Kaiser Permanente Strive to Thrive Presenter Bio's and Information



Stacy Alves, DNP, MS, RN, NEA-BC, Chief Nurse Executive at the Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara Medical Center

Stacy has leadership experience in professional development, nursing informatics, and clinical operations. In 2019, she was the first recipient of the Kaiser Permanente Northern California Regional Extraordinary Nurses Award for Transformational Leadership. Stacy earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from California State University, Sacramento, and her master's in science in Nursing and Healthcare Leadership at UC Davis where she studied women's childbirth experiences in Angola, Africa. During her time in Africa, she developed a deep appreciation for the importance of establishing trusting and caring relationships with our patients.



Dr. Rakesh Chaudhary, Physician in Chief for Kaiser Permanente, Santa Clara

In addition to my clinical practice, I have the honor of serving as the Physician in Chief for the Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara Medical Center. In this role, I get to work with all the incredible teams of dedicated colleagues to ensure that we continue to provide the absolute best care for our patients. A big part of this is looking to the future and striving to redesign health care for our communities. My focus is to keep each person as healthy as possible both through prevention of illness and treatment of illness when it occurs. Attended both Yale University and UCSF and joined Kaiser in 1997.



Samantha Collier-Webb, Nurse Practitioner at Kaiser Permanente, San Jose

Samantha Collier-Webb has spent much of her career working in women's health at Kaiser and knew very early on that she wanted to work with and support women throughout their healthcare journey. She currently works in OBGYN (Women's Health) at Kaiser Permanente. After treating various patients, some with complex genitourinary conditions associated with their ongoing gynecological needs, Samantha has developed an interest in Urogynecology and gynecological surgery – proof that despite her current role there is always opportunity and room to grow in the healthcare field.



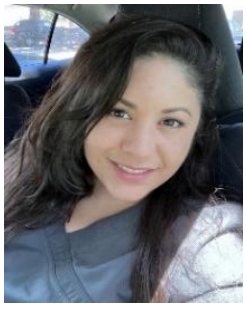
Simonida Cvejic, Founder/CEO, Bay Area Medical Academy
Simonida is the Founder/CEO of BAMA and a STEP into a Job! board member. She has been leading Bay Area Medical Academy for the last 16 years with a focus on building employer alliances, community relationships and opportunities for people from various socio-economic, cultural, and educational backgrounds.



Makayla Diaz Community Health Worker (CHW) at LEAD Filipino and public health student at Foothill College
She brings a passion for health equity, community engagement, and improving access to healthcare and community resources. In her work, she has gained hands-on experience in community outreach, health education, resource navigation, health screenings, and culturally responsive engagement addressing social determinants of health



Barry Dinkins, Supervising Consultant for KP LAUNCH's Summer Intern Programs
KP Launch's goal is to build and sustain a diverse, culturally competent workforce for the future. As the lead for the program, he focuses on intern positions for young people who would otherwise lack the resources to explore a career in health. Barry works with internal and community partners, to build strategies for our interns personal and professional development needs and to craft a meaningful experience for our High School and College interns.

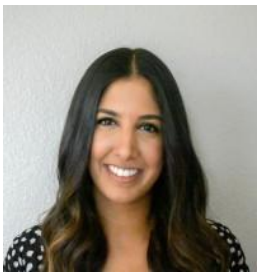


Monet Garcia, Medical Assistant
I am from a little bit of everywhere I've lived in San Jose, Gilroy area, and now Union City. I have a bubbly, outgoing personality and very much a people person which can make my job easy at times. Attended IBT in San Jose for their Medical Assisting program where they helped me get the experience needed for my job now. Worked at Kaiser for the past 9 years and love what I do.



Dr. Sergio Gonzales, Adult and Family Medicine, Chief of Salinas Medical Office, also located at Kaiser Permanente, San Jose

He was born in Mexico City, and his family emigrated to Santa Monica when he was 9 years old. He attended UCLA, UCSD and did a fellowship at Natividad Medical Center. He practices family medicine and treats newborns to centenarians. He also teaches the next generation of health care leaders with his personal awareness of the hardships low income; underserved youths can encounter.



Amrita Grewal, Speech and Language Pathologist at Stanford Medicine Children's Health

After working as a behavioral therapist, she entered the field of speech-language pathology to help autistic children better communicate their wants and needs. While pursuing her master's degree, she researched the eating habits of autistic adults to provide healthcare professionals with intervention routes and improve health outcomes. She also collaborated with local speech-language pathologists to develop a training program for mental health professionals working with clients with aphasia.



Joell Hansen Director of Workforce Development at Metropolitan Education

She is driven by the belief that every student has the right to a rigorous and relevant education that leads to a viable career. She received her master's degree from Santa Clara University and her undergraduate degree at SJSU.



Ori Kochavi, PhD, Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Associate Chief Administrative Officer at Kaiser Permanente, Santa Clara

He has been practicing in the mental health field for over thirty years and currently has oversight of several outpatient departments including Psychiatry, Addiction Medicine, Lifestyle Medicine, OB/GYN, Radiology, and Health Education. He has worked for Kaiser Permanente for over 26 years.



Lani Lau, Chief Certified Nurse Midwife at Kaiser Permanente, San Jose

From a very young age she was interested in mothers, babies, birth and families. By college, Lani knew she wanted to help people. Nursing seemed like a good way to do that, and nurse-midwifery was the way. For her, nurse midwifery offers the opportunity to provide practical technical care around childbearing as well as spiritual emotional care. She has been caring for women during pregnancy and childbirth for nearly 20 years.



Joel Manglicmot, Supervisor Admin. Services in Adult and Child Psychiatry at Kaiser Permanente, Santa Clara

Joel has worked 25 years in healthcare in various roles, with twenty-two years in the department of psychiatry. He collaborates with operations and clinical managers to bridge gaps between service and clinical teams. He has lived in the South Bay most of his life and could not see himself living anywhere else. He loves spending time with family and friends, enjoying all the diversity the bay area has to offer.



Jessica Migaki, Pharm D, Director of Pharmacy Care Delivery (Retired)

Jessica brings a strong track record of leadership in the hospital and healthcare industry. In her role, she drives the overall oversight and direction of pharmacy services, ensuring efficient and high-quality care delivery across her system. Beyond her executive responsibilities, Dr. Migaki was honored with the YWCA Golden Gate Silicon Valley's Tribute to Women Award 2025. She is a graduate of UC Irvine.



Yashmi Mistry, MS Registered Dietitian

SJSU graduate, Yashmi provides patients with the best, evidence-based Medical Nutrition Therapy. Her approach to child health integrates diet, exercise, good eating habits, and fostering a positive body image to meet overall health and nutrition goals.



Vanessa Muniz, Community Health Manager, Kaiser Permanente, Northern California
She oversees regional or local initiatives designed to improve the well-being of underserved populations, to address non-medical drivers of health such as housing stability, food security, and mental wellness.



Gabriela Modglin, **EMS Specialist and EMS Duty Chief at the Santa Clara County EMS Agency**

Gabriela Modglin is an EMS Specialist and EMS Duty Chief at the Santa Clara County EMS Agency, where she applies her expertise in emergency medicine, leadership, and project management as the Program Manager for the Training and Education Unit. Gabriela earned her Bachelor of Science in Biology from CSU, Channel Islands in 2011 and an Associate of Science in Paramedic Studies from Ventura College in 2013.



Dr. Padmaja Padalkar, Chief of Pediatrics at Kaiser Permanente, San Jose
She is a hybrid physician who both sees patients in the clinic as well at the hospital. Her past responsibilities included Childhood Obesity Champion, Assistant Chief of Pediatrics, and Adverse Childhood Experiences Champion. My career has shaped my efforts in providing holistic, timely, culturally competent, and family-centered care to all pediatric patients. My journey thus far has taken me from Bombay, India, to Kanata, Canada, back to Bombay for Medical School and for a time we resided Texas. After all that moving and travel, we have found our forever home in the Golden State!



Cheri Sexton, Speech and Language Pathologist at Kaiser Permanente, San Jose
She started her career in skilled nursing with a career goal to eventually work in the hospital/acute care setting. She works daily with a wide variety of clients including those with speech/language/communication and swallowing impairments because of stroke, traumatic brain injury, cancer, and degenerative diseases. She believes that providing exceptional care from

symptom onset can help lead to meaningful recovery, and increased quality of life.



Ashley Stokke, PsyD Clinical Manager in Child Psychiatry at Kaiser Permanente, San Jose

Ashley started at Kaiser Permanente Child Psychiatry in San Jose in 2012, as a psychology post-doctoral resident, and in 2014, became a full-time staff clinician. She thoroughly enjoys her work with the families whether it is working with young children who may be on the Autism Spectrum or teenagers who are depressed and struggling with the social pressures of high school, and everything in between.



Dr. Maureen Tedesco, General Surgeon at Kaiser Permanente, Santa Clara

Dr. Tedesco grew up in the military and has lived all over the world. She attended Georgetown University and completed her residency and fellowship in Advanced Laparoscopic Surgery at Stanford University School of Medicine and the Palo Alto Veterans Hospital. She uses a variety of skills and techniques in her surgical practice including the use of robotics in surgery.



Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson, **President of San Jose State University**

Dr. Teniente-Matson serves as the 31st president of San José State University. An internationally recognized Latina leader, President Teniente-Matson is a champion of student success initiatives; diversity, equity and inclusion; civic engagement; and experiential learning. Throughout her career that spans more than 30 years in higher education, President Teniente Matson has always put students first, engaging in strategic partnerships and serving on numerous national educational-governing and civic boards geared toward enhancing the student experience. President Teniente-Matson earned her Bachelor of Arts in Management from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, her Master of Business Administration from the University of Alaska Anchorage and a

doctorate in Educational Leadership from California State University, Fresno.



Dr. Hoa Le, Medical Oncologist at Kaiser Permanente, Santa Clara

Dr. Le earned his medical degree through the accelerated BS/MD program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine. He completed his residency at Loma Linda University Medical Center and went on to complete a specialized fellowship in hematology and medical oncology at UC Irvine Medical Center. Dr. Le's approach to medicine is deeply shaped by his own lived experiences. During his medical residency, he survived a catastrophic surfing accident on his honeymoon that resulted in T12 paraplegia. Against all odds, Dr. Le navigated residency and Fellowship in a wheelchair and returned to full-time practice. Next to his clinical practice, Dr. Le is also a prominent leader in disability advocacy and professional equity.



Dr. Misty Navarro, Associate Physician, Emergency Medicine at Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara

Her philosophy centers on treating every patient with dignity, compassion, and clear communication — especially during life's most challenging moments. A graduate of USC and UC Davis School of Medicine, she completed emergency residency training at Stanford/Kaiser and brings over 20 years of clinical and administrative leadership—including former roles as ED Director and CFO at Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital. Outside the hospital, she serves as an elected school board trustee for the Pajaro Valley Unified School District.



Dr. Josh Markowitz, Senior Attending Physician, Emergency Medicine at Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara

He was born and raised in Menlo Park, CA. He attended Brown University, graduating with a degree in Biology with special interests in Biotechnology and Bioethics followed by his Medical Degree at Brown Medical School in 2004. His residency training was at Yale-New Haven Hospital in New Haven, CT followed by a fellowship in Emergency Ultrasound at Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA. He joined Kaiser in 2012 and has served as the EMS physician for Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara since 2015.