

## Welcome to Discover

Stanford Hospital & Clinics is recognized as one of the preeminent hospitals in the country, where inspiration, innovation and knowledge are uniquely combined for the benefit of our patients.

In this monthly newsletter, we feature the extraordinary people whose accomplishments and dedication change lives every day.

We welcome your feedback at [communications@stanfordmed.org](mailto:communications@stanfordmed.org).

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## SHC Events

[Stanford Health Library Lectures](#)  
November 2009

## SHC In The News

[SF Examiner](#) – Nearly 1,000 Runners Participate in Stanford Run for Your Life 5K and 10K

[J. Weekly](#) – Stanford, JCC Team Up to Offer Free Health Programs

## IN FOCUS: Fertility

### Making Miracles: One Family's Triumph Over Fertility Struggles



Melissa Michelson knew before she married that she would have difficulty becoming pregnant. Scar tissue from surgery 10 years earlier blocked the passage of eggs down her fallopian tubes. No longer, however, do such challenges end the dream of parenthood.

[Read full article.](#)

### Perfecting Techniques Overcomes Obstacles



Stanford Hospital began to offer fertility treatment to patients in the early 1980s. Lynn Westphal, MD, and Barry Behr, PhD, helped expand the clinic's programs in 1998 to include fertility preservation for cancer patients. The center is now one of the largest on the West Coast and has added fertility preservation for healthy women and couples. [Read full article.](#)

### Q&A with Penny Donnelly, RN, MFT

Penny Donnelly is both a registered nurse (RN) and marriage & family therapist (MFT) in the REI Center at Stanford. Donnelly coordinates the center's support groups and family education programs and works with patients and their spouses as they navigate through what can be an emotional roller coaster. [Read Q&A.](#)



## Stanford Hospital at Forefront of Providing Robotic Surgery for Bladder Cancer



In a major advance for Stanford Hospital & Clinics, Mark Gonzalgo, MD, PhD, recently removed a cancerous bladder from a 75-year-old patient using a robotic surgical system that allows for more precision in executing minimally-invasive procedures but also demands a new level of technical expertise from surgeons. Gonzalgo is one of the few surgeons doing this procedure in Northern California and among a select group nationally to do so. [Read full article.](#)

## Who Let the Dogs In? Visits From Canine Therapists Lift Patients' Spirits at Stanford



As she moves through the hallways of Stanford Hospital, Rita's official badge swings back and forth with each step. There's no MD after her name, but her skills as a healer could justify it. When Rita pays a visit to a patient, the atmosphere instantly brightens. For more than a decade, dogs like Rita and her animal colleagues in the Pet-Assisted Wellness at Stanford program (yes, that's PAWS), have padded their way into the hearts of patients and staff alike. [Read full article.](#)

## Robotic Ablation Provides New Options for Cardiac Arrhythmia Patients



Father John Coleman has felt so good after recent procedure at Stanford Hospital & Clinics to correct his heart's arrhythmia that he's played 18 holes of golf, more than once. "I figure if you keep moving, you stay alive," said Coleman. Amin Al-Ahmad, MD and Paul Wang, MD, used a robot-driven assisting arm that hovered over Coleman, performing precision movements as directed by a joystick held by Al-Ahmad, seated a few feet away. [Read full story.](#)

## News Briefs: Memorable Patients, Volunteer Stars and Smoke-Free Policy



Every doctor carries at least one patient in his or her head—a memory of a special case, perhaps, or of a difficult outcome. And sometimes there's a patient who simply touches the heart. Sherry Wren, MD, looks back on special patients who have touched her life. [Read full story.](#)



Over 800 volunteers at Stanford Hospital & Clinics touch the lives of patients every day. Every month, one is singled out for their commitment, service and presence within the hospital. These are our "Volunteer Stars" . . . [Read Star profiles.](#)



A new policy adopted by Stanford Hospital & Clinics and Lucile Packard Children's Hospital means both hospitals will become 100 percent smoke-free environments as of January 1, 2010. Along with the School of Medicine's smoke-free policy, the area that comprises the Stanford University Medical Center will become 100 percent smoke-free.

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