

By Barbara Caruso, BA

■ permanente in the news

*A compilation of news, significant awards, and accomplishments about Permanente clinicians and employees and the Permanente Medical Groups.*

# KP News Roundup

## KP's National Transplant Network Honored by US Senate and Local Governments

The US Senate, the City of Oakland, and Alameda County in California all proclaimed April 28, 2005, National Transplant Network Day in celebration of the tenth anniversary of Kaiser Permanente's (KP) National Transplant Network (NTN).

The NTN provides KP members with access to a network of solid and bone marrow transplant programs located at "Centers of Excellence"—medical facilities outside the KP system that meet or exceed the NTN's stringent site selection criteria and that are known nationally for their transplant programs. In 2004, the NTN managed 563 transplants for KP members.

In addition to managing transplants for KP members, the NTN also promotes and encourages communitywide awareness of organ donation. To learn more, visit KP's National Transplant and Contracting Services Intranet site: <http://scm.kp.org/scm/ntacs> or <http://ncap.kp.org/scm/ntacs/index.cfm>.

## KP Honored for Contributions to Minority Access to Health Care

KP received the 2005 Mary Eliza Mahoney Award, presented each year by the National Minority Health Month Foundation to an individual or organization for outstanding contributions toward ensuring that minority communities have the best possible access to health care. The foundation's board was particularly impressed by the Care Management Institute's work on a diabetes study conducted with the foundation. The board cited KP's genuine commitment to exploring new avenues to ensure better health outcomes for minority patients.

Born in 1852, Mary Eliza Mahoney was America's first African-American professional nurse. Since its inception in 1999, the National Minority Health Month Foundation has promoted the building of coalitions and evidence-based solutions designed to eliminate health care disparities.

## Southern California Permanente Medical Group (SCPMG)

### Benjamin K Chu, MD, Named President of the KP Southern California Region

**Benjamin K Chu, MD**, was named President of the KP Southern California Region earlier this year. Dr Chu brings more than 25 years' experience to KP. He comes to KP from the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC), where he served as President of the \$4.2 billion organization with 11 acute care hospitals, 40,000 employees, and 7000 contract physicians. Under his leadership, HHC implemented clinical information systems throughout the organization, initiated systemwide process redesign initiatives in ambulatory care, oversaw a \$1.2 billion capital rebuilding program, developed communitywide cardiovascular and cancer screening programs, and spearheaded the growth of HHC's managed care plan to cover more than 220,000 plan members.

### Physician Receives Community Service Sabbatical Award

The Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and Hospitals Board of Directors has selected **Altaf Kazi, MD**, a pediatrician at KP's West Los Angeles medical facility, as the recipient of the 2005 David M Lawrence, MD, Community Service Sabbatical Award.

The sabbatical award is named for former Chairman and CEO **David M Lawrence, MD**, and was created to honor a KP physician or employee who has made an outstanding contribution to the health of a specific KP community. The award includes a fully paid sabbatical of up to three months and a \$10,000 contribution to the recipient's community service project.

Dr Kazi has volunteered more than 350 hours each year since he became involved in community service more than ten years ago. He is chairman of the University Muslim Medical Association (UMMA) board of directors and continues to see patients at the clinic, which provides medical care for more than 12,000 underserved residents of South Central Los Angeles. In addition to

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his work with UMMA, Dr Kazi helps coordinate an annual health fair for the homeless in downtown Los Angeles, provides free sports physical exams for underserved children at an annual football camp, volunteers monthly as a pediatric attending in the resident clinic at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, and serves as a "community-based" preceptor for University of Southern California medical students during their pediatric clerkships.

**Physician Committed to Training Others on Innovative Procedure**

**Seth Kivnick, MD**, was selected an Everyday Hero and is featured in the Everyday Heroes Gallery at the Walnut Center for his work establishing a surgical team to implement laparoscopic hysterectomies at the West Los Angeles Medical Center. He took the initiative to learn about the procedure from two physicians, **John Kennedy, MD**, and **Clem Hoffman, MD**, both of the KP San Diego Medical Center, and then led training for the OB/GYN staff. The new laparoscopic procedure is now performed on an outpatient basis and reduces pain, minimizes scarring, and requires a much shorter recovery time.

**Colorado Permanente Medical Group (CPMG)**

**KP Colorado Pediatrician Honored for Dedication to Early Childhood Intervention**

**Al Mehl, MD**, a pediatrician at KP Colorado's Rock Creek Medical Offices, received the Frances Owens Communities Helping Young Children Award for his dedication to early childhood intervention causes. Dr Mehl was one of the first pediatricians in Colorado to embrace a statewide initiative for newborn hearing screenings. Based on his work, both the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing and the Academy of Pediatrics adopted a recommendation for universal newborn hearing screening, prompt diagnosis, and early intervention.

**Donna Lynne Named President of the KP Colorado Region**

**Donna Lynne, BS, MPA, PhD**, was named President of the KP Colorado Region, bringing more than 20 years' experience to KP. She comes to the organization after serving for seven years as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Group Health Incorporated (GHI), a not-for-profit health insurance company with \$2.5 billion in revenues and 2300 em-

ployees providing health insurance and related services to more than 2.5 million members in New York State. Dr Lynne had also assumed the additional role as President/CEO of GHI's newly acquired for-profit HMO.

**Northwest Permanente (NWP)**



**Andrew Lum, MD, nominated as Regional Medical Director**

The Northwest Permanente Board of Directors has unanimously nominated **Andrew Lum, MD**, as Regional Medical Director. Dr Lum joins KP Northwest from the KP Colorado Region, where he served as Associate Medical Director for Primary Care and Service. He was instrumental in implementing the KP Colorado Region's award-winning clinical information system.

Board-certified in Internal Medicine, Dr Lum has been a Permanente physician since 1989. He served as Physician-in-Charge of the Santa Clarita medical facility, SCPMG, before moving to Colorado in 1994.

**The Southeast Permanente Medical Group (TSPMG)**

**Georgia's Provider Web Site Launched**

The Georgia Region has launched a new provider Web site, which was developed for anyone who does business with KP and TSPMG. This includes TSPMG practitioners, associate providers, community providers, affiliated hospitals, ancillary health care providers, and administrative staff who work for KP network providers. The provider site has the same consistent look and structure as the national Web site, <http://providers.kp.org/ga>.

**TSPMG Announces Leadership Changes to the Associate Medical Director Team**

To prepare for the strategic work required for the KP HealthConnect implementation and other projects, a number of leadership changes were announced by Bruce Perry, MD, Medical Director of TSPMG. **William Boddie, MD**, will assume the role of Associate Medical Director for Professional Development and Human Resources. **Lee Jacobs, MD**, will assist Dr Perry on special projects as he shifts to a larger clinical practice and focuses more time on his humanitarian efforts. **Robert Schreiner, MD**, will assume the position of Associate Medical Director for Specialty, Hospital and Ancillary Care. In addition, **Robert van der Meer, MD**, was named Assistant to the Medical Director for Risk Management. ♦

Barbara Caruso compiled this material from *California Wire*, *Partner News*, and other PMG newsletters and sources. To submit news of physician or PMG awards and recognitions, contact Ms Caruso at [barbara.caruso@kp.org](mailto:barbara.caruso@kp.org).