



LEADERS TO KNOW: HEALTH CARE

Valley health leaders have, in recent years, gotten creative while accomplishing countless essential tasks and pioneer innovative technologies and protocols. Some of the best are collected here, offering advice and commentary about the ever-shifting health care landscape.

Methodology: The professionals featured in these pages did not pay to be included. Their profiles were drawn from nomination materials submitted to Inside The Valley. Those selected for inclusion were reviewed by the editorial department. The professionals were chosen based on a demonstration of impact made on the profession and on the Valley community.



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1 | **DEBBIE ADRIAN**

*President, California; COO
Warner Pacific Insurance Services*

ON THE FUTURE:

“I see technology continuing to play an integral role in how people access health care. The core purpose of connecting people with care is rewarding, so I see our industry as an attractive career for anyone willing to take the time to become an expert.”



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2 | **JENNIFER ANURAN-REYES**

*Executive Director; Head of Quality
ImmPACT Bio*

ON EXCITING TRENDS:

“With the goal of delivering life-saving therapies to patients quickly, the use of automation is exciting. Automation can improve throughput, sterility assurance, and turnaround time, enabling products to reach patients sooner.”



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3 | **CARISSA BORTUGNO**

*Vice President, Clinical Support Services
Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital*

ON CHALLENGES:

“The cost of health care is a key challenge. Reducing costs while simultaneously improving patient outcomes and patients’ experiences is a major challenge that all health care organizations will continue to face in the foreseeable future.”



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4 | **DONALD DAVID**

*Chief Medical Officer
UCLA West Valley Medical Center*

ON LEADERSHIP:

“An exemplary health care leader needs to have the ability to see beyond the advances in technology. Leaders need to address the social determinants of health care and disparities, including access, to truly make a difference.”

1 | **ARMAND DORIAN**

Chief Executive Officer
USC Verdugo Hills Hospital

ON LEADERSHIP:

“An exemplary health care leader must prioritize patient-centered care and foster a culture of collaboration and trust. It involves embracing innovation to enhance outcomes, nurturing a supportive work environment and leading with integrity and empathy.”



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3 | **EM GARCIA**

Chief Executive Officer
Sherman Oaks Hospital

ON THE FUTURE:

“The health care industry will likely see increased use of telemedicine, AI and machine learning for diagnosis and treatment, a growing focus on preventative care, and continued efforts to improve health equity and access to care.”



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2 | **NIMA FARZAN**

Chief Executive Officer
Latigo Biotherapeutics

ON EXCITING TRENDS:

“A renewed emphasis from different components of the health care system to tackle some of the chronic diseases and conditions that have the greatest impact on public health, yet have previously been challenging to tackle.”



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4 | **AMIT GOSALIA**

Co-Owner; Audiologist
West Valley Hearing Center

ON THE FUTURE:

“In audiology, we have seen a rapid rise in third-party-administrators who attempt to dictate treatment. I hope to see a reduction in administrators acting as doctors, allowing us to manage and treat patients the way we know how.”



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Congratulations to Henry Mayo Vice President of Clinical Support Services Carissa Bortugno on her selection as a “Leader to Know in Healthcare.”

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1 | **BETSY HART**

Chief Operating Officer
Dignity Health - Northridge Hospital
Medical Center

ON EXCITING TRENDS:

“The exciting health care trends on the horizon include the use of AI, efficiencies that reduce redundancy and delays on the primary care and acute side and the expansion of strategic growth in an organization’s ambulatory footprints.”



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3 | **BETHANY MANCILLA**

Chief Business Officer
Capsida

ON EXCITING TRENDS:

“The potential of genomic medicines to be disease-modifying and potentially curative is tremendously exciting. Through the advancements in gene therapy and gene editing, previously un-addressable diseases can now potentially be addressed.”

2 | **ANDREW KANTOR**

Partner
Kantor & Kantor, LLP

ON EXCITING TRENDS:

“Our recent victory in Renault v. UNUM, where we convinced the Court that UNUM’s interpretation of its own disability policy was legally improper. Successes like these help us fight disability denials for chronic-fatigue related illnesses.”



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4 | **PRECIOUS MAYES**

President; Chief Executive Officer
Pacifica Hospital Of The Valley

ON LEADERSHIP:

“Effective leadership means implementing positive change in all areas of clinical care, medical staffing, specialized programs, customer service, and meeting the care needs of the community while improving employee morale.”



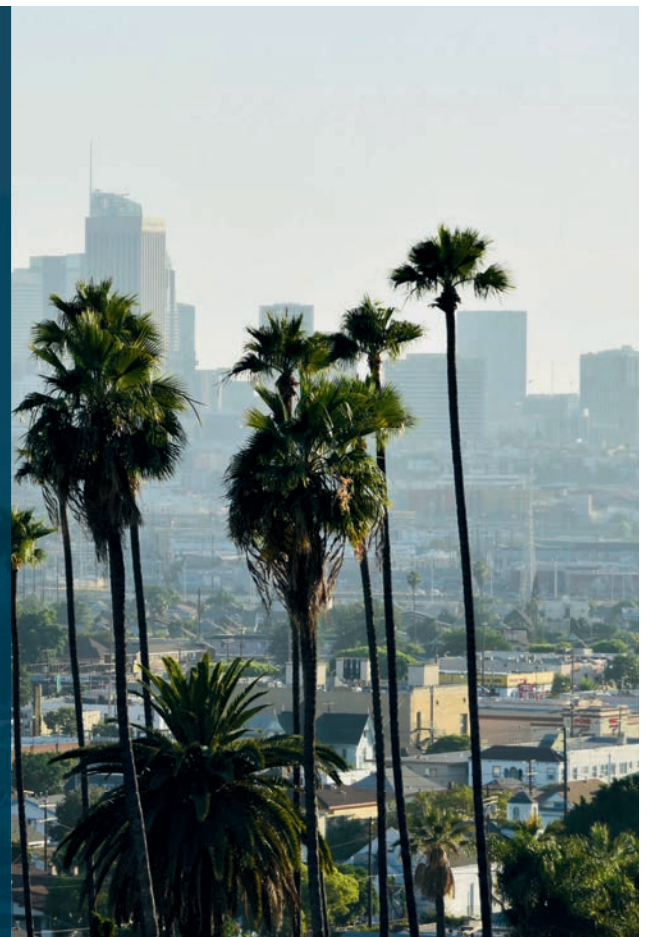
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1 | EDWARD MIRZABEGIAN

Chief Executive Officer
Antelope Valley Medical Center

ON LEADERSHIP:

“An exemplary health care leader today must obtain a genuine care and empathy for people. Leaders must focus on innovation and patient-centric care to meet the needs of their communities. You have to be in health care for the right reasons.”



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3 | BRYAN MOYER

Senior Vice President; Discovery
Latigo Biotherapeutics

ON CAREER ADVICE:

“Life will undoubtedly present you with daunting career challenges. Do not run away from them. Tackle them head on. This is how you grow – via continuous learning and exposing yourself to new things. Never become stagnant in your role.”



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2 | DAVID MORGAN

Chief Operating Officer
UCLA West Valley Medical Center

ON EXCITING TRENDS:

“I’m intrigued by AI. We will never replace the personal touch of clinicians, but we spend more time on computers and less time with patients. If AI can allow caregivers more time for care, it will be a huge win.”



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4 | ROB MURPHY

Chief Manufacturing and Quality Officer
Capsida

ON EXCITING TRENDS:

“I am excited about the current advancements in gene therapy. I love working on treatments that address unmet medical needs and with gene therapy we can focus on fixing the root cause of a disorder and correcting it permanently.”

Thank you for being influential leaders.

Congratulations to the *Inside The Valley* 2024 Leaders to Know in Healthcare. Your influential leadership has a positive and lasting impact on the care we provide to our diverse communities.

A special thank you to Betsy Hart, President, Glendale Memorial Hospital and Cheryl Wheelock, Chief Nursing Officer, Northridge Hospital.



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1 | **SUMANT RAMACHANDRA**

Chief Executive Officer
ImmPACT Bio



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ON EXCITING TRENDS:

“We are in an age of life-saving therapies for many diseases. When you combine this with the rapidly moving field of AI, our understanding will only increase exponentially to deliver more transformative technologies.”

2 | **MAY LIN TAO**

Medical Director, Keck Medicine of USC and
Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital Cancer Program
Keck Medicine of USC



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ON CHALLENGES:

“We have therapies and protocols to achieve the best outcomes, but patients may face challenges that limit access to pioneering medicine. We need solutions for delivering excellent care to more people.”



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3 | **GUSTAVO VALDESPINO**

President & Chief Executive Officer
Valley Presbyterian Hospital

ON LEADERSHIP:

“It takes the actions of everyone in an organization to achieve success. Our jobs are not done, however, and we must continue to get better, every day so that our patients get the best care possible.”

4 | **CHERYL WHELOCK**

Chief Nursing Executive Officer
Dignity Health - Northridge Hospital
Medical Center



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ON CAREER ADVICE:

“In my early career, my focus was trying to find the clinical area I was most passionate about. My advice is to focus on developing a strong clinical background, which paves the way for future development as a health care leader.”

LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL



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Meeting the Medical Needs of the Antelope Valley

Nestled within the expansive landscapes of California's Antelope Valley, the demand for advanced medical services has grown exponentially in recent years, as the population now exceeds half a million residents. With a population surge, particularly in Lancaster and Palmdale, the need for comprehensive healthcare services has never been more critical. Antelope Valley, with its diverse demographic makeup and varied healthcare challenges, requires a robust medical infrastructure capable of meeting these demands effectively.

Antelope Valley Medical Center (AVMC) stands at the forefront of this healthcare revolution, striving to provide exemplary medical care to its flourishing community. As the population continues to grow, it underscores the necessity for specialized medical services that cater to a wide spectrum of healthcare needs, ranging from routine check-ups to complex surgical interventions.

AVMC, recognized as a cornerstone of healthcare excellence in the region, has strategically expanded its facilities and services to address the growing healthcare needs of the Antelope Valley, which include the anticipated expansion of its Emergency Room to add 7,200 square feet and 40 additional treatment bays. Equipped with state-of-the-art technology, evidenced by AVMC's robotic surgical suites, and a recent BiPlane Cath Lab addition to assist our stroke care team in performing highly complex neurovascular procedures.

Staffed by a dedicated team of medical professionals, AVMC offers a comprehensive range of specialties including neurology, oncology, stroke, pediatric care, and a full cardiology care program that ranges from invasive to non-invasive procedures. This program includes advancements such as the TAVR, Watchman, and Mitral Value Clip procedures. This breadth of specialties ensures that residents of the Antelope Valley have access to advanced medical treatments close to home, reducing the need for lengthy commutes to distant urban centers.

Furthermore, AVMC plays a pivotal role in community health initiatives, collaborating with local organizations to promote wellness and preventive care. This proactive approach



not only improves individual health outcomes but also contributes to the overall well-being of the Antelope Valley community.

Antelope Valley Medical Center will continue to stand as a beacon of hope and healing in California's Antelope Valley, addressing the region's escalating healthcare needs with unwavering dedication and expertise to enrich the lives of its residents.



To learn more about Antelope Valley Medical Center, visit avmc.org.