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Women in Healthcare 2020: Dr. Nasim Afsar



Coast Magazine's readers' choice Women in Healthcare 2020: Dr. Nasim Afsar, Chief Operating Officer for Ambulatory Care, UCI Health. (Illustration by Leonard Ortiz)

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Nasim Afsar always knew that her life would be about providing health care to communities with the goal of creating a better future for those she serves.

“For me, ensuring health and providing health care is a calling,” she says. “The ability to ensure wellness in society enables individuals to work, seek further education, plan for the future and spend time with their loved ones.”

Born and raised in California, Afsar’s medical career has taken her on a journey through various California universities. She graduated with honors in biology and art history from [Caltech](#), before receiving her medical doctorate from [UC Davis School of Medicine](#). Later, she completed her internship and residency at [UCSD](#) and [UCLA](#) Internal Medicine Programs, respectively.

Now, Afsar is the chief operating officer for Ambulatory Care for [UCI Health](#). Her vision is the same as it always has been: to deliver flawless care for the population of patients in Orange County and beyond. But that’s not where her vision ends. She also wants to create the best place to work in health care. She’s currently succeeding on all fronts.

“The most gratifying part of my job is working with a talented and committed group of people to bring forth health and wellness for each patient and our community,” she says.

Prior to her current role, she served as the associate chief medical officer at UCLA Health where she led numerous health system efforts. She then served as the chief quality officer for the Department of Medicine at UCLA Health, leading a large-scale population health initiative. She is the immediate past president of Society of Hospital Medicine.

Today, Afsar oversees the Contracting Department, Network Development, as well as the population health efforts at UCI Health. She is an internist with extensive experience in ambulatory and inpatient strategy, operations and finance. She has led the growth of UCI Health’s geographic footprint, leading to a significant increase in volume, and she has spearheaded innovative programs, such as telehealth and strategic partnerships, to help provide value for patients and communities. With all of these developments, what does she believe will come next?

“The future of health care is quite exciting as we advance health and wellness in addition to caring for patients with chronic illnesses,” she says. “UCI Health is at the forefront of integrative medicine, combining evidence-based practices to take care of the whole individual. The developments in this area will continue to shape the health of individuals and communities in the years to come.”