

HEALTHCARE



Are clinical trials safe for you?

Dr. Susan M. O'Brien
photographed by
Michael Der



At any given time, about 300 clinical trials are underway at the UCI Health Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center to bring the most innovative drugs and technologies to our patients.

Despite the many benefits of clinical trials, some myths about them and their safety persist.

Dr. Susan M. O'Brien, one of the nation's leading leukemia experts and medical director of the cancer center's Sue and Ralph Stern Center for Cancer Clinical Trials and Research, explains the facts and dispels the myths about clinical trials.

How do clinical trials benefit patients?

Clinical trials offer hope for patients with diseases that haven't responded to standard-of-care treatments. If an investigational treatment proves effective, trial participants will have benefited from the therapy long before it's available to patients everywhere.

Don't some participants get a placebo (sugar pill)?

This is a common misconception about most clinical trials. Placebos are rarely used. Sometimes patients may receive a different drug or a combination of drugs in addition to the standard treatment for their condition.

In clinical trials designed specifically to assess the preventive value of drugs, vitamins or vaccines, placebos may be used for a control group of participants.

Is it true that you can't quit a clinical trial once you have signed on?

No. You are free to stop participating at any time and return to standard-of-care treatment.

Does health insurance cover clinical trials?

Most insurers, including Medicare and Medicaid, cover the standard-of-care costs for any clinical trial. Added expenses for anything more required by the study — such as extra office visits, lab tests or scans — are paid by the company of the drug or device being tested.

In drug trials, most of the drugs are free. This is hugely important for oral cancer drugs, which can cost about \$10,000 a month, with a copay. I've heard of copays of \$1,000 a month for standard-of-care drugs.

What other protections for patients are in place?

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which monitors all active clinical trials, has many regulations to protect participants, including requiring:

- Manufacturers to file applications detailing what's in a drug and how it is made
- Tests in animals — mice and other mammals — to study a drug's toxicity and how it is metabolized before its use in humans
- Submission of a trial design for FDA review, revision and approval

Why are clinical trials so important?

No new drug is approved by the FDA without data from clinical trials. All the successful treatments we have for cancer were first investigated in a clinical trial.

Clinical trials are the only way we make progress in medicine, to continue to improve therapies for all types of cancer.

UCI Health

ucihealth.org/cancer

STOP AT NOTHING

TO ADVANCE CANCER CARE

One of many internationally renowned leaders in cancer clinical research at UCI Health, Dr. Susan O'Brien stops at nothing to help patients with chronic and acute leukemias. Her work earned her recognition as one of 15 international cancer pioneers named a 2020 Giant of Cancer Care®. O'Brien, medical director for clinical trials at UCI Health Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, leads the push to bring more early-phase and investigator-initiated studies to the people of Orange County and beyond.

ucihealth.org/stopatnothing

UCI Health



Dr. Susan O'Brien,
2020 Giant of Cancer Care
award recipient.



MemorialCare Expansion Continues

January 2021

Presented by MemorialCare

Pandemic Heroes Award

We are incredibly proud of our caregivers, who were honored nationally with Special Recognition for Heroism for their continued commitment to patient safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The prestigious Pandemic Heroes Award honorees were selected by leaders and advisors of The Leapfrog Group, an independent national organization of employers and other groups focused on health-care safety and quality. MemorialCare was one of only two health systems on the West Coast to receive this prestigious honor presented to just 24 health care organizations and individuals nationwide.



Introducing MemorialCare NOW

Access to virtual healthcare has never been more important than it is now, as we battle this pandemic. Get care where and when you need it.



E-Visits: That connect you to a MemorialCare provider within 60 minutes of submitting your online questionnaire, with all results kept in your medical records for continuity of care.

Video Visits: Meet with a provider face-to-face using a smartphone, tablet, or computer. Many conditions can be treated virtually, including normal office visits that do not require a physical exam.

Urgent Care: When medical needs just can't wait. Our award-winning physicians are ready to treat you and your family in-person or virtually.

Emergency Care: With every protection and precaution, we are experienced and ready to care for all patients at any time.

Doctors of Women Join MemorialCare

Doctors of Women, an exceptional group of board-certified obstetricians and gynecologists in Irvine officially joined the MemorialCare family and will utilize Saddleback Medical Center as its preferred hospital for women's services. It is a great pleasure to have these highly acclaimed physicians join our team as we expand our network throughout Orange County and the greater Long Beach area.



Hello again, Huntington Beach and Newport Beach!

Surf City, our ninth breast center is now open! Our compassionate and caring physicians and staff at our Huntington Beach location are solely dedicated to the prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer. With MemorialCare Breast Centers located across our region, we look forward to providing more patients with close-to-home access to our state-of-the-art services.



MemorialCare Breast Center Huntington Beach
7055 Yorktown Avenue, Suite 102
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Head South on PCH

Our eighth breast center recently opened in **Newport Beach** between Irvine Avenue and Dover Drive.



MemorialCare Breast Center Newport Beach
2001 Westcliff Drive, Suite 103
Newport Beach, CA 92660

Visit [memorialcare.org/breast](https://www.memorialcare.org/breast) to learn more and request an appointment.

Value-Based Care

The pandemic continues to have a significant impact on the business community. The effects of COVID-19 have highlighted the importance of managing the health of your employees and your bottom line. Both are possible with value-based care.

MemorialCare offers more value-based products than any other health system in Southern California. These products allow us to reduce waste and ensure your employees are receiving the right level of care, while preventing large claims costs to your company.

Additionally, we have the largest network of off-hospital licensed sites for primary/specialty care, imaging, surgery, dialysis, and physical therapy in our region. These sites offer much of the same equipment and the same physicians as our hospitals, but at a significantly lower cost.

We proactively steer patients to these sites when clinically appropriate. For self-insured employers paying their own claims, this results in tremendous savings.

Visit [memorialcare.org/B2B](https://www.memorialcare.org/B2B) to explore value-based options for you and your team.

Contact:

To learn more about MemorialCare's employer health solutions, contact Cathy Capaldi at ccapaldi@memorialcare.org or (714) 377-2960.



To Our Healthcare Heroes

A Heartfelt Thank You from All of Us

We've witnessed your courage. We've witnessed your unwavering strength. For nearly a year, you have put the needs of the community above your own. Thank you for showing up day in and day out to make a difference in the lives of others that need you now more than ever. Thanks to you and your families for your bravery and your sacrifice. Thank you for choosing to be our heroes.

As our frontline staff tirelessly work to battle this disease, we encourage our community to continue doing your part by social distancing, wearing a mask, washing your hands and getting vaccinated once the vaccine becomes available to you.

800-MEMORIAL (636-6742)
memorialcare.org



Orange Coast Medical Center
Saddleback Medical Center
MemorialCare Medical Group
Greater Newport Physicians



CHOC Neuroscience Institute Marks Milestone Year in Treating Children Who Experience Uncontrolled Movements

In August 2020, CHOC marked a milestone when, for the first time at the hospital, a clinical team in the Neuroscience Institute performed a surgical procedure called deep brain stimulation (DBS) on a patient afflicted with the movement disorder dystonia. As a result of her three-stage surgical treatment, that patient, Sydney Amato, now 17, is experiencing less severe involuntary contractions of muscles in her neck, arms, legs and trunk.

"She's doing great!" says her father, Louis.

So great, in fact, that Sydney recently got her driver's license and can drive short distances in her 2014 Jeep Cherokee, says her mother, Angie. Sydney is due back at CHOC in February for more testing, which occurs every three to four months.

A second CHOC patient, a 13-year-old boy, finished the second stage of the DBS procedure in December 2020. And a third patient, a 9-year-old boy who underwent the same procedure at another hospital, now is being regularly monitored by CHOC specialists.

These three DBS patients illustrate CHOC's commitment to providing cutting-edge care to its patients, some of whom are afflicted with complex conditions that other pediatric hospitals are unable to resolve.

Although DBS is not a cure for dystonia or other movement disorders, the procedure can dramatically improve the quality of life of patients whose uncontrolled and abnormal movements can be painful and disruptive. These uncontrolled movements can be caused by primary dystonia, secondary dystonia, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, chorea, tremors, and Tourette syndrome.

CHOC is currently the only center in the world to use the three-stage DBS surgical approach that allows doctors to better target the most impactful areas of the brain, without the need to wake a child during surgery. DBS involves the placement of electrodes in the brain and wires that connect to a stimulator device implanted in the chest. The device is like a pacemaker; it sends impulses to the electrodes that tell the brain to stop or minimize uncontrolled movements throughout the body.

While many pediatric centers place only two to four permanent electrodes in the brain, CHOC's specialized team places 10-12 temporary ones, before settling on four permanent ones, to target more areas of the brain for a better outcome and greater flexibility in treatment. And by finding the best targets for stimulation within the brain, its unique three-stage procedure can lead to better outcomes than traditional two-stage DBS surgery.

In the first stage of the surgery, 10 to 12 temporary electrodes are placed inside the brain. After surgery, the patient stays in the hospital for about a week while the electrodes are tested to help doctors decide which placements appear to have the best effect. The temporary electrodes are removed at the end of the week before the patient leaves the hospital.

About two weeks later, the patient undergoes a second surgery to place four permanent electrodes. About one to two weeks after that, a third outpatient surgery is performed to place two pacemaker-like devices under the skin of the chest. A wire is placed under the skin to connect the stimulator device to the electrodes in the brain.

Sydney started showing signs of dystonia when she was 5 ½ years old and had her first brain surgery at age 7, with several subsequent attempts at surgery at other medical centers. She had been all over the U.S. seeking the right treatment for her condition, but to no avail.

CHOC's four pediatric neurosurgeons perform nearly 80% of all pediatric neurosurgeries in Orange County, and also receive many patients from surrounding counties. Advanced surgical technology for traditional and minimally invasive neurosurgery such as DBS is only available at CHOC and at

a few other pediatric hospitals across the nation that offer comprehensive neuroscience programs.

Working in a state-of-the-art operating room that includes the latest StealthStation S8 navigation system for safer, more precise procedures and the ROSA 3D-mapping robotic system that aids surgeons in locating the exact areas to operate, Dr. Joffre E. Olaya, CHOC's functional restorative neurosurgeon, implanted temporary electrodes into Sydney's brain. Dr. Olaya precisely placed the leads in collaboration with Dr. Terence Sanger, a physician, engineer and computational neuroscientist who joined CHOC in January 2020 as its vice president of research and first chief scientific officer.

Dr. Sanger is a pioneer in performing the DBS procedure on patients with movement disorders. In 2000, working with engineers, data scientists, neurosurgeons and others, he began developing an approach that encompasses two phases for more precise implanting of the electrodes in pediatric patients.

In 2016, Dr. Sanger began honing DBS to treat children with dystonia. Before the surgery on Sydney, Dr. Sanger had overseen DBS on 26 children using the three-stage technique that he created with Dr. Mark Liker, an adult neurosurgeon with extensive experience with DBS in Parkinson's disease. So far, 85% of children have seen successful results with the new procedure, compared with only 50% with the older procedure performed at other centers.

CHOC's second DBS patient is Carter Blackman Rico, who just before Christmas 2020 completed the second stage of the DBS procedure. He was diagnosed at age 5 with H-ABC, a type of leukodystrophy that affects the white matter of the brain, with dystonia a secondary symptom.

Using a wheelchair, a G-tube for food, and a device that allows him to communicate by tracking his eye movements, Carter is very engaged with the world around him. He loves movies and doing anything creative, such as art.

Initial results when Carter received 10 temporary electrodes in mid-November 2020 were promising and give his parents, Lourdes and Robert, some hope. Carter was able to grasp a pen and paintbrush and was able to manipulate them more than he had ever done before.

"We are hopeful," Lourdes says.

Carter's parents praise the "spectacular" quality of care they have received at CHOC.

CHOC's third DBS patient, Ryder Montano, underwent DBS surgery in 2017 for his condition, post-pump chorea, a movement disorder he developed after open-heart surgery when he was 2 ½ years old. Ryder's physician is Dr. Sanger.

"We would follow Dr. Sanger anywhere," says Ryder's mother, Ashley, who recently began taking her son to CHOC after Dr. Sanger joined the hospital. The family, which includes Ashley's husband, Al, and Ryder's sister, Harper, 5, lives in Orange County.

Prior to undergoing the three-stage DBS procedure, Ryder had no control over his movements. He could not hold up his head or sit up or feed himself or walk. Now, he can walk independently, feed himself, and can sit and watch a movie.

"Watching the improvement has honestly been mind-blowing," Ashley says. "I'm very pleased we have a doctor like Dr. Sanger who is willing to go the extra mile to perform outside-the-box treatments on these kids. All we ever wanted was a chance at improving Ryder's quality of life, and that's what this is all about."

To learn more about the CHOC Neuroscience Institute, visit www.choc.org/neuroscience.





**Innovators in pediatric care research.
Defenders of childhood.**

At CHOC, patient experiences inform the future of patient care. Learn more about how our Research Institute is advancing pediatric health at **CHOC.org**.





Sarah Miller - COM '15 (M.S. '16)



Katie Cornella (MMS '18)

Chapman Graduate Programs Deliver the Next Generation of Health Care Professionals

Sarah Miller doesn't carry a stethoscope, wear a white coat or write prescriptions. But her work in health care is vital nonetheless.

Miller, who earned her master's in health and strategic communication at Chapman University, is director of partnerships with the non-profit Patient Safety Foundation. Every day she helps spread the word about the positive steps and protocols health care providers can adopt to reduce medical error, ensuring better health outcomes for people around the globe.

"The work that we do here really makes a difference," says Miller (MS '16). "I love my job and they say when you love your job, you never work a day in your life."

Investing in Health Sciences

That kind of passion is typical among the increasing numbers of Chapman University alumni graduating from the university's graduate programs in health sciences. In the last several years, the university has added new graduate programs and expanded others, training the next generation of health care professionals across the spectrum, from pharmacists to physician assistants.

New infrastructure for the programs includes state-of-the-art core lab facilities at the Harry and Diane Rinker Health Science Campus in Irvine, while on the Orange campus new and revamped classroom buildings serve graduate students in health and strategic communication and marriage and family therapy programs.

All together, they are equipping a health care workforce with the skills needed to succeed in today's team-based health care environments. Moreover, they graduate ready to contribute to a new focus aimed at improving health care for all, says Janeen Hill, Ph.D., dean of Crean College of Health and Behavioral Sciences.

"We educate future healthcare professionals who are compassionate and concerned with the health of individual people and the more significant challenges of population or public health," Hill says. "We are increasingly and deeply concerned about what each of us can do to further improve and accelerate the education of our students who we know will be an essential part of defeating the virus and confronting head-on injustice, prejudice, and systemic inhumanity."

For many, the work is already underway.

Pharmacists Serve Patients

"Over 200 Chapman University School of Pharmacy alumni are on the front line to the COVID-19 response around the nation," Jordan says.

A healthier future is certainly foremost in the mind of Chapman University School of Pharmacy alumnus Hung Do. Do (MS Pharmaceutical Sciences '16) is now a drug safety officer with the FDA.

"We all have friends and family members who need safe medications, and we want them to have the best possible care. Knowing regulatory science and health policy allows us to make better choices and create good decisions on complex issues. Therefore, we help improve patient outcomes," Do says.

To help meet the need of that growing health care sector, Chapman this year launches two graduate programs at its School of Pharmacy. The master's of science programs, one in patient safety and the other in regulatory affairs, build on the university's goal to prepare global citizens who make positive impacts, says Ron Jordan, the school's founding dean.

"Regulatory affairs professionals within industry and leaders in patient safety within health delivery developed in our new programs will make considerable contributions in these areas," Jordan says.

Physician Assistants Meet the Challenge

Likewise, graduates from the university's physician assistant program are at the forefront of another vital response to health care demands.

Katie Cornella (MMS '18) discovered her passion for a specialty – cardiology – during a rotation in Chapman's Physician Assistant Program. Now she works as a PA at the Orange County Heart Institute and Research Center.

It's important work. Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women.

Cornella experiences many rewards in providing care, including the chance to spend more time with her patients than is typically possible for physicians. Patients share their gratitude when she details their diagnosis and takes their questions about all the steps in the process.

"That ultimately increases their confidence in the treatment plan," Cornella says.

The PA and pharmacy programs are located at the Rinker campus. Facilities investment there also allowed the university to relocate its distinguished programs in speech language disorders and physical therapy to Irvine, creating a health sciences hub in proximity to the county's growing biotech sector.

Similarly, on its campus in Orange the university revamped the Frances Smith Center for Individual and Family Therapy, a community clinic that provides students supervised clinical experience and offers community members free and low-cost counseling.

Messaging About Medicine

Across campus, state-of-the-art classrooms in Doti Hall serve students in the MS in health and strategic communication program. Their skills are critically needed in health care, too, says Lisa Sparks, Ph.D., founding dean of the School of Communication.

"Courses are designed to educate students in health communication theory and methodology and to evaluate important communication topics such as delivering upsetting news, the accuracy of the media, the digital divide, public advocacy, intercultural sensitivity and/or cultural competence, health literacy, and the quality of interpersonal relationships," Sparks says.

Improving Patient Outcomes

For graduates like Miller of the Patient Safety Foundation, the strategic health communication program opened a door into a career that allows her to use her people skills while helping to create a healthier world, the ultimate goal of all Chapman health science programs.

The impact is often profound. One of Miller's responsibilities with the Patient Safety Foundation is to help people involved on both sides of medical error share their stories in videos and educational programming so that other health care workers can learn from them and further accidents might be averted.

A nurse who administered an incorrect dosage of prescription medicine to a hospital patient felt compelled to share her story so that others could learn from it. Thankfully, the patient survived and with Miller's help, others are learning from the experience.

"This nurse found out about the work that we do here and she was really passionate about our mission and vision," Miller says. "These are the kinds of people that make you want to get up in the morning. It's inspiring."

Learn More About Chapman's Graduate Programs
chapman.edu/admission/graduate





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with innovative graduate programs ranging from health and strategic
communication to pharmacy.

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CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

Promising Cancer Therapies Pioneered at Hoag



In the fight against cancer, more people in Orange County turn to Hoag Family Cancer Institute than any other cancer program. Hoag is recognized as a national leader in cancer care and is ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the nation's top Cancer Centers. Hoag Family Cancer Institute is home to many of the most promising scientific discoveries and clinical trials that have been developed in treating cancer, and as a result, Hoag patients continually achieve top cancer survival rates.

Molecular Imaging & Therapy

Building upon its personalized, science-based approach to cancer care, Hoag has launched the Molecular Imaging and Therapy Program, the first program of its kind in Orange County, bringing some of the most advanced diagnostic and treatment clinical trials to the region.

Gary A. Ulaner, M.D., Ph.D., who is dual board-certified in radiology and nuclear medicine, recently joined Hoag Family Cancer Institute from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center where he served as the PET/CT expert on the Breast Cancer and Myeloma Disease Management Teams. He brings with him multiple innovative clinical trials, some of which are national research trials through collaboration with the National Institutes of Health, that use molecular imaging to detect cancer at a cellular level, well before traditional imaging. Using molecular imaging to target cancer cells, Dr. Ulaner will also be conducting trials to evaluate the efficacy of targeted radiation therapy ("liquid radiation") to then treat cancer.

Cell Therapy Using NK Cells

Cell therapy is a type of immunotherapy, or immuno-oncology, where patients with advanced cancer are given immune cells engineered with cancer fighting properties to destroy cancer cells. Hoag's Cell Therapy Program conducts a number of cell therapy clinical trials, contributing to the development of promising new therapies for some of cancers most advanced diseases.

Hoag is the first hospital in Orange County to offer cell therapy for solid tumors, including a cell therapy trial for patients with advanced pancreatic cancer.

Applied Genomic Technologies – Bringing Precision Medicine to the Bedside

Hoag Family Cancer Institute offers a clinical and scientific team of experts in oncology, genomics, genetics, molecular pathology and genetic counseling all working together to take a deeper look at a patient's cancer. Using high-performance technologies known as

bioinformatics, Hoag analyzes DNA-sequencing data to better understand the genomic profile of a patient's tumor, helping Hoag's clinical team truly personalize treatment plans. Hoag goes one step further to also identify those at risk for developing cancer, with enrollment in screening and surveillance programs. Through multiple disease-specific tumor board conferences and a dedicated molecular tumor board, this group discusses patient cases and the integration of precision medicine into treatment planning.

"Hoag Family Cancer Institute is delivering some of the most advanced, most effective cancer therapies available," said Burton Eisenberg, M.D., Executive Medical Director, Hoag Family Cancer Institute and the Grace E. Hoag Executive Medical Director Endowed Chair. "Hoag has built programs, like molecular imaging and therapy and cell therapy, recruited the brightest physicians to lead them, and paired that with excellence in nursing, state-of-the-art facilities, and leading-edge clinical trials. These are all winning combinations not just for Hoag, but for our patients who we are deeply committed to."

Most Advanced Radiation Therapy is at Hoag

The ViewRay MRIdian™ linear accelerator is the most advanced radiation oncology tool available, and it can be found at Hoag. Through the generosity of community donors Dean and Gerda Koontz, Hoag was the second in California to acquire the ViewRay MRIdian, and 16th in the nation.

Unlike conventional linear accelerators, the ViewRay MRIdian utilizes MRI imaging in combination with a linear accelerator, which allows Hoag clinicians to obtain real-time, high resolution images of a patient's tumor during treatment. If the tumor has shifted from movement in the bowels, or by a patient's breath, radiation delivery stops to avoid radiating healthy tissue. This level of precision allows Hoag clinicians to deliver a higher, potentially more effective, radiation dose while sparing healthy surrounding tissue, decreasing side effects.

Connect With Us

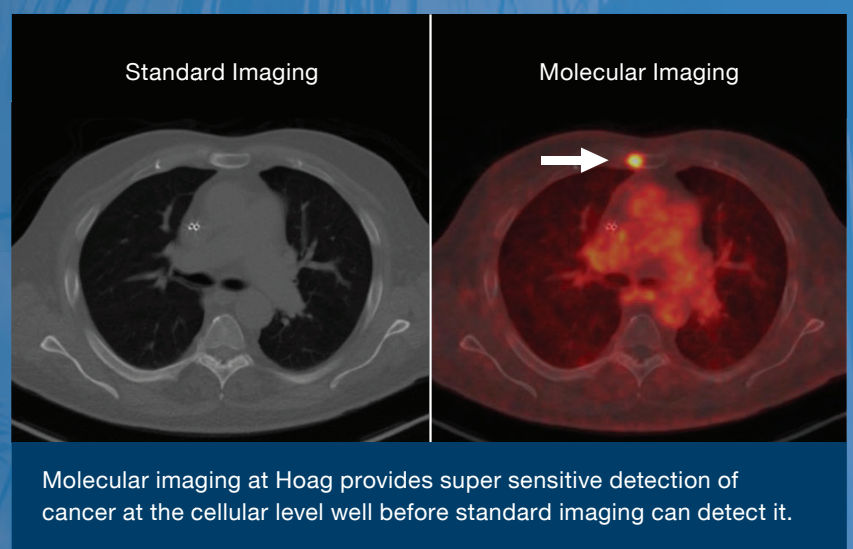
It may be hard to know where to start following a cancer diagnosis, or even seeking a second opinion. When you contact us, Hoag will connect you with a site-specific cancer nurse navigator who will help you and your family take the first step, including connecting you with some of Orange County's leading oncology physicians, clinical trials and support services. **Call us at 949-7-CANCER or visit www.hoag.org/conquer.**

Hoag Brings Molecular Imaging & Therapy to Orange County

LED BY NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED RADIOLOGIST AND NUCLEAR MEDICINE EXPERT GARY A. ULANER, M.D., PH.D.



Hoag Family Cancer Institute is pleased to launch the Hoag Molecular Imaging & Therapy Program, the most advanced diagnostic and treatment program available in Orange County. Recruited to lead this revolutionary program is Gary Ulaner, M.D., Ph.D., who brings with him clinical trials which are the first to be offered in the county, the state and some to be the first in the nation. Dr. Ulaner will be conducting ground breaking trials of molecular imaging to detect cancer, as well as molecular therapies ("liquid radiation") to treat cancer.



Learn more about Hoag's Molecular Imaging & Therapy Program at www.hoag.org/mit or call 949-7-CANCER.

City of Hope Newport Beach: A Safe Place for World-Class Cancer Care



Michael Brown and his physician, Tingting Tan, M.D., Ph.D. at City of Hope Newport Beach.

“The care team takes **extensive precautions to protect me during my treatment.**

I feel safe while receiving exceptional care.”

– Grateful patient
Michael Brown

During a time of pandemic and public health directives, people living with cancer may ask themselves, “Should I delay my care until COVID-19 fades away?” They want to get the best treatment to fight a serious illness, and they also want to be sure they’ll be safe when they visit the clinic or doctor’s office.

City of Hope addresses these concerns with the benefit of decades of highly specialized expertise in caring for immunocompromised cancer patients. At City of Hope Orange County, patients coming to start or resume a course of treatment amid coronavirus concerns will experience a highly safe and supportive environment.

“The care team at City of Hope Newport Beach takes extensive precautions to protect me during my treatment,” said San Clemente resident and lung cancer patient Michael Brown. “I feel safe while receiving exceptional care.”

COVID-19 is of profound concern to cancer patients because they are at heightened risk of severe complications should they contract it. Cancer treatment, or the cancer itself, weakens the immune system and requires patients to be exceptionally vigilant about protecting themselves from infectious diseases like the flu or COVID-19.

It’s important to remember that travel for essential medical care is not restricted and that medical facilities, especially those with specialized expertise in treating people with compromised immune systems, have implemented rigorous safeguards to protect patients and staff.

City of Hope’s safeguards include:

- Expanded use of telemedicine, allowing patients to see a physician from the comfort of home
- A no-visitor policy to enhance safety and reduce the number of people in the office
- Pre-entry temperature checks
- Medical-grade masks worn by all
- Physically distanced waiting rooms and infusion bays
- Frequent and meticulous sanitizing of all areas of the facility
- Hand sanitizing stations located throughout the building

“Cancer does not stop because of a pandemic,” said Misagh Karimi, M.D., Director of Clinical Operations at City of Hope Newport Beach and a medical oncologist specializing in gastrointestinal cancers.

“City of Hope is among the nation’s most prepared organizations to help patients through this crisis” Dr. Karimi said.



Misagh Karimi, M.D.

Dr. Karimi said the arrival of vaccines is welcome news but that it’s important to continue to wear masks and practice social distancing. The surge of COVID-19 cases in the region is obviously a cause of great concern to everyone.

Stay-at-home orders may cause some people to put their medical care on hold because of concerns about the virus. Dr. Karimi said cancer specialists across the U.S. noticed a sharp drop in the number of screenings as the pandemic took hold. Breast

cancer screenings in the U.S. fell by 85 percent in April 2020 compared to 2019. Colon cancer screenings fell by 75 percent. Lung cancer screenings fell by 56 percent.

Many people undoubtedly postponed seeking treatment or a second opinion for a cancer they already knew about. It’s important to continue treatment; delaying it can limit treatment options and the chances of a cure.

If you or someone you love has cancer, talk to a doctor about the best way to continue care.

“Patients whose care teams take meticulous precautions to safeguard against COVID-19 will be best served by proceeding with their cancer therapy, in keeping with their physician’s guidance,” Dr. Karimi said.

Discover safe and expert cancer care at City of Hope Newport Beach. To make an appointment, call **(949) 763-2204**.



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What Businesses Can Expect as the COVID-19 Vaccine Rolls Out

The end of the rocky year of 2020 brought hopeful news as the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines for COVID-19 were introduced, showing effectiveness of 90% and higher. Businesspeople around the world have been able to look at 2021 with some real hope for an end to the disruption that the global pandemic has caused.

But will the new normal look anything like the normal of 2019? The answer to that question won't reveal itself all at once, with the vaccine rollout expected to take many months and key questions still unanswered. Take a look at some of the issues about vaccination and changes to the workplace that will come to the forefront in 2021.

The Vaccine Dilemma: Should You Require Employees to Be Vaccinated?

Vaccination against COVID-19 is the single most important step in returning to some variety of normal. As infectious disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci has pointed out, once about 75% of the country is vaccinated, social distancing and mask requirements can be safely lifted — and not until then.

Issues still remain about how to reach that 75% compliance level, however. Some people are reluctant to be vaccinated at all, while others want to wait to see how the rollout of the new vaccines goes before making a commitment. This reluctance slows the ability of the nation to get back to business and keeps customers (and employees) home.

Businesses are well-positioned to encourage the spread of vaccinations. Business leaders can, in fact, require vaccination as a condition of employment.

Legally, businesses that take this stance are on firm footing. In 1905, the Supreme Court ruled in *Massachusetts v. Jacobson* that the government may indeed require vaccination (the disease in question at the time was smallpox). Over a century later, that ruling still holds. It's the reason why school districts can require vaccination of students and employees and why many hospitals also require vaccinations of various sorts.

There's a real plus for businesses that do require vaccination. Employees are more likely to feel comfortable and safe coming to work if they know everyone in their workplace has been vaccinated. That sense of safety even translates to a competitive advantage for many businesses. Think how relieved you'd feel getting into an Uber or Lyft if you knew the driver had been vaccinated.

Of course, in all cases, medical and religious exemptions for the COVID-19 will continue to exist, as they do for existing vaccines. However, the people claiming those exemptions shouldn't hinder reaching the 75% immunity level needed for normal to return.

Not all business owners feel comfortable mandating a vaccine, however. Some are concerned about the public relations issues that could arise, while others fret about the potential for legal liability. In some cases, business associations plan to encourage mandatory vaccines as a group, providing PR cover for individual companies. Other business owners want to encourage or recommend vaccination to their employees, but feel that requiring vaccination might harm their culture of trust.

A couple of other options exist. Some businesses plan to offer bonuses to employees to get vaccinated. Others, such as Target, will offer vaccination at the workplace to remove any barriers to vaccination. In the same vein, Ford Motor Company has already ordered freezers to facilitate vaccine storage for workplace vaccination. In addition, some restaurant chains plan to pay for their employees' vaccinations, seeing this as a step toward encouraging customers to feel safe returning.

Changes to the Way We Work

The post-COVID new normal is likely to look a little different than the old normal, and it's likely to affect different industries in varying ways. Live events, including concerts, theater, and sports, were the most grievously affected by the pandemic, and they'll be the last to recover. The travel and hospitality sectors will also feel the effects of COVID for many more months as well. However, once vaccination has fully taken effect, it's probable that these sectors will be able to rebound.

The future for retail may look a bit different than the past. While customers had been turning to online shopping for some years, 2020 saw an explosive growth in e-commerce. Businesses that haven't already created e-commerce divisions may already be too late to capture shoppers who will continue to take advantage of the ease of shopping from their sofas.

In addition, employees in office-based industries have, in many cases, come to love the ease of remote working, along with the benefits of giving up their two-hour commutes and, often, working on a more flexible schedule. Businesses have also begun to question the finances involved in supporting expensive office spaces. Companies may want to explore options for some continued remote work, since this cultural shift may prove to be permanent.

Businesses may also find themselves invigorated as they realize how quickly innovation can occur. The speed of the pivot when lockdowns began was remarkable, accomplishing in a matter of weeks what might have taken years of committee meetings and feasibility studies. Smart companies will take advantage of 2021 to create their own new normal intentionally, rather than sticking with what they've always done.

COVID-19 Laws in 2021

Of course, COVID-19 had some legal repercussions as well, with laws taking effect in 2021 that mandate employer response to the pandemic in several ways.

Key among these new regulations are laws regarding workers' comp for employees who contract COVID-19. In some industries, COVID-19 may be considered an occupational injury subject to workers' compensation requirements and benefits.

The quarantines associated with COVID-19 have also resulted in the state of California establishing return-to-work criteria for employees with positive COVID-19 tests. Employers should be aware of the need to keep those employees away from the workplace for 10 post-symptomatic days, as well of the existence of some more stringent local laws. The return-to-work criteria will remain in place until at least May 2021.

Finally, California employers must develop written COVID-19 prevention programs in 2021. These require communications with employees regarding COVID-19 exposure, return-to-work criteria, and face covering and social distancing rules in the workplace.

By addressing employee and customer concerns about COVID-19 exposure, and by encouraging (or even requiring) vaccination, employers can go a long way to speeding up the return to normal that should help turn 2021 into a positive year for business.

At Marquee Staffing, we're ready at all times to support employers, helping you stay up-to-date on regulations and paving the way toward the new normal. Contact us to find out how we can help you grow your organization in 2021.

Claudia Perez Sr. Vice President of Operations

As the Sr. Vice President of Operations, Claudia oversees day-to-day strategic operations, including spearheading marketing projects, employee training and development programs for Marquee Staffing's contingent workforce. With her strong background in business development, she continuously strives to build lasting partnerships with clients and candidates. As a result, her team focuses on quality, customer service, compliance and strategic placements.





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