

Mitchell Streger, MD



Streger, a Mission Viejo internist and nephrologist, received a letter of commendation from Orange County Sheriff Michael S. Carona for '2 years of outstanding service to the citizens of Orange County as a reserve deputy sheriff. Dr. Streger took the oath as a peace officer after completing the Reserve Officer Basic Peace Officer Standards and Training Academy in 1983.

"I am honored, and I thought the award was very nice," Dr. Streger says. "Reserve deputy sheriffs handle everything that regular deputy sheriffs do, except we are volunteers. In the past 20 years, I have dealt with bank robberies, domestic abuse, petty theft and grand theft."

Volunteering two shifts a week, Dr. Streger serves in the City of San Clemente patrol operations department as a patrol deputy, answering hundreds of service calls, taking accident reports and backing up other deputies on hazardous assignments.

The commendation concludes: "Your 22 years of service to the citizens of Orange County, the Orange County Sheriff's Department and your second profession, law enforcement, is deeply, sincerely and respectfully recognized."

Mathias Fobi, MD



Fobi, director for the Center for Surgical Treatment of Obesity in Los Angeles, has been named medical director for the new bariatric surgery program at St.

Mary Medical Center in Long Beach. A general and bariatric surgeon, Dr. Fobi is known for inventing the revolutionary "Fobi Pouch," a modification of gastric bypass surgery that has aided thousands of people in losing weight.

In his new role, Dr. Fobi will establish a Bariatric Center of Excellence at St. Mary Medical Center using a multidisciplinary program to treat obesity and related disorders. This will include surgical and nonsurgical treatments, nutrition and psychology services, and reconstructive surgeries after weight loss.

Dr. Fobi received his medical degree at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and his pharmacy degree from the University of Michigan College of Pharmacy. Dr. Fobi's training included a surgical internship and residency at Martin L. King Jr.-Drew Medical Center in Los Angeles. He is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, the American College of Clinical Nutrition and the International College of Surgeons.

Currently Dr. Fobi serves as president of the American Society for Bariatric Surgery Foundation. He is also an active member of the American Medical Association and the National Medical Association.

Thomas LaGrelus, MD

since 1975

LaGrelus, a Torrance family practitioner and LACMA board member, opened a concierge medical practice, Sky-park Preferred Family Care, on Jan. 1. A concierge practice serves a few hundred patients, enabling physicians to offer patients longer appointments and direct access to the doctor.

Typical practice pressures led him to make the change. "I wanted to have more time with my patients so that I could answer all their questions, and I didn't want them to wait anymore," Dr. LaGrelus says. "I also didn't have enough time for study, collegiality with other physicians, further medical education, family and recreation. A concierge practice was the last possible option to make those goals possible."

Similar to many concierge practices,

LA ER Doc Tapped as Chief at Cedars-Sinai

- Silka, MD, a Los Angeles emergency physician, was named chief of staff at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Previousl vice chief of staff, Dr. Silka has been the associate director of the hospital's emergency medicine department since 1998.

"Paul Silka is an excellent choice for chief of staff," says Thomas C. Priselac, president and CEO of Cedars-Sinai. "Since his arrival re than 10 years ago, he has focuse on advancing the health and well-being of icularly in the areas of critical care and emergency medicine."

In his new role, Dr. Silka will help Cedars-Sinai continue to excel in providing quality medical care to Los Angeles residents. will oversee the 2,000-person medical staff's compliance with state and national uality and safety measures; develop sys- to further reduce medical errors; improve the efficiency of the medical sta committee structure; and establish a comprehensive emergency preparedness plan or the medical staff.

Dr. Silka attended medical school at The ersity of Health Sciences/The Chicago Medical School and performed his internship and residency in emergency medicine at LAC+USC Medical Center. He also completed a healthcare management program at the UCLA Anderson School of Business.

An outstanding physician, Dr. Silka was named Faculty of the Year in 1994 in the emergency department at Cedars-Sinai and was Visiting Faculty of the Year in 2001 in the emergency department at LAC+USC al Center. He has been an assistant clinical professor of emergency medicine Keck School of Medicine of USC since 1998.