



**Dignity Health®**  
Northridge Hospital

Ranked One of  
America's Top 50  
Hospitals by  
Healthgrades



# Look Beyond Cancer

**2019 Leavey  
Cancer Center  
Annual Report**

For the Year 2018

# Greetings from the Medical Director & Chairman

We're pleased to present you with the 2019 Leavey Cancer Center Annual Report. The following pages detail our cancer-fighting efforts based on 2018 statistical data, with a special emphasis on the latest updates in lung cancer treatments.

The expanded, award-winning Thomas & Dorothy Leavey Cancer Center boasts the most comprehensive, technologically advanced treatments in the San Fernando Valley. We are the first in the Valley to offer the most sophisticated cancer-fighting equipment, including the Revolution Evolution 128-Slice CT scanner, da Vinci Single Incision Robotic-Assisted Surgery and Trilogy Radiation Therapy.

In addition, the Harold & Carole Pump Department of Radiation Oncology offers state-of-the-art high-dose radiation treatments that avoid damaging healthy tissue and successfully treat all stages of cancer. Many cancer physicians at Dignity Health - Northridge Hospital are affiliated with UCLA, giving us a wide range of clinical expertise and cancer-fighting know-how.

We offer the most appropriate treatments for:

- Brain & Spine Cancer
- Breast Cancer
- Colorectal Cancer
- Gynecological Cancer
- Liver & Pancreatic Cancer
- Lung Cancer
- Lymphoma & Leukemia
- Prostate Cancer
- Skin Cancer

To foster a healing environment, the Center features a meditation garden and sanctuaries for rest and reflection. We offer entertainment and Wi-Fi access. Patients also have access to:

- Personal Navigators for Guidance
- Massage Therapy
- Spiritual Care Support

This 2019 annual report is a product of the efforts of many professionals who have contributed their expertise and energy to the improvement of cancer care in our community. Please enjoy this comprehensive report and feel free to contact us for more information on cancer services for you or your patients.

Sincerely,



A blue ink signature of Ronald Tang, DO.

**Ronald Tang, DO**  
Medical Director  
Thomas & Dorothy Leavey  
Cancer Center

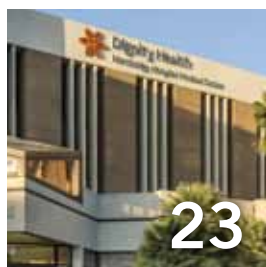
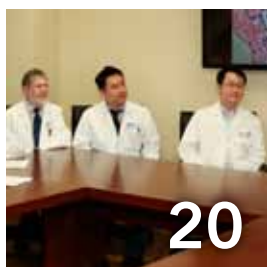
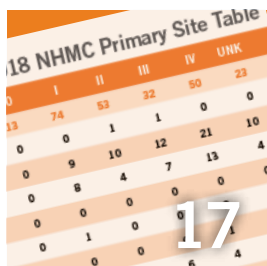


A blue ink signature of Afshin Safa, MD.

**Afshin Safa, MD**  
Chairman, Cancer Committee  
Medical Director  
Radiation Oncology

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# Awards & Accreditations

The Leavey Cancer Center has earned two esteemed accreditations from the Association of Community Cancer Centers and the American College of Surgeons. Only 25% of hospitals nationwide have received the prestigious American College of Surgeons accreditation.



**Dignity Health - Northridge Hospital has earned the National Gold Seal of Approval from The Joint Commission.**



**Ranked One of America's Top 50 Hospitals by Healthgrades Two Years in a Row**

America's 50 Best Hospitals is Healthgrades highest distinction, placing Northridge Hospital in the top 1% of hospitals in the nation for providing overall clinical excellence. We received this honor by exhibiting exceptional, comprehensive and consistent quality care year over year. Simply put, patients are more likely to have a successful treatment without major complications—and an increased chance of survival—at America's 50 Best Hospitals.

## Our Mission

Dignity Health - Northridge Hospital Medical Center is dedicated to developing healthier communities by assuring access and facilitating compassionate quality health care service with a commitment to clinical and service excellence provided by caring professionals who respect the dignity of each individual.

## Our Core Values

Dignity, Collaboration, Justice, Stewardship and Excellence

## Cancer Center Patient & Family Advisory Council

The Cancer Center Patient & Family Advisory Council is a team of staff members, patients and families whose purpose is to:

- ✓ Improve the patient experience based on feedback from the Council.
- ✓ Assist the Cancer Center Staff with a better understanding of unique cultural traditions, values and lifestyles.
- ✓ Allow patients and families to provide input on Cancer Center services and how to better involve the patient/family in the care process.





**Ronald Tang, DO**  
Medical Director,  
Leavey Cancer Center



**Roxanne Rahimi,  
RN, OCN, MHA**  
Leavey Cancer Center

# Lung Cancer: Types, Treatments and Optimism for the Future

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death in most countries around the world, and affects men and women equally. While tobacco smoking increases the risk of lung cancer by about 80%, many cases have been diagnosed among non-smokers who have been exposed to radon, asbestos, or secondhand smoke, which accounts for about 7,000 deaths each year according to the American Cancer Society. Therefore, it is important to know the risk factors for disease prevention.

Overall, five-year survival rates depend on the stage of the disease, but early detection and recognition of symptoms is of utmost importance.



## Lung Cancer Screening for Smokers

The U.S. Preventive Service Task Force recommends annual screening for lung cancer with low-dose computed tomography in adults, ages 55 to 80 years, who have a 30 pack-per-year smoking history and currently smoke or have quit within the past 15 years. Screening should be discontinued once a person has not smoked for 15 years or develops a health problem that substantially limits life expectancy or the ability to have curative lung surgery.

## Types of Lung Cancer

There are two main types of lung cancer. According to the American Cancer Society:

- About 80-85% of lung cancers are non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)
- About 10-15% are small cell lung cancer (SCLC), also known as oat cell cancer.

The NSCLC is classified into three major subtypes: adenocarcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma and large cell lung carcinoma.

- **Adenocarcinoma:** About 40% of lung cancers are adenocarcinomas and are easier to treat than other forms of cancer. It usually occurs in smokers, but is seen in non-smoking women more than men.
- **Squamous cell carcinoma:** Smokers are most likely to have this type of cancer, which accounts for about 25-30% of all lung cancers. It is mainly located in the main bronchus or the main airway.
- **Large cell carcinoma:** Accounts for 10-15% of lung cancers and is difficult to treat. There is a subtype of this cancer known as large cell neuroendocrine that is similar to small cell lung cancer.

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## NSCLC Treatment Options

NSCLC treatments include surgery, systemic chemotherapy, radiation therapy, targeted chemotherapy and immunotherapy.

Adenocarcinoma and the squamous cell carcinoma of the lung are the most frequent histologic subtype in NSCLC. Patients with this type of cancer can benefit from treatments such as bevacizumab, EGFR tyrosine kinase inhibitors and ALK inhibitors.

Patients with stage I, II and IIIA can undergo surgery followed by chemotherapy to remove all remaining cancer cells to prolong survival.

Radiation therapy can help to control or eliminate tumors with patients who have NSCLC.

NSCLC was not considered an immunotherapy responsive tumor type in the past, however, recent evidence shows the immune system can be affected by a specific protein that binds to the tumor receptor to cause cell death. The most successful immune system inhibitors are monoclonal antibodies, which bind to either PD-1 or PD-L1 and prevent their interaction at the tumor.



## SCLC Treatment Options

While SCLC is usually treated with radiation therapy and chemotherapy, recent FDA-approved immunotherapies have resulted in promising outcomes.

## Biomarker Testing

Once the diagnosis of lung cancer and the specific subtype is identified, the clinician can determine the best treatment option through biomarker testing. This test identifies changes in DNA that create an alteration in the genes and the proteins, also known as a mutation.

After a biopsy, the tissues are sent to pathology to determine the type of mutation to direct to the right therapy. Every patient is unique and a personalized treatment plan is rendered for each individual. Specifically, the advancement in molecular biology of lung cancer has led to the identification of several potential biomarkers that could help manage patients with NSCLC in metastatic (stage IV) or even earlier stages.

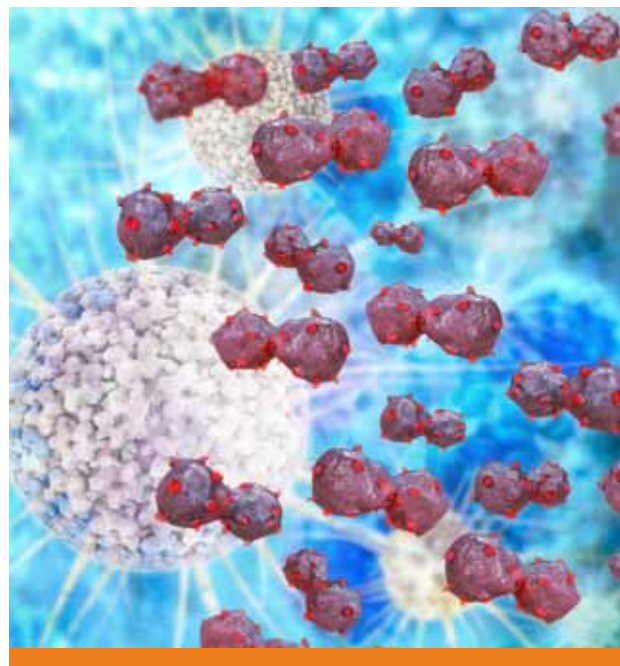
## Types of Mutations

**Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (EGFR)** is a tyrosine kinase receptor that accounts for approximately 10% of patients with adenocarcinoma of the lung in the United States and for 30-50% of patients in East Asia. The EGFR mutation is found more often in adenocarcinomas in women who never smoked. These group of patients can benefit from treatment options such as Erlotinib (Tarceva).

**Anaplastic Lymphoma Kinase (ALK)** is also a tyrosine kinase receptor that has been detected in approximately 4-7% of NSCLC patients and is more common in young patients who never smoked. NSCLC patients with adenocarcinoma respond well to ALK inhibitors such as Crizotinib (Xalkori). What's more, patients treated with Crizotinib respond better than those who received chemotherapy.

**Kirsten Rat Sarcoma Viral Oncogene Homolog (KRAS)** is an oncogene and its mutation occurs in 25-35% of patients with NSCLC adenocarcinomas. This is the most common KRAS mutation associated with smoking that can result in an unfavorable outcome. Also, KRAS mutation can be a predictor of having a second primary tumor. There are no FDA-approved targeted therapy currently available for KRAS, however, there are promising phase 1 clinical trials in the targeted therapy arena.

**Human Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor 2 (HER2)** is a proto-oncogene. While the overexpression of HER2 is found in breast and gastric cancers, it is also present in 7-34.9% of NSCLC. The screening of lung adenocarcinomas for HER2 mutation aids clinicians in identifying patients who will benefit from HER2 targeted therapies such as Afatinib and Trastuzumab.



## Immunotherapy Markers in Lung Cancer

Over the past few years, immunotherapy has been looked at carefully. PD-1 is a receptor on the cancer cell that reacts to the T-cell PD-L1 and causes an inflammatory reaction by infiltrating the tumor cell and causing its death. Nivolumab and Pembrolizumab are both FDA-approved drugs in advanced NSCLC for first and second-line post-chemotherapy.

## Conclusion

Although lung cancer has long been characterized by late-stage diagnosis and no progress in treatment options, there have been encouraging results over the past decade with lung cancer screening in high-risk populations. These findings show that lung cancer is one of the most genomically diverse cancers, meaning there are variations in patient response and outcomes following treatment. What's more, the development of drugs targeting complex cancers in non-smokers has been successful, while advanced technology makes it possible to personalize cancer care and improve outcomes.

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**Women treat women at the Center: (L-R)**

Paniz Heidari, DO; Lisbeth Chang, MD;  
Neda Ballon-Reyes, MD; and Green Hsueh, MD

## Carole Pump Women's Center

The Carole Pump Women's Center offers women the most advanced diagnostic and treatment services at every stage of life, from reproductive to menopausal years. Our woman-sensitive approach to treatment is provided in a supportive, healing environment. Women receive personalized care from a team of female OB-GYNs.

### Online Mammogram Scheduling

The Women's Center offers online mammogram scheduling via InQuicker\*. Convenient scheduling helps promote early detection of breast cancer using digital mammography. Women simply log onto [dignityhlth.org/2IxIS00](http://dignityhlth.org/2IxIS00) and schedule a mammogram at a time that is convenient for them.

### Top Technology

To successfully treat female cancers, we offer an impressive variety of advanced radiation technology that precisely delivers high doses of radiation while sparing healthy tissue.

- Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT)
- Image Guided Radiation Treatment (IGRT)

For gynecological cancer, we also offer da Vinci Si (Single Incision) Robotic-Assisted Surgery. It helps physicians perform precise and accurate laparoscopic surgery through incisions the size of a dime.

*\*InQuicker should not be used for life-threatening emergencies or children under the age of 3. Call 911 immediately for more serious conditions.*





## Cancer Center Staff Teams Up to Match Massage Grant

### Massage for Cancer Patients

The Angie's Spa Cancer Foundation is named after Angie Levy, a young cancer patient who succumbed to her disease after a decade-long battle. The organization provides free in-hospital massages for patients undergoing chemotherapy, radiation and surgery at the Leavey Cancer Center. The massages are proven to decrease stress and alleviate some side effects of treatment. Northridge Hospital is privileged to be one of only six hospitals in the nation selected by the Angie's Spa Cancer Foundation to receive funding to provide free in-hospital massages.

In 2018, the Northridge Hospital Foundation received a continuing grant of \$36,000 from Angie's Spa. In

addition, Angie's Spa provided a Matching Grant of up to \$2,000. A Matching Grant is a gift made with the specification that the amount donated must be matched by the organization.

Motivated by this challenge, the Leavey Cancer Center Staff and patients held a bake sale to raise matching funds totaling \$2,158.65. We also received a grant from the Vons Foundation for \$1,500 and we were given other private donations and tributes totaling \$1,285.99. This ensured that Northridge Hospital exceeded the challenge by raising \$4,994.64 for a combined total of \$42,994.64—enough to fund 1,411 patient massages.

The bake sale raised more than \$2,160 to help fund patient massages.



# Progressive Treatment Options

## 1<sup>st</sup> in the Valley with Revolution Imaging



Northridge Hospital proudly unveils the new Revolution Evolution 128-Slice CT scanner. Commonly referred to as “Revo Evo”, it provides fast, high-resolution, low-dose images—even when performing advanced scans of the heart, traumatic injuries or pediatric patients. In fact, Revo Evo’s image clarity is improved by up to 100% over previous GE® CT scanners, resulting in a quick, accurate diagnosis for all of our patients.

### Revolution Evolution 128-Slice CT Scanner

- Reduces dose by up to 82% in routine imaging for all exams and all patients.
- Capability of scanning a chest in as fast as two seconds with shortened patient breath-holds.
- Obtains diagnostic image quality with reduced noise and improved contrast resolution.
- Reconstructs up to 55 images per second with acquisitions up to 175 mm per second (so speedy, it’s ideal for pediatric patients).
- Scans trauma and vascular images quickly and catches arterial phase enhancement easily without sacrificing image quality.

- Provides high-level care to oncology and chronic disease patients who require multiple scans or frequent follow-up.
- Performs complex cardiac procedures, including coronary CTA and TAVI planning.
- Images patients weighing up to 675 pounds.
- Performs more studies in less time and manages patient flow up to 40% more efficiently.

#### Additional advanced imaging services include:

- PET/CT
- Digital Mammography
- 64-Slice CT
- Triphasic CT Scanning
- Angiography



## da Vinci Si Robotic Surgical System

The more refined da Vinci Si (Single incision) Robotic Surgical System allows physicians to perform a hysterectomy or a gallbladder removal (cholecystectomy)

through one small incision in the bellybutton. da Vinci Si also allows physicians to perform prostatectomy and other urological and gynecological procedures through a few incisions the size of a dime. da Vinci Si's enhanced high-definition 3D vision and unparalleled precision enables surgeons to maneuver and control instruments in ways not humanly possible, which increases accuracy. Patient advantages include a shorter hospitalization, reduced pain, less scarring and a faster recovery.



## Trilogy Linear Accelerator System

For image-guided radiation therapy and radiosurgery, the Trilogy can treat cancer anywhere in the body by delivering a dose of radiation with pinpoint accuracy, resulting in completing treatment in three to five sessions.

### Precise Radiation with Other Therapy, Including:

- Image Guided Radiation Therapy (IGRT)
- Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT)
- Brachytherapy
- Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy

## BrainLAB Image-Guided Navigation System

The BrainLAB is used for delicate surgery of head and neck cancers. The technology is similar to a vehicle's GPS system. It helps physicians prior to and during surgery to navigate the spine and brain with greater accuracy.



BrainLAB Image-Guided Navigation System

## Chemotherapy



Innovative multimodality therapies offer patients the latest approaches, while minimizing side effects. We offer the most advanced methods

of chemotherapy and hormonal therapy treatment in a comfortable lounge or infusion suites equipped with iPods and Wi-Fi for laptop access. For added patient convenience, we have increased the number of infusion chairs from 13 to 20 with increased chair space. We've also added an additional restroom, nutrition room and one private treatment room for higher acuity patients.

## Promising Skin Cancer Treatment

The Harold & Carole Pump Department of Radiation Oncology offers the Leipzig Applicator—a new non-invasive treatment for skin cancer that can treat sites, which were previously difficult to treat, with external beam treatments. High Dose Rate (HDR) Brachytherapy is used to treat superficial skin cancers in just eight treatments during a three-week period. Each of these non-invasive treatments last less than 10 minutes and is very well tolerated with minimal side effects.



## Pathology and Laboratory

The treatment of all cancer patients begins in the Pathology Department at Northridge Hospital. The pathologists are highly trained professionals with education from the City of Hope, UCLA and USC. Through the gross and microscopic examination of specimens and tissue from patients at Northridge Hospital, the pathologists determine the exact type and stage of all cancers. A careful and detailed report is written about each patient's specimen. This is communicated to the surgeons and oncologists so that a personalized treatment plan can be tailor made. This often involves the use of specialized molecular testing as well.





# Supportive Services

## Chronic Disease Transitional Care

Patients with chronic illnesses are supported from admission throughout the hospital stay and after discharge by a compassionate team, including the physician medical director, nurse practitioners, social workers and clinical pharmacists. For cancer patients, J. Gary Davidson, MD, is among the team that addresses physical, emotional, social, palliative and spiritual needs of patients/care partners. An individualized plan of care includes a home visit and follow-up phone calls for at least 30-90 days, helping to ensure follow up with physicians as well as appropriate use of medications and patient/family education regarding disease processes.

**J. Gary Davidson, MD**  
Chronic Disease  
Transitional Care



**Jeremy Grosser, MD**  
Medical Director Chronic  
Disease Transitional Care



## Chapel

A nurturing and peaceful place for silence, reflection or prayer.



## Electronic Health Records

Dignity Health - Northridge Hospital uses the Cerner electronic health record (EHR) system. Our EHR represents a framework for standardizing best medical practices across Dignity Health to empower

medical practitioners to optimize patient care. In addition, the Medical Radiation and Surgical Oncology Departments are film-free and paper-free.

## Learning Library

Located in the Cancer Center Lobby, free information is provided on a wide range of cancer topics.

## Healing Garden

A relaxing place for patients and visitors to sit and enjoy nature.



## Look Good, Feel Better

Classes to enhance cancer patients' appearance with make-up and wigs are coordinated by the American Cancer Society.

## Massage Therapy

Angie's Spa provides free in-hospital massages for cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, radiation and surgery.

## Pain Program

Ensures that patients who have pain are identified and treated quickly and effectively.



## Pet Therapy

Special therapy dogs visit patients to help alleviate pain and reduce stress.

## Social Services

Addresses the unique needs of cancer patients beyond their physical concerns to include psychosocial, psychological and social support.

## Spiritual Care

Honors patients' faith, beliefs and values and provides spiritual support to ease the stress of coping with cancer.



## Support Groups and Cancer Education

Provides opportunities to share and learn from others in similar situations.

- **Breast Cancer Support Group**
- **Cancer Education Classes**
- **Bereavement Program** - Supports patients and families through a compassionate, multi-faith Spiritual Care Program.



## Partnerships with Outstanding Organizations

- **American Cancer Society** - Collaborates with the Leavey Cancer Center to provide additional free, supportive services, education and assistance to our patients.
- **Wellness Community** - Offers a free, professional program of emotional support, education and hope.

## Celebrating Survivorship

Follow-up care and the transition from active treatment to post-treatment care is critical to the long-term health of survivors. Therefore, with funding from the Hearst Foundation and the Harold & Carole Pump Foundation, the Leavey Cancer Center purchased specialized survivor software. This program is now fully operational.

### Key Survivor Care Software Features

- Clinical knowledge base that models industry guidelines for cancer survivorship.
- Productivity tools that give clinical staff more time to focus on providing care to survivors.
- Web-based portal that links each survivor to their care team.



# Navigator Program

Navigator Programs are nationally recognized for increasing a cancer patient's chances for survival and quality of life. Northridge Hospital's patient-focused therapy begins with diagnosis and continues through treatment, remission and beyond. This is demonstrated by a total net community benefit for the Cancer Center of \$195,530 for Calendar Year 2018 that provided educational activities, free mammogram screenings, support groups and patient assistance. In 2006, the Leavey Cancer Center implemented the Navigator Program through a grant from the Avon Foundation for Women and began the Navigator Outreach Program with generous supplemental funding from the Harold & Carole Pump Foundation. It encompasses:

## Harold & Carole Pump Foundation

Sponsored "Reaching Out" Screening Fairs – These events provide free mammograms to those who are uninsured.

## Patient Advocate/Librarian

A part-time, bilingual Patient Advocate assists the Outreach Navigator with both outreach and inpatient needs, including assistance with transportation and home health issues. Moreover, the Patient Advocate assumes the role of Librarian, helping patients and families at the Cancer Center Library.

## Navigator Program Community Outreach

The goal of this program is to educate the community about cancer awareness, ways to decrease risk factors and specific cancer screening guidelines. The Outreach staff also alleviates barriers to care by enrolling those who are

uninsured into the free mammogram screening program and providing assistance with obtaining health insurance. This program is also funded by the Leavey Cancer Center and the Harold & Carole Pump Foundation.

## Community Group Outreach

This program has increased cancer awareness for 8,911 individuals in 73 different community groups. St. Finbar Church members, AIG organization's employees and California State University, Northridge students attending the Matador Madness event comprise a few of the community groups educated.

## School Wellness

The Navigator Program has partnered with Northridge Hospital's School Wellness Initiative to educate parents of the program's students on screening guidelines and how to decrease cancer risk factors.

## Support Groups

The Navigator Program provides a professional liaison for the cancer support groups at the hospital, which include Breast Cancer and Trigeminal Neuralgia. Approximately 20 patients attend per session.

## Clinical Navigator

This is the patient's point-of-contact concierge for any issues or questions. As a resource for each patient's unique needs during treatment, patients can rely on their Navigator whose role is to ensure a smooth transition among all hospital services by assisting with:

- Coordination of patient appointments with other specialists.
- Acquainting patients with all of our services, including our Oncology Unit, Thomas & Dorothy Leavey Cancer Center and the Carole Pump Women's Center.



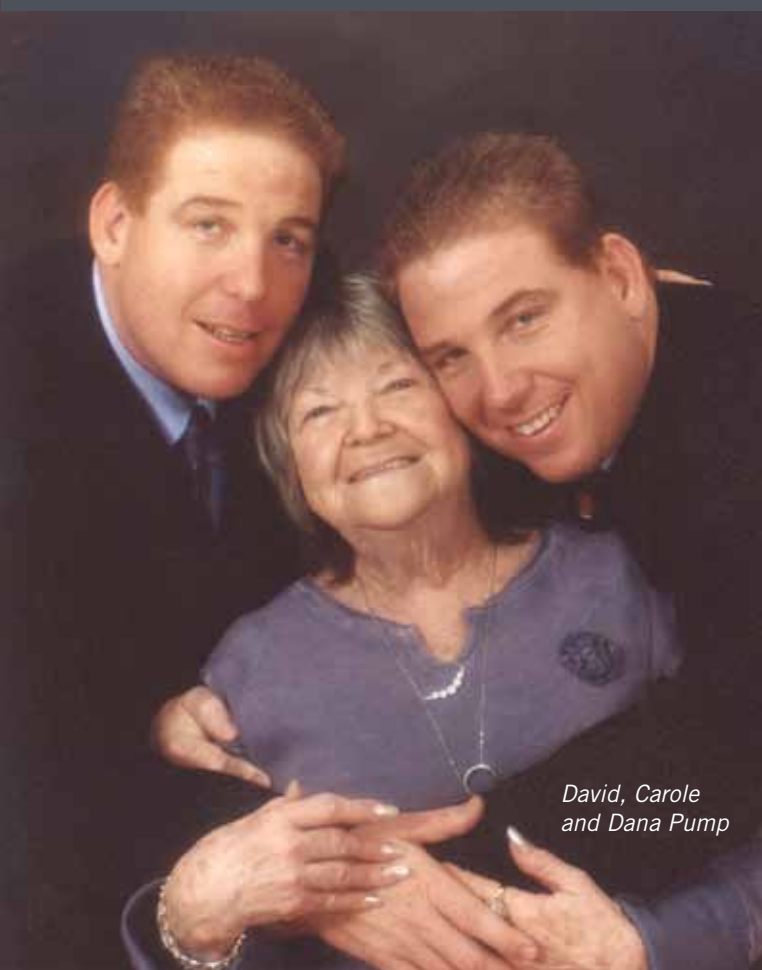
Clinical Navigators personally guide patients through treatment.



- Pre-and post-operative surgery education.
- Connecting patients and families with psychosocial support and groups, classes and programs.
- Enrolling patients in the Hospital's comprehensive Patient Orientation Program, "Navigating Through Your Cancer Journey."

## Oncology Welcome Packages

At their initial consult, patients receive a package designed to ease anxiety and provide comfort for common treatment side effects.



*David, Carole  
and Dana Pump*

*Harold & Carole Pump*  
FOUNDATION

## Honoring Their Memory By Raising Money to Fight Cancer

The Harold & Carole Pump Foundation honors a beloved father who lost his battle with cancer in 2000 and a loving mother who passed away in 2012. Using their unique relationship-building talents and skills, their sons Dana and David Pump, working with Northridge Hospital Foundation, have raised more than \$8 million for the Carole Pump Women's Center, the Harold & Carole Pump Department of Radiation Oncology, the Thomas & Dorothy Leavey Cancer Center at Northridge Hospital and other non-profit community charities.

The mission of the Harold & Carole Pump Foundation is to raise funds and create awareness for the treatment and cure of cancer. By engaging the community, sports leaders and those touched by the disease, financial support is given to develop cancer treatments, programs and services and to obtain the most advanced medical technologies.

From left to right:  
JB Smoove;  
Martin Lawrence;  
Dana Pump; Cedric  
the Entertainer;  
Smokey Robinson;  
and David Pump at  
the 2019 Harold  
and Carole Pump  
Celebrity Dinner.



## Education Saves Lives

The Outreach Program's staff attended 74 community events and educated 8,655 people on cancer awareness in 2018. This education was provided in English and Spanish. Northridge Hospital and the Harold & Carole Pump Foundation partnered with several community organizations to provide the vital outreach services listed below.

### Harold & Carole Pump Foundation-Sponsored "Reaching Out" Screening Fairs

Educating community members about cancer prevention and early detection is vital to their health and can save lives. Thanks to the generosity of the Harold & Carole Pump Foundation, the Carole Pump Women's Center hosted 12 free health fairs for the uninsured in our community. "Reaching Out Health Fairs" attract hundreds of people, who receive free breast evaluations and screenings. Since prevention is key, attendees also learn how to decrease their chances of a cancer diagnosis.

In 2018, the Harold & Carole Pump Foundation provided 651 people with the following free health screenings:

- 392 screening mammograms
- 35 diagnostic mammograms
- 120 ultrasounds
- 12 ultrasound needle placements
- 8 biopsies
- 80 Family Practice consultations

As a result of the screenings and follow-up work, two positive breast cancer cases were diagnosed.

### Family Plan – Support, Comfort and Home Health

The Family Plan Fund assists patients and their families with payment for services or equipment needs. Patients who are hospitalized or at home with a cancer diagnosis face many difficult hours filled with painful treatments, unpleasant side effects, invasive tests and much uncertainty. This is interspersed with periods of boredom, depression and fatigue—making it a very difficult time for the patient and their families.

### Patient Home Aid

Provides funding for home care to families who wish to discharge their loved one and continue care in the comfort of their own home.

Sponsored by Harold & Carole Pump Foundation's Family Fund, this program provided over 206 hours of service in 2018.



### Transportation

For those lacking transportation to and from medical appointments and the Leavey Cancer Center, 1,249 rides were provided.

### Advanced Technology

The Endoscopic Video System purchased by the Harold & Carole Pump Foundation is used for minimally invasive endoscopic procedures, which are far more beneficial to the patient than traditional open surgical approaches.

## 2018 NHMC Primary Site Table

STAGE:	0	I	II	III	IV	UNK	NA	Total	% Total
ALL SITES	13	74	53	32	50	23	31	276	100%
Head and Neck	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	3	1.10%
Digestive System	0	9	10	12	21	10	1	63	22.80%
Respiratory System	0	8	4	7	13	4	0	36	13.00%
Bone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Soft Tissue	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.40%
Skin	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.40%
Breast	10	36	29	6	4	0	1	86	31.20%
Female Genital System	0	8	3	2	3	1	0	17	6.20%
Male Genital System	0	2	3	3	1	4	0	13	4.70%
Urinary System	3	2	0	0	4	3	0	12	4.30%
Eye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Brain/Nervous System	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	9	3.30%
Thyroid/Endocrine	0	4	0	0	1	0	6	11	4.00%
Hemic and Lymphatic	0	4	3	1	2	1	7	18	6.50%
Other/Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	2.20%

Source: Public Health Institute



# Physicians in the News

**Afshin Safa, MD, Medical Director, Radiation Oncology**, was featured in the Valley News Group's three local newspapers: *Warner Center News*, the *Weekly Valley Vantage* and the *Las Virgenes and Calabasas Enterprise* in an article about new technologies at Northridge Hospital to fight skin cancer.

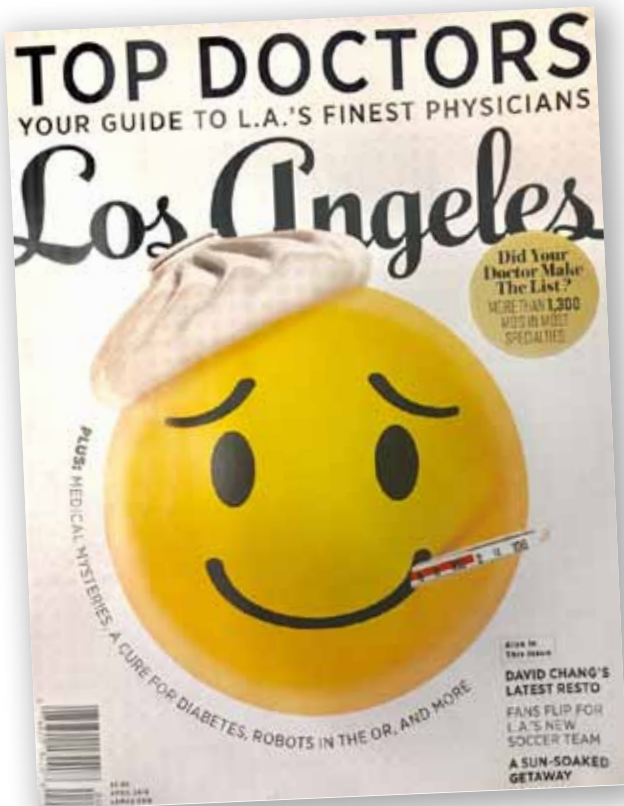
**Ronald Tang, MD, Oncologist**, was featured on KABC News Radio speaking about the Centers for Disease Control's report on the 43% increase in liver cancer deaths since the year 2000. He also appeared on *Good Day LA* - Fox Channel 11, CBS Channel 2, and KCAL Channel 9 to discuss the risk factors and warning signs of pancreatic cancer in response to *Jeopardy!* Host Alex Trebek's recent Stage IV diagnosis. And, he was featured on KNX 1070 News Radio speaking about the new FDA requirements of health care providers for mammography exams, and on *Good Day LA* - Fox Channel 11 to discuss the risk factors, warning signs and prevention of skin cancer.



**Afshin Safa, MD**  
Medical Director,  
Radiation Oncology



**Ronald Tang, DO**  
Internal Medicine,  
Hematology, Medical  
Oncology



## Special Recognitions for Northridge Hospital Physicians in *Los Angeles Magazine*

Congratulations to the following physicians for being recognized as TOP DOCS 2018 in the "Top Doctors" issue of *Los Angeles Magazine*:

**Afshin Safa, MD**  
Radiation Oncology

**Anil Wadhwani, MD**  
Vascular/Interventional  
Radiology



## Grateful Patients

*"I would like to express my sincere gratefulness for this wonderful service. To be able to have my mammogram there in this facility and at no cost is a blessing. When you have a family history of breast cancer having a mammogram done is stressful, but knowing that I have a place to be taken care of brings relief."*

**Garcia S.**

*"I would like to express my extreme gratitude for your charitable assistance. I am a cancer survivor. I am currently undergoing daily radiation treatment for six weeks. Because I used to carpool to work, transportation was a big dilemma. When the cancer center coordinator informed me that I could have access to transportation for free, it gave me such relief. Because of your generosity, I can have my radiation treatment without the added concern of not knowing how to get to the center. Thank you."*

**Christina D.**

*"The taxi service provided by the cancer center is a lifesaver. As a cancer patient, the taxi service was essential. During my chemo treatment, I moved in with my mother who lived further away from Northridge Hospital than I did. Without the taxi service, I would not have been able to commute to the hospital as I was too weak to make the long trip back and forth. Thank you."*

**Camila H.**

*"I was often asked during the course of my chemotherapy and radiation treatments if I wanted a massage. I always declined the offer, but this day a "Chemo Friend" in the next chair accepted for me before I had a chance to say no. It was one of the best decisions I made."*

*The massage therapists are skilled, professional and compassionate. Within just a few minutes, the soothing effects of their touch began melting away tension, aches and pains that no pill could equal. I never declined a massage again. There is nothing more relaxing than having a massage during a chemo treatment."*

**Mary D.**

# Oncology Conferences & Tumor Boards

Oncology Conferences are an opportunity for physicians to review and discuss treatment options available for specific malignant processes. The conferences are multidisciplinary and include physicians from Medical Oncology, Radiation Oncology, Surgery, Radiology and Pathology. Each case is reviewed for the medical history, physical findings, diagnostic imaging and therapeutic approaches. For each case presented, the conference focuses on pretreatment evaluation, clinical and pathological staging, new medications, clinical trials and National Comprehensive Cancer Care Network treatment guidelines.



*Monthly Tumor Board Meeting*

Cases presented at the Oncology Conferences are at least 10% of the annual analytic cases accessioned into the Cancer Registry database and include cases from the five major sites seen at Northridge Hospital. At least 75% of the cases presented are required to be prospective. Prospective cases are defined as those that are presented at a time when management of the patient's disease process could be influenced by discussion. This includes newly diagnosed cases not yet treated; cases in which treatment has been initiated and additional treatment options may be needed; and cases of disease recurrence following completion of initial treatment.

**In 2018, 35 Tumor Boards were held with all of the 191 case presentations being prospective cases.**

The Cancer Registry monitors Oncology Conference activity and reports their findings to the Cancer Committee on an annual basis to ensure compliance with the American College of Surgeons cancer program standards.

Physicians are encouraged to contact the Cancer Registry at 818.885.8500, ext. 2835 or ext. 2833 to schedule case presentations for the following conferences:

**Breast Conference:**

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month

**General Tumor Board:**

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month

**Head and Neck Tumor Board:**

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every other month

Northridge Hospital Medical Center is accredited by the Institute for Medical Quality/California Medical Association (IMQ/CMA) to provide continuing medical education for physicians. Northridge Hospital Medical Center designates this live activity for a maximum of 1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)<sup>™</sup>. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.



# Medical Oncology at the Thomas & Dorothy Leavey Cancer Center

In partnership with Dignity Health – Northridge Hospital, the Los Angeles Cancer Network provides compassionate individualized diagnosis, evaluation and treatment of all malignant disorders, including solid tumors and hematologic malignancies, and treats patients with the most current anti-cancer drugs and treatment protocols available. The Los Angeles Cancer Network physicians are board certified in Hematology and Oncology, and their distinguished affiliations include the Southern California Oncology Research Alliance (SCORA).



**Boris Bagdasarian, DO**  
Internal Medicine,  
Hematology, Medical Oncology,  
Bone Marrow Transplantation



**Nubar Boghossian, MD**  
Internal Medicine,  
Hematology, Medical Oncology



**Lasika C. Seneviratne, MD**  
Internal Medicine,  
Hematology, Medical Oncology



**Ronald Tang, DO**  
Internal Medicine,  
Hematology, Medical Oncology



**Jotika Thompson, MD**  
Internal Medicine,  
Hematology, Medical Oncology



## Radiation Oncology

The Harold & Carole Pump Department of Radiation Oncology is a comprehensive treatment center in the Valley that provides an impressive selection of advanced treatment options like Trilogy Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT), Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT), Image Guided Radiation Therapy (IGRT) and High Dose Rate Brachytherapy for all stages of cancer.

The department is staffed by UCLA Department of Radiation Oncology physicians. This faculty is nationally recognized in radiation delivery to improve patient care and treatment outcomes. These physicians are also dedicated to delivering conscientious and compassionate care for our patients while offering attentive support to our patient's families.

**Afshin Safa, MD**  
Medical Director,  
Harold & Carole Pump Department  
of Radiation Oncology

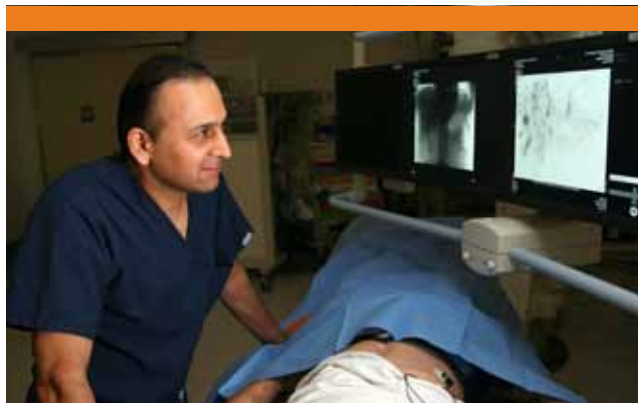


## Surgeons

Northridge Hospital boasts outstanding surgical oncologists as well as specialized surgeons in thoracics, neurology and gynecology. Our surgical team provides patients with a range of options best suited to their individual needs. They are also extraordinarily precise in removing cancer while preserving as much normal tissue and function as possible. Studies show that, for many cancers, patients have fewer complications if their surgery is at a hospital performing a high volume of these operations and by a surgeon who has expertise in the procedure, like those found at Northridge Hospital.

## Sub-Specialized Radiologists

Renaissance Imaging Medical Associates (RIMA) employs an extraordinary team of highly subspecialized radiologists. RIMA offers distributed subspecialty radiology services along the lines typically seen only in top academic radiology departments.



**Anil Wadhvani, MD**, Interventional Radiologist

## Oncology Nursing

Specially trained oncology nurses provide the balance between innovative, expert treatment and personalized care. They stay abreast of the latest treatments and technologies through research, certification and life-long learning and maintain certifications in the implementation of specialized treatments such as chemotherapy, radiation therapy, IV therapy and blood transfusion. Many are certified specifically in oncologic nursing.

## Cancer Program Practice Profile Reports: Accountability Measures Ensure Quality of Care



**Ronald Tang, DO**  
Cancer Liaison Physician

Accountability measures promote improvements in care delivery and are the highest standard for measurement. An accountability

measure is the standard of care derived from evidence-based data, including multiple randomized control trials. Dignity Health - Northridge Hospital Cancer Committee

ensures the highest standards of cancer care by continually monitoring compliance with these measures. Our cancer program met benchmark performance all applicable areas, including:

### BREAST:

Radiation therapy is recommended or administered following any mastectomy within one year (365 days) of diagnosis of breast cancer for women with  $\geq 4$  positive regional lymph nodes [MAC].

**The program maintained 100% in this area in 2013.**



### COLON:

At least 12 regional lymph nodes are removed and pathologically examined for resected colon cancer [12RLN].

**The program achieved 88% for 2012, 89% in 2013 and 100% in 2014 (benchmark is 85%).**

### RECTAL:

Preoperative chemo and radiation are administered for clinical AJCC T3N0, T4N0 or Stage III; or Postoperative chemo and radiation are administered within 180 days of diagnosis for clinical AJCC T1-2N0 with pathologic AJCC T3N0, T4N0 or Stage III; or treatment is recommended; for patients under the age of 80 receiving resection for rectal cancer [RECRTC].

**The program maintained 100% in this area in 2013 and 2014 (benchmark is 85%).**

# Cancer Committee Membership 2018

The membership of the Cancer Committee is multidisciplinary, representing physicians from the diagnostic and treatment specialties and non-physicians from Administrative and Supportive Services. Coordinators who are responsible for specific areas of program activity are designated by the membership.

*Attendance requirement to be set by Cancer Committee Quorum Requirement: 7 voting members.*

## Physician Members

### **Afshin Safa, MD**

Radiation Oncology, Cancer  
Committee Chair

### **Uthaiah Kokkalera, MD**

General Surgeon

### **Ronald Tang, DO**

Cancer Liaison Physician  
Internal Medicine, Hematology,  
Medical Oncology  
Leavey Cancer Center Medical Director

### **Jotika Thompson, MD**

Internal Medicine, Hematology,  
Medical Oncology  
Leavey Cancer Center Medical Director

### **Gary Davidson, MD**

Cancer Registry Quality Coordinator  
Hematology, Medical Oncology  
Transitional Care Medical Director

### **Jeremy Grosser, MD**

Internal Medicine, Pain Control  
Transitional Care Medical Director

### **Kimberly Mislick, MD, PhD**

Pathology and Laboratory Services,  
Medical Director

### **Tobi Quinto, MD, PhD**

Pathology and Laboratory Services

### **Anil Wadhvani, MD**

Diagnostic Radiology

## Administrative Members

### **Philip Abraham**

Chaplain, Manager Spiritual Care

### **Hasmukh Amarasekera, RT(T)**

Clinical Navigator

### **Catherine Barbiera, RN, MSN, CNOR**

Director, Pain Management,  
Transitional Care

### **Jill Dickson, RN, OCN, MSHCM**

Director, Cancer Services  
Cancer Program Administrator

### **Sonja Flores, CTR**

Certified Tumor Registrar

### **Holly Hessel-Altman, RN, BSN, MS, CPHQ**

Senior Director, Quality

### **Lisa Lewis, RN, BSN**

Manager, Quality

### **Gina Gorgan, RN, MSN**

Clinical Director, Med/Surg., Rehab

### **Debra Horwits, MSPT**

Director, Rehabilitation

### **Susan Carr, MSPT**

Manager, Rehabilitation Program

### **Joanne Jones**

Cancer Registry  
Cancer Conference Coordinator

### **Deborah Kahn, RN, MSN**

Clinical Manager, Acute Oncology  
Orthopedics

### **Irene Tamayo**

American Cancer Society

### **Roxanne Rahimi, RN, OCN, MHA**

Clinical Research Coordinator

### **Cheryl Lovett, RHIT**

Director, Health Information Management

### **Cynthia Owens, LCSW**

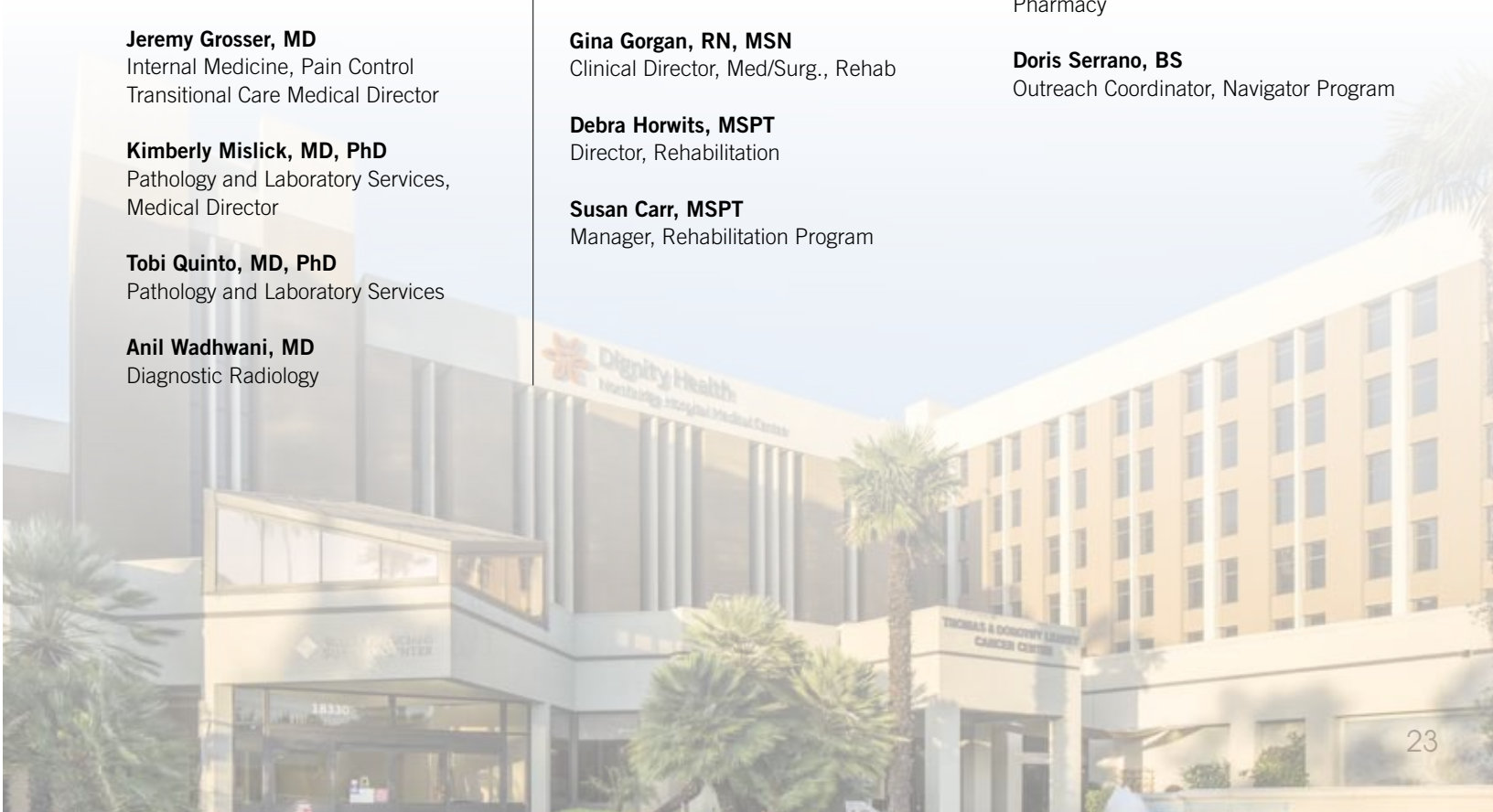
Psychosocial Services Coordinator  
Social Services/Case Management

### **Robert Sakamoto, PharmD**

Pharmacy

### **Doris Serrano, BS**

Outreach Coordinator, Navigator Program





# Thomas & Dorothy Leavey Cancer Center

## 3 Free Ways to Find-A-Cancer Doctor

1. Call 818.908.8677
2. [dignityhealth.org/northridgehospital](https://dignityhealth.org/northridgehospital)
3. [Healthgrades.com](https://www.healthgrades.com)

Free valet parking is available, enter by Leavey Cancer Center off of Roscoe Blvd.



**Languages spoken:** English, Spanish, Korean, Tagalog, Farsi, Arabic, Malayalam, Afrikaans, Urdu



18300 Roscoe Blvd.  
Northridge, CA 91328

**Main Hospital 818.885.8500**  
**Leavey Cancer Center 818.885.5341**