

# A Leading Lifeline of Care

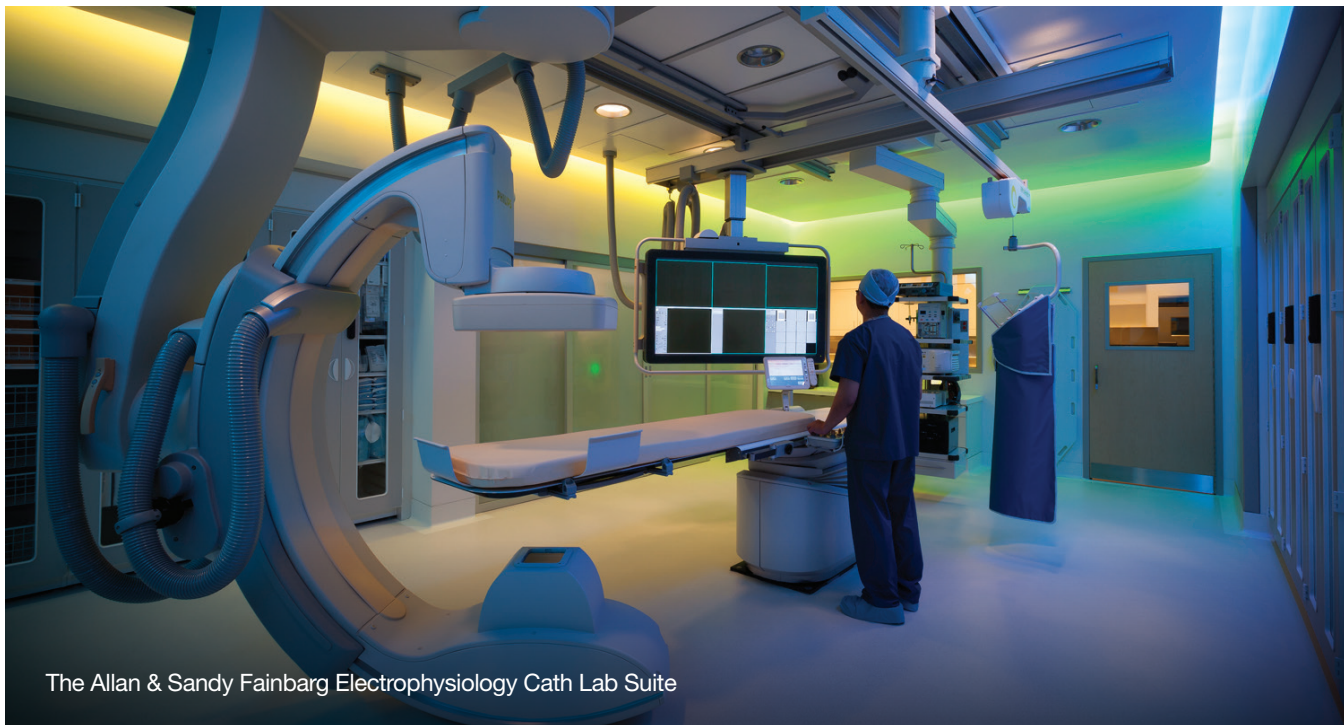
2022 REPORT TO DONORS



The Jeffrey M. Carlton Heart & Vascular Institute is one of the most acclaimed cardiovascular centers in the country, renowned for delivering exceptional care and patient outcomes at our Newport Beach and Irvine hospitals. Our dedicated physician leaders set high standards for treating complex heart and vascular conditions with compassion and innovation. Thanks to unwavering support from donors like you, our high-volume Institute pioneers groundbreaking techniques and technologies, offering them to the patients who need them most in our communities.







The Allan & Sandy Fainberg Electrophysiology Cath Lab Suite

## A Focused Approach

### Aortic Care

Thanks to the generosity of its namesake, the **Elaine & Robert Matranga Aortic Center** offers a comprehensive program with a team approach to caring for complex aortic disease, including the use of advanced diagnostic testing and active surveillance. As a result, Hoag has become the referral center for aortic disease in Southern California, treating conditions like aortic aneurysms, Marfan syndrome, Vascular Ehlers-Danlos (vEDS) syndrome and vasculitis.

### Arrhythmia Program

Hoag is a leader in the diagnosis and treatment of arrhythmia, with more than 20 years of experience. **The Allan & Sandy Fainberg Electrophysiology Cath Lab Suite** enables clinical staff to use ground-breaking technology to diagnose and treat all types of heart rhythm disorders.

### Coronary Artery Disease

Coronary artery disease (CAD) is the most common type of heart disease and is the leading cause of death in the United States among both men and women. Hoag is among the top decile in the nation for lower readmission rates in coronary artery disease patients.

### Valve Center

In 2006, the Jeffrey M. Carlton Heart & Vascular Institute opened the **Nancy & Bill Thompson Heart Valve Center**. It was the first heart valve center on the West Coast, and one of the few clinics nationwide dedicated to state-of-the-art screening, diagnosis and treatment of valvular heart disease. The Institute is one of a select number of sites in the nation to treat patients with a minimally invasive approach to aortic valve replacement—transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR). This procedure offers a solution to those otherwise considered at high surgical risk or inoperable.

## “This Incredible Team”

Lauren Wiepking was born with Vascular Ehlers-Danlos syndrome (vEDS) and was grateful to have found Hoag to manage her care. “Not all hospitals have the kind of expertise like Hoag does to care for me,” said Lauren. Hoag offers a comprehensive center for patients with connective tissue disorders, like Lauren, through the Elaine & Robert Matranga Aortic Center, led by Dr. Anthony Caffarelli, the Newkirk Family Endowed Chair in Aortic Care and director of cardiac surgery. Hoag is also home to the Marfan Syndrome & Related Conditions Program, led by cardiologist Dr. David Liang, the connective tissue

condition specialist and program director. Lauren said she had never experienced such well-rounded care and support from such a comprehensive, skilled team. This extensive team support was especially needed when Lauren became pregnant. Pregnancy in vEDS patients is extremely risky. They can experience ruptures or aneurysms during pregnancy and delivery. “There were ten surgeons and specialists who knew my case to a great extent and were there to support me no matter what. I felt so confident in Hoag and in this incredible team,” Lauren said of the delivery of her daughter, Avery.



Lauren Wiepking with her husband, Rick, and daughter, Avery.

## Nurse Practitioners: A Patient's Advocate

**Lisa Kuecker, FNP-BC, CHFN**  
**Nurse Practitioner, Heart Failure Program**

Lisa Kuecker, a recipient of Hoag nursing education scholarships, is grateful for the generous support of philanthropic funds that allowed her to pursue higher education and become a nurse practitioner. Over the years, she's learned how much heart failure patients value her level of expertise, in addition to their physician's, to answer their most pressing questions and help them best navigate their conditions. "Treating heart failure patients is a multidisciplinary team approach," Lisa said. "I think a big part of what I do as a nurse practitioner is give patients more knowledge and education about their diagnosis and serve as another advocate for them." Many nurse practitioner positions like Lisa's are funded by philanthropy, providing vital resources and care to patients like those at the heart institute. Nurse practitioners play a role in a patient's treatment, not just while they're receiving treatment in the hospital but also after they've returned home.

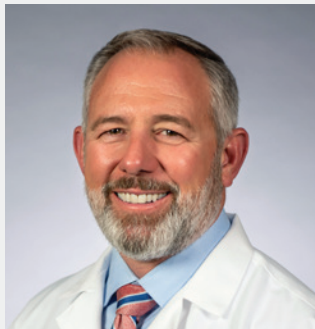


Lisa focuses on equipping patients before they're discharged and educating them in practices that will reduce the likelihood of readmission. Patients often hear Lisa on the other end of the phone, checking in on them, making sure they're following their treatment plans, and ensuring they feel heard. "Patients are so appreciative of the work nurse practitioners do and it makes me look forward to coming into work every day," Lisa said.



## Endowed Chairs Set Hoag's Cardiac Care Apart

A hallmark of academic institutions, endowed chairs are rare among community hospitals. Thanks to the generosity of its donors, Hoag is home to 20 endowed chairs, which provide clinical leaders with funding to advance patient care programs and transformational research. Three of Hoag's endowed chairs specialize in cardiovascular care at the Jeffrey M. Carlton Heart & Vascular Institute:



**Anthony D. Caffarelli, MD**  
**Newkirk Family Endowed Chair in Aortic Care**

Dr. Caffarelli is the director of cardiothoracic surgery at Hoag, as well as the director of the Elaine & Robert Matranga Aortic Center. Dr. Caffarelli performs hundreds of cardiac and thoracic procedures annually, specializing in complex aortic conditions, including aneurysms, dissections, bicuspid aortic valve disease and valve sparing root procedures.



**Dipti N. Itchhaporia, MD, FACC**  
**Eric & Sheila Samson Endowed Chair  
in Cardiovascular Health**

Dr. Itchhaporia is the program director of disease management for the Jeffrey M. Carlton Heart & Vascular Institute, where she leads the heart failure management program. In April 2021, Dr. Itchhaporia assumed the position of president of the American College of Cardiology (ACC), where she leads a more than 54,000-member global organization.



**Subbarao V. Myla, MD, FACC**  
**Dr. Joel H. Manchester Endowed Chair  
in Interventional Cardiology**

Dr. Myla is medical director of Cardiac and Endovascular Labs at the Jeffrey M. Carlton Heart & Vascular Institute. In addition to showcasing leading-edge techniques to the medical and scientific communities, he initiates clinical trials focused on stroke prevention and the early detection of heart attacks.



## Dedication to Innovation

Through advancements in technology and methods, patients undergoing cardiac procedures have shortened hospital stays and are eligible to be discharged on the same day, allowing them to recover in the comfort of their home.

- The **Bob & Marjie Bennett Advanced Cardiovascular Surgery Suite** (Hybrid CVOR) is the first operating room of its kind in Orange County. Hoag's Hybrid CVOR enables advanced diagnostic imaging and surgical procedures to be performed simultaneously in the same room.
- As the first hospital in Orange County to offer transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) services, Hoag was also the first to achieve 500 TAVR procedures. This revolutionary treatment option provides an important therapy for patients with aortic valve stenosis who are at high risk for conventional open valve surgery. Thanks to philanthropy, Hoag is the first center in Orange County to offer TAVR as an option for patients who otherwise would have been denied treatment.
- Thanks to philanthropic support, Hoag was the first facility in Orange County to offer extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) therapy to adult patients. ECMO is sophisticated life-support technology that pumps and oxygenates a patient's blood outside the body, allowing the lungs to rest and recover. For patients suffering from severe respiratory issues, such as COVID-19, or heart failure, ECMO can be lifesaving.
- In an attempt to enhance care, the cardiac surgery program at Hoag is piloting a program with SeamlessMD, a patient engagement platform used by health systems to elevate the patient experience. This platform will augment physician-patient communication and monitoring during the health care journey.



## Transformative Research

By being part of groundbreaking clinical research, Hoag stays at the forefront of innovation and continues to be a leader in the development of novel therapeutics. By supporting vanguards of science and fostering an ecosystem of innovation, Hoag is a leader in advancing clinical care and improving patient outcomes.

- In November 2021, Hoag began enrolling patients in the RESTORE clinical trial to study an innovative surgical procedure that would allow surgeons to repair a patient's mitral valve without open-heart surgery. The trial, in collaboration with Edwards Lifesciences, will evaluate the safety and effectiveness of the investigational HARPOON™ Beating Heart Mitral Valve Repair System for patients with a condition that prevents the valve from closing properly and causes blood to leak backwards into the lungs causing shortness of breath.
- Philanthropy funds research coordinators who play a significant role in conducting clinical trials. Hoag's clinical trial coordinators guide the process of groundbreaking research, from recruiting patients to data management and generating regulatory reports.



## “My Second Family”

Christian D’Angelo was diagnosed at six years old with Marfan syndrome, a genetic condition that affects the body’s connective tissue. Because connective tissue holds supports, protects, and provides structure for organs and other tissue throughout the body, Marfan syndrome can cause serious complications involving the aorta and heart. When Christian reached the age of 18, he experienced a spontaneous collapsed lung and needed to seek treatment as an adult, outside the pediatric medical world. This led to emergency treatment at Hoag and, fortunately for Christian, now 26, has found a care team that has been his support system for about eight years.

Christian lauds the care he continues to receive from Dr. Anthony D. Caffarelli, Newkirk Family Endowed Chair in Aortic Care, and the close relationship the two have formed. “When I go see my

doctors, it doesn’t feel like a professional correspondence; it’s more like catching up with my second family,” said Christian, who refers to Dr. Caffarelli as “Tony.” This level of comfort and familiarity would prove invaluable in July 2020 when Christian had open-heart surgery to replace an aortic valve with a mechanical valve. “They were originally going to try to save the aortic valve, but the tissue was so thin, and Tony made the decision to do a mechanical valve in the middle of the surgery,” Christian said. “My parents were understandably on edge during this surgery, but they trusted him, and we’d built a relationship over years, so they felt comfortable during the process.” Christian said that despite major surgery, his recovery was easy. “I’m attributing it to Tony, his incredible expertise and professionalism and obviously the whole team working with him.”

**Dr. David Liang, pictured far right, leads Hoag’s Marfan program and is one of the few cardiac specialists in the world who focuses on this syndrome and related connective tissue conditions. Hoag’s specialists are currently caring for 74 people and 55 families, from as far as Massachusetts, seeking treatment for connective tissue disorders.**



Christian D’Angelo with his Hoag care team.



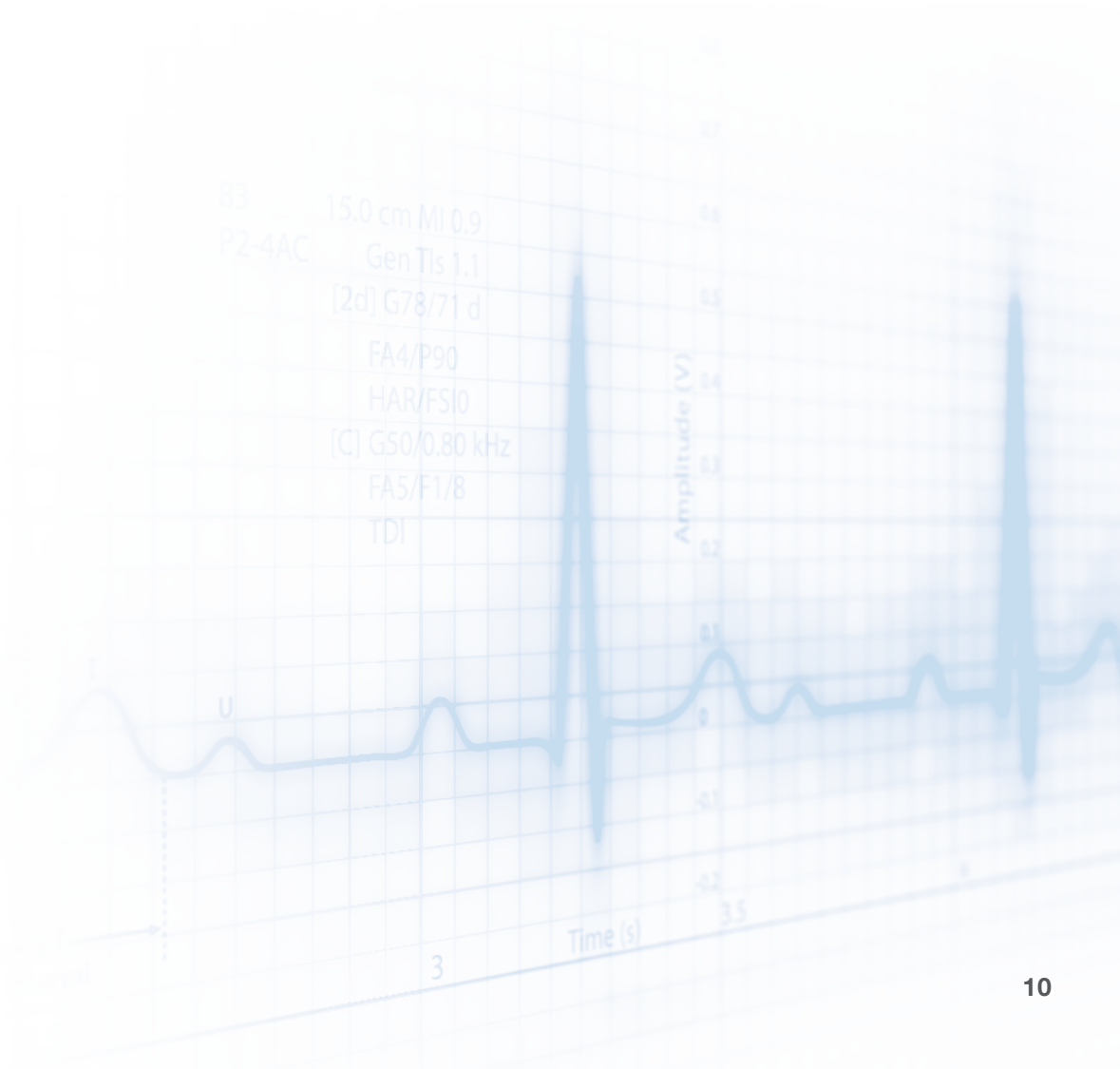
## Recognized Excellence

- The 2021-2022 *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Hoag High Performing in all six cardiac specialties: Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Repair, Aortic Valve Surgery, Heart Bypass Surgery, Heart Attack, Heart Failure and Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR).
- The Jeffrey M. Carlton Heart & Vascular Institute received 3 out of 3 stars from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, which placed Hoag in the top 1.8 percent of hospitals nationally.
- The Jeffrey M. Carlton Heart & Vascular Institute is the largest volume single-hospital provider of open-heart surgery in Orange County.



# Your Support Makes a Difference

Thank you for your generous support of the Jeffrey M. Carlton Heart & Vascular Institute. Your commitment has ensured our community has access to the most innovative cardiovascular care available. Because of your dedication, Hoag's cardiac patients can count on high-quality, comprehensive care for years to come.







**[www.HoagHospitalFoundation.org](http://www.HoagHospitalFoundation.org)**

For information about supporting cardiac care at Hoag, please contact  
Camile Schwan, director of development, Hoag Hospital Foundation,  
at 949-764-7244 or [Camille.Schwan@hoag.org](mailto:Camille.Schwan@hoag.org).