the community at large. The mission was simple: high quality, conveniently accessible care in the most cost-effective manner possible. Since its inception, RadNet has been a pioneer in radiologic healthcare and is now the leading national provider of freestanding, fixed-site diagnostic imaging services and related information technology solutions in the United States.



**SHERIF HANNA**  
 FINALIST  
 Chief Executive Officer  
 HRC Fertility

**W**ith over 20 years of experience in healthcare management, Sherif Hanna has demonstrated exceptional leadership as HRC Fertility's chief executive officer, driving significant advancements in organizational performance, patient care and strategic growth. Within a short time-frame, his accomplishments managing HRC Fertility's operations, demonstrate a passion for the brand, commitment to colleagues, and dedication to delivering excellence for patients. Sherif continually leads efforts to drive growth and enhance the global brand presence of HRC Fertility.

Hanna is also recognized for his commitment to the field of fertility care and community engagement. Notably, he has been granted membership to the American Society of Reproductive Medicine for his significant contributions to the field of fertility. This prestigious recognition highlights his impact and leadership within the reproductive health community, further solidifying his reputation as a pioneer in advancing fertility care.



**DOROTHY SELESKI**  
 FINALIST  
 Vice President of Medi-Cal Product Performance  
 Health Net

**D**orothy Seleski, a longtime senior health care leader in Los Angeles, was the key woman in Health Net's successful implementation of one of the largest health care transitions in county history. Just before the end of 2022, the state Department of Health Care services awarded a contract to Health Net to be one of two primary Medi-Cal contractors in LA County. As part of the contract award, Health Net was required to assign half of its membership to subcontractor Molina – a unique requirement not made of any other health plan in the state.

Seleski managed the team that implemented the ever-changing requirements from the state, personally negotiated with the subcontractor and ensured a relatively smooth transition for the members and providers. Without her more than 35 years of experience and the breadth of her experience, this wouldn't have been possible and the disruption could have been immense.



**VASU SUNKARA**  
 FINALIST  
 Medical Director, IPA  
 AltaMed

**D**r. Vasa Sunkara has been a longstanding and dedicated physician-leader focused on the health of underserved populations across southern California. As the medical director of the AltaMed and Omnicare IPA, he has helped enhance health equity and improve community health in Los Angeles County. From engaging with primary care clinics to help elevate performance, to working with specialists to enhance care, to creating interdisciplinary care teams to reduce hospital re-admissions and serve high-risk patients, his sustained drive to promote health equity and improve health outcomes has touched countless lives.

In his role, Dr. Sunkara has created new programs focused on interdisciplinary care management of high-risk patients with frequent hospital admissions. This program has helped improve treatment coordination and helped create new partnerships with primary care clinics. He has taken a lead role in ensuring quality of care for hospice patients and their families.

**A leader  
in healthcare.  
And a leader  
to all of us.**

Congratulations to Thomas M. Priselac on receiving the Lifetime Excellence in Healthcare award.

Thank you for 30 years of inspiring leadership as president and CEO of Cedars-Sinai and 45 years of total dedicated service to the organization.

With your retirement approaching, we honor your remarkable legacy with Cedars-Sinai and the community we serve.





LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL  
**HEALTH CARE**  
2024 LEADERSHIP AWARDS

# INDIVIDUAL AWARDS



HOSPITAL CEO OR PRESIDENT OF THE YEAR HONOREE

## JOHNESE SPISSE

President, UCLA Health; CEO, UCLA Hospital System  
UCLA Health

For the past eight years, Johnese Spisso has been responsible for all operations and regional outreach strategy for UCLA Health, a comprehensive academic health system that includes five hospitals, a faculty practice group and 280 primary and specialty care clinics in Southern California. During her tenure, UCLA Health has added more than 100 clinics and taken multiple other steps to enhance patient access, including the recent acquisition of the 260-bed West Hills Hospital (now UCLA West Valley Medical Center).

Under Spisso's leadership, UCLA Health has made a strategic investment in the Los Angeles community. Her bold moves have increased convenience for patients living and working in the region and provided more hospital capacity in the UCLA Health system to serve those who require highly specialized care and treatment. She's also improved access to high-quality care among people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles. Since launching in January 2022, the UCLA Health Homeless Healthcare Collaborative has completed more than 27,000 patient encounters and delivered more than 7,000 medical and psychiatric evaluations. The community-based clinical teams travel to shelters, encampments and streets around Los Angeles in five fully equipped vans. The program was awarded a \$25.3 million state grant to expand.

Spisso led collaborations with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health to expand to all ages Medi-Cal coverage for hospitalized psychiatric patients. In 2021, UCLA Health acquired a closed hospital that is being converted into a state-of-the-art neuropsychiatric hospital that will expand psychiatric bed capacity by 60%. Construction on the Mid-Wilshire campus is scheduled to be completed in 2026.



### ALICE ISSAI

FINALIST

President

Adventist Health Glendale

Alice Issai was named president of Adventist Health Glendale in 2018. The hospital has since earned continuous five-star ratings from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, received 19 consecutive "A" ratings from the Leapfrog Group, and been repeatedly recognized by Healthgrades as a top 5% American hospital.

Issai is the first woman to lead the 515-bed hospital. Under her guidance, Adventist Health Glendale continues to grow as a tertiary center for cardiovascular, pulmonary, cancer, digestive health, neurology and stroke care, offering state-of-the-art treatment to patients across Southern California. Emerging new offerings, such as its fast-developing Digestive Disease Center, aim to expand the hospital's community impact further. Issai's dedication to innovation and transforming community health paved the way for creating the Sam and Grace Carvajal Comprehensive Breast Center, where expert surgeons and multidisciplinary specialists offer a wide range of advanced treatment methodologies.



### ALINA MORAN

FINALIST

President and CEO

Dignity Health-California Hospital Medical Center

Alina Moran is the first Latina president of Dignity Health-California Hospital Medical Center (CHMC) which has been serving the Los Angeles community since 1887. Moran joined CHMC in March 2020, just as the pandemic was upending life as we knew it. Her steady leadership helped enable the hospital's team of 1,900 employees and 450 medical staff to care for more than 2,000 COVID-positive patients and save numerous lives, all while continuing to provide services that the community has relied upon for decades, including 24/7 emergency and trauma care, cardiac and stroke care, and maternity care.

Moran has also prioritized staff well-being and has moved the needle on building for the hospital's future, overseeing completion of a \$215 million campus expansion project, the centerpiece of which is a new patient care tower set to open in late 2024.



### MARTY SARGEANT

FINALIST

CEO

Keck Medical Center of USC,  
part of Keck Medicine of USC

Marty Sargeant, MBA has masterfully navigated numerous challenges experienced in the healthcare industry, exacerbated by the global pandemic, social unrest, ongoing staff and physician burnout, return to work policies, budget constraints, staffing shortages, and growth challenges, to name a few. Sargeant has also developed a purpose-driven leadership framework that involves leaders in meaningful activities and team touchpoints, including skills-building highlighting presence, listening, communication, inclusion and empathy skills. The leaders and organization have responded positively with impressive operational and engagement improvements.

Sargeant provides executive leadership for Keck Hospital and USC Norris while maintaining strong relationships with department chairs, faculty, staff and leadership. Moreover, he is committed to personally engaging with frontline caregivers and maintains a constant presence at the medical center, creating opportunities to enhance patient care.



### JAMES WEST

FINALIST

President and Chief Executive Officer

PIH Health

Over the last two decades, James R. West has led PIH Health through significant transformation and expansion. With a clear vision and an unwavering commitment to patients and community, West continues to implement strategic initiatives that have led to more efficient operations, heightened customer service, and enhanced quality of care.

In recent years, West led the organization's progress in areas that were interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, renewing its focus on strengthening its cancer, cardiology, and digestive services, and bolstering its network with the addition of more physicians that specialize in the latest clinical advancements for treatment. He continues to oversee the growth of PIH Health's footprint in Downtown Los Angeles – an area that encompasses PIH Health Good Samaritan Hospital, including the opening of PIH Health's seventh Urgent Care Center and the expansion of home health post-acute services for the Los Angeles community.

# HOME TO THE BEST CARE FOR CHILDREN AND LEADERS IN PEDIATRIC HEALTH

Children's Hospital Los Angeles congratulates  
our nominees and finalists for the  
2024 Los Angeles Business Journal Health Care Leadership Awards:



**Paul S. Viviano**  
President and CEO

*Nominee for Hospital CEO of the Year*



**M. Scott Lieberenz**  
Senior Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer

*Finalist for Hospital Executive of the Year*

We thank the LABJ for honoring our leaders and our great children's hospital. As part of the largest pediatric hospital in the region with renowned experts in every specialty, we are joined together to create hope and build healthier futures for children.



LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL  
**HEALTH CARE**  
 2024 LEADERSHIP AWARDS

## INDIVIDUAL AWARDS



HOSPITAL EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR HONOREE

### AZAR KATTAN

Chief Operations Officer  
 Harbor-UCLA Medical Center

**A**zar Kattan is the chief operations officer for Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. In this role, she is responsible for the day-to-day operations of Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, a 453-bed level 1 trauma hospital. Harbor-UCLA is also a safety net hospital, serving the southwestern portion of Los Angeles County and providing services to patients from underserved communities.

In her role, Kattan directs the hospital's operations, which include supervising ancillary and supportive clinical services and leading over 1,700 personnel in the departments of Laboratory, Radiology, Pharmacy, Food and Nutrition, Clinical Social Work, as well as hospital support services including Environment Health and Safety/Emergency Preparedness, Facilities/Capital Asset Management, Patient Access Center, Supply Chain Operations, Security, and Environmental Services. She partners with the hospital's chief executive officer, chief nursing officer and chief medical officer to develop and implement the hospital's strategic plan and work to facilitate alignment of the mission and goals with daily work.

In addition to her daily operational responsibilities, Kattan has led, since 2015, the planning activities for the \$1.7 billion campus replacement project, which will result in the construction of a new 347-bed inpatient tower, Clinic Building, lab building, central plant, support services building and parking structure. She shepherded this project from the initial planning phases through the medical planning, design-build solicitation and to the construction and opening, to date, of the parking structure and support services building. She has driven the planning process, bringing together clinical and ancillary subject matter experts and leaders from across the hospital to participate in the design of the new campus and buildings.



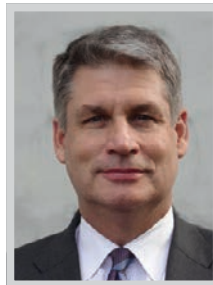
### DANIEL CASTOR

FINALIST

Physician Scientist  
 Harbor UCLA Lolita Family Medical Center

**D**r. Daniel Castor, MD is a geriatrician affiliated with Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and is an associate clinical professor of medicine at UCLA. He also serves as an associate clinical professor at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. His patients refer to him as a "truly caring, healing" physician and scientist who has spent decades helping patients with varying maladies. He strives to provide highly attentive care to patients. Additionally, he is tirelessly dedicated to training young physician scientists in his clinic.

Dr. Castor is also the former president of the Professional Staff Association, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center; and former president of the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians. He is a member of the Community Engagement Research Program at UCLA. He is focused on geriatrics, health disparities, pipeline projects, empowerment strategies for under-resourced communities.



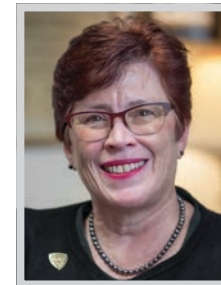
### M. SCOTT LIEBERENZ

FINALIST

Chief Financial Officer  
 Children's Hospital of Los Angeles

**C**hildren's Hospital of Los Angeles (CHLA) has continued to have financial challenges, between raising costs of labor, challenges with payor reimbursement, and other government reimbursement challenges and changes. Over 40% of CHLA's patients are covered by Medi-Cal and represent some of the most vulnerable people in Los Angeles. In addressing these challenges, M. Scott Lieberenz's leadership has been steadfast and his experience in the industry has proven to be extremely valuable. CHLA's total change in net assets in 2022 was a loss of over \$100 million dollars. In 2023, with the fiscal leadership of Lieberenz, the loss was reduced to about \$44 million dollars.

Lieberenz's role in CHLA also makes him an integral part of the board of CHLA. He has many people within his team that he continues to coach and mentor from a leadership perspective. Lieberenz has also continued to mentor people outside of CHLA.



### ANNETTE SY

FINALIST

Chief Nursing Executive  
 Keck Medical Center of USC

**A**nnette Sy, DNP, RN, NE-BC, has served as the chief nursing executive for Keck Medical Center of USC since 2012. In her position, she is responsible for all inpatient and outpatient nursing services, leading some 1,300 nurses. She plays a key role in ensuring survey readiness, clinical quality standards, patient experience and nursing competency in both inpatient areas of Keck Hospital of USC and USC Norris Cancer Hospital, as well as outpatient care clinics. Sy brings more than 30 years of nursing experience to USC, and is an advocate for safe, quality patient- and family-centered care.

Sy has many recent accomplishments under her belt, including leading the nursing team at USC Keck Hospital to its first American Nurses Credentialing Center's Magnet Recognition, which was renewed in 2023. Magnet designation is the gold star of nursing excellence, awarded to hospitals possessing the highest level of care.





HRC Fertility is proud to be nominated for the

# 2024 LABJ Healthcare Leadership Award

for its **Outstanding Community Outreach** to those seeking fertility care and planning for their future families.



### Expansion into Beverly Hills with our newest location

*Enhancing accessibility to advanced fertility care.*



### Recognizing family building is different for everyone

*Supporting all walks of life.*



### Leveling the field for those seeking fertility care

*Compassionate care in a world class environment.*



HRC Fertility also congratulates its CEO, Sherif Hanna, as a nominee for **Outstanding Health System Executive of the Year**

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LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL  
**HEALTH CARE**  
 2024 LEADERSHIP AWARDS

# INDIVIDUAL AWARDS



HEALTH CARE ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR HONOREE

## LYNSEY MITCHEL

Partner  
 Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

Lynsey Mitchel, a partner in Sheppard Mullin’s Healthcare Industry Team and a leader of the Health Plan practice, is an expert in managed care. She is known for representing clients in HMO regulatory matters and has represented a substantial number of currently licensed restricted Knox-Keene HMO license holders in California in their licensure processes. She has worked on HMO licensure and other matters for Medicare Advantage, commercial and Medicaid health plans, including dental and vision plans.

Mitchel represents payors and providers in the managed care sector, including those participating in accountable care organizations (ACOs), direct-to-employer arrangements and other risk-sharing arrangements. She also works with national and regional health plans as well as large health systems and physician groups on population health management strategies, provider employment, risk-based, performance-based and value-based payor and provider contracting, compliance, acquisitions and physician alignment strategies.

Among Mitchel’s recent notable contributions to healthcare law was her work negotiating the necessary contracts between the State of California, Molina Healthcare and, as to Los Angeles County, HealthNet within six weeks in order to meet state-imposed deadlines for launch of the newly redesigned 2024 Medi-Cal (Medicaid) California program. The renegotiated contract is expected to double Molina’s Medi-Cal revenue in California, in addition to approximately quadrupling Molina’s Medi-Cal enrolment in Los Angeles County and partnering the company with Health Net to roll out new quality and improved access programs. The complex agreement encompasses multiple functions of the two health plans and provides a model for improving the delivery of healthcare to California’s Medi-Cal population.



**CONGRATULATES SOUTH CENTRAL FAMILY HEALTH CENTER,  
 NOMINATED FOR COMMUNITY CLINIC OF THE YEAR.**

SCFHC strives to set the standard for health care in Los Angeles County as a premier provider with a commitment to delivering high-quality, affordable, and culturally responsive services to over 26,000 patients through more than 140,000 visits across 10 clinic sites in South LA, Southeast LA and the San Gabriel Valley.





LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL  
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**JAY GOSS**  
FINALIST

*General Partner*  
Wavemaker Three-Sixty Health

Jay Goss is general partner at Wavemaker Three-Sixty Health. Founded in 2017, Wavemaker Three-Sixty Health (Wavemaker 360) has emerged as Los Angeles' leading early stage health-tech venture capital fund. Today the fund has invested in 60 healthcare startups, with Los Angeles being its most active geography.

From the very beginning, Wavemaker 360 positioned itself as being much more than just a check. The fund's 300+ limited partners (investors) are from the healthcare industry - either individuals inside prominent healthcare organizations or the companies themselves (like City of Hope, Amgen, Ensign, SCAN, Mission Community Hospital). Having all of these "value add" investors gives Wavemaker 360 a muscle other venture funds don't have, and the firm is not afraid to flex this muscle. Wavemaker 360 connects the portfolio companies it invests in with different stakeholders throughout the healthcare industry, helping young startups accelerate their commercialization strategy.

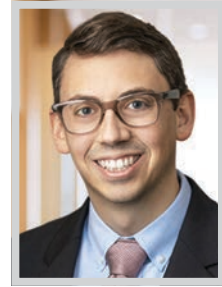


**GEORGE GREENE**  
FINALIST

*President / CEO*  
Hospital Association of Southern California

George Greene is president and CEO of the Hospital Association of Southern California (HASC), dedicated to effectively advancing the interests of hospitals in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. HASC comprises 176 member hospitals and 31 health systems, plus numerous related professional associations and associate members. All have a common goal: to improve the operating environment for hospitals and the health status of the communities they serve. Working in partnership with the California Hospital Association (CHA), Greene and HASC provide leadership at the local, state and federal levels on legislation, budget concerns and regulatory issues. Greene works with county boards of supervisors, chambers of commerce, local health departments and other agencies to assure each hospital's voice is heard.

Greene not only leads HASC; he also oversees multiple affiliate organizations that enrich healthcare delivery in Southern California.

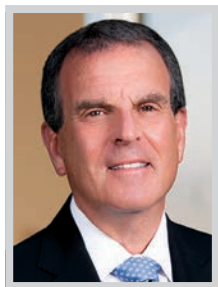


**ADAM HEPWORTH**  
FINALIST

*Partner*  
Foley & Lardner LLP

Adam J. Hepworth is often referred to as a "walking encyclopedia" by his clients. His expertise lies in advising hospitals, federally qualified health centers and other providers on matters such as Medicaid administrative appeals, overpayment investigations, and navigating health privacy laws to address the social determinants of health. Hepworth's contributions to the field extend beyond his legal practice, as he is also recognized as a thought leader, having published articles and actively worked on California legislation.

At Foley & Lardner, Hepworth and his team have been working closely with multiple local government entities to establish integrated care teams that cater to individuals affected by a broad range of health care, housing, food insecurity, poverty, and justice issues. Their advisory work encompasses privacy concerns, data sharing, compliance, and governance structures, negotiations with private partners and vendors, and the development of authorization forms and program policies and procedures.



**BARRY LANDSBERG**  
FINALIST

*Partner*  
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP

Barry Landsberg, a partner at Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, has a reputation for securing some of the most complex and precedent-setting health care litigation and appellate victories in California courts, including hospital/physician medical staff and complex consumer class cases, and he has won many first-impression decisions for hospitals before the California Supreme Court and the California Court of Appeal.

With extensive experience in commercial contracts, business torts and constitutional disputes, Landsberg serves as a trusted advisor and senior litigator for health care systems, providers and hospitals in a broad array of matters stemming from the industry's complex ecosystem of laws and regulations, including the Unfair Competition Law, the Consumer Legal Remedies Act, federal and state anti-kick-back statutes, the False Claims Act, the Unruh Civil Rights Act, and the California and United States constitutions. Landsberg has represented Dignity Health hospitals in numerous notable cases over the past few years.



**ANNIE LEHATTO**  
FINALIST

*Senior Medical Planner*  
HOK

Annie Lehatto is known for her extensive experience, innovative approach and significant contributions to healthcare project programming and planning over the past two decades. With over 20 years of expertise, Lehatto has managed a diverse range of projects, from smaller projects of a few thousand square feet to comprehensive master plans encompassing millions of square feet. Her experience spans various healthcare settings, including inpatient and outpatient facilities, pediatrics, and behavioral health, showcasing her versatility and depth of knowledge.

Lehatto's approach to each project is characterized by a commitment to connection and innovation. Her passion for collaboration is evident in her work with a diverse array of stakeholders, including owners, users, designers, engineers and other allied professionals. This collaborative spirit ensures that the projects she leads are not only innovative but also tailored to meet the unique needs of all involved parties.



LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL  
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# INDIVIDUAL AWARDS



OUTSTANDING HEALTH CARE INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR HONOREE

## DR. GLENN PASCUAL

Director of Operations  
Kaiser Permanente West Los Angeles

**D**r. Glenn D. Pascual is one of the most awarded healthcare leaders in the country, having won 66 state, national and international awards in healthcare. His combination of strong Ivy League education (two doctoral degrees, three executive master's degrees, and three national board certification), outstanding work experience, award-winning performance, and the right leadership/soft skills make an outstanding and highly desirable candidate. This particular award, however, is due to his work as an innovator.

Dr. Pascual has partnered with senior leaders of the organization to maximize their ability to support its strategy for quality and service improvement. This includes strategic change implementation, leadership team development, service program innovation, and initiatives associated with culture change. He has, in fact, innovated more than 20 initiatives that helped improved outcomes.

As part of his innovative approach to service enhancements and improvements, Dr. Pascual shares accountability for realization of results and participates in change management activities associated with system and process improvements. He also reviews best practice research and implement evidence-based interventions in the clinical setting for better outcomes; sets the service strategic directions of the medical center to produce timely and valuable results; and provides technical leadership to high visibility nursing programs to identify and resolve issues of strategic importance to the organization.

Dr. Pascual develops project plans, which identify key issues, problems, approaches, performance standards and resources required and he investigates and resolves patient/family/member concerns regarding patient care services. He serves as a knowledgeable service and quality expert regarding hospital regulations, practices and utilization management. He also identifies and institutes performance improvement efforts based on evidence-based practices, research and patient outcomes.



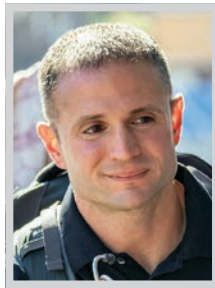
### GINA CHANG

FINALIST

Principal  
CO Architects

**G**ina Chang, AIA, EDAC, has been at the forefront of healthcare design for more than 20 years. A principal and design team leader at Los Angeles-based CO Architects, Chang has helped healthcare providers implement innovations that improve patient outcomes and enhance staff wellness. She is an authority on biophilic design and its impact on healing. Beyond creating patient rooms that maximize natural light and serene outdoor views of curated landscapes (with purposely designed nature walks, where possible), Chang considers neuro-responses such as the soothing, mesmerizing power of wind-blown kinetic objects on building facades and neutralizing environmental impact with the nation's first all-electric hospital.

Other innovations Chang has helped pioneer include Universal Patient Rooms and Units, where providers and equipment come to the patient to maximize comfort, flexibility, and ease of care, as well as minimize patient movement and hospital-acquired infections.



### BRETT FELDMAN

FINALIST

Director of Street Medicine; Clinical Associate  
Professor of Family Medicine (Clinician Educator)  
Keck School of Medicine of USC

**B**rett J. Feldman is the director and co-founder of USC Street Medicine and is an associate professor of family medicine at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. Feldman has practiced street medicine, delivering health care to people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in their environment on the street, under bridges, in riverbeds or wherever they reside, since 2007. He was recruited to join the faculty of the Keck School of Medicine after founding two street medicine programs in Pennsylvania, for which he earned numerous awards and accolades.

At the forefront of health care innovation, USC Street Medicine is a groundbreaking collaboration of interdisciplinary professionals dedicated to improving the lives of the unhoused. With a strong commitment to health care justice, Keck's program combines medical expertise, social service outreach, and cutting-edge research to address the unique challenges faced by the unhoused community in Los Angeles.



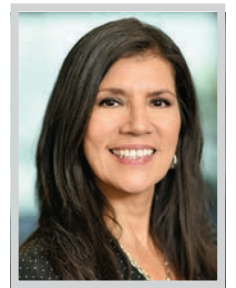
### NAKEYA FIELDS

FINALIST

Founder and Executive Director  
Therapeutic Play Foundation

**N**akeya Fields, LCSW, for her role and contributions in pioneering holistic healthcare for Black and historically marginalized communities. Her passion for empowerment of others comes from her lived experience as a Black woman in America and her exposure to the pain of others as a mental health provider and advocate. Since Fields founded her non-profit organization, Therapeutic Play Foundation (TPF), in 2015, she has developed and led innovative community and therapeutic programs that have positively impacted hundreds of families. She has made significant contributions to advancing health equity for Black children, mothers, and their families, community members who have historically lacked essential health resources and services.

In 2023, The California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) program announced the launch of its Enhanced Care Management (ECM) initiative to improve health outcomes for all Medi-Cal members, especially historically hard-to-reach community members and those with complex needs.



### MARISSA GOLDBERG

FINALIST

CEO  
Doheny Eye Institute

**A**s CEO of Doheny Eye Institute, Marissa Goldberg has made an indelible mark in vision care throughout the Los Angeles area, and – in affiliation with UCLA's Stein Eye Institute – helps lead Doheny to uphold its mission to further the conservation, improvement and restoration of human eyesight.

Goldberg is deeply committed to the mission of Doheny Eye Institute. Today, Doheny continues to attract top vision scientists in large part due to Goldberg's leadership. With her guidance and support, along with her commitment to securing endowments that fund the important work of Doheny, the team of physician scientists continue to make transformative discoveries. In just the last few years alone, Doheny scientists have developed novel eye imaging equipment and computer-based retinal image analysis, identified retinal biomarkers for Alzheimer's Disease, and developed multiple animal models of ocular disease.



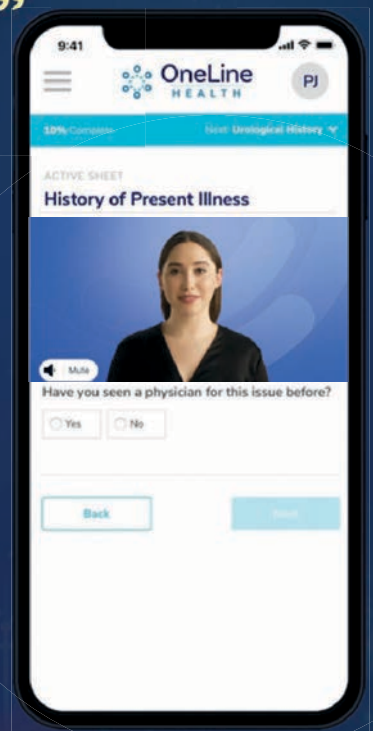
Congratulations!

# AI Physician Co-Pilot

“Best Healthcare Advancement Product”  
LA Business Journal 2024

First end-to-end AI Physician  
Co-Pilot Platform

- ✓ Automated detailed pre-visit history taking
- ✓ Lab/imaging/pathology summarization
- ✓ Data analytics
- ✓ High quality pre-constructed clinical note
- ✓ Ambient scribe
- ✓ EHR integration



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OneLine Health



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# INDIVIDUAL AWARDS



OUTSTANDING HEALTH CARE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR HONOREE

## JAYCEON "THE GAME" TAYLOR

**A**claimed rapper The Game, whose real name is Jayceon Terrell Taylor, rose to prominence in the 2000s and played a pivotal role in revitalizing the West Coast hip-hop scene. Known for his dynamic presence and lyrical prowess, he has now taken his influence beyond music, using his platform to make a positive impact on the lives of young individuals. With his philanthropic endeavors, he continues to demonstrate his commitment to giving back to the community.

In a heartfelt gesture of generosity, and as a demonstration of his philanthropic mission, The Game has joined forces with Cal Dental USA to make a significant contribution towards providing essential dental services to underprivileged children in preparation for the upcoming school year. The \$50,000 donation aims to bridge the gap between families lacking insurance coverage and the necessary dental check-ups and treatments required for school registration.

The renowned artist recognizes the value of education in shaping young minds and understands the challenges faced by families who struggle to meet the financial demands of dental care.

The partnership was initiated when James Jones, Vice President of Cal Dental USA, approached The Game and shared his firsthand experiences of encountering families unable to afford essential dental services, preventing their children from receiving the proper dental care needed to start the academic year. Inspired by the opportunity to make a meaningful impact, The Game stepped up to team with Cal Dental USA to ensure that children receive the dental services they require.



**24hour**  
home care



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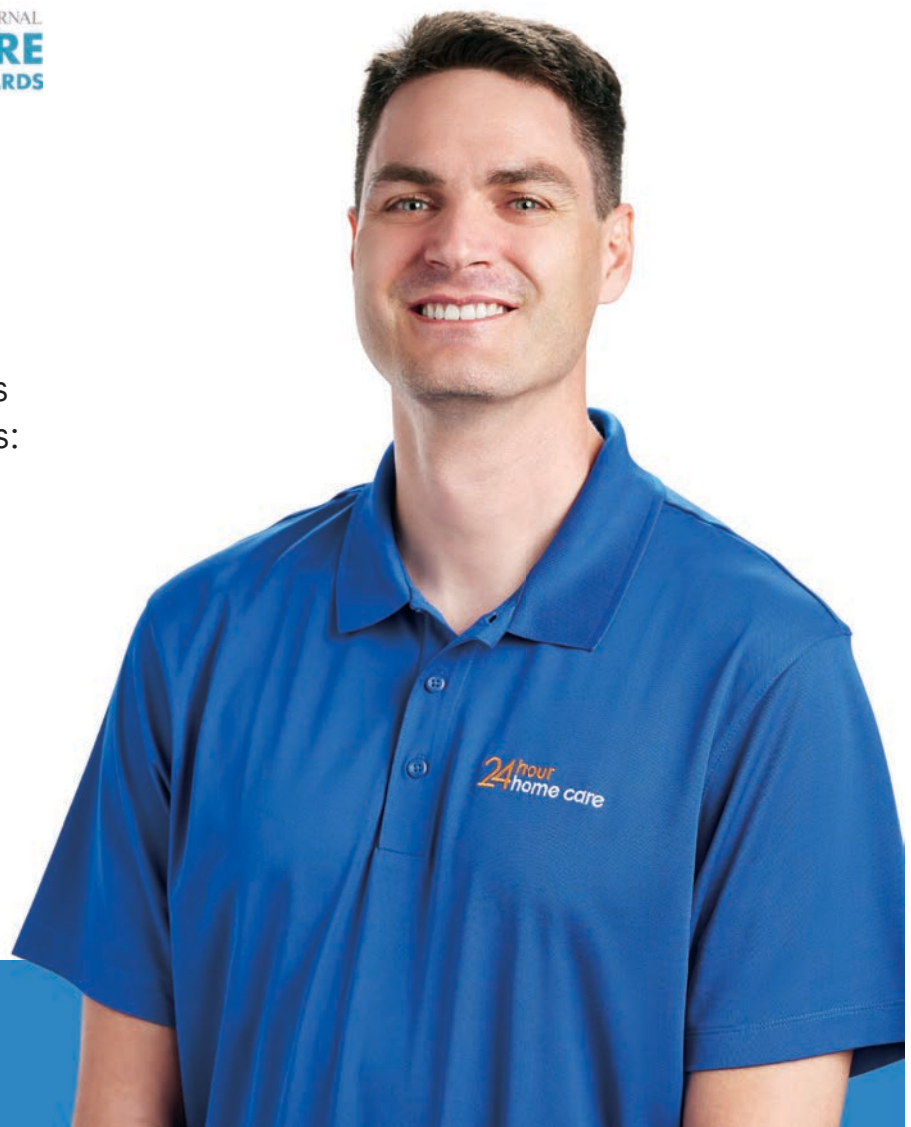
## Congratulations to **Steve Barber**

For being recognized as a nominee for the Los Angeles Business Journal's 2024 Health Care Leadership Awards:

★ ★ ★ **HEALTHCARE** ★ ★ ★  
**INNOVATOR**

Thank you for your hard work and dedication in carrying out 24 Hour Home Care's WHY of *Impacting People's Lives by Making a Difference Every Day.*

Congratulations to all the nominees!



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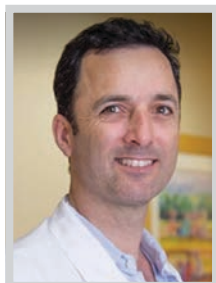
LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL  
**HEALTH CARE**  
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**PAUL GILBERT**  
FINALIST  
*Orthopaedic Surgeon*  
Keck Medicine of USC

Last August 11 to August 17, 2023, a team of Keck Medicine of USC providers participated in an Operation Walk Los Angeles trip to Arusha, Tanzania. The team was led by Paul Gilbert, MD, board president of Operation Walk and an orthopaedic surgeon at Keck Medicine of USC and made up of volunteers from Keck Hospital of USC and USC Verdugo Hills Hospital, performed hip and knee replacement surgeries for less-advantaged communities throughout the area.

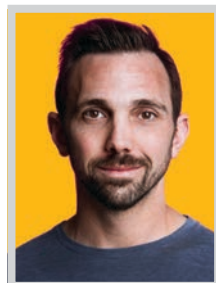
Dr. Gilbert and 54 volunteers traveled over 30 hours, half way across the world, to restore mobility to disadvantaged patients. During this medical mission, Dr. Gilbert was part of a contingent of caregivers asked to attend a state luncheon with Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan.



**JONATHAN NISSANOFF**  
FINALIST  
*Medical Doctor*  
Nedavah Foundation

Jonathan Nissanoff MD has been working with the Ministry of Health in Israel to help organize over 7000 volunteer physicians to help with the injured in Israel since the October 7th massacre. He has now organized specialty physicians to engage with their Israeli counterparts so that there will be shared educational activities and future worldwide learning relationships between the West and the Middle East. Dr. Nissanoff and the Nedavah Foundation have also compiled a task force that will enable immediate ability to help patients in need with volunteer physicians from the West in case of a natural disaster or a future war.

Dr. Nissanoff is also on the medical boards of many nonprofit medical organizations such as Ateres Avigail that allows for care for indigent patients in the community.



**JOSH SACKMAN**  
FINALIST  
*President and Co-Founder*  
AppliedVR

Josh Sackman is the president and cofounder of AppliedVR, a company pioneering immersive therapeutics, a new category of medicine harnessing the brain for healing through virtual reality. Sackman's personal experience with childhood chronic pain drove him to create positive change in the healthcare industry. He and his team developed the first FDA-authorized (Class II) at-home immersive virtual reality pain treatment indicated as an adjunct treatment for chronic lower back pain.

On the volunteer front, Sackman is a mentor at Tech Stars Los Angeles and is also involved as an advisor with Tech Strat Up Healthcare Accelerator program in Los Angeles. Through his involvement, Sackman is helping other entrepreneurs improve healthcare for people around the world.



**WENDY SMITH**  
FINALIST

*Psychotherapist; Retired Clinical Professor of Social Work; Associate Dean of Curriculum Development & Assessment*  
USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

Dr. Wendy Smith is a retired clinical professor of social work and associate dean of curriculum development and assessment at the University of Southern California Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work. She also maintained a private practice in psychotherapy for 35 years.

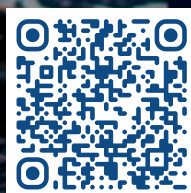
Dr. Smith believes that the toxic stress of early childhood trauma can make children vulnerable to committing criminal acts. She has a history of community volunteer work related to children and families, especially those affected by adversity early in life. She served for eight years on the Los Angeles County Commission for Children and Families, including as chair.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE NOMINEES AND AWARD RECIPIENTS.**

For more than 90 years, JVS SoCal's employer partners have been essential in providing no-cost career training and job placement assistance.

Thanks to leading companies like you, our non-profit's health care programs are responsive to industry needs, ensuring a brighter future for everyone across Southern California's diverse communities.

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LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL  
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## ORGANIZATION AWARDS



TOP HOSPITAL OR MEDICAL CENTER OF THE YEAR **HONOREE (TIE)**

### CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL LOS ANGELES

**F**ounded in 1901, Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) is a pediatric academic medical center built around its mission of creating hope and building healthier futures for children. More than 120 years later, the organization is fulfilling that mission by offering transformative and compassionate care for its clients, including the region's most vulnerable children, serving as a bellwether hospital for treating the most critically ill children.

CHLA is contributing to the health of the region's children by educating tomorrow's healthcare professionals, and by seeking cures and treatments with life-changing discoveries and clinical advancements. The hospital serves the region by making significant community impact. Heralded as a leader among children's hospitals nationally and regionally, this 386-active-bed hospital is supported by more than 8,000 team members and 1,000 medical staff providers, performing nearly 16,000 surgeries, managing 723,000 patient visits and admitting more than 17,500 children for inpatient care. Factoring in CHLA's affiliations and partnerships, one in five children in Los Angeles County are impacted by CHLA's innovative and transformative care.

CHLA has become the leading pediatrics institution in Los Angeles County, marked by a 50% growth in market share since 2015 and strong market leadership in pediatric care in cancer, heart, neurosciences and orthopedics. The hospital is also home to one of the largest liver transplant programs for children in the nation.

A bellwether hospital for treating the most critically ill children, CHLA delivers more pediatric care for complex patients than any other hospital in California, with 53% of the complex pediatric discharges in Los Angeles County.



TOP HOSPITAL OR MEDICAL CENTER OF THE YEAR **HONOREE (TIE)**

### CITY OF HOPE

**C**ity of Hope is one of the largest cancer research and treatment organizations in the United States. The organization is making expert cancer care accessible to more patients and communities by delivering the best of academic medicine in a compassionate community environment. For over 100 years, City of Hope has been putting patients and their families at the center of everything it does. Its uniquely integrated model spans cancer care, diabetes, clinical research and development, academics and philanthropy.

Today City of Hope is bringing world-renowned innovation and sub-specialist expertise in hematology and bone marrow transplantation, advanced surgical oncology, clinical trials, precision medicine and cellular therapies to new communities. And a best-in-class patient experience provides everything needed to beat cancer under one roof. It all means more value and better outcomes for cancer patients across the country. City of Hope's aim is to close the gap between the innovation taking place at academic cancer centers and the people who can actually access these breakthroughs. The City of Hope team is committed to serving the needs of the community and ensuring every person living with cancer has access to optimal care, regardless of race, socioeconomic status, insurance provider, or geography.

In addition, as a leading independent biomedical, treatment and education center, City of Hope looks beyond today's standard treatments, providing educational opportunities that explore the latest advancements in research and therapies. City of Hope's graduate school students, post-docs and clinical residents and fellows contribute to the educational powerhouse supporting City of Hope's scientific and clinical excellence.





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**CEDARS-SINAI**  
FINALIST

Cedars-Sinai consistently ranks among the leaders in translating discoveries into practical treatments with global impact. Its areas of focus include stem cell therapy, minimally invasive surgery and precision medicine for cancer. At the forefront of medical advancements, Cedars-Sinai has made significant contributions, such as using cardiac stem cells for heart repair and developing new targeted cancer drugs. Its dedication to pushing boundaries in healthcare propels the industry forward. Cedars-Sinai equips world-renowned physicians with cutting-edge tools to deliver the most effective treatments available.

Cedars-Sinai goes beyond the hospital setting, offering extensive programs that address the needs of underserved populations. From health education in schools to providing care to the uninsured and underinsured, the team demonstrably improves the health of the greater Los Angeles area. Also, its robust training programs for medical professionals, encompassing residencies, fellowships and graduate programs, ensure a well-equipped healthcare workforce for generations to come.



**KECK MEDICAL CENTER OF USC,  
PART OF KECK MEDICINE OF USC**  
FINALIST

Keck Medical Center, which consists of Keck Hospital and USC Norris Cancer Hospital and is part of Keck Medicine of USC, continues to expand, receive national recognition for its safety and quality standards and to contribute to the community with new advances. When complex, expert care is needed, Keck Medical Center has the resources, research-backed services, renowned experts and compassionate staff required for the most complex medical cases.

Keck Medical Center has the highest case mix index in the country, meaning it treats the sickest patients nationally. Hundreds of clinical trials are currently taking place at Keck Hospital of USC and its affiliated research institutions, giving participants access to novel and promising therapies that generally are not available elsewhere. Keck Medical Center's internationally renowned physicians care for patients and teach and conduct research at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, the region's first medical school.



**RONALD REAGAN  
UCLA MEDICAL CENTER**  
FINALIST

Founded in 1955, UCLA Medical Center became Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center in 2008, reopening in a new 10-story structure housing the latest medical advances, provided in a welcoming environment that is filled with light and open spaces to enhance a sense of wellness and promote healing. Situated on four acres on the UCLA campus in West Los Angeles, the hospital encompasses Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, Stewart and Lynda Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital at UCLA and UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital.

Offering world-class patient care, every floor of Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center is dedicated to a particular specialty and has its own satellite pharmacy, dialysis storage, respiratory therapy workrooms and resident doctor sleep rooms. In addition, each patient room has the capacity to convert into an intensive care unit to allow for the continuous care of a critically ill patient in one room.

# Congratulations to Harbor Community Health Centers!

## NOMINEE FOR THE COMMUNITY CLINIC OF THE YEAR AWARD 2024

HarborCHC is committed providing quality, comprehensive healthcare and supportive services to those in the San Pedro community and surrounding Los Angeles and South Bay areas, regardless of their ability to pay.



*Thank you Los Angeles Business Journal for the nomination!*

**TAMRA KING**  
Chief Executive Officer



**HARBOR**  
COMMUNITY  
HEALTH CENTERS

**6TH STREET  
HEALTH CENTER**  
593 West 6th Street  
San Pedro, CA 90731  
310-547-0202

**PACIFIC AVENUE  
HEALTH CENTER**  
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# ORGANIZATION AWARDS



COMMUNITY CLINIC OF THE YEAR HONOREE

## SOUTH CENTRAL FAMILY HEALTH CENTER

Since 1981, South Central Family Health Center (SCFHC) has played a major role in filling the void for comprehensive health services in the historically underserved and uninsured population of South Los Angeles. The reason for opening the clinic was simple: to deliver high quality, affordable health care to the medically underserved and uninsured in South Central LA. Today, the services provided continue to directly address healthcare issues prevalent among geographically and economically disadvantaged individuals and families.

Since its inception, SCFHC has been in the forefront committed to addressing healthcare disparities in a competent and linguistically appropriate manner. SCFHC has more than 252 staff members of which 35 are clinicians who provide the direct medical services, treatment and care to patients.

In 2002, SCFHC was designated as a Federally Qualified Health Center 330 Clinic. Such qualifications require adhering to strict Government standards of providing quality comprehensive service delivery and detailed reporting directly to the Federal Government.

It is SCFHC's mission to improve the quality of life for the diverse communities of South Los Angeles, Southeast Los Angeles County and the San Gabriel Valley by providing affordable and comprehensive health care and education in a welcoming and multi-cultural environment. The team at SCFHC aims to lead the way in health care in South Los Angeles, as the premier provider and employer of choice offering comprehensive, high quality, affordable, efficient and culturally responsive services.



## Congratulations Dr. Glenn D. Pascual!

**Kaiser Permanente proudly celebrates this year's honorees, and Dr. Glenn D. Pascual as this year's 2024 outstanding Health Care Innovator of the Year.**

His exceptional commitment to advancing patient care, visionary leadership, and groundbreaking innovations have set a new standard in healthcare excellence at Kaiser Permanente West Los Angeles.

Congratulations, Dr. Pascual, on your remarkable achievements and well-deserved recognition!

For all that is Southern California  
 For all that is you





LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL  
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**GARFIELD HEALTH CENTER**  
 FINALIST

Over the past year, Garfield Health Center (GHC) has introduced innovative programs that have significantly improved healthcare accessibility for underserved populations. GHC's Community Outreach Program provides free health screenings and educational workshops in multiple languages, ensuring that even those with limited English proficiency receive crucial health information. Additionally, GHC has made strides in integrating telehealth services, allowing patients to receive quality care remotely, which has been especially vital during the COVID-19 pandemic.

GHC has also pioneered a holistic approach to healthcare, combining medical services with mental health support and social services. This comprehensive care model not only treats illness but also addresses the root causes of health disparities, such as socioeconomic factors and access to resources. Garfield Health Center's commitment to continuous improvement and community engagement demonstrates a sustained dedication to healthcare excellence and innovation.



**HARBOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS**  
 FINALIST

Founded more than 50 years ago on the belief that every person of every age and income level should have access to healthcare, Harbor Community Health Centers is dedicated to providing cutting-edge healthcare services for residents of the San Pedro area, including preventive options like routine, school and sports physicals, immunizations, OB/GYN care, and health screenings, as well as treatment of both acute and chronic illnesses and diseases. Begun as the "store-front" Harbor Free Clinic in 1970, today the clinic features two locations in San Pedro – a general care clinic and a location dedicated to pediatrics.

At Harbor Community Health Centers, patients have access to a comprehensive array of advanced healthcare options, including physical exams, immunizations, health screenings, management of chronic illnesses like asthma and diabetes, family planning services including birth control options and screening and care for sexually transmitted diseases.



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# ORGANIZATION AWARDS



OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY OUTREACH OF THE YEAR **HONOREE**

## PROVIDENCE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

**F**ive days a week, Providence community health workers and volunteers from the San Fernando Community Health Center and the Wilmington Community Clinic walk door-to-door in the Northeast Valley and the South Bay. Their mission is to connect with residents to identify needs and provide links to resources. Similarly, Providence Holy Cross Medical Center in Mission Hills and Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center Centers in San Pedro and Torrance were among 10 organizations chosen by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to participate in the Public Health Teams Project in designated underserved communities.

So far, in just two months, the teams have knocked on 3,500 doors, collected 220 completed health assessment surveys, developed by the public health department, and connected residents to primary care providers, food banks and access to public benefits and insurance programs.

This is the 165-year-old Providence mission of outreach, enhanced by the promise of “know me, care for me, ease my way,” at work outside the walls of the health organization’s six LA-area hospitals. In a similar effort to meet people where they live, Providence partners with Northgate Markets, which has more than 40 grocery stores in Greater Los Angeles. Together the organizations seek to improve access to health care, to provide nutrition education aimed at identifying affordable healthful foods and to create education pathways for all ages to help improve the health of their communities.





Another priority is to expand an already robust community health program by addressing health equity in predominantly Black and Latinx neighborhoods, plagued by disparities and limited access to preventive care.

# Leading the Way in Healthcare Excellence

Congratulations to the entire team at Antelope Valley Medical Center for their recent nomination as **Top Hospital of the Year** for the Los Angeles Business Journal, Healthcare Leadership Awards, alongside our CEO, Edward Mirzabegian, who is nominated for **Hospital CEO of the Year**.

Together, Edward and our incredible team have worked tirelessly to make Antelope Valley Medical Center a beacon of care and compassion.

Our hospital is committed to utilizing the latest medical advancements to ensure every patient receives the best care possible, fostering a healthier and stronger community for all.

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**L.A. CARE HEALTH PLAN**  
FINALIST

**D**uring the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, a federal public health emergency went into effect, which put a freeze on the regular enrollment process for Medi-Cal beneficiaries so that people would maintain health benefits during the pandemic.

After about three years, Medi-Cal enrollees would once again have to take steps to renew their health care coverage. With the understanding that many beneficiaries may have forgotten about the regular process, L.A. Care initiated a comprehensive multi-phase, multi-touchpoint outreach campaign over 15 months. A variety of messaging in multiple languages was developed to target diverse audiences, including easy-to-understand information on what to expect and what action to take to maintain coverage. While some elements were aimed specifically at L.A. Care members, many of these outreach tactics were geared to the public at large in LA County, where a significant portion of residents are Medi-Cal beneficiaries.



**SPEAR RECOVERY**  
FINALIST

**S**pear Recovery is a men's sober living focused on rebuilding its guest's lives and supporting them in the early stages of their recovery. There is much more to a life in recovery than just the abstinence from drugs and alcohol. Spear aims to provide a safe, supportive and fun environment for men of all ages. No matter how deep and strong the grasp of addiction has taken them, the combination of some willingness and a supportive community with a common goal can produce incredible results.

Spear Recovery's first and utmost priority is the safety of its guests. The house is staffed 24 hours a day with a live-in manager on site. All guests are breathalyzed daily and drug tested randomly 3-5 times a week. Staff works closely and has one-one-one interactions with clients to provide emotional support and encourage healthy habits and relationships.

**OPEN YOUR EYES**  
to Doheny Eye Institute

**We celebrate our women leaders**



Congratulations to Doheny CEO **Marissa Goldberg** on being selected as a Finalist for the **LABJ Health Care 2024 Leadership Awards Outstanding Health Care Innovator of the Year**. For over 30 years, Marissa has brought together a world-acclaimed team of researchers and clinician-scientists to collaborate on finding cures for the causes of visual impairment. We are proud to see her recognized for her leadership and commitment.

Over 75 years ago, another woman leader, **philanthropist Carrie Estelle Doheny**, began what became Doheny Eye Institute. What she began when she was blinded at age 69 is now at the forefront of vision science and is one of the top 5 ranked Ophthalmology programs by US News & World Report.

Best in the West,  
Top 5 in the Nation



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And donate to continue the work of our women leaders in restoring human eyesight.

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LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL  
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# ORGANIZATION AWARDS



OUTSTANDING COLLABORATION OF THE YEAR HONOREE

## SUTTER HEALTH and CHARLES R. DREW UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE

Sutter Health and Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU), located in Los Angeles, have partnered to address physician shortages and health inequities across California. Sutter is one of the nation's largest integrated health care systems, and Charles Drew is the only federally designated Historically Black institution west of Texas. The two organizations recently announced a long-term collaboration to expand access to a more inclusive and equitable care experience in California.

The effort kicks off with the launch of two significant initiatives. The first is one of the largest scholarship programs in CDU's history, designed to widen pathways for diverse physicians. The second is the creation of the Health Equity Alliance for Research & Evaluation (HEARE) to serve as an incubator lab to accelerate health equity research into clinical practice. This unique collaboration is a significant step toward building a more equitable health care system in California and just the beginning of work to clear paths for medical education, enhanced clinical care, robust research and improved community health.

CDU opened its new, nationally accredited medical school in 2023, making it one of only four Historically Black Medical Schools in America. Sutter's \$7.5 million initial investment will provide five full-tuition scholarships across five cohorts (2024-2028), totaling 25 scholarships. Additionally, it will fund HEARE over the next five years to help accelerate interventions that address root causes of inequities. Sutter Health and CDU will also explore additional opportunities to expand the partnership and train more physicians with future initiatives.

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LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL



2024 AWARDS

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**Oxy Dental**



**OXY DENTAL**  
 (Collaboration between Lamar Odom,  
 Dr. John Kim and James Jones)  
 FINALIST

NBA legend and former Laker Lamar Odom teamed with Cal Dental USA's CEO Dr. John Kim and vice president James Jones to create a collaboration called Oxy Dental. Oxy Dental's main objective is to find ways through productive partnerships such as this to bring affordable services as well as provide clean and pleasant offices with excellent customer service to the communities in Los Angeles shared by each of the partners.

Under the leadership of Odom, Jones and Dr. Kim, the company is guided by its values that include quality, effectiveness, integration, caring for the community, caring for the staff, and research and training. At Oxy Dental, the certified general dentists and cosmetic dentistry specialists offer dental services such as general checkups, teeth cleaning, dental bridges, tooth fillings, root canals, tooth extractions, tooth whitening, braces, veneers, crowns, implants, dentures, emergency care, Invisalign, and much more.

**USC Verdugo Hills Hospital**  
 Keck Medicine of USC

**USC VERDUGO HILLS HOSPITAL and LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS**  
 FINALIST

What would it be like to have a career in medicine? This is a question on the minds of the dozens of local high schoolers who since 2019 have taken part in USC Verdugo Hills Hospital's annual Healthcare Day of Discovery. During this annual event, the hospital partners with local schools to introduce students to diverse opportunities in health care, spanning science, nursing, information technology and business administration.

As students approach crucial college and post-high school decisions, this collaborative event provides invaluable insights into various career paths within the industry. The event also helps fill the current need for health care workers locally. In the past five years, about 250 students have spent the day at the hospital to get hands-on medical experience. This year, 74 students from 11 local high schools learned and performed basic health care skills from front line staff.

# Creating Healthier Communities Together



At Providence, we believe that health care happens both inside and outside the hospital walls because everyone should have the opportunity to live a healthy life. Our caregivers live out the Providence mission with passion and are steadfast in serving all in our community, especially those who are poor and vulnerable. We are proud to be recognized for our Outstanding Community Outreach thanks to the great work done by our LA Regional Community Health team.

[providence.org](http://providence.org)



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# ORGANIZATION AWARDS



OUTSTANDING NEW HEALTH CARE PRODUCT OR SERVICE OF THE YEAR  
 HONOREE

## KECK MEDICINE OF USC

To combat physician burnout and increase time spent in meaningful communication with patients, rather than on their charts, Inderbir Gill, MD, a Keck Medicine of USC urologist and founding executive director of the USC Institute of Urology, is leading efforts at Keck Medicine of USC to automate patient record-taking through a program called the AI-Automated Physician Co-Pilot. This program saves both the physician and patient valuable time and reduces repetitive tasks.

The technology is provided in collaboration with OneLine Health, a web-based platform co-founded by Dr. Gill that enhances the medical consultation experience from both the patient and provider perspective. Using the AI-Automated Physician Co-Pilot platform, patients fill out a “smart” form at home before their appointment. The form prompts new questions based on the patient’s answers. Once the patient fills out the form, which takes 10-15 minutes, the notes go directly into the patients’ electronic record, along with the appropriate medical codes. So, when the doctor sees the patient, the doctor is already up to speed.

Of all the disciplines, urology physicians have the highest rate of burn out – 54%, according to a 2020 Medscape survey. Therefore, Dr. Gill recently rolled out and completed a pilot program among some 8,000 urologic patients, along with colleagues at four other institutions representing a diverse group of patients.

The results of the pilot study were stunning. Physicians found that 88-91% of patients complied with filling out the automated form, a result that held steady no matter the patient’s educational level, geographical location or income level. Patients reported a 97-98% higher satisfaction, and providers reported a net higher satisfaction of 92%.



### ADVANCED ONCOLOGY REDONDO BEACH FINALIST

led by Dr. Chad Sila, the dedicated team at Advanced Oncology South Bay in Redondo Beach is committed to delivering personal and state-of-the-art radiation treatment with compassion and expertise.

Dr. Sila and team offer a full and comprehensive range of advanced treatment options, including Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy, Stereotactic Radiosurgery, Intensity-Modulated Radiation Therapy with arc therapy, Image-Guided Radiation Therapy, 3D Radiation Treatment Planning, and High Dose Rate Remote Afterloading Brachytherapy. Patients report that Dr. Sila and his team provide care with skill, compassion and warmth for all patients needing radiation oncology care. At Advanced Oncology Centers, the team strives to surround patients with a strong team dedicated to comfort and peace of mind. The cancer care uses state-of-the-art radiation technologies with a dedication to compassionate, patient-focused care.



### EXECUTIVE MENTAL HEALTH PSYCHIATRY FINALIST

With over 25 years of service supporting mental health for residents in skilled nursing facilities, Executive Mental Health (EMH) has developed a reputation for its partnerships and quality of care, especially among older adults. To support the growth of the company, EMH started a new Psychiatric Services Division in 2021 to offer an interdisciplinary model of care.

As director of the division, psychiatrist Dr. Brian Wu was charged with starting the new services offering and successfully completed the development of the division’s scope, established the operation, including the team selection, training, and management, and garnered business growth of the client base with SNF partners by providing high quality patient care. Dr. Wu and the EMH team launched EMH Psychiatry in the height of the pandemic and amidst a challenging environment filled with uncertainty. Dr. Wu and EMH quickly responded by bringing a human element to a telehealth offering.



### MEDVECTOR CLINICAL TRIALS FINALIST

Patients today want to hear about clinical trials from their doctor, not a Facebook ad. MedVector is revolutionizing health equity and diversity in clinical trials by enabling healthcare providers to host clinical trial appointments from alternative locations. The result creates greater access to patients for clinical trial sites, faster time-to-market for new medications, health equity for advanced medications as treatment alternatives and saves lives.

MedVector allows treating physicians to maintain control of the patient relationship and generate revenue, while the investigator team maintains control of the protocol, source data, and GCP. Using MedVector, patients can virtually travel to the clinical trial site for their appointment at the clinical trial site, with the investigator team.



### SOLLIS HEALTH FINALIST

Sollis Health provides members with unlimited visits and same day appointments to treat common illnesses, emergencies, and everything in between. Patients have 24/7, 365-days-per-year access to in-house physicians via phone, text, or video – even if they are traveling. A dedicated care team handles the coordination of appointments, administrative tasks and continuity of care between members and doctors so patients don’t have added worry in their busy lives. In addition, expedited access to a network of 1,500 leading specialists enables members to skip the waitlist and secure an appointment in days instead of weeks.

Sollis Health’s diagnostic capability is on par with an ER, including onsite advanced imaging and lab testing, often with same-day results. Should a member require hospitalization, Sollis Health can help secure direct admission and VIP hospital services. Sollis Health centers average a wait time of 3.5 minutes vs. the average ER wait time of 3.5 hours.





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# A Visionary Leader to Retire from Largest Public Health Plan in the Country



John Baackes (center) with the 2024 Elevating the Safety Net scholarship recipients.

The healthcare system in the United States is complicated – there are multiple insurers, thousands of regulations, dozens of different types of medical professionals and many stakeholders. Millions of people work in the healthcare industry, all striving to balance cost, quality, and access. One healthcare executive has used his visionary leadership to navigate the complexities and steer the largest public health plan in the nation through tremendous growth, major policy changes at the state level, and a pandemic. John Baackes, the CEO of L.A. Care Health Plan, who in April announced he's retiring at the end of the year, will leave behind a legacy of relentless dedication to under-resourced Angelenos, L.A. Care members, and unwavering support for their communities, health care providers and staff.

**Every program Baackes spearheaded at L.A. Care has been with the clear intent of adding value to providers and members.**

Baackes joined L.A. Care in 2015, with the philosophy that health care is more than a plastic card in your wallet. He frequently posed the question, “how are we adding value to our members and providers,” and importantly recognized that non-medical factors can significantly impact health outcomes. As a result, he prioritized strategic investments in the community to address the health and social needs of L.A. Care members and all Angelenos. The investments included support for the safety net providers to serve the health plan's members.

Not long after arriving at L.A. Care, Baackes advocated to the health plan's Board of Governors to raise its annual Community

Health Investment Fund (CHIF) from \$5 million to \$10 million. To date, CHIF has invested \$138 million via 970 grants to support programs that improve the health and support the social needs of under-resourced community members.

In a separate investment, Baackes asked the L.A. Care Board to approve the Elevating the Safety Net program, a \$205 million effort launched in 2018 to address a growing physician shortage. The physician shortage disproportionately impacts low-income communities of color, the communities L.A. Care serves.

The innovative initiative is comprised of four programs. One program provides grants to clinics and practices to use to recruit new primary care physicians into the LA County safety net. Another offers medical school loan repayment grants to new doctors who commit to working in the safety net for three years. The initiative also provides eight full-ride scholarships each year to medical school students who have expressed an interest in serving under-resourced communities. Elevating the Safety Net also includes a 10-week training program for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) workers, teaching them critical skills such as CPR, first aid, nutrition, infection control, and more. To date, the program has yielded 188 newly recruited physicians, which equates to as many as 376,000 Angelenos having increased access to care. Moreover, 192 doctors were awarded loan repayments and 56 students received medical school scholarships.

In a show of his commitment to the communities where L.A. Care members live, Baackes approved a \$73 million investment for a network of Community Resource Centers, which are jointly operated with Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan. The centers provide a range of fitness and nutrition classes, programs and other services that promote health and well-being to all Angelenos for free, regardless of insurance status. When the partnership launched, there were seven centers, with plans for 14. Twelve centers are currently open, with the last two scheduled to open by the end of the year.

When Baackes joined L.A. Care, the health plan served more than 1.7 million members in Los Angeles County, and the vast majority were Medi-Cal beneficiaries. With

continued expansion due to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and California allowing all who are financially eligible to apply for Medi-Cal, regardless of immigration status, the health plan now serves about 2.6 million members. That number includes the health plan's ever growing membership in L.A. Care Covered, its plan on California's ACA exchange. As a public plan that is not beholden to shareholders, L.A. Care is able to keep rates affordable. In fact, for the fourth year in a row, L.A. Care is offering the most affordable rates across all coverage tier levels in Los Angeles County. This has forced its commercial competitors to sharpen their pencils to try to keep their rates more affordable.

Throughout L.A. Care's tremendous growth, Baackes maintained his position as a national leader in promoting equitable health care for low-income individuals. To ensure health equity for L.A. Care members, Baackes expanded the network of physicians who directly contract with the health plan. Since L.A. Care's Direct Network launched in 2016, it has grown to more than 500 practices and nearly 1,200 physicians, giving providers a choice and improving their efficiency, while increasing access to care for members, especially in areas like the Antelope Valley, which had long been underserved.

Also under Baackes' leadership, the health plan established a grading and incentivization

system that holds medical groups accountable for quality care. The health plan uses a set of metrics such as member satisfaction, utilization, and encounter timeliness to ensure it has the best-performing network of providers.

Every program Baackes spearheaded at L.A. Care has been with the clear intent of adding value to providers and members. He was instrumental in pulling together a coalition of stakeholders across health care in California to advocate for higher Medi-Cal reimbursement rates. California's persistently low reimbursement rates makes it difficult to attract providers into safety net clinics and practice

When Baackes leaves L.A. Care, it will cap a more than 45-year career at health plans, which included time at plans in New York, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania before he moved to Los Angeles. While he will no longer work with a health plan, he will continue to have an impact on health care in Los Angeles County. He recently became the Chair of the Board of Trustees at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science in Los Angeles.

Baackes has called L.A. Care a ‘pioneering agency,’ but it has been through his innovative and strategic stewardship that the health plan has been able to launch some of its most groundbreaking and inspirational programs.

Learn more about L.A. Health Care at [lacare.org](http://lacare.org).



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LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL  
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# Convenient, Collaborative Care

By PIH HEALTH

Our network of highly trained and compassionate physicians, nurses, clinicians, staff, and volunteers work tirelessly and collaboratively every day to maintain and enhance the health and wellbeing of every member of our communities. As a nonprofit, regional healthcare network with hospitals in downtown Los Angeles, Downey, and Whittier, and 31 outpatient medical offices, our services are conveniently located for more people than ever before. Our team of experts and services includes a multispecialty medical (physician) group, home healthcare services and hospice care, as well as heart, cancer, digestive health, orthopedics, and women's health. All three of our hospitals offer emergency services and we now have seven urgent care centers. Today, we serve more than three million residents in Los Angeles County, Orange County, and San Gabriel Valley region.

Consistently recognized as one of the nation's top healthcare systems for quality, treatment, and advanced technology, PIH Health remains on the forefront of innovative strategies and technological advances and is dedicated to addressing the challenges and opportunities of an evolving healthcare landscape and the diverse needs of our community.

## PIH HEALTH GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL: A TRADITION OF CARING, A HISTORY OF EXCELLENCE

Founded in 1885, PIH Health Good Samaritan Hospital is the oldest hospital in Los Angeles and became part of PIH Health in December 2019. The downtown Los Angeles campus includes the nonprofit, 408-bed acute care hospital and a multispecialty medical office building that provides compassionate healthcare services to meet the needs of our patients, their families, and a growing and diverse community.

The PIH Health Wilshire Medical Office Building, located on the hospital campus, offers patients convenient access to comprehensive healthcare services from family medicine, internal medicine, and women's health services to a retail pharmacy and specialty services including cardiology and digestive health. The building is also home to PIH Health House Clinic, which consists of an elite team of audiologists, ear surgeons (neurotologists), and otolaryngologists who are leaders in treating the causes of hearing and balance issues with advanced practices and procedures.

## THE LATEST IN HEALTHCARE IT

PIH Health has been the recipient of national awards for its use of information technology (IT) in healthcare. PIH Health Downey Hospital, PIH Health Whittier Hospital, PIH Health Good Samaritan Hospital and PIH Health Physicians (medical group) sustain a robust IT ecosystem across the entire organization that enables effective collaboration. This complete integration ensures that all aspects of the modernization of the hospital are optimized for maximum benefit across the PIH Health network. As we continue to expand, we remain committed to providing the best quality of care through continuous implementation of technology infrastructure advancements and updates to medical software system, which enhances the coordination of care between PIH Health healthcare providers



PIH Health Good Samaritan Hospital



**PIH Health is dedicated to putting patients first—here to coordinate and deliver top-quality healthcare to help manage chronic disease and treat health conditions for the best possible outcomes.**

and staff, and improves safety, quality, and efficiency and supports healthier outcomes for our patients and community.

For nearly 140 years, PIH Health Good

Samaritan Hospital has been LA's health and wellness partner, providing exceptional care and advanced medical breakthroughs and strengthening bonds with the community it serves.

*This article was provided by PIH Health. To learn more, visit [PIHHealth.org](https://PIHHealth.org) or call (562) 698-0811, TDD-TTY: (562) 696-9267. To find a PIH Health physician near you, visit [PIHHealth.org/Doctors](https://PIHHealth.org/Doctors).*



LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL  
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## Marissa Goldberg Ushers in a New Era of Excellence

**S**outhern California's Doheny Eye Institute has been a beacon of groundbreaking vision research for over 75 years, driving breakthrough treatments and medical advancements that benefit countless people worldwide. For the past 30+ years, Marissa Goldberg, CEO, has helped usher in a new era of excellence that strengthens Doheny's mission to further the conservation, improvement and restoration of human eyesight.

### A LEGACY THAT GROWS IN IMPORTANCE

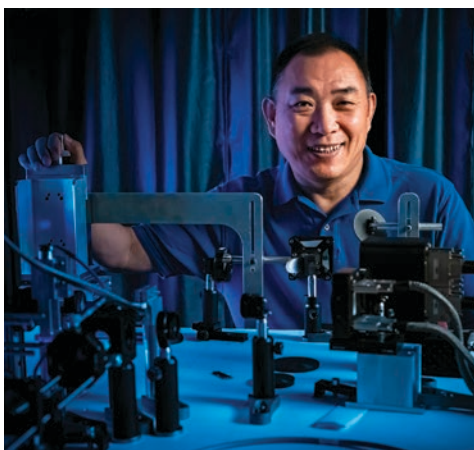
During her storied career at Doheny, Goldberg has held a variety of roles and she continues to work tirelessly to help advance vision science. In 2013, Goldberg and the Doheny Board of Directors signed a long-term affiliation agreement with UCLA's Stein Eye Institute, combining the strength, reputation, and distinction of two of the nation's top eye institutions. She also oversaw Doheny's strategic relocation to a new, state-of-the-art campus in Pasadena in 2021. This campus brings key operations together under one roof: administrative, research and soon also patient care – with the planned Q1 2025 opening of the new Doheny Eye Center UCLA Pasadena.

Currently, Doheny scientists are actively investigating several diseases that cause vision impairment and loss in a growing number of the population, including diabetic retinopathy, uveitis and age-related macular degeneration (AMD), as well as identifying innovative ways to utilize artificial intelligence in helping to diagnose ocular diseases.

Examples of breakthroughs Doheny scientists have made include:

- Developed novel eye imaging equipment and computer-based retinal image analysis.
- Identified retinal biomarkers for Alzheimer's Disease.
- Developed multiple animal models of ocular disease.
- Published findings that help the scientific community better understand factors that contribute to the sudden vision loss experienced by people with Leber hereditary optic neuropathy (LHON) as they enter adulthood.
- Developed custom built equipment, called adaptive optics ophthalmoscopy, enabling scientists to do high-speed measurements of retinal blood flow, which could enhance the ability to detect blood flow alteration that could signal an early stage of eye disease.

Demonstrating the impact of this work,



Doheny has ranked in the Top 10 Best Ophthalmology Hospitals by *U.S. News and World Report* each year since rankings began in 1993, and in the Top 5 since Doheny's affiliation with UCLA Stein Eye Institute in 2013.

### SUPPORTING GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH

As a non-profit organization, Doheny depends upon grants, the generosity of donors, and endowments to help its scientists accelerate their research and make transformative discoveries. There are numerous ways you can support this important work.

**Currently, Doheny scientists  
are actively investigating  
several diseases that cause  
vision impairment and loss  
in a growing number of  
the population.**

Contributing can be as simple as visiting [www.doheny.org/donate](http://www.doheny.org/donate) and signing up to make a one-time, monthly, cash, credit or stock donation, as well as the option to donate a vehicle. You can check if your company has a matching policy to make your contribution go further. In addition, Doheny offers valuable information and resources about planned giving to help secure your future legacy.

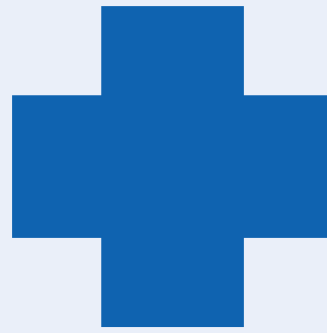
Federal employees, including Veterans and active military, can support Doheny through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), a workplace giving program that offers the opportunity to support charities of their choice through deductions from their paychecks or retiree annuity. To participate, visit <https://givecfc.org/> and search for Doheny by entering its CFC code: 91011.

Another way to get involved is to participate in a Doheny-led research project. Currently, Doheny Principal Investigator Yuhua Zhang, PhD, is conducting a research project studying retinal disease at the cellular level. Dr. Zhang is seeking study participants with normal physical and eye health, as well as those with AMD, diabetes, or high blood pressure. If you are interested in participating, please email [MWoods@Doheny.org](mailto:MWoods@Doheny.org) for more information and to schedule an appointment.

### A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Goldberg strongly believes Doheny Eye Institute is positioned to be one of the best vision research institutes in the world because of its exceptional team and unflagging commitment to advance vision science and improve the quality of people's lives.

To learn more about the groundbreaking research at Doheny Eye Institute, visit [doheny.org](http://doheny.org).



# Today we're celebrating you

Congratulations to Tom Priselac and John Baackes for your achievements and contributions to our communities.

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# JVS SoCal Expands Healthcare Training Programs Through Innovative Partnerships

Los Angeles County's largest not-for-profit provider in the America's Job Centers of California network is expanding its no-cost healthcare career training programs. JVS SoCal first began training certified nursing assistants (CNAs) in 2008 and has since graduated hundreds of students from its eight-week HealthWorks program. Next month, the first cohort of students in ImagingWorks, a paid 12-week radiologic health training program, will begin their work-based learning.

"These programs would not be possible if not for the employer-partners that are at the center of our strategy to economically uplift those we serve and our entire region," said JVS SoCal's chief program officer, Kim Fedrick. "Our generous benefactors are vital partners in helping us respond to industry and community needs."

The ImagingWorks program offers a robust curriculum designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to earn a bone densitometry credential, perform as an MRI Tech Aide and as a Patient Service Representative, opening a path to launching a promising career in the field of radiologic technology.

RadNet founder and chief executive Howard Berger, MD and his wife Karen Kaplan

Berger, have made a multi-million-dollar commitment to help JVS SoCal launch ImagingWorks. RadNet is the leading provider of outpatient radiology services in the country — a selection of RadNet facilities will hire these students while they train.

"Dr. Berger's visionary gift extends the strategic partnership between JVS SoCal and RadNet with another opportunity to change people's lives through a new high-quality training course," said Jeff Carr, JVS SoCal's CEO. "We were inspired by Dr. Berger after our organization's annual Strictly Business dinner in 2023 where he and his wife were honored. To them, giving back means offering those we serve a hand up in advancing their careers. RadNet has been a crucial partner to JVS SoCal for many years, hiring more than 40 CareerWork\$ Medical graduates — another JVS SoCal healthcare industry career training program we offer."

JVS SoCal's ImagingWorks School of Medical Imaging is accredited by the California Department of Public Health Radiologic Health Branch (CDPH-RHB). This accreditation is a significant achievement for the program, affirming the quality of the program's radiologic technology education and training



curriculum.

With this accreditation, graduates of the ImagingWorks program will be eligible to sit for the statewide credentialing exam for dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry (DEXA), which is a critical step in launching their careers. This designation enhances their employability and opens doors to numerous opportunities within the healthcare sector.

Across JVS SoCal's three healthcare programs, more than 50 employer partners are hiring graduates and making generous contributions to help underwrite their education.

In several industries and over decades, JVS SoCal has been a responsive workforce partner. Outside of healthcare, JVS SoCal also operates programs that support the apartment and the financial services industries.

"We make a point to convene our employer partners to help us understand the emerging needs of their businesses" said Randy H. Lapin, SVP of philanthropy at JVS SoCal. "From large hospital systems, like Cedars-Sinai, to outpatient providers and property managers, employers are facing a critical shortage of qualified workers to help them deliver best-in-class care."

Unlike costly programs offered by private for-profit providers that involve loans and fees in the tens of thousands of dollars, JVS SoCal's programs are offered at entirely no-cost to participants thanks to the generosity of corporate, foundation and private donors. Building industry-responsive opportunities for people to upskill outside of traditional universities and colleges is crucial for the future of our community.

Lapin is eager to connect with other professionals, stating, "We hope more forward-thinking employers will join us as corporate partners."

Visit [jvs-socal.org](http://jvs-socal.org) to learn more.

Los Angeles Business Journal

Health Care Leadership Awards 2024



Dr. Brian Wu, Director of Psychiatric Services EMH Psychiatry

**EMH Psychiatry Outstanding New Product or Service Of the Year Finalist**

On behalf of the entire team at Executive Mental Health, we congratulate Dr. Brian Wu and our team at EMH Psychiatry. Since its launch, EMH Psychiatry has endeavored to offer innovative, effective, and compassionate mental healthcare on behalf of the patients and partner facilities that we serve throughout the State of California. We're honored to work alongside you, and are proud of the recognition that you've earned!

Together, we're making a difference in mental healthcare. **Congratulations!**



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# Improve Your Process: See Results with Lean Healthcare Systems Engineering

By DAVID A. QUAM, MD

Healthcare professionals can agree that removing waste, streamlining processes, improving quality and enhancing clinician and patient experience are core competencies. If an organization, large or small, doesn't systematically approach these efforts, the result will be a frustrating slog instead of a steadily forward journey. Unfortunately, many quality and process improvement frameworks are inefficient and ineffective. Not surprisingly, organizations frequently solve the same problems over and over.

The remedy, according to the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, is using systems engineering principles to improve efficiency, reliability, productivity, quality and safety in healthcare. Answering the call, Loyola Marymount University developed one of the nation's first academic programs in Healthcare Systems Engineering.

After gaining expertise through a curriculum based on the Lean Healthcare Systems Engineering (LHSE) approach, over 120 LMU graduates are embedded in healthcare organizations throughout the US and beyond, attacking inefficiencies, bottlenecks, fragmentation, disparities, and poor quality. The methodology carefully examines all aspects of a problem in a rigorous framework that addresses issues from every angle. Solutions for issues with waste, bottlenecks, fragmented communication, poor quality, and the ability to integrate the solution into the rest of the system are all part of what LMU Healthcare Systems Engineering students learn.

In our program, we take students and healthcare professionals of all types (some with science background, and some without) and train them in the principles of the LHSE system, adding coursework in quality and safety, big data and population health, project management, principles and architecture of the electronic health record, and common issues in nearly all venues where healthcare is practiced.

Most students finish in about a year, and upon graduation, are ready to contribute immediately, wherever they land in the healthcare universe. Our faculty includes industry leaders in healthcare operations, project management, leadership, healthcare IT, industrial engineering, and quality, and is augmented by prominent guests from throughout healthcare. Over 95% of our graduates are in healthcare—

as operations leaders, project analysts, consultants, IT professionals, and physicians and other clinicians.

Healthcare professionals can agree that removing waste, streamlining processes, improving quality and enhancing clinician and patient experience are core competencies.

as operations leaders, project analysts, consultants, IT professionals, and physicians and other clinicians.

#### HOW CAN THIS HELP YOU?

- If you're a front-line healthcare professional wanting to move into a leadership position, our master's level program will prepare you for a quality, safety, and process improvement role.
- If you're finishing an undergraduate degree and you want to move into healthcare, this

program can equip you with the knowledge and tools to immediately make a difference.

- Maybe you're in an entirely different industry and want to pivot into healthcare. This program will give you a firm grounding in healthcare systems as well as familiarity with all aspects and venues where healthcare is practiced

- Perhaps you're a quality leader in your organization, but you aren't satisfied with your organization's approach. I'd be happy to speak to you or your team to see if the LHSE approach might be valuable.

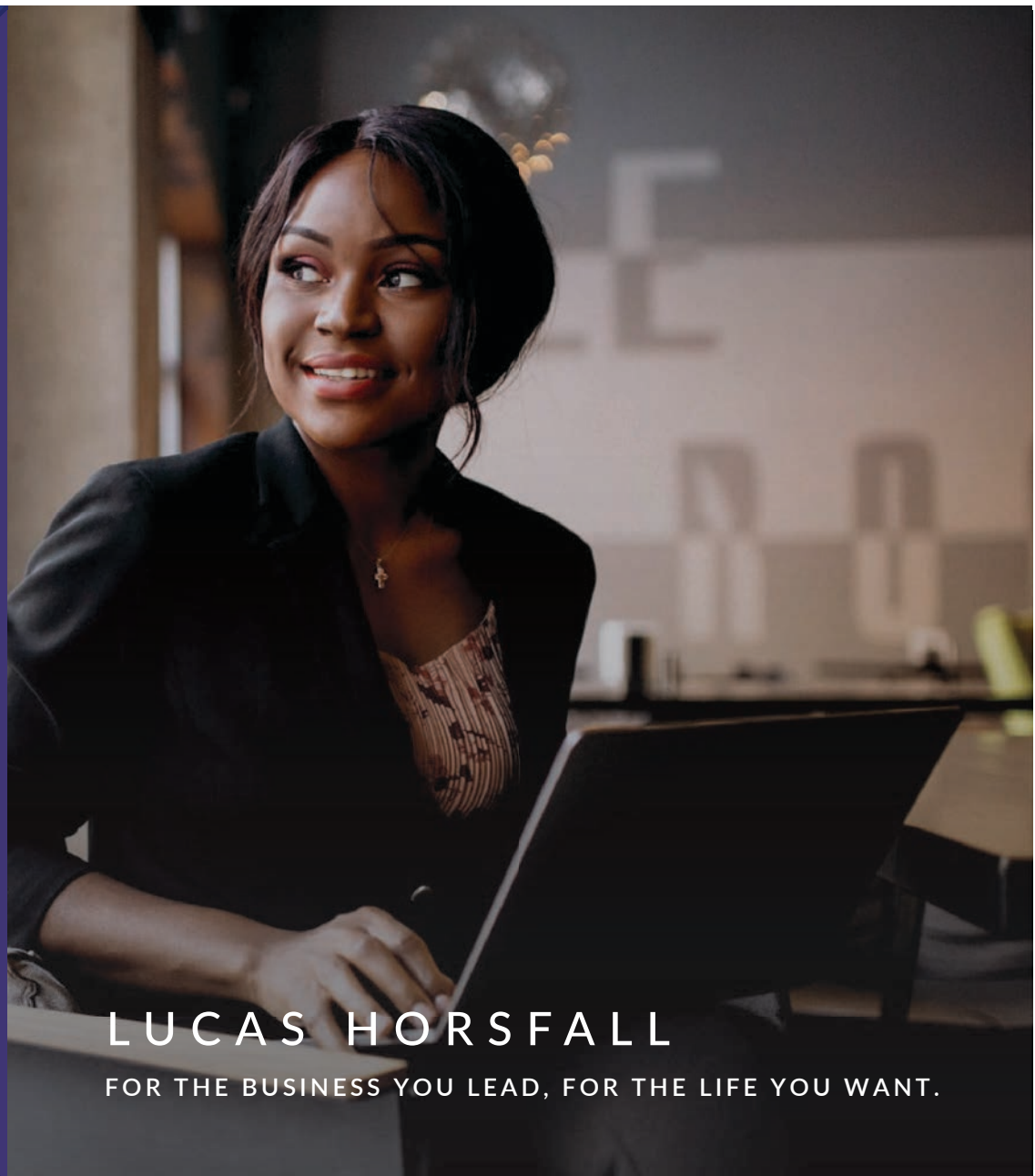
I am passionate about making healthcare processes as efficient, high quality, safe, and equitable as possible. I know that by doing that, we will not only reduce costs, but improve the lives of both patients and those who provide care. If you share this passion, visit us at [cse.lmu.edu/hse](http://cse.lmu.edu/hse).

*David A. Quam, MD is the director of the Healthcare Systems Engineering Master's program at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Prior to taking on this role, he was a practicing physician and executive-level leader for Kaiser Permanente in southern California. He can be reached at [david.quam@lmu.edu](mailto:david.quam@lmu.edu).*

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# OneLine Health: The First “AI Physician Copilot”

In today’s fast-paced healthcare environment, efficiency and precision are paramount. OneLine Health (OLH) has developed a cutting-edge “AI Physician Copilot” that revolutionizes outpatient clinic consultations. Seamlessly integrated with electronic medical records (EMR), OLH streamlines the patient’s clinic journey end-to-end, enabling providers to focus on what truly matters—delivering exceptional patient care.



## ONELINE HEALTH’S UNIQUE MARKET DIFFERENTIATORS

### “AI PHYSICIAN COPILOT”

OLH’s unique AI Copilot automates four critical functions in outpatient clinics (see figure above.) The Copilot creates and summarizes clinical notes autonomously – decreasing physician charting time and increasing patient interaction time. Physicians now know all relevant clinical details about the patient *before* the appointment, enabling *quicker* informed decision-making.

### SAVING 7-10 MINUTES/PATIENT = A LOT!

The AI Copilot decreases the physician’s documentation burden dramatically. The Copilot automatically takes the patient’s detailed clinical history, mirroring a physician’s logic-based symptom-specific questioning, *before* the

visit and then writes the clinic note automatically *before* the visit. All this is done autonomously, without any work on the physician’s part! This saves 7-10 min per consult, which saves ~2 hours per clinic. The AI Copilot fundamentally elevates the provider-patient clinic interaction to a higher level – no more “extractive questioning,” only “confirmatory conversations.” The focus is now on discussing the treatment plan—the real reason the patient is there.

### SEAMLESS EMR INTEGRATION

OneLine Health’s integration with existing EMR systems (Cerner, Epic, Allscripts) ensures access to all clinical data, delivering a cohesive, streamlined workflow. Providers receive detailed patient summaries and key findings within the EMR *before* each patient encounter. Patients using OneLine comment that they feel as if their

physician already knew them and their detailed history *before* meeting them for the first time.

### SIMPLE CLINIC WORKFLOW

As soon as the patient schedules an appointment, the AI Copilot engages them right away. It autonomously takes their clinical history mirroring the physician, aggregates relevant lab/imaging data, and automatically writes the clinical notes. These notes are sent into the EMR and are available to the provider *before* the consultation.

### MULTI-SPECIALTY SUPPORT

OneLine Health is available in over 15 medical specialties – cardiology, GI, neurology, emergency medicine, and many more. It covers primary care providers and specialists.

### THE IMPACT

The “AI Physician Copilot” has broad-ranging impact. *For physicians:* improves efficiency, writes superior clinic notes (59% improvement), decreases workload & burnout, increases satisfaction, shifts focus to patients & quality healthcare, saves time (2 hours/clinic), higher patient throughput resulting in increased revenues for physicians (~\$100K/year), and increase revenues for hospital systems. *For patients:* reduced wait times, more personalized care, higher quality time with their physician, better clinical

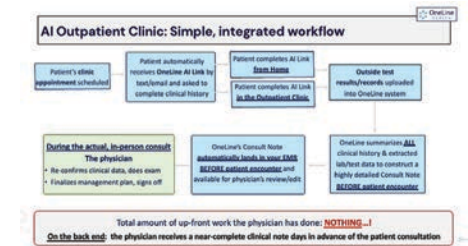
outcomes, higher satisfaction.

### CONCLUSION

As AI evolves, platforms like OneLine Health will play an increasingly important role in shaping the future of patient care. By harnessing the power of AI, OneLine Health empowers providers to deliver more personalized, efficient, and effective care, ultimately leading to better patient outcomes. Whether you are a healthcare provider looking to improve your practice or a patient seeking more personalized care, the AI Physician Copilot will exceed your expectations, ushering you into a new era of healthcare.

Already used for thousands of patients, OneLine’s AI Physician Copilot is now commercially available.

Visit [myonelinehealth.com](http://myonelinehealth.com) to learn more and request a demo.



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LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL

# DISRUPTORS

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