



Verdugo Hills
HOSPITAL

News
For Immediate Release

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Verdugo Hills Hospital Appoints New Doctors

(GLENDALE, CA – July 29, 2009) – Verdugo Hills Hospital (VHH) welcomed eight new doctors to its medical staff: Dr. Behnam Badie, Dr. Walter Burnham Jr., Dr. Jhanna Nariyants, Dr. Isaac Paz, Dr. Ben Pradhan, Dr. Carlo Reyes, Dr. Saeid Safaee-Semiromi and Dr. James Wu have been appointed over the past few months.

“Each of them has outstanding clinical expertise as well as a commitment to patient services,” said Vice President of Patient Care Services Judy McCurdy. “They have that rare combination of clinical skills and personal service that doesn’t come often.”

Badie

A 1989 graduate of UCLA, Badie also completed his yearlong internship in general surgery and six year residency in neurological surgery at the UCLA Medical Center. Badie specializes in neurological surgery.

Burnham

Burnham, who specializes in spine surgery, attended medical school at Loma Linda University where he graduated in 1995. He finished his internship in general surgery one year later and completed his residency in orthopedic surgery in 2000, both at Loma Linda University Medical Center.

Nariyants

A new face of the VHH medicine department, Nariyants was a 2003 graduate of Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kirksville, Mo. She fulfilled her internship and residency requirements in internal medicine at Summa Health System in Akron, Ohio. In 2008, she completed her fellowship in endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism at the University of California at San Diego Medical Center. She specializes in endocrinology.

Paz

Born and raised in Chile, Paz attended medical school at the Universidad de Chile where he received his degree in 1981. He spent five years at the University Medical Center in Tucson, Ariz. where he completed his residency in general surgery. Paz then went on to finish his surgical oncology fellowship in 1993 at the City of Hope National Medical Center in Duarte.

Pradhan

A 1998 graduate of the UCLA School of Medicine, Pradhan specializes in spine surgery. Over five years, he completed his internship and residency in orthopedic surgery at UCLA Medical Center. He went on to complete his yearlong fellowship in 2004 at the Spine Institute in Santa Monica.

Reyes

Reyes graduated from Chicago Medical School in North Chicago, Ill. in 1998. He then spent five years at UCLA Medical Center where he completed his internship and residency in pediatrics and emergency medicine in 2003. He specializes in emergency medicine.

Safae-Semiromi

Born in Iran, Safae-Semiromi attended medical school at Iran's National University, Shahid Beheshti University where he graduated in 1987. He worked on his residency in pathology from 1994 to 1997 at Inova Health System in Falls Church, Va. He completed his second residency in 2000 at Pinnacle Health System in Harrisburgh, Pa., this time in internal medicine. Safae-Semiromi spent three more years working on his fellowship in pulmonary and critical care medicine which he completed in 2008 at Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, Pa. He specializes in pulmonary diseases.

Wu

Originally from Taiwan, Wu graduated from Georgetown University School of Medicine in Washington, D.C. in 1993. Three years later, he completed his residency in general surgery at the University Of Illinois College Of Medicine in Chicago, Ill. Wu also finished a 5 year residency in 2004 at the SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, N.Y. In 2006, he concluded his training after the completion of his fellowship in thoracic surgery at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. Wu specializes in thoracic surgery as well as surgical oncology.

About the Hospital:

Verdugo Hills Hospital is a 158-bed nonprofit primary care facility nestled in the foothills between Glendale and La Cañada Flintridge. Hospital features include Fast-Track emergency services, comprehensive inpatient and outpatient diagnostic and treatment facilities, and a family birthing center. The Hospital also offers surgical services, including bariatric and orthopedic surgeries. It is the only independent, free-standing hospital in the greater Foothills community and was voted "Foothills' Best Hospital" by readers of the *Glendale News-Press* for five consecutive years. For more information, please visit www.vhhospital.org. For more information about funding initiatives or to support the hospital, please call the Foundation at 818.952.2226.

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