MEDIA ADVISORY

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Santa Clara Valley Medical Center’s Traumatic Brain Injury Unit Model System of Care, One of Only 16 Nationwide

SAN JOSE, CALIF. — Some of the most devastating experiences for individuals, soldiers, and families can be traumatic brain or spinal cord injuries. Appropriate treatment and rehabilitation can be the key to recovery. The Rehabilitation Center at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center has specialized in treating traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries for more than 30 years.

“We are extremely proud of the staff of our Center. Every day they work with patients who have some of the most devastating injuries,” said Supervisor Liz Kniss, Chair of the Board’s Health and Hospital Committee. “In working with patients and family members, the goal is to have as many patients as possible return to their homes and community.”

The Rehabilitation Center at SCVMC houses the 38-bed Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Unit and 30-bed Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Unit. The Rehabilitation Center has pioneered many medical and therapeutic techniques that are now in common use throughout the country. The most recent innovation is the Rehabilitation Trauma Center; an intensive care setting that provides immediate admission and treatment of patients following a spinal cord injury. The Rehabilitation Trauma Center is the only one of its kind in the nation.

Having treated more than 10,000 patients, the Rehabilitation Center’s staff is very proud that over 80% of their patients return home to their families. Dedicated treatment teams are led by board certified physiatrists and include full time nurses, therapists and respiratory therapists. Sub-specialists in neurosurgery, urology, orthopedics, and pulmonology support these teams. This teamwork results in improved outcomes and reduced complications.

The Traumatic Brain Injury program has been designated by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) as a Model System of Care, one of only 16 nationwide. It is one of the few centers that have been continuously funded since the program’s inception in 1987. The program at SCVMC is one of only two Model System of Care west of the Rocky Mountains.
“We make a difference in the recovery of patients with traumatic brain injuries,” said Dr. Jeff Englander, Associate Chief, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Santa Clara Valley Medical Center. “We have the knowledge, experience and dedication needed to provide effective and excellent care. That is our focus.”

Dr. Englander is a nationally recognized expert in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and certified by the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and the American Board of Internal Medicine. In addition to his position at SCVMC, he is also a Clinical Associate Professor, Division of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Stanford University School of Medicine.

Dr. Englander is a member of the California Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, the Brain Injury Special Interest Group of the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine. Numerous articles by Dr. Englander have been published in the *Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation* and the *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*. Awards Dr. Englander has received include the Annual Safety Net Community Services Award from the National Association of Public Hospitals and the Jose C. Montero, MD Excellence in Teaching Award from Stanford University.

The Rehabilitation Center is fortunate to have another expert in brain injuries, Thao T. Duong, M.D., serving as Acting Chair of the hospital’s Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Dr. Duong is a graduate of the University of California, Davis School of Medicine and did her internship and residency with Stanford University Hospital. She is certified by the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, as well as by the American Board of Electrodiagnostic Medicine. Dr. Duong is a member of the California Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and the American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine. Articles published by Dr. Duong have been featured in the *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation* and *Head Trauma Rehabilitation*. She is also a Clinical Associate Professor (Affiliated) with the Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Stanford School of Medicine.

**INTERVIEWS:** In the wake of the events surrounding Walter Reed Army Medical Center and issues of Traumatic Brain Injury, Dr. Englander and Dr. Duong are available for interviews to provide accurate and expert information about treatment for traumatic brain injuries.

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