

# FEBRUARY 2019 Hot Topics

## Cancer Support

Patients can find relief from the stressful financial burden of a cancer diagnosis through our assistance with gas and groceries, free screenings, and support groups.

## Orthopedic Services

Our hospital is known for its award-winning Orthopedic Services for bone and joint issues. Ranked among the **top 10%** in the nation for joint replacement surgery by HealthGrades. Nearly **500** knee surgeries and **300** hip surgeries are performed per year.

## Meet Dr. Pravir Vatsa

**Where did you grow up?** I grew up in India.

**What is your position at the hospital?** I am the Director of the Hospitalists practice, as well as the Chair of the Department of Medicine.

**What do you like most about working for our hospital?** Everything. It's a wonderful place to work, with wonderful people.

**What is your favorite movie?** Seven Samurai.

**Your favorite patient story?** A while ago, I took care of a lady who ended up passing away from cancer. I later ran into her husband at Walmart and had a conversation with him, and he told me he had been feeling lonely. Shortly after that time, he started dating a lady whose husband was a patient of mine that had passed away from cancer, and now they are happily married and are both doing well.



## Acute Rehabilitation

The **20-bed** Acute Rehabilitation Center is the only one of its kind within a 100-mile radius.

## Stroke Certified since 2015

Received Advanced Primary Stroke Center Certification by the Joint Commission. Offers specialized services for stroke patients.

## Dignity Health's Five Core Values

Dignity • Collaboration • Justice • Stewardship • Excellence

## Our Hospital

Opened in **1962** by four pioneering, community-focused physicians with the same spirit that guides the hospital strategy today.

### 2017 #'s

**2,852** admissions  
**27,456** ER visits  
**995** inpatient surgeries  
**703** outpatient surgeries  
**7,096** CT scans  
**1,082** MRI scans

**Mission** Dignity Health and Arroyo Grande Community Hospital are committed to furthering the healing ministry of Jesus. We dedicate our resources to delivering compassionate, high-quality, affordable health services, serving and advocating for our sisters and brothers who are poor and disenfranchised, and partnering with others in the community to improve the quality of life.

**Beds: 67** (39 General Care, 20 Acute Rehabilitation, 8 Intensive Care)

## Overview

**Employees: 425**

**Medical Services Available:** Acute Rehabilitation; Cancer Care; Emergency Services; Surgery; Imaging; Intensive Care; Laboratory Services; Medical/Surgical Inpatient Care; Neurological Care; Orthopedic Services; Physical, Speech and Respiratory Therapy

**Service Area Cities:** Arroyo Grande, Oceano, Grover Beach, Pismo Beach, Nipomo Population: 79,811  
In 2015, the South County service area was declared a

## Medically Underserved Area/Population

by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This means that residents in the area have a shortage of health services and the area includes large groups of people who face economic, cultural, or linguistic barriers to health care. This makes AGCH an important resource for our community, and we need to grow to meet the need.

## Last month we learned:

The Emergency Department expansion is nearly complete, and the renovation of existing space will take place within the year!

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## AGCH Foundation

began operating in 2006 to support the mission of the hospital.

## Arroyo Grande Community Hospital Foundation

SupportArroyoGrande.org



Arroyo Grande Community Hospital Foundation.  
A Dignity Health Member

## Upcoming Dates

**Lunch with the Administrator:**  
February 27th

**Board Retreat:** March 7th

**Comedy Night:** March 16th

**Ember Event:** May 20th

## Fund Report: The Cancer Care Fund

The Cancer Care Fund provides local cancer patients with a wide range of financial and emotional support. Between July and December 2018, \$30,350 was used to serve a total of 210 patients as follows:

- 44 gas cards
- 6 grocery cards
- 47 in financial assistance
- 31 in cancer support groups
- 51 psychosocial counseling sessions
- 23 genetic counseling sessions
- 8 colonoscopy screenings

The fund also supports an oncology nurse navigator and social worker to guide each patient from diagnosis throughout recovery and connect them with any resources they need. With the expanded cancer care services opening soon on our campus, we expect an even greater need for the Cancer Care Fund.

## Foundation Updates



### LEGACY CAMPAIGN

Goal:	<b>\$6,500,000</b>
Committed to date:	\$4,442,057
Pending gifts:	\$1,102,595
Total Committed & Pending:	\$5,544,652
Balance to raise:	<b>\$955,348</b>

## 2018 Year-end Appeal Mailing

This year's letter focused on the expanded cancer services portion of the Legacy Campaign. The letter prompted **159** gifts so far, raising a total of **\$25,393**.

## We had a lot to celebrate in December:

Overall Dollars Raised July - December 2018

