

KCPA physicians recognized as Top Docs!

Because of the compassion and generosity of our wonderful physicians, the low-income patients we serve have timely and appropriate access to specialty care services. Simply put, our physicians are the best of the best ... and we aren't the only ones who think our doctors are the tops! Each year, magazines *Seattle* and *Seattle Met* publish their lists of the greater Seattle area Top Docs. Both base their rankings on nominations by their peers; the names of the physicians receiving the most nominations were published in the July and August issues (respectively).

While our entire 600 volunteer providers are extraordinary in our eyes, congratulations go out to those physicians recently recognized in *Seattle* and *Seattle Met* magazines.



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Rosemary Agostini, MD
Todd Barnett, MD
William Barrett, MD
Richard Billingham, MD
James Bowen, MD
J. Scott Bowen, MD
Christopher Cannon, MD
Lisa Caylor, MD
Lily Chang, MD
Maria Chong, MD
David Corwin, MD
Steven Counter, MD
James Crutcher, MD
Jane Dimer, MD

Alexis Falicov, MD, PhD
Thomas Green, MD
Kenneth Gross, MD
Douglas Hale, MD
Robert Haynes, MD
Matthew Horton, MD
Christina Isacson, MD
Hongxiu Ji, MD, PhD
Charles Jung, MD
Lily Jung, MD
Kalle Kang, MD
Carleton Keck, MD
Virginia Klaas, MD
Brian Kumasaka, MD

Howard Lewis, MD
Henry Li, MD
Matthew Lonergan, MD
Marc Lowe, MD
John Miyano, MD
Lawrence Murphy, MD
John Nemanich, MD
Rex Ochi, MD
Sanjiv Parikh, MD
William Peters III, MD
Kenneth Reger, MD
Francis Riedo, MD
James Schneider, MD
Andrew Shors, MD

Martin Siegel, MD
Darik Taniguchi, MD
Lester Thompson, MD
Ronald Tickman, MD
Mark Valentine, MD
Curtis Veal, MD
William Watts, MD
Robert Wohlman, MD
Harry Yu, MD



Kyle Oh, MD, physiatrist, Kirkland Spinecare

Kyle Oh, MD describes the KCPA difference

One of the main reasons physicians choose to go into the medical profession is because of a desire to improve the health and well-being of others. This impetus also figures as a primary motivator for physicians who decide to pursue volunteer work both locally and abroad. Volunteering one's medical expertise can be both personally gratifying and professionally enriching, as many of our volunteer physicians have discovered. Recently, Kyle Oh, MD wrote a letter to the King County Medical Society's *Bulletin*, which is reprinted (with his permission) below.

Most physicians provide free care or charity work at one time or another. In fact, most physicians provide such care routinely. However, the biggest problem with such care has always been the fact that they are disjointed. For physicians, coordinating the charitable work through Project Access allows us to deliver our services more efficiently with a greater sense of satisfaction and reward, and at the same time avoid feeling overwhelmed; this takes the burden off the doctors and their staff.

Knowing that there is a network of other providers (including specialists) and ancillary services that will help provide more comprehensive care for these patients makes each of us feel like what we are doing is worthwhile, rather than feeling helpless. Often, when providing charity care, we feel like we are fighting a losing battle, that whatever each of us does isn't making any real difference in the lives of the patients that we are trying to help.

Patients also benefit from such coordinated care. They know, going in, that all the doctors and ancillary services that they will be seeing through Project Access have volunteered to help them, free of charge. They don't have to beg for a charity at every turn. Knowing that, they are more likely to comply with the recommended care. Often, a minor problem that might have been easily treated early on becomes a much bigger one because it wasn't dealt with in a timely fashion. We know that those who have access to care are much more likely to be proactive in their own health care.

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Become a volunteer provider!

If you are a physician or other licensed clinician in King or Snohomish County, we'd like to invite you to become a volunteer provider in this important health care delivery initiative.

Project Access will support your participation by providing patient screening for income eligibility and medical necessity.

All Project Access patients receive instructions regarding their patient responsibilities. In addition, we will make appointment reminder calls to the patients prior to each visit and review with them any special instructions from your office. We also arrange for interpreters when needed, at no cost to your office.

For additional information regarding our volunteer providers, please contact us at 206.788.4204 or info@kcprojectaccess.org.

Revisions to state laws protect physicians offering charity care

Many physicians across our state are volunteering their time to provide no-cost care to low-income and uninsured patients. Participating physicians do not increase their risk for malpractice claims. In fact, participation may help reduce overall risk if it succeeds in improving access to care.

In 2004, the Washington State legislature expanded the Good Samaritan Act to include any licensed individual providing charity care to uninsured individuals, as long as the provider participates in a community-based program and had no expectation of compensation for care for the charity care patient.

In addition, the Washington Administrative Code section entitled "Volunteer Retired Provider Malpractice Insurance Program" was amended to include programs like Project Access.

Taken together, these demonstrate the successful efforts of advocates across this state to increase access to health care and essential services for low-income and uninsured patients.

Pierce County Project Access opens pilot program

Our neighbor to the south, Pierce County Project Access (PCPA), recently opened their doors by initiating a pilot program, focusing on patients with orthopedic and musculoskeletal complaints. From this initial pilot they will be expanding to provide services in a number of other specialty areas.

PCPA's founders included the Pierce County Medical Society, Franciscan Health System and Multicare Health System, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and Community HealthCare.

**PIERCE COUNTY
PROJECT ACCESS**



Leanne Noren, Executive Director, is excited to see the community come together to help the low-income residents of Pierce County.

Expanding Services to Snohomish County

KCPA coordinates care for Snohomish County patients

King County Project Access (KCPA) has built a reputation of providing needed services to the low-income patient population in King County. Because of the patient care-assistance we bring to the community, we were recently invited to help plan a similar effort in Snohomish County. After months of planning, the steering committee asked if we would expand into Snohomish County with the same great program we've built in King County! In late 2009, our Board of Directors approved this geographic expansion.

While the concept of Project Access is very simple, the choreography of the myriad details is not! After months of working with the steering committee members and building relationships with key stakeholders, we are ready to appoint our first Snohomish County patients to get care within their county. (We expect to appoint our initial patients to the following specialties in Snohomish County: Cardiology, Dermatology, Gastroenterology, General Surgery, Gynecology, Infectious Disease, Internal Medicine, Neurosurgery, Orthopedics, Psychiatry, Plastic surgery and Urology.)

Thank you to the steering committee and to our initial funders ... And a special thanks to the following Snohomish County specialists and hospitals who have committed to working with Project Access to provide specialty care and ancillary services:

Specialty Providers

Everett Bone & Joint

The Everett Clinic

Mark Valentine Dermatology

Providence Everett Medical Group

Puget Sound Gastroenterology—Edmonds

Sky River Internal Medicine

Stevens Orthopedics

Surgery Associates of Edmonds

Western Washington Medical Group

Hospitals

Providence General Medical Center—Everett

Swedish—Edmonds

Valley General Hospital—Monroe

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Internal Medicine
Medical Director,
Critical Care & eICU
Swedish Medical Center
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Sallie Neillie

*Executive Director, King
County Project Access*



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KCPA Solutions: Supporting Physicians who Care

Dr. Oh describes the Project Access difference

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Obviously, this is not an alternative to universal health care. However, for those who qualify, such a service may mean the difference between financial ruin and continuing to be a productive member of society. After all, it is in everyone's interest to keep everyone healthy and productive.

Last Thanksgiving, Project Access took out a full page advertisement in the Seattle Times thanking all the providers and ancillary services that have volunteered to be a part of this charitable organization. They listed all the providers by their names. It was nice being recognized for the charitable work that we do, but what amazed me the most was how many physicians have signed up. It was wonderful to know that I belonged to a large group of similar-minded people who care and want to help the less fortunate among us and to pay back to our community.

Trying to do charity work on your own can be quite frustrating and time-consuming. Having an organization like Project Access that allows us to donate our time and skills without worrying about the coordination of care and referral to ancillary and specialty services makes our work more efficient and satisfying.

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We invite your comments and questions.

Visit www.kcprojectaccess.org to learn more.