



**PACIFIC  
NEUROSCIENCE  
INSTITUTE**

**PROVIDENCE**

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# Brain Matters NEWSLETTER

FALL 2019

Keep a look out for more of the brand new Brain Matters Newsletters every quarter!

[Click Titles Below]

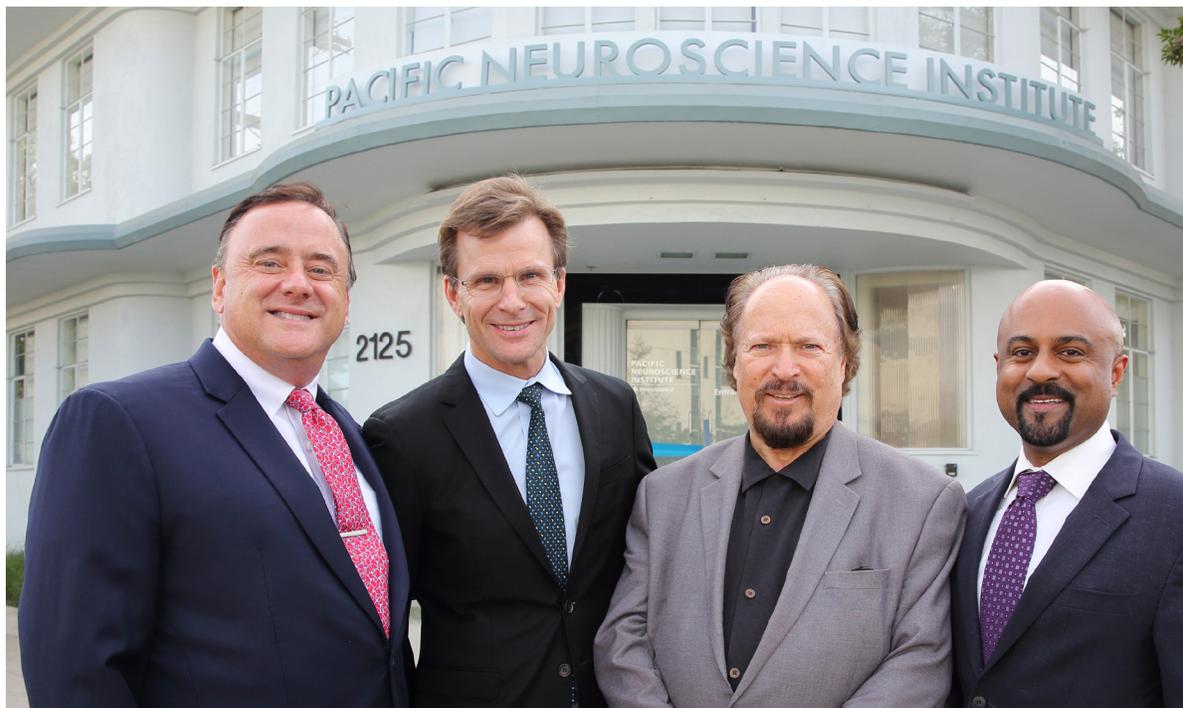
Neuroscience  
Clinical Care

Clinical Trials  
at PNI

Training &  
Continuing  
Medical  
Education

Patient,  
Community  
& Foundation  
Outreach

We're  
Growing!



Pacific Neuroscience Institute Founders, from left to right: Chester F. Griffiths, MD, FACS, Daniel F. Kelly, MD, Howard R. Krauss, MD, and Santosh Kesari MD, PhD

As we enter Fall 2019, *Pacific Neuroscience Institute* (PNI) is pleased to launch its new Brain Matters Newsletter. With dozens of clinical and research projects underway, as well as expanded research and clinical staff,

we look forward to continuing to bring world-class care to patients. We are excited to be a cohesive, collaborative group of physicians and researchers with tremendous support from Saint John's Health Center Foundation, Saint John's Health Center and Providence Saint Joseph's Health, allowing us to serve more people in need and to advance clinical care with active participation in the development of new diagnostics and therapeutics, both surgically and medically.

In this issue, you will find a summary of our accomplishments in clinical care, explore our innovative clinical trials and research, learn about what we are doing to advance the future of medical training and continuous education, and find out more about how we are going above and beyond to educate our patients and the community at large on vital neuroscience issues.

### Our Centers of Excellence

- Brain Health
- Brain Tumor
- Pituitary Disorders
- Eye, Ear & Skull Base
- Movement Disorders
- Stroke & Aneurysm
- Adult Hydrocephalus
- Facial Pain
- Neuroscience Research



# Neuroscience Clinical Care

At PNI-Santa Monica, PNI-Wilshire, and PNI-South Bay, we have provided services for patients with benign and malignant [brain tumors](#), [pituitary tumors](#) and related hormonal disorders, adult [hydrocephalus syndromes](#), [sinus](#), [vision](#), [throat and hearing disorders](#), [facial pain syndromes](#), and [movement disorders](#) such as Parkinson's disease.

We helped Providence achieve Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Center designation at Saint John's and Comprehensive Stroke Center status at Little Company of Mary and Providence Saint Joseph's Medical Center in Burbank. PNI also continues to deliver care for [stroke](#) and other neurovascular diseases across several Southern California affiliates. PNI's NeuroIR team is proud to be affiliated with Providence Saint John's Health Center which earned the 2019 Get With The Guidelines® - Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award and Target: Stroke Elite Plus Honor Roll, for the second year in a row. Our neuro-oncology team began collaborations with Hoag and St. Jude Medical Center in Orange County.

The [Pacific Brain Health Center](#) (PBHC) at 1301 20th Street, is our newest multidisciplinary practice, which spans specialized geriatric family medicine and psychiatry, clinical psychology, adult neurology, addiction medicine, and cancer psychiatry. Our experienced brain health team sees patients with [Alzheimer's disease](#) and other [dementias](#), as well as

[memory loss](#), neurocognitive disorders and conditions directly impacted by brain health such as neuromuscular disorders and balance issues. With our specialized multimodal approach, patients can see multiple experts often in a single visit and can be referred to our unique in-house physical and [cognitive exercise program](#), which works to enhance brain health.

PBHC is filling out more of the Saint John's Medical Plaza building with additional consultation rooms on the first and fifth floors and a high-tech cognitive fitness ([CogFit](#)) gym on the third floor. Our Eye, Ear and Skull Base Center is working to expand neuro-ophthalmic, audiology and pituitary hormonal testing at PBHC, advancing the clinical utility of retinal, hearing and endocrine evaluations in the optimal management of patients with memory, cognitive and balance issues. Moreover, three established physicians of Southern California Head and Neck Medical Group joined PNI in August.

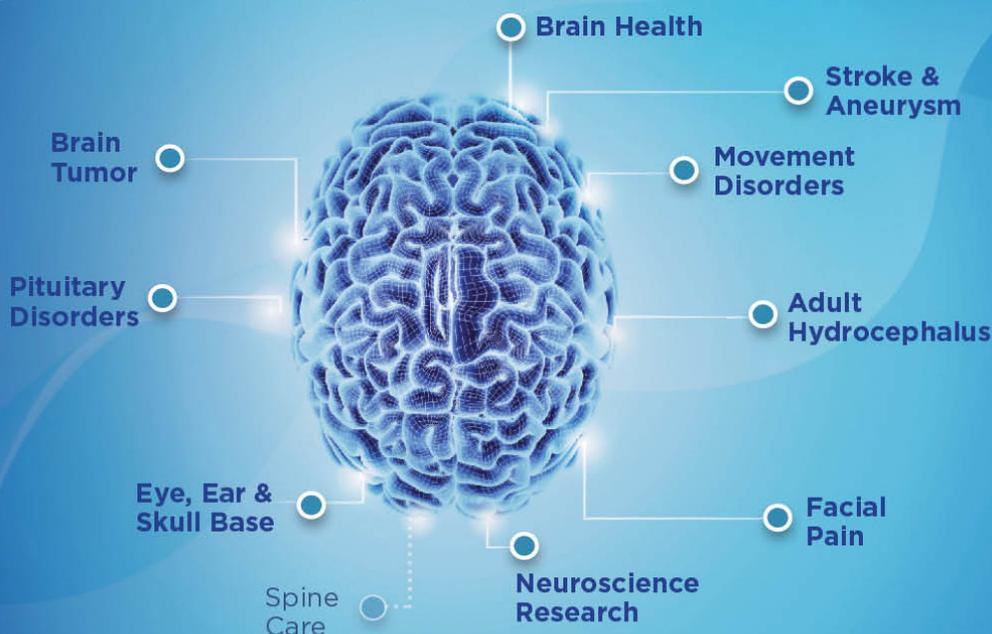
PNI is excited to continue strengthening its ties with Providence Little Company of Mary Torrance, at the new [Spine Institute at Little Company of Mary](#). PNI-South Bay neurosurgeons Dr. Jian Guan, Dr. Walavan Sivakumar and Dr. Jean-Philippe Langevin are part of the multidisciplinary expert team that takes care of patients with neck and back conditions. Now with two state-of-the-art-clinics in Torrance we continue providing world-class care to the South Bay.

## PACIFIC NEUROSCIENCE INSTITUTE SM

### PNI'S CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

consist of cohesive teams of dedicated experts who are committed to providing the highest standards of care, best practices, quality assurances, research, education and innovation to a specific field.

Pacific Neuroscience Institute is comprised of nine Centers of Excellence providing precision medicine and the highest quality of care to patients with a wide spectrum of neurological and cranial disorders. With a broad array of medical and surgical sub-specialties, PNI is focused on all parts of the brain.



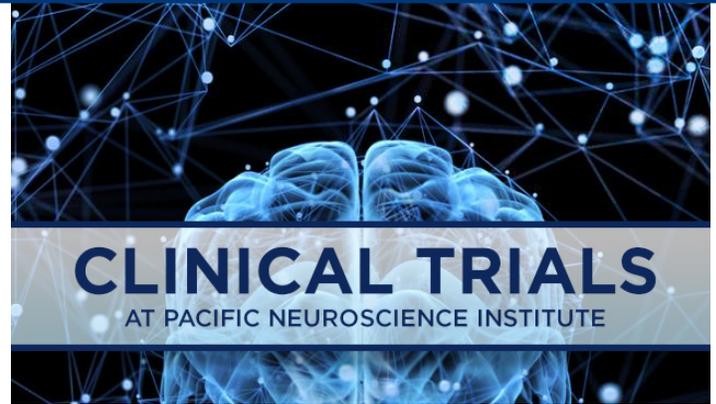
# Clinical Trials at PNI

PNI's expanding roster of novel surgical and neuro-oncological *clinical trials* encompasses benign and malignant brain tumors, pituitary tumors, stroke, neurodegenerative diseases, anxiety, depression, and movement disorders.

## Clinical Trials to Watch

- [Precision Immunotherapy in the Neoadjuvant Setting \(Video\)](#)
- [Phase II Trial to Evaluate Optune with concurrent Bevacizumab in Patients with Recurrent Meningioma \(PDF\)](#)
- [Study to Evaluate ABI-009 in Patients with High Grade Glioma \(PDF\)](#)

Our largest PBHC project yet, the PREVENTION trial (Precision Recommendations for Environmental Variables, Exercise, Nutrition and Training Interventions to Optimize Neurocognition), launched in July and will have extensive clinical applicability



for older adults with cognitive impairment and underlying Alzheimer's disease pathology. In collaboration with Institute for Systems Biology and the John Wayne Cancer Institute, this study will strive to develop a comprehensive biomarker dataset for Alzheimer's disease to aid in early risk detection, and explore a comprehensive approach for slowing or halting progressive cognitive decline.

# Training & Continuing Medical Education

Training the next generation of clinical and research neuroscientists remains one of the driving forces behind PNI and we continue to fill PNI with *training and education opportunities*. This year, we have had one clinical neurosurgical fellow, as well as various visiting international fellows learning under the direction of PNI faculty. We continue to host interns through the PNI Neuroscience Internship Program with Pomona College and welcome volunteer observers from UCLA. PNI professors continue to present at multiple national and international conferences across the neurosciences including China, Portugal, Chile, Colombia, Armenia, Thailand and many cities throughout the United States.

In January, we co-hosted the Pacific Rim Hands-on Master Class in Endoscopic Endonasal and Keyhole Surgery in collaboration with Ohio State University, with attendees from around the world, including Singapore, Brazil, Taiwan, Sweden, Spain, China, Korea, Australia, Chile, and United Arab Emirates. Later this year, we will present our annual



Neuroanatomy Lab

PNI Neuroscience Nursing Symposium, now in its 10th year.

The new and expanded PNI multidisciplinary Neuroanatomical Surgical Skills Laboratory, located at the John Wayne Cancer Institute, is open and will be fully operational later this fall. It continues to be a platform for innovation and fellowship training in *minimally invasive skull base surgery*, neuroanatomical dissections, and technology and approach advancements in keyhole surgery.

# Patient, Community & Foundation Outreach

We support our patients both in person through our [support groups](#) and online with numerous education and informative [PNI blogs](#).



Irene Dunne Guild - Think Pink

- Through our relationship with the [Santa Monica Star](#), we produce a monthly community education column, primarily focused on brain health issues.
- Our [pituitary patient](#) support group has continued its bi-annual meetings at Providence Saint John's Health Center.
- Our movement disorders and stroke teams have also held multiple patient and community events at Saint John's and Little Company of Mary Torrance.
- Our brain health team collaborates with Alzheimer's.org on an Alzheimer's disease [support group](#) for caregivers.

PNI doctors speak at many community forums. Recently, Dr. Verna R. Porter, Director of Programs for Dementia, Alzheimer's Disease and Neurocognitive Disorders at PBHC, presented at the Irene Dunne Guild's [Think Pink](#) event, providing vital information on women's brain health and wellness.

With the support of Providence Medical Foundations marketing team, we have launched PNI Doc Talks. PNI physicians participate in a lecture series educating other medical providers about important prevention and care information. At our most recent PNI Doc Talk, Dr. Garni Barkhoudarian and Dr. Daniel Franc spoke on Trigeminal Neuralgia: A 360° Approach.

PNI Foundation (PNIF) launched the Hearing Aid Recycling Program, to address the demand for hearing aids in low-income, hearing-impaired individuals. With special thanks to Su-Z & Ted Schneider and the Saint John's Health Center Foundation for their generous support, we are able to put hearing aids into the ears of those who need them.

## Trending Must Reads

- [#1: Great Age Wave](#)
- [#2: Manifestations of Meningiomas](#)
- [#3: Cervical Dystonia](#)

[PNIF](#) continues to cultivate meaningful relationships within our community to help support PNI's programs as we grow.

## We're Growing!

PNI has grown, adding new medical, research and support team members. We are pleased to announce the following new physician team members:

**Abbas A. Anwar, MD** – Otolaryngology, Pacific Eye, Ear & Skull Base Center

**Katherine Araque, MD** – Endocrinology, Pacific Pituitary Disorders Center

**David M. Butler, MD** – Otolaryngology, Plastic Surgery, Pacific Eye, Ear & Skull Base Center

**Natalie Diaz, MD** – Neurology, Pacific Movement Disorders Center

**Jian Guan, MD** – Neurosurgery, Complex Spine, PNI South Bay, Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center

**Keith G. Heinzerling, MD** – Internal Medicine, Addiction Medicine, Pacific Brain Health Center

**Chipp K. Miller, MD** – Otolaryngology, Pacific Eye, Ear & Skull Base Center

**Naveed Wagle, MD** – Neuro-Oncology, Pacific Brain Tumor Center; Translational Neurosciences and Neurotherapeutics

Find out [more about our experts](#).