

EASY ACCESS TO SPECIALTY
AND PRIMARY CARE

DESIGNING A MEDICAL CAMPUS
TO PROMOTE HEALING

UCI Health

SPRING 2024

live well

EXCEPTIONAL HEALTHCARE FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

UCI Health — Irvine Opens Its Doors

The new complex extends academic medicine to the
residents of coastal and south Orange County.



FORGING A NEW ERA IN HEALTHCARE



This year is shaping up to be a monumental one for UCI Health in our mission to redefine the future of healthcare in Orange County and beyond. The opening of our new UCI Health — Irvine campus this spring signals a new landscape of healthcare choices for residents of coastal and south Orange County. Moreover, we just acquired four regional hospitals formerly owned by Tenet Healthcare Corp.

In this special issue of *Live Well*, we offer you a guide to the vibrant, new UCI Health — Irvine medical complex. The first building to open on the campus, located on Jamboree Road and Birch Street, is the Joe C. Wen & Family Center for Advanced Care. On page 4, you'll read about the spacious clinical center and the wide range of adult and pediatric services offered there. On page 10, you'll learn about our new Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center and Ambulatory Care building, which will begin serving patients this summer.

Completing the medical complex will be a state-of-the-art, 144-bed acute care hospital and emergency department, opening in 2025. While UCI Medical Center in Orange will remain the flagship of Orange County's only academic health system, this new medical complex expands access to our outstanding medical care for many more people throughout our community. With its ample parking, cafes and outdoor terraces, UCI Health — Irvine is designed to make healthcare convenient, accessible and as stress-free as possible.

The acquisition of four Tenet hospitals and their outpatient offices in Fountain Valley, Lakewood, Los Alamitos and Placentia will further extend our compassionate, high-level care, clinical innovation and scientific discovery throughout Orange County and southeast Los Angeles County. This will give more patients access to clinical trials at UCI Health, which has the region's largest portfolio of advanced therapies for cancer, digestive diseases, neurological conditions, orthopaedics, internal medicine and other specialties.

We also recently broke ground on the UCI Health



Chad Lefteris, at center in orange vest, joins other UCI Health leaders at the topping-off ceremony for the new UCI Health — Irvine hospital.

Rehabilitation Hospital in Irvine in association with Lifepoint Rehabilitation, a business unit of Lifepoint Health. This marks a significant milestone in our journey to enhance care for patients recovering from stroke, traumatic brain and spinal cord injury, burns and orthopaedic surgery. This reflects our steadfast dedication to helping patients achieve their maximum recovery potential. Expected to open in 2025, the hospital will position UCI Health as the region's leading provider of advanced recovery and rehabilitation care, improving the quality of life of patients in the communities we serve.

UCI Health has long been at the forefront of medicine. Our pioneering physicians and researchers have elevated national standards of care across many medical disciplines. With the launch of UCI Health — Irvine and acquisition of the new hospitals and clinical offices, we can now provide close-to-home care throughout our region.

I want to thank the Board of Regents, our donors, supporters, volunteers and dedicated co-workers for making this progress possible. We are able to achieve these milestones because we never lose sight of our greatest assets: our talented caregivers and the patients who inspire us.

Sincerely,

Chad T. Lefteris, FACHE
President and Chief Executive Officer, UCI Health

UCI Health

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TAKE A LOOK AT UCI HEALTH — IRVINE

UCI Health — Irvine, among the most ambitious expansions of health services in the region's history, will consist of three main structures:

- The Joe C. Wen & Family Center for Advanced Care, a five-story, 168,000-square-foot medical facility offering the full range of multidisciplinary specialty care for children and adults under one roof, as well as urgent care services and the Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders. *Opening: spring 2024*
- The Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center and Ambulatory Care building, a five-story, 225,000-square foot tower with 52 exam rooms, 42 infusion stations and eight operating rooms. *Opening: summer 2024*
- A seven-story, 350,000-square-foot, acute care hospital and emergency department. *Opening: 2025*



SPECIALTY CARE

The new campus will offer many advanced specialty services, including:

- Cancer
- Cardiology
- Digestive health
- Gynecology
- Neurodevelopmental disorders
- Neurological disorders
- Orthopaedics
- Pain management
- Spine
- Sports medicine
- Women's health

BY THE NUMBERS

- \$1.3 billion cost
- 27.5-acres
- 1.2 million-square-foot medical campus
- 800,000-square-feet of clinical space
- 2,200 parking spaces in two structures
- 280,000 outpatient visits annually
- 1,200+ healthcare jobs at opening, ramping up over time

FACT

UCI Health — Irvine will be the nation's first medical center powered by an all-electric, carbon-neutral utility plant.

WHAT'S NEXT

The acute care hospital will offer:

- 24-hour emergency department with 20 treatment rooms
- 10 advanced operating suites
- 144 inpatient beds
- Interventional radiology
- Catheterization services
- Advanced imaging
- Observation unit
- Pharmacy services
- Blood bank, lab and pathology services

Learn more at ucihealth.org/irvinehospital



- 1 Joe C. Wen & Family Center for Advanced Care**
19200 Jamboree Road, Irvine
714-456-7002
- 2 Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center and Ambulatory Care**
19208 Jamboree Road, Irvine
714-456-8000



- 3 UCI Health — Irvine hospital**
Slated to open in 2025
- 4 Cancer center and hospital parking**
- 5 Wen Center parking structure**

Reaching Out

Bringing outstanding adult and pediatric specialty care closer to home.

WRITTEN BY SHARI ROAN

The opening of the Joe C. Wen & Family Center for Advanced Care this spring will extend the power of academic medicine to coastal and south Orange County, fundamentally transforming the region's healthcare landscape.

The five-story Wen Center, the first building to open on the UCI Health — Irvine campus, will provide multidisciplinary, specialty outpatient care.

Construction of the \$221 million, 168,000-square-foot facility was approved by the University of California Board of Regents in August 2020 and was augmented by a \$20 million gift from Joe C. Wen and his family. Wen is the founder and chief executive of Sakura Paper Inc., a division of Formosa Ltd. The gift is one of the largest ever to the University of California, Irvine.

A key mission of the Wen Center is to provide adult and pediatric primary and specialty care in a setting that emphasizes patient convenience and comfort. Many patient needs can be met at the center during a single visit, including physician visits, laboratory tests and imaging. The first floor is also home to an urgent care center that is staffed seven days a week by emergency medicine physicians. Also on the first floor is a cafe, an outdoor garden and an adjacent 800-space parking structure to provide easy access to patients and their families.

LEVEL 1

- Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders
- Laboratory
- Imaging
- Urgent care

LEVEL 2

- Pediatric services

LEVEL 3

- Primary Care
- Multispecialty services
- Digestive Health Institute services

LEVEL 4

- Orthopaedics, Pain and Spine services
- Neurology and Neurosurgery services

LEVEL 5

- Administration



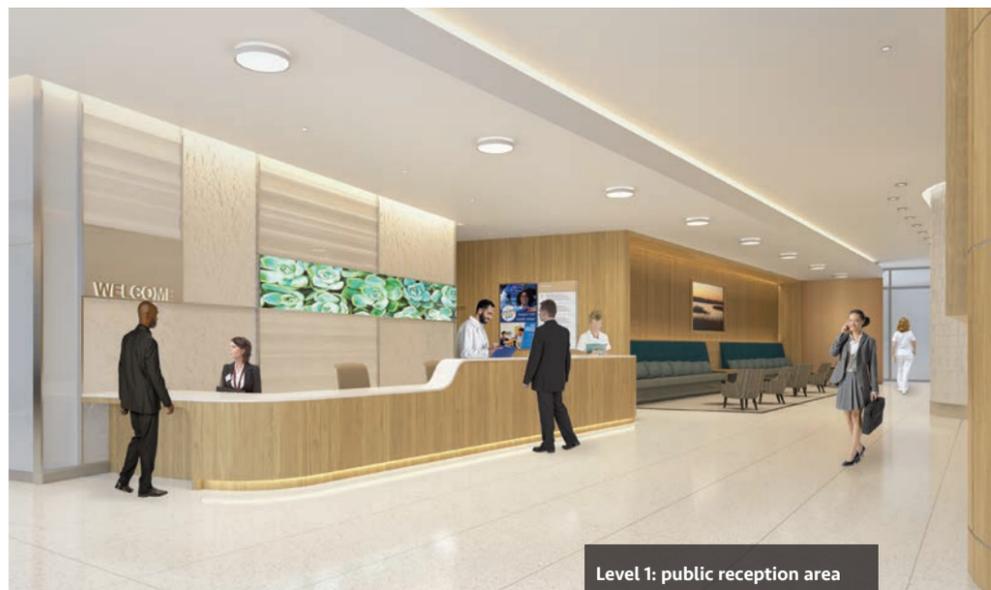
URGENT CARE AT UCI HEALTH — IRVINE

- Open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., 7 days a week
- No appointment needed
- Staffed by emergency medicine physicians
- Point-of-care testing, limited ultrasound and diagnostic X-ray services
- After-hours support for oncology patients
- Wait times minimized with "On My Way" app

Joe C. Wen & Family Center for Advanced Care, first floor

“The Joe C. Wen & Family Center for Advanced Care will provide access to comprehensive outpatient care in critical clinical specialties that are only available from an academic health system,” says Chad T. Lefteris, president and chief executive officer of UCI Health.

The building is divided into spaces devoted to pediatric primary and specialty care, adult primary care, as well as digestive health specialties, cardiovascular care, endocrinology, gynecology, neurology, orthopaedics, pain and spine centers. Comprehensive lab and imaging services are located on the first floor, which is also the new home of the UCI Health Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders.



Level 1: public reception area



Comfortable exam rooms



Nursing hub

ADVANCED PEDIATRIC CARE

The Center for Children’s Health occupies the entire second floor of the Wen Center. Through the long-standing UCI Health affiliation with Children’s Hospital of Orange County (CHOC), the center provides leading-edge pediatric care for children from birth through early adulthood, including fetal medicine as well as primary and specialty care for children with chronic conditions. Staffed

by board-certified pediatricians, the Center for Children’s Health is designed to foster one-stop, outpatient healthcare.

DIGESTIVE DISEASE SPECIALTIES

The nationally renowned UCI Health Digestive Health Institute (DHI) will offer several of its signature services to the new Irvine medical complex.

DHI specialists have pioneered

multiple advances in gastrointestinal (GI) healthcare, including endoscopic procedures, organ-sparing GI surgery and the use of artificial intelligence in colorectal cancer screening. UCI Health patients have access to groundbreaking therapies unavailable elsewhere.

The Wen Center’s third floor will be home to subspecialty services focused on inflammatory bowel disease, weight

control and metabolic conditions, gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), as well as four interventional GI procedure rooms.

COMPREHENSIVE NEUROMUSCULAR CENTER

On the Wen Center’s fourth floor, UCI Health is opening its first comprehensive musculoskeletal

service, blending specialty care for orthopaedics, spine, pain management, sports medicine and neurology in one location to foster collaborative, multidisciplinary care.

Cardiology services, including six exam rooms and two diagnostic testing rooms, are also on the fourth floor.

The Wen Center will also foster research and teaching efforts — the

foundation of an academic medical center. Many of the specialty services at the Wen Center will offer patients access to promising new treatments available through clinical trials. ■

Learn more at ucihealth.org/wencenter

A CARING PLACE FOR KIDS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

The UCI Health Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders is bringing its state-of-the-art services for patients and families to a soothing new environment at the Wen Center in Irvine.

Dr. Peter Chung, medical director of the autism center, says their new digs will be a spacious, healing environment for children. “We had direct input into the design of the new facility, which helped our team create an environment where the patient experience will go more smoothly. We’ve had a major presence in Orange County for many years, but being in the Wen Center will help amplify our efforts for many years to come.”

The center is staffed by a team of experts in the field of autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders. It serves an estimated 3,300 Orange County families a year — treating children, adolescents and young adults.

“The current data on autism prevalence in the United States is 1 in 36 children,” Chung says. “When you look at

California data, it’s even higher at 1 in 22. The rates among Asian, Latino and Black patients also have risen compared to the white population. Orange County, being an ethnically diverse area, is affected by these increases.”

Chung says the new facility advances the university’s long-standing commitment to serving the region’s autism community, offering diagnostics, therapies and support services.

“After the initial diagnosis, patients and their families often have a lot of support needs,” he says. “We provide longitudinal care, which includes making sure families are able to access all of the services available to them.”

Their new home on the first floor of the Wen Center on Jamboree Road includes a community room for parent education workshops, support groups and meetings of its Latino advisory committee. They also are launching a transition program for young adult patients.

Chung is especially proud of their unique outdoor treatment area and relaxation hut, which offers providers

and patients alternative environments to optimize care.

“The outdoor treatment area is a great way to bring some diversity to clinical visits,” he says. “And being able to have a calm-down area is great.”

The center’s location is also ideal because it’s housed in the same building as primary and specialty children’s services as well as an urgent care center. “Being close to these providers will promote collaboration and care coordination,” Chung says. “It will make it easier for our patients and their families to access a variety of services and support.”

The new location also fully integrates the autism center’s faculty and staff with their UCI Health colleagues.

“Being next to other medical providers and other teams will help us with our professional development,” Chung says. “Before, we were in our own sandbox, which comes with its own limitations. Now we will be integrated with the greater UCI Health enterprise. That’s going to be better for everyone.”



Learn more at ucihealth.org/autism

GOING GREEN

UCI Health — Irvine is the first U.S. medical complex to implement green technology on a broad scale.

WRITTEN BY SHARI ROAN

The UCI Health — Irvine medical complex was conceived to extend academic-level medicine to residents of coastal and south Orange County. But its planners undertook their mission with another key commitment: building an environmentally sensitive, sustainable medical campus. It will be one of the first academic medical centers in the world to feature a non-combustion central plant with facilities that are 100% electric.

“The University of California policy requires that all hot water and heating systems are electric, but there is an exclusion that steam and sterilization can be generated by fossil fuels for healthcare purposes,” says Paul E. DaVeiga, director of planning, design and construction at UCI Health. “For the UCI Health — Irvine campus, we took it to the next level and asked, ‘What if we were go all electric?’”

Campus engineers and planners were able to achieve that goal by breaking down the energy-using components across the healthcare campus into separate units. The unique energy demands were then addressed by a “point-of-use” analysis, he says.

“Hospitals rely on central steam, which is generally a big user of natural gas. We decentralized the more traditional steam plant. For example, for humidification needs, such as in procedure areas and operating rooms, we installed point-of-use humidifiers for each space.”

UCI Health has established itself as a leader in promoting sustainability. In August 2021, it became a member of the United Nations-backed global campaign Race to Zero. The designation requires a pledge to cut greenhouse gas emissions as close to zero as possible by 2050, and to report yearly on the institution’s progress toward these goals.

UCI Health also was named a 2022 Climate Champion by Health Care Without



The central plant (right foreground) will power the all-electric medical complex.

Harm, receiving a Climate Champion Award for its progress and commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Practice Greenhealth also honored the health system for its successes in energy and climate conservation.

UCI already boasts 20 buildings that have earned a Platinum designation, the highest available, from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), the world’s most widely used “green building” rating system. Both the Wen Center and the new acute care hospital, which opens in 2025, will be LEED Platinum buildings, while the Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center and Ambulatory Care building will have a LEED Gold designation.

“Because of our long-standing commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship, we felt this should be extended to any new building we undertake,” DaVeiga says.

Environmental concerns infused the planning process for the entire medical complex. Other green components include:

- Photovoltaic panels installed on the

roofs of the two parking structures

- LED lighting with room occupancy sensors in all buildings
- Imaging equipment with low-power modes to conserve energy during off-peak use
- Low-energy glass windows and doors
- Capturing heat from water chillers that support various mechanical systems and piping that heat energy back to the power plant for reuse

The buildings also were designed with architectural components to limit direct sunlight that can unnecessarily heat building interiors.

The campus is a model of energy efficiency — and it will be staffed as such, DaVeiga notes. The facilities and maintenance team will be a highly trained group of people.

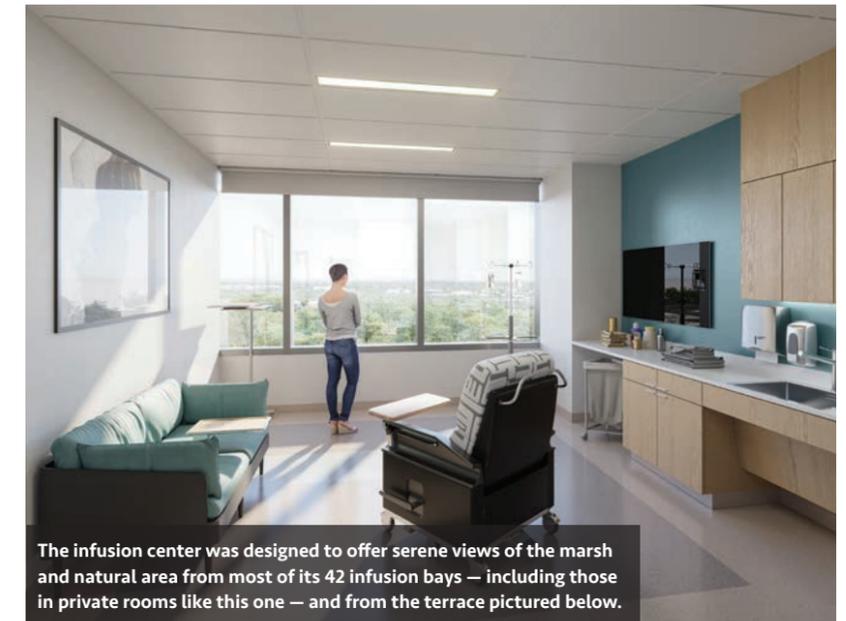
“It’s a very complex set of equipment that allows us to do all of this and electrify the medical complex,” he says. “It requires a different skill set than is needed by facilities personnel who deal with simpler systems.” ■



Future plans call for a nature trail that runs along the marsh ridgeline and, perhaps, eventually a bridge to connect the UCI campus with the medical complex and an adjacent art museum that may begin construction as early as 2025.

HEALING VIBES

Numerous studies show that thoughtfully designed healthcare settings promote healing. For example, patients had better outcomes when their rooms gave them exposure to daylight, according to a report from the Commonwealth Fund, a foundation that supports independent research on healthcare issues. The UCI Health — Irvine medical complex was created with this kind of evidence in mind. Perched above the San Joaquin Marsh Reserve at the northern edge of the UCI campus, every aspect of the complex was shaped by the intent to promote healing and lower anxiety and stress for patients and their families.



The infusion center was designed to offer serene views of the marsh and natural area from most of its 42 infusion bays — including those in private rooms like this one — and from the terrace pictured below.

Located in an ancient, river-cut channel at the head of Upper Newport Bay, the San Joaquin Marsh Reserve supports a variety of wetland habitats, including marshlands, shallow ponds and channels confined by earthen dikes. The marsh is a critical stopping place for more than 100 migratory bird species along the Pacific Flyway.

- The medical complex and marsh will be separated by a 150-foot buffer of native plant species and a 2-foot-tall barrier to protect marsh turtles from climbing the slope and venturing onto the medical center grounds.
- Glass on all medical complex buildings are coated with a reflective material to prevent bird strikes in this rich avian habitat.
- Stormwater capture systems on the medical center grounds feed into a biofiltration system that cleans the water before it reaches the reserve to ensure a healthy marsh habitat.





Expanding Patient-Centered Cancer Care to All of Orange County

When it opens this summer, the Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center's new facility in Irvine will offer superior care, comfort and convenience.

WRITTEN BY PATRICK J. KIGER

LEVEL 1

- Radiation Oncology
- Outpatient surgical procedures
- Preoperative and postoperative recovery rooms

LEVEL 2

- Retail pharmacy
- Laboratory services
- Imaging

LEVEL 3

- Oncology outpatient services
- Women's Health services

LEVEL 4

- Infusion services
- Infusion pharmacy

As part of the \$1.3 billion UCI Health — Irvine medical complex under construction near the UCI campus, the Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center and Ambulatory Care building's spacious, state-of-the-art facility will extend elite cancer care within reach of more residents in Orange County and beyond.

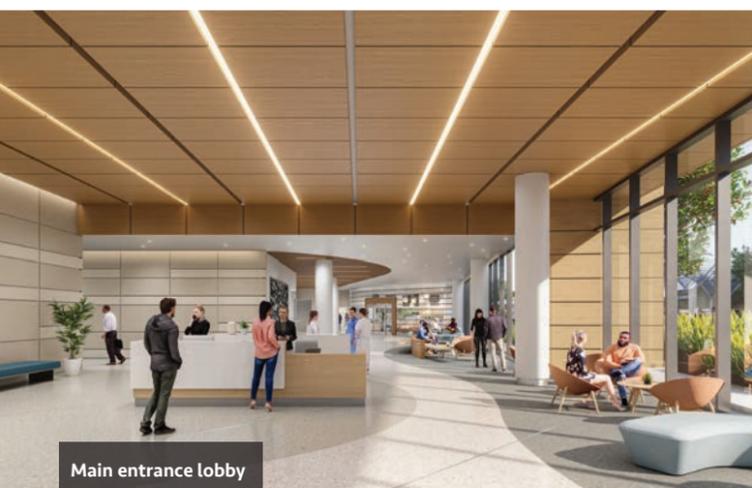
The Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center at UCI Medical Center in Orange is one of only 56 cancer centers in the country to earn the "comprehensive" rating from the prestigious National Cancer Institute. NCI-designated comprehensive cancer centers must adhere to rigorous standards for transdisciplinary, state-of-the-art research focused on developing new and better approaches to preventing, diagnosing and treating cancer. Services at its second center in Irvine will meet those same exacting standards for excellence. It also will effectively triple the space for cancer care at UCI Health.

The five-story center, slated to open this summer, will have 52 private exam rooms, eight outpatient operating suites, an expansive infusion center, a breast health center and other services.

By design, the facility will integrate research and prevention with the most advanced diagnostics, treatments and rehabilitation programs. Eventually, it also will become the home of Orange County's only adult hematopoietic stem cell/bone marrow transplant program, which is currently based at the medical center in Orange.

"This will be huge for patients," says Dr. Richard A. Van Etten, MD, PhD, director of the cancer center and a professor at the UCI School of Medicine. "It will expand access to the latest in cancer care, clinical trials and research, and bring it all closer to people living in coastal and southern Orange County."

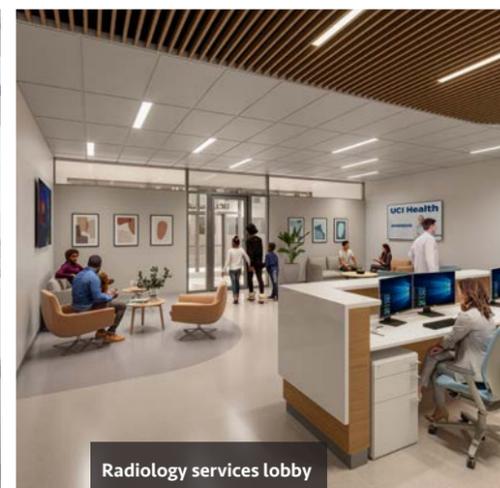
In addition to expanding space to deliver world-class comprehensive care, the new center will reduce travel times for



Main entrance lobby



Oncology outpatient services waiting area



Radiology services lobby



A fully recovered Bransby Whitton vacations with his wife, Jessica, son Zachary and daughter Samantha, at right.

EXPECTING GREAT CARE AND CONVENIENCE

Bransby Whitton knows well how important comfort and convenience can be for cancer patients undergoing treatment. That's why the Newport Beach resident is enthusiastic about the new cancer center opening soon just a few miles from his home.

Whitton, 51, who is now in remission from non-Hodgkin lymphoma, will be visiting the Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center and Ambulatory Care building every few months for checkups and testing once it opens in July. He watched its construction and has come away impressed.

"The whole vibe is very bright," he says. "Their infusion center is going to be comfortable and spacious with a great view."

For patients who may need frequent infusions or radiation treatments, the much larger Irvine cancer center could mean shorter wait times, Whitton says. For coastal and south Orange County patients, it's also closer than the flagship cancer center at UCI Medical Center in Orange.

The center's design emphasis on health and wellness will be beneficial, too, he says. "It puts you more at ease when you may not be feeling well. That really helps your overall mental state and supports a positive outlook."

Whitton discovered a lump in his abdomen in late 2021 on a holiday trip. In early 2022, a biopsy revealed it was an especially aggressive form of non-Hodgkin lymphoma. A friend connected him with UCI Health and within a few days, renowned lymphoma expert Dr. Lauren Pinter-Brown started him on the first of six rounds of primary chemotherapy.

"I feel so fortunate to have found UCI Health and Dr. Pinter-Brown, who gave me world-class care."

Whitton was impressed by the speed and thoughtfulness with which the UCI Health team addressed his care. "In situations like this, time is of the essence. I also really appreciated that most of my chemo treatments were done as an outpatient, which meant I could be home with my family rather than stuck in a hospital. This helped me stay optimistic and gave our family a sense of normalcy during this crisis."

For patients like Whitton, the Irvine center will mean more time at home and less time sitting in waiting rooms and traffic — a prescription for a speedy recovery.

coastal and south county patients and ensure easy access with valet service and separate entrances.

Essential to the center's design is that it is a "one-stop shop" for cancer care, giving patients immediate access to a multidisciplinary team of cancer experts. The center's extensive suite of operating rooms, which take up an entire floor of the building, and procedure spaces have been designed in tandem with the medical campus' new 144-bed acute care hospital — scheduled to open in 2025 — to facilitate seamless coordination between the center and hospital staff.

Patients and their loved ones also can enjoy a respite in a cafe infused with natural light from floor-to-ceiling windows. Six meeting rooms are available for patient education and conferences, and a wellness center on the plaza level will offer access to supportive services for patients' unique needs. A convenient retail pharmacy will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

With a growing number of patients being treated with chemotherapy as well as new cellular therapies, UCI Health planners devoted special attention to the center's infusion services, with 42 spacious bays designed for privacy and comfort. Many patient areas have views of the serene San Joaquin Marsh Reserve, as does a terrace that offers a quiet, soothing atmosphere for family members and patients. The cancer center's infusion floor also has its own specialized pharmacy to facilitate the convenient, safe and efficient administration of therapies.

The new center's added capacity will ease a space crunch at the flagship cancer center Orange and satellite clinical locations, which now handle more than 80,000 outpatient visits and 65,000 cancer infusion treatments each year. About a third of UCI Health cancer patients come from Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

The Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center already provides care to more cancer patients and offers more clinical trials than any other healthcare provider in the region. More than 400 active cancer clinical trials are currently underway.

The Irvine medical complex will help address the growing demand for cancer services. In fact, UCI Health is already recruiting and hiring at least 30 new

cancer specialists to facilitate the cancer center's mission to provide the most advanced care for all types of cancers.

"Cancer isn't one disease; it's about 150 different ones, and each is completely different in terms of its causes, detection and treatment," Van Etten explains. "We have true experts in all types of cancer, which allows us to be absolutely the most up to date on the latest research and technologies."

The new facility's proximity to the university campus will also make it easier for clinicians to join forces with basic scientists and promote breakthrough discoveries. Already, many of the existing cancer center's researchers have made landmark advances that have improved the standard of care for some types of cancer.

More leading-edge research is underway. For example, neuroscientist Dr. Michael Demetriou, MD, PhD, is working with the National Cancer Institute on a cancer-specific antigen that spares healthy cells.

"This has the potential to be a game changer because it targets only cancer cells and it may allow therapies now successful against blood cancers to be used against solid tumors for the first time," Van Etten says.

Another scientist, physicist Christopher Barty, is working with the U.S. Department of Defense to develop an X-ray machine that produces images that are 100 times better while exposing patients to a fraction of the radiation.

This technology could revolutionize how cancers are diagnosed, according to Van Etten. It has great promise "particularly where we lack effective screening methods, such as with pancreatic and ovarian cancers," he says.

The Irvine location also will provide cancer patients with easy access to specialists in infectious disease, gastroenterology, cardiology, kidney disease, pulmonary medicine and other disciplines at the adjacent Joe C. Wen & Family Center for Advanced Care.

"Cancer patients can develop problems affecting nearly every organ system," explains Van Etten. "Here at UCI Health — Irvine, we are uniquely positioned to treat the whole person." ■

Learn more at ucihealth.org/cancer-irvine



Outpatient surgery waiting area



Infusion center patient bays



Cafe

Paying it Forward

A grateful couple cements a legacy of supporting lifesaving cancer care.

WRITTEN BY NANCY BRANDS WARD
PHOTOGRAPHED BY KIMBERLY PHAM

When UCI Health opens its new cancer center in Irvine this summer, one floor will be graced with the names of two longtime donors: Ralph and Sue Stern. The Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center and Ambulatory Care building will integrate clinical research, the most advanced diagnostics and treatments, as well as rehabilitation programs, to give patients the best possible care.

The couple's philanthropic investment in cancer care at UCI Health — now totaling more than \$12.5 million — began nearly two decades ago. In November 2007, Sue Stern experienced numbness and tingling in her left hand. Hoping it would "magically get better," she ignored it.

When she had a hard time opening holiday gifts that year, she realized something was wrong. "I was scared and I knew I needed help," Stern says.

She went to six specialists and each one suggested a different treatment plan. "Needless to say, I was frustrated and confused — and still feeling scared."

The Sterns, who live in Newport Beach, consulted a national medical specialty referral group. It recommended neurosurgeon Dr. Mark Linskey, who had recently moved from Johns Hopkins Medicine to "someplace in California called Irvine." Prepared to fly anywhere, she couldn't believe the expert she needed was "right here at UCI Medical Center!"

Linskey diagnosed her with an astrocytoma tumor inside her spinal cord and recommended a biopsy and removing as much of the tumor as possible in one

surgery. He brought UCI Health neuro-oncologist Dr. Daniela Bota onto the team. During more than seven hours in the operating room, Linskey removed the tumor without damaging Stern's spinal cord, which could have left her paralyzed.

"I'm forever grateful to Dr. Linskey and Dr. Bota for saving my life," says Stern, who serves on the governing board of Girls Inc., a leadership and advocacy program for girls and young women.

After her successful treatment, the couple began educating themselves about UCI Health. "Sue and I were truly amazed and, candidly, surprised to learn about the quality of care that exists right here in Orange County," says Ralph Stern, a prominent Southern California business leader.

"We had assumed that patients who wanted world-class care, particularly in cancer, would have to leave Orange County."

They resolved to support UCI Health and the Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, in particular, "because we want to make sure all cancer patients in Orange County get access to the same level of expert care Sue received," he says.

In 2014, their \$5 million gift established the Sue and Ralph Stern Center for Cancer Clinical Trials and Research. That support boosted the cancer center's ability to sponsor clinical trials, especially home-grown, early-phase studies, to test the safety and effectiveness of potential treatments. Today, the Stern Center manages the largest portfolio of cancer clinical trials in Orange County.

In addition to their most recent gift in 2021 for the new cancer center, the couple

also hosts events for friends and family to learn more about the revolution in cancer care happening at UCI Health from the clinicians and scientists, themselves.

"Sue and I remain very excited about supporting UCI Health, particularly their commitment to world-class care, which is driven by research, discovery and innovation," says Ralph Stern.

They are also huge champions of Dr. Richard A. Van Etten, director of the cancer center, which is the only National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center based in Orange County.

"Under Rick's leadership, UCI Health is becoming a leader in stem cell treatment and has recruited outstanding faculty, scientists and clinicians," he says. "They're truly transforming cancer care, not just in Orange County but globally."

The new center is part of the \$1.3 billion UCI Health — Irvine medical complex taking shape at the north edge of the university campus in Irvine. The beauty of its location is that it brings leading-edge care to coastal and south Orange County residents.

The new medical campus also includes the Joe C. Wen & Family Center for Advanced Care, a five-story center for adult and pediatric specialty care opening this spring. A 144-bed acute care hospital with a 24-hour emergency department will open in 2025.

"It's thrilling to see it going up!" says Sue Stern. ■

To support UCI Health,
visit ucihealth.org/giving 



Sue and Ralph Stern became supporters of the Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center to ensure that all Orange County cancer patients have access to the expert care that saved her life.

HEALTH CLASSES

Improve your well-being and prevent disease with our health classes. Nearly all are free, but some do have fees. Most classes are held online via Zoom.

All classes are one session unless otherwise noted; registration is required.

Visit ucihealth.org/events or call 657-282-6357 for more information.

ACUPRESSURE FOR LABOR PAIN

May 9, June 13, July 11 | 7-8 p.m.

ADVANCE DIRECTIVES

June 11 | Noon-1:30 p.m.

BARIATRIC SURGERY & WEIGHT LOSS

May 21, June 18, July 16 | 6-7 p.m.

BREASTFEEDING

May 2, June 6 | 6-9 p.m.

HEALTHY LIVING (English & Spanish)

April 23; May 7, 21; June 4, 18;

July 2, 16 | 3-4 p.m.

To register for English classes, call 714-456-7514.

To register for Spanish classes, call 714-456-3739.

LIVING WELL WITH HEART FAILURE

June 11 | 3:30-5 p.m.

NEWBORN CARE

May 9, June 13, July 11 | 6-9 p.m.

PRENATAL PELVIC FLOOR WORKSHOP

May 4, July 13 | 1-2 p.m.

PREPARED CHILDBIRTH (five classes)

May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 25 | 6-9 p.m.

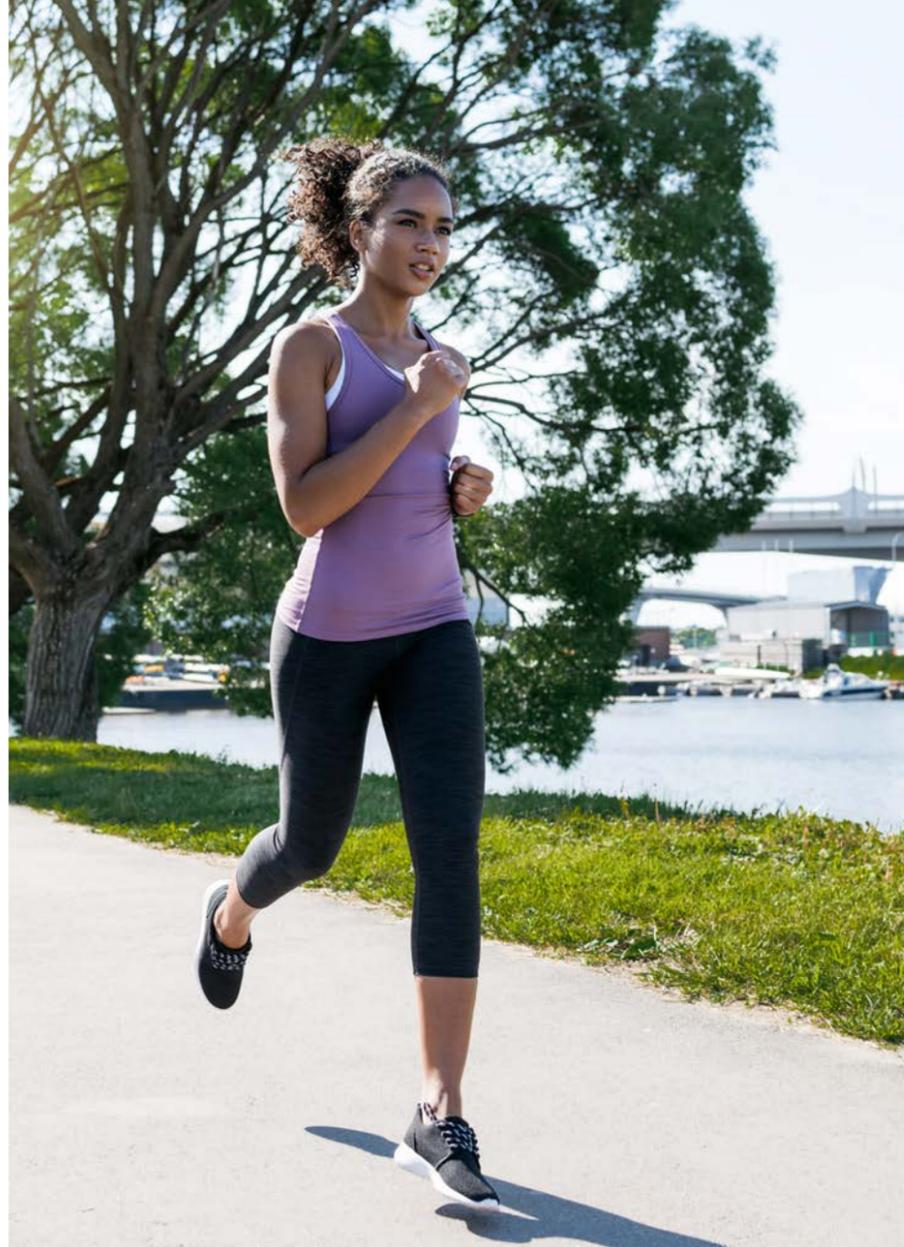
July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 | 6-9 p.m.

PREPARING FOR SURGERY — MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT

May 6, June 3, July 1 | Noon-1:30 p.m.

PLANT-BASED COOKING WORKSHOP

May 1 | Noon-1:30 p.m.



STROKE PREVENTION

English: May 27, July 31 | 4-5 p.m.

Spanish: May 28, July 30 | 4-5 p.m.

To register, call 866-STROKE-3 (866-787-6533).

SURVIVAL SKILLS FOR A TOUGH ECONOMY

May 15, July 2 | Noon-1 p.m.

June 5 | 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

MEDICARE OPTIONS FOR 2024

Join one of our free virtual Medicare Insurance Plan Option classes to learn about plans accepted at UCI Health in 2024 and help you decide the coverage that suits your needs. We will cover basic Medicare, Medicare Supplemental Plans and Medicare Advantage PPO Plans.

English classes: May 21, June 26, Aug. 14 | 5-6:30 p.m.
Mandarin classes: May 23 | 5-6:30 p.m.

For questions or to register, call 714-456-2210. Registration is required to receive the Zoom link. All classes are hosted by a UCI Health representative.

EVENTS

UCI Health and UCI are proud to sponsor community events and lectures that offer information about a variety of health and medical science topics.

UCI ANTI-CANCER CHALLENGE

May 30, 4:30-6 p.m. | 2024 Anti-Cancer Challenge kickoff

The UCI Anti-Cancer Challenge will unveil innovative research projects made possible by the \$1 million raised by participants of last year's challenge. Speakers at this campaign kickoff event include UCI Health Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center Director Richard A. Van Etten, MD, PhD.

This free event will be held at UCI Research Park, 5141 California Ave., Irvine. RSVP at <https://bit.ly/ACC-kickoff> or email anti-cancerchallenge@uci.edu

NEWPORT BEACH LIBRARY 'MEDICINE IN OUR BACKYARD' LECTURE

May 20 | Understanding aging and your lower spine — Sohaib Z. Hashmi, MD, director of the UCI Health Spine Trauma Program

Presentation begins at 7 p.m. at the Newport Beach Central Library, 1000 Avocado Ave., Newport Beach. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. A Q&A will follow

the lecture. Visit nbpbf.foundation/programs/medicine-in-our-backyard to register for this free talk.

SUE & BILL GROSS STEM CELL RESEARCH CENTER LECTURES

Learn about advances in stem-cell research from these UCI scientists:

May 7 | Gene therapy for muscle diseases — Asuka Eguchi, PhD; Tahseen Mozaffar, MD, director, UCI Health ALS & Neuromuscular Center

June 4 | How do neural stem cells and blood vessels communicate — via voicemail or DM? — Lisa A. Flanagan, PhD

These free in-person seminars are held at Gross Hall, 845 Health Sciences Road, Irvine. Presentations begin at 7 p.m. To register, email stemcell@uci.edu or call 949-824-3990.

GAVIN HERBERT EYE INSTITUTE COMMUNITY LECTURES

May 7 | Cataracts: The latest in premium lens technology — Marjan Farid, MD

June 4 | Headache pain from two angles: Perspectives from both sides of the optic nerve — Crystal Jicha, MD; Samuel Spiegel, MD



July 23 | Sedentary time, screen time and exercise: Navigating kids habits in the digital age — Shlomit Radom-Aizik, PhD; Donny Suh, MD

Visit ophthalmology.uci.edu/events to register for these free online lectures, which begin at 7 p.m. To learn more, please email ghei@uci.edu or call 949-824-7243.

SUPPORT GROUPS

To learn more about our support groups, email or call the numbers listed or visit ucihealth.org/events

ADVANCED HEART FAILURE & VAD

714-456-7514

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP

alisont3@hs.uci.edu

BURN SURVIVORS

714-456-7437

CANCER NUTRITION SUPPORT GROUP

agebhar1@hs.uci.edu

CHRONIC LYMPHOCYTIC LEUKEMIA

tevens@cllsociety.org

INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE

714-456-7057

KOREAN WOMEN'S CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

714-875-4658

MEN'S CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

714-456-5812

MULTIPLE MYELOMA

800-452-2873, ext. 233

OSTOMY ASSOCIATION OF ORANGE COUNTY

714-637-7971

PANCREATIC CANCER

714-456-7057

PARKINSON'S DISEASE

blagasse@hs.uci.edu

STROKE

866-STROKE-3 (866-787-6533)

TRIGEMINAL NEURALGIA ASSOCIATION

714-944-3044

YOUNG ADULT CANCER

caps@hs.uci.edu



UCI School of Medicine Dean Michael Stamos, MD, visits the medical complex construction site with UCI Health President and CEO Chad Lefteris, left, Senior Vice President and Chief Innovation Officer Scott Joslyn at right, and Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center Director Richard Van Etten, MD, peeking over Stamos' shoulder.

PHOTO BY KAREN TAPIA

A 'DREAM COME TRUE' RISES ABOVE THE SAN JOAQUIN MARSH RESERVE

Dr. Michael J. Stamos, dean of the UCI School of Medicine, once envisioned opening a small cancer center on the UCI campus in Irvine. What has transpired, he says, is so much more.

“For more than 50 years, there was a dream of creating a hospital on the UCI Irvine campus. Dr. Stanley van den Noort, who was dean of the College of Medicine from 1973 to 1986, tried hard to get a hospital built in Irvine but ultimately failed. UCI ended up acquiring the county hospital in the City of Orange.

In 2016, I had a conversation with Dr. Richard Van Etten, director of the UCI Health Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Rick Gannotta, our UCI Health CEO at the time. It wasn't about building a hospital, though we desperately needed more space. But we didn't dare dream that big. We just talked about creating a second cancer center on the UCI campus in Irvine.

We looked at land along California Avenue, which is all we thought was available. We didn't know if the University of California Board of Regents would approve it or if the UCI faculty would embrace it. We did know that a new cancer center would require staffing for a lot of different specialties. It was daunting, too, because our operations were largely decentralized.

That was the impetus for creating what we call clinical integration, an integrated, aligned operation — from the C-suite to physicians to staff. It allowed us to be nimble in making decisions.

After reorganizing, we went to UCI Chancellor Howard Gillman in 2017 with our plan for a second cancer center along California Avenue to serve more patients and spur greater collaboration

with campus cancer researchers. He embraced the idea, then paused and said, 'What about building it on Jamboree?'

That was a light-bulb moment. The north campus had far more acreage, which meant we could think bigger. We could build not only a new cancer center, but also add much-needed hospital beds, operating suites and outpatient clinical space.

There would be challenges, of course. We needed to assure the Board of Regents that this project would be financially reasonable and successful. Despite the many hurdles, I was optimistic.

Now, seven years later, our new medical complex, UCI Health — Irvine, is going to have a huge impact on the county and the patients we serve. We are hiring 150 new physicians this year alone. As UCI Health has continued to grow over the last five years, we've improved our ability to recruit new stars on the clinical side and research side. This new campus brings the advanced medical care we provide at UCI Medical Center to the residents of coastal and south Orange County.

It's a dream come true! I'm excited for the ribbon-cutting. I've had lots of sneak previews of the new campus, but I can't wait for the real thing. When we treat the first patient, I will be on hand. And we are just beginning to make the best possible healthcare accessible to all the residents of Orange County. We're not done yet!

— Michael Stamos, MD

RIDE, RUN OR WALK

TO HELP MAKE NEW CANCER DISCOVERIES POSSIBLE!

Enjoy 5K/10K run/walks, various road bike routes or a mountain bike route on Saturday, Oct. 5 at UCI Aldrich Park. Your contribution funds research at the UCI Health Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center that could change lives for people affected by cancer in Orange County and beyond.

Register Today
anti-cancerchallenge.org

UCI Anti-Cancer
 Challenge



UCI Health

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Be a part of the future of healthcare

At UCI Health, we aren't just practicing the highest standards of medicine, we are creating them — for you, for your loved ones, for the world and our collective future. Now, we're expanding access to world-class care at our new **UCI Health — Irvine** medical campus.

When you make a gift of any amount, you partner with us to revolutionize health and wellness through leading-edge discoveries and innovative patient care. Your support fuels groundbreaking research, trains the next generation of health professionals and spurs pioneering treatments to cure disease. Be a part of the future of healthcare.

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THE CAMPAIGN FOR UCI

