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## ■ FEATURE STORY

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# Crossroads

with Dr. Richard Merkin

Dr. Merkin's unique perspective as Innovation, Technology, Legislation and Care Delivery come together to impact the future of population health.



## Professor Zhang Makes Editing RNA (DNA Proteins) Possible with CRISPR-Cas13

The birth of new technology and innovation in the fields of science and medicine continue to astonish us with the speed in which they become available to make their impact upon the world.

During the early stages of discovery wherein scientists initially just scratched the surface of editing DNA, the evolution of CRISPR has awoken many brilliant minds in multiple disciplinary studies across the globe in hope to transition

# CRISPR-Cas13 can potentially transform the lives and health of future generations.



research and theory into reality. Naturally, this path is met with many years of practice and experimentation as scientists and engineers continue to strive to provide the type of solutions that are nothing less than remarkable. Professor Feng Zhang, Core Institute Member at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, and Richard Merkin Fellow, is making it possible to allow for this transition.

In our feature article, Zhang shares his knowledge and experience with a modified version of CRISPR that enables altering RNA rather than changing the human DNA “blueprint”. CRISPR-Cas13

can potentially transform the lives and health of future generations. As a scientist, colleague and professor, his refreshing approach to sharing this technology in an open, fun and collaborative environment is inspiring others to follow his leadership style and becoming one of the world’s influential and fascinating people.

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## Richard Merkin, M.D.

Healthcare visionary, Dr. Richard Merkin, has spent the last 40 years implementing a successful, workable business model to address the needs and challenges of affordable managed healthcare.

# CHANGING THE PLAYING FIELD

PROFESSOR FENG ZHANG'S MODIFIED CRISPR IS ALLOWING A FASTER AND MORE EFFICIENT WAY FOR SCIENTISTS TO TAKE GENE EDITING TO A COMPLETELY NEW LEVEL



### “I WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD”

To say that Professor Feng Zhang’s groundbreaking work with CRISPR is enabling other scientists to pioneer their own discoveries would be an understatement to the enormous and profound contribution this 36-year-old scientist has already accomplished during his career.

Just within the last few decades, many scientists have attempted to develop a successful method to alter human DNA with a goal to transform human lives. Today, Professor Zhang is helping to bring this reality a step closer by not only enabling the editing of the human genomes with CRISPR, but the potential to fuel other discoveries to cure and eliminate some of the world’s most devastating diseases.

The revolutionary work Zhang has done in the areas of brain science and gene editing is only a fraction of his passion to help humanity. He is equally committed to sharing his knowledge and experience to mentor others in achieving their own career goals and successes.

Thomas Edison once said, “I have not failed. I’ve just found 10,000 ways that won’t work.” Early on in his career to present day, this same philosophy helps to capture Zhang’s tenacity and approach to his many attempts and

## What is CRISPR?

**C**lustered **R**egularly  
**I**nterspaced **S**hort  
**P**alindromic **R**epeat (CRISPR)

It is the unique organization of short, partially palindromic repeated DNA sequences found in the genomes of bacteria and other microorganisms.

**CRISPR-Cas9:** A molecular scalpel that can edit or delete whole genes within the DNA structure.

**CRISPR-Cas13:** An RNA editing technique that can alter protein sequences without modifying the genome in a cell that can be used to reduce cancer associated gene expression.

experiments, in search of finding the perfect solution to alter the outcome of human tragedy, by ultimately curing and eliminating illness and disease. He possesses the kind of enthusiasm that is highly revered and respected by his professors, colleagues and students. The result of which has made CRISPR one of the most discussed topics among scientists throughout the world.



**Feng Zhang is a core institute member of the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, as well as an investigator at the McGovern Institute for Brain Research at MIT, the Patricia and James Poitras '63 Professor in Neuroscience at MIT, and an associate professor at MIT, with joint appointments in the departments of Brain and Cognitive Sciences and Biological Engineering.**

Zhang is a molecular biologist developing and applying novel molecular technologies for studying the molecular and genetic basis of diseases and providing treatment. Zhang has pioneered the development of genome editing tools for use in eukaryotic cells – including human cells – from natural microbial CRISPR systems. He and his team have adapted multiple CRISPR systems for use as genome engineering tools, including most recently, the RNA-targeting system CRISPR-Cas13a.

Zhang leverages CRISPR and other methods to study the genetics and epigenetics of human diseases, especially complex disorders, such as psychiatric and neurological diseases, that are caused by multiple genetic and environmental risk factors and which are difficult to model using conventional methods. His lab's tools, which he has made widely available, are also being used in the fields of immunology, clinical medicine, and cancer biology, among others. His long-term goal is to develop novel therapeutic strategies for disease treatment.

Zhang is a recipient of many awards including the Canada Gairdner International Award, the Tang Prize, the Blavatnik National Award for Young Scientists, the Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research, and the Lemelson-MIT Prize. He has also received technology innovation awards from the Paul G. Allen Family, McKnight, New York Stem Cell, and Damon Runyon foundations.

Zhang is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences.

Zhang received his A.B. in chemistry and physics from Harvard College and his Ph.D. in chemistry from Stanford University.

**Feng Zhang, Ph.D.,  
Core Institute Member  
and Richard Merkin Fellow**

Courtesy of MIT/Kent Dayton



### WITH PROFESSOR FENG ZHANG

During our Q&A interview, Professor Feng Zhang described the foundation and differences between CRISPR-Cas9 and CRISPR-Cas13. He also provided further insight into how this technology and its evolution will alter future generations to come.

#### What are the significant differences between CRISPR-Cas9 and CRISPR-Cas13?

**FZ:** The biggest difference between these two systems is that Cas9 targets and cleaves DNA, whereas Cas13 targets and cuts RNA. DNA is often called the “blue print” for the cell – this is how genetic information is stored and passed on to future generations. DNA is read out by the cellular transcription machinery, which creates an RNA copy of certain parts of the genome. This RNA copy is used in turn as a template for building proteins. Because Cas13 works at the RNA level, it offers the potential to correct genetic mistakes without having to touch the blueprint, which may be safer. Surprisingly, despite this major difference, Cas9 and Cas13 share other similarities. For example, they both use short stretches of RNA to guide them to target sites.

#### How do you envision CRISPR’s evolution in the next 10 years?

**FZ:** CRISPR-based technologies are still very young, and with all technologies, it’s hard to predict their evolution. I’m hopeful that

in 10 years, there will be a number of real-world applications for the technology that have made their mark by improving society, such as improved agricultural breeding programs, which will contribute to global food security. I think we will also see the first CRISPR-based therapeutics approved for human use in 10 years, but I think it may be longer before there is a wide-range of treatment options.

#### What will it (CRISPR) be capable of doing and in what ways do you see it transforming human health?

**FZ:** CRISPR-based technologies are already capable of a wide range of things – from accelerating agricultural breeding programs to tracking infectious disease outbreaks. I am optimistic about the future of using Cas enzymes directly as therapeutics, but I think that the biggest impact of the technology is simply speeding up the pace at which basic and biomedical research is performed. These are robust tools that are pretty easy to use, and they have been adopted by many scientists around the world. There is a huge multiplicative effect of this kind of technology sharing.

"REPAIR can go into cells and change a single, targeted base of RNA, such as one that is the cause of an inherited genetic disease."



**You mention that your long-term goal is to develop novel therapeutic strategies for disease treatment. Can you elaborate on these ideas?**

**FZ:** Typically, people try to develop a medicine that treats the symptoms of a disease, and we typically tackle disease on a case-by-case basis. We are interested instead in a general treatment approach that could be used for thousands of diseases. For example, we recently developed a technology called REPAIR, which stands for RNA Editing for Precise A-to-I Replacement. REPAIR can go into cells and change a single, targeted base of RNA, such as one that is the cause of an inherited genetic disease. By reprogramming REPAIR, which we can do just by synthesizing a new guide RNA, we can correct another mutation causing a different inherited disease, and so on, for thousands of known Mendelian diseases.

**What would you say are some of the most challenging aspects of your work?**

**FZ:** One of the most challenging aspects of my work is simply finding enough time to try out all the things I want to explore. If anyone has a solution to this problem, I'd love to hear it! My approach so far has just been to go faster!

"The personal characteristics about Zhang that I am most proud of is not only the groundbreaking science he has presented to the world, but also in his character and his openness to sharing, playing together, patience and being a forgiving mentor and teacher," adds Dr. Richard Merkin, President and CEO of Heritage Provider Network. "I firmly believe that if leaders in our industry embody these same characteristics, it would create a positive influence across every level of healthcare management and delivery. Zhang embodies the qualities of great leadership."

**Did you have any mentors and what piece of advice did you receive that has been the most valuable to you?**

**FZ:** When I was in high school, I had the incredible opportunity to work at the Human Gene Therapy Research Institute in Des Moines, Iowa under the mentorship of John Levy. John was amazing - he is both an extremely passionate scientist and a gifted science communicator, and he told me something that has always stayed with me. He said, "Try to stay stylish yet practical." Almost twenty years on, "stylish yet practical" has become a guiding principle for me. It has helped dictate which problems I have tackled, it has informed the types of solutions I strive for, and I think this applies not just to the substance of problems, but also to the style in which you solve them. Above all, solutions have to be robust, reliable, and easy to use, but that doesn't mean they can't have style, too.

**Dr. Richard Merkin is very proud of your accomplishments. As one of the first Richard Merkin Fellows, in what capacity has this support made a difference in your field of study?**

**FZ:** I became a Merkin Fellow back in 2012, when my lab was still quite new, and the support from Richard Merkin was truly instrumental in our early success. It allowed me to spend more time with my students and post-doctoral fellows, instead of needing to spend those hours writing grants. I've been fortunate to have outstanding mentors throughout my career, and it's a wonderful opportunity to start paying this back by mentoring my own students.

# Bakersfield Family Medical Center/Heritage Physician Network Offers Onsite Blood Transfusion Program

Since early 2017, the Bakersfield Family Medical Center/Heritage Physician Network have worked diligently to implement a blood transfusion program in their Procedures Department. Over the past few years, local hospitals have stopped performing blood transfusions in an outpatient setting and instead are sending these fragile patients to the emergency rooms for the procedure. Bakersfield Family Medical Center discovered a need to facilitate blood transfusions at their clinic, not only to save costs in the hospital setting, but also to provide patients with higher quality care through improved patient satisfaction with the time spent in the process and one-on-one attention.

Members who have had a previous blood transfusion can now be referred to the Procedures Department for necessary blood transfusions, during which, they will have the experience of being a high priority without the time and expense to the member receiving care in an ER setting.

The first blood transfusion patient, Ms. Charlene, had her transfusion done in early March 2018. She stated, "Everything was much better than going to the emergency room. It was nicer in Procedures; it was more comfortable, and the nurses were absolutely wonderful." She added, "When I went to the ER, my hemoglobin dropped real low

and I got worried because they were taking way too long to get the blood to do the transfusion. The Procedures Department was more efficient because they did a blood type and cross match the day before, so when I went in the following day for the transfusion, everything was ready and it made it a much more efficient process. The nursing staff checked on me frequently, making me feel as though I was a person and they showed great concern

for me during the process to make sure everything went smoothly. In the ER, I felt that I was just a number and there was no personal touch."

Bakersfield Family Medical Center/Heritage Physician Network is pleased to offer the blood transfusion and other services to members to make their experience more pleasant, comfortable, and efficient.

"Everything was much better than going to the emergency room. It was nicer in Procedures; it was more comfortable, and the nurses were absolutely wonderful."

~ Charlene Kretsinger





## Heritage Victor Valley Medical Group Welcomes New Dietitian Naoko Nagaya

Heritage Victor Valley Medical Group (HVVMG) continues to develop its preventive medical model, which includes diet, nutrition and locally produced food. To that end, HVVMG's newest dietitian, Naoko Nagaya, comes to the medical group with an expertise in medical nutrition therapy for disease management. She consults with patients on their dietary needs in conjunction with the patient's primary physician.

Nagaya adds another layer to HVVMG's commitment to wellness, and she brings with her a refreshing point of view

on diet and nutrition. "People often stereotype dietitians as if we would judge people if they don't eat healthy or fruits and vegetables," Nagaya says. "Many dietitians do eat lots of fruits and vegetables, but also enjoy other food including fried foods and dessert. I certainly enjoy eating all kinds of food, but I keep it in moderation."

Nagaya recently visited the High Desert Farmers Market featuring an assortment of organic produce either grown in the local area or brought directly from the farm. She's provided members with valuable advice in utilizing fruits and vegetables like those found at the Farmers Market that are rich in nutrients to combat easily spread illnesses.

"I think maintaining your regular exercise and good eating habits are a remedy to your well-being," Nagaya says. "My focus is to bring different teaching methods to share alternative nutrition therapy to members. I want all of us to enjoy learning about nutrition and how to stay healthy."

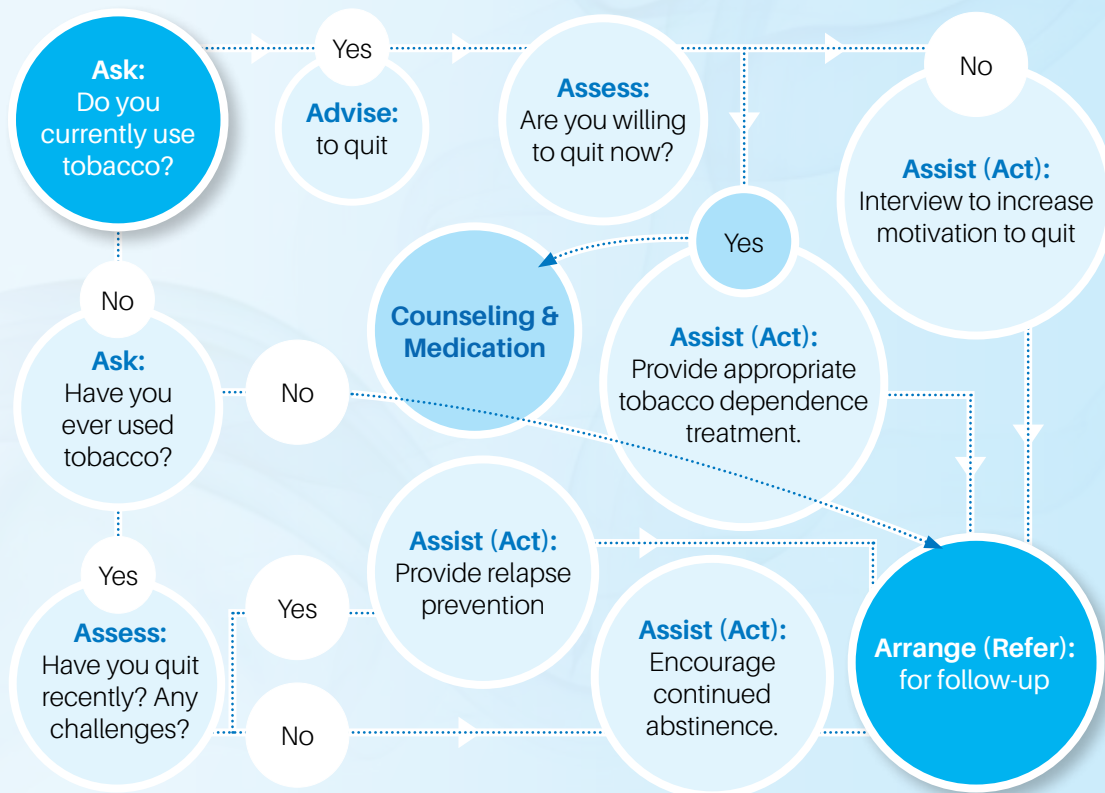
HVVMG's senior center, The Resort, hosts another vital tool in Heritage's focus on diet and nutrition: a commercial kitchen. The facility is part of a three-year renovation project that spanned multiple departments. The Resort underwent reconstruction to modernize the 3,200-square-foot facility. The new state-of-the-art kitchen features open-area seating and a new library with an interactive design that fosters creativity and social interaction. Nagaya recently participated in healthy cooking and baking demonstrations, furthering the depth of her accessibility to members. She was also a presenter at health education presentations.



## News From Our Affiliates

### START with the 5 A's

- Ask
- Advise
- Assess
- Assist
- Arrange



## The 5 A's: Desert Oasis Healthcare's Successful Smoking Cessation Initiative

### The combination of counseling and medication delivers better results for quitting tobacco use

Even after decades of anti-smoking messages and public service campaigns, many primary care physicians continue to report tobacco usage from their patients. This news isn't surprising to VJ Sleight, Health Educator, who works with Desert Oasis Healthcare (DOHC) specializing in tobacco dependence. A former smoker herself, Sleight calls herself

the "Queen of Quitting" because she has continually stopped smoking for at least three months, nine separate times. Even after being diagnosed with cancer, she could not stay tobacco-free. While her doctors did not suggest an association between her breast cancer and smoking, she knew that continuing to smoke would put her at high-risk for a cancer recurrence for the rest of her life. So, nine became her lucky number for quitting.

Perhaps revealing her personal truth to her smoking cessation students helps her relate even more in addition

to her education. Sleight has earned her master's in Health Psychology/ Behavioral Medicine and completed her training at the Mayo Clinic as a Tobacco Treatment Specialist. Having written "How to Win at Quitting Smoking," Sleight tells her students that she knows how easy it is to stop smoking and how difficult it is to stay quit.

"Smokers already know how bad using tobacco is for their health," says Sleight. "Yet, well-meaning family, friends, or doctors often nag, shame or blame a smoker, thinking it will help them to quit." Instead, Sleight and DOHC use

Under Sleight's direction, DOHC offers five one-hour educational classes for patients not ready to quit, as a means of easing them into thinking about becoming smoke-free:

- 1 Your Brain on Nicotine
- 2 Benefits of Becoming Smoke-Free
- 3 Smokers Don't Plan to Fail but Fail to Plan
- 4 How to Handle Stress Without Smoking
- 5 Creating an ICE Plan: Understanding and Preventing Relapse

Those who feel they are ready to quit can then move on to six two-hour Cessation Group Sessions:

- 1 Getting Ready to Quit
- 2 Developing a Quit Plan
- 3 Quit Week
- 4 Coping with Emotions
- 5 Stress Management
- 6 Staying Quit Forever

"Smokers already know how bad using tobacco is for their health. Yet, well-meaning family, friends, or doctors often nag, shame or blame a smoker, thinking it will help them to quit."

a method called 'The Five A's – Ask, Advise, Assess, Assist, and Arrange.'

The physician's part is to Advise the patient to become smoke-free and refer for follow-up. DOHC steps in to Assist the smoker. "The most successful quit attempts combine behavioral change and medication. Our pharmacists are on hand throughout the process to evaluate for the proper medication," said Dr. Lindsey Valenzuela, PharmD and Administrator of DOHC's Population Health and Prescription Management (PHARxM) Department. "Our pharmacists meet independently with all patients to determine the right course of therapy and continue to manage them with dosing changes until they have the successful quit attempt throughout their journey."

"Starting with 43 patients in three of our primary care locations, we had 15 individuals who stuck with it and quit. Of course, we hope they stay quit but even if they don't, we'll be here for them if they need to go through the process all over again," said Dr. Marc Hoffing, Medical Director of DOHC. "We encourage any of the other groups within HPN to give us a call or shoot us an email with questions about how our program works."

To watch our video on Smoking Cessation, visit [www.youtube.com/watch?v=-XWE211m8YE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-XWE211m8YE)



### High Desert Medical Group's Fitness Zone Empowers Employees And Promotes Wellness

Improved energy. Fun challenges. Better health. These are just some of the benefits that High Desert Medical Group (HDMG) employees gain at HDMG's Fitness Zone – an in-house, full-service gym. Daily classes focus on employee wellness, designed to accommodate diverse interests, including Zumba, Tabata, and Body Sculpting.

“In healthcare, we focus on providing quality care, but we don't always pay attention to our own body mechanics. We give even better care when we, ourselves, are healthy,” says Blake Mays, HDMG Fitness Manager.

To best facilitate care for all employees, the Zone provides extended fitness hours and express lunch classes. Throughout the year, many events are designed to encourage participation. For example, during the Winter Olympics, the Zone encouraged group “Olympic Walks” and wellness challenges.

Natalie Muth, RN and Clinical Manager, testifies to her own transformation, “A few exercises resulted in losing a total of 30 pounds. People do lose weight and they do gain more energy. I am grateful that HDMG provides this opportunity.

“It's not just about the workout, it's about the experience. HDMG is about fostering a healthy employee culture.”

They are investing in their people while accommodating schedules. They understand that we work.”

“It takes a little commitment, and a little courage for regular fitness. Through this program, I have seen many employees grow in confidence as they realize how much they can do,” Blake added.

Jane Frye, RN and Director of In-Home Care Services, proves that at the age of 67 and being a cancer survivor does not limit her ability to exercise. She has outperformed her younger peers during the Fall Into Fitness challenge. “Faith and fitness improved my outlook. I feel stronger, and healthier, in my psyche and in my immune system. It's just good for me.”

HDMG's program can be personalized for each employee. “After Blake and I discussed my goals, he recommended that I do Zumba on a rebounder — a small trampoline that reduces shock to the joints. Now we have rebounders for all the classes,” said Lezlie Licciardi, Senior Executive Assistant to Medical Director Charles Lim.

## MILKEN INSTITUTE GLOBAL GOURMET GAMES HONORS DR. RICHARD MERKIN WITH INAUGURAL TOMMY LASORDA LEADERSHIP AWARD



Dr. Richard Merkin receives the Inaugural Tommy Lasorda Leadership Award at the Milken Institute Global Gourmet Games Benefit

### Fundraiser kicks off Milken Institute global conference and raises \$3 million for FasterCures

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Dr. Richard Merkin, CEO and Founder of the Heritage Group, was honored by the Milken Institute Global Gourmet Games benefit with the Inaugural Tommy Lasorda Leadership Award.

The first ever Lasorda Leadership award was presented to Dr. Merkin on April 28th at a benefit held at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills, California, and raised more than \$3 million for FasterCures, a medical center at the Milken Institute pursuing

accelerating the pace of critical medical discoveries. The event marked the beginning of the four day annual Milken Institute Global Conference.

“I’m overwhelmed to be honored with this award,” said Dr. Merkin, “and am especially pleased to be recognized by an organization like FasterCures that has done so much to change the world.

I never thought there would be a sentence that connected my name with

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Tommy Lasorda's and am delighted now there is," he continued.

Milken Institute Chairman Michael Milken commented, "Dick Merkin's business and philanthropic achievements are legendary and I'm proud that he partnered with me in co-founding the Milken Institute's FasterCures Center, where he is a highly valued board member. His many achievements – in healthcare, education and the arts – emerge from a profoundly personal commitment to making the world a better place. That sustained commitment has made him the role model that earned the Lasorda Leadership Award."

The Lasorda Leadership Award, named after baseball icon Tommy Lasorda, "recognizes individuals who embody Tommy's legacy of leadership and management, a philosophy that applies across multiple disciplines. Leadership rules were always simple and straightforward. Love what you do and instill pride in those you lead. Appreciate what your team and your organization do for you. Be clear and honest in your communications. Put the team before the individual. And motivate your players to make sure they want it more than the other team – even if the other team had more talent."

The event attracted more than 400 people with actor John O'Hurley, a veteran of the Global Gourmet Games, presenting the Global Gourmet Games competition instructions with notables Michael Milken, Tommy Lasorda, Sasha Cohen, 2006 Olympic Silver Medal winner, Director John Landis, Oscar nominated costume designer Deborah Nadoolman, John Salley, former NBA star, Natasha Duffy, Lisa Mesloh, former Dodgers star Steve Garvey and his wife Candace all joining in on the fun testing their gourmet food, wine and trivia knowledge.

Dr. Merkin is the CEO and founder of the Heritage Group. Under his stewardship, the Heritage Group has become the largest, physician-owned and operated integrated delivery system in the United States with over 50 related healthcare companies. The Heritage Group encompasses numerous patent, venture capital, private equity, and insurance companies.

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"Dick Merkin's business and philanthropic achievements are legendary and I'm proud that he partnered with me in co-founding the Milken Institute's FasterCures Center... his many achievements – in healthcare, education and the arts – emerge from a profoundly personal commitment to making the world a better place."



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## CHRISTINE BROWN, PH.D., PIONEERS IMMUNOTHERAPY USING CAR T TO TARGET BRAIN TUMORS



Photo courtesy of City of Hope/Vern Evans

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**Heritage Provider Network Professor in Immunotherapy, Christine Brown, Ph.D., at City of Hope applies CAR T cell therapy directly into the brain to eliminate tumors**

According to a City of Hope article published in March 2018, Christine Brown, Ph.D., the Heritage Provider Network Professor in Immunotherapy, is pioneering innovation in cancer treatment by “extracting a patient’s immune cells, engineering them into living, anti-cancer CAR T cells, multiplying those supercells by the billions, and then injecting them back into the patient.” The result is watching entire tumors in the brain disappear.

When she first joined City of Hope back in 2002, Dr. Brown recalled that CAR T was just in the early stages of clinical optimization and there was no way to measure its success, how well

it was progressing, and its potential to be commercially available. At the time, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had recently approved two forms of CAR T cell therapy for treating blood cancers.

Dr. Brown works alongside her colleague, Stephen J. Forman, M.D., the Francis & Kathleen McNamara Distinguished Chair in Hematology and Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation, to help run the T Cell Therapeutic Research Laboratory. To date, they have treated more than 100 patients in seven clinical trials, with goals to open four new clinical studies within the year. Along with her team of researchers working with lead neurosurgeon Behnam Badie, M.D., they target malignant brain cancers, which are some of the most difficult solid tumors to treat.

While the project remains in early stages, researchers are confident it works and often does so with miraculous speed. Dr. Brown describes looking at the scans after 21 days and finding that the disease was disappearing. This phenomenal work captured the attention of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine. CIRM has awarded a \$12.8 million grant to Brown, Badie and their teams to take CAR T cell therapy for brain cancer to the next level.

“City of Hope was the first to try CAR T cells on brain tumors,” said Brown. “We were the first to inject those cells directly into the brain, right into the tumor, as opposed to the bloodstream.” In addition, her team was also the

# ■ Announcement

first to introduce CAR T cells into the cerebrospinal fluid (found in the brain's lateral ventricles, the large cavities in each cerebral hemisphere), searching for the best method and location to safely deliver the cells and maximize its benefit.

In 2015, their research was aided tremendously by one incredible patient, Richard Grady, M.D., a pediatric urologist who came to City of Hope in 2015 with recurring brain tumors with the hope of finding a solution. Dr. Brown formed a special bond with Grady and his wife, Laura Hart, M.D. According to Dr. Badie, Grady's response to the cell therapy was nothing short of remarkable and when his glioblastoma went into remission, history was made. The largest tumor where CAR T cells were used never returned.

After several CAR T cell infusions Grady's disease was eliminated, however, tumors that were even more aggressive eventually returned to different parts of his brain. While the team had extended his life, they were unable to keep up with the rapid spread of his disease. The cell therapy worked up to a certain point and Grady lived for another 20 months.

Dr. Brown can personally relate to the fear and uncertainty that comes with a cancer diagnosis. In 2012, she was diagnosed with Stage 2 breast cancer. "It felt so surreal," she recalled. "I couldn't believe it was happening to me. I was healthy. I'd gone for regular checkups, done all the right things to take care of myself. Nobody in my family had ever had breast cancer. It really drove home the reality that cancer can strike anybody." After treatment, Brown remains cancer-free. She describes her journey as a life-changing experience and one that would fuel her passion to make a difference.

Her colleagues describe her as a visionary who is always looking to strategize for the future. She is excellent at identifying the missing pieces to complete the whole story. "I'm so excited about where we're headed," said Brown. "We're on the cusp of such tremendous potential. Yes, there are plenty of obstacles still out there, but we have so many ideas for overcoming them. We are not out of ideas. Whatever problems remain, I think we're going to solve them."

The potential to eventually find a cure for brain tumors is somewhere on the horizon. With the diligence and tenacity of this great team of doctors and researchers, many of us can remain optimistic about the future as we look forward to finally discovering a cure.

Source: CityofHope.org/CityNews, Volume 29. No. 1, Spring 2018



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To view details on all of our current and upcoming events, visit us online at [healthywayevents.com](http://healthywayevents.com).



# Heritage Provider Network Affiliated Medical Groups

## THE LARGEST INTEGRATED PHYSICIAN-LED MEDICAL GROUP NATIONALLY

For 40 years, HPN has provided quality, cost-effective healthcare to the communities we serve.

Today, HPN and its affiliates manage the healthcare of more than one million individuals.

Our network has thousands of primary care physicians and specialists and hundreds of hospitals.

### ADOC Medical Group

[www.adoc.us](http://www.adoc.us)

Phone: 800-747-2362  
600 City Parkway West, Suite 400,  
Orange, CA 92868  
Counties Served: Central and  
North Orange County

### Arizona Priority Care (AZPC)

[www.azprioritycare.com](http://www.azprioritycare.com)

Phone: 480-499-8700  
585 N. Juniper Dr., Suite 200  
Chandler, AZ 85226  
Counties Served: Maricopa County  
and areas of Pinal County  
(Casa Grande Area)

### Bakersfield Family Medical Center

[www.bfmc.com](http://www.bfmc.com)

Phone: 661-327-4411  
4580 California Ave.  
Bakersfield, CA 93309  
Counties Served: all of Kern County

### Coastal Communities Physician Network

[www.ccpnhpn.com](http://www.ccpnhpn.com)

Phone: 800-604-8752  
1305 Marsh St.  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
Counties Served: Arroyo Grand,  
Atascadero, Los Osos, Morro Bay, Paso  
Robles, Pismo Beach, San Luis Obispo,  
Templeton and Tulare

### Desert Oasis Healthcare

[www.mydohc.com](http://www.mydohc.com)

Phone: 760-320-5134  
275 N. El Cielo Rd.  
Palm Springs, CA 92262  
Counties Served: Imperial, Riverside,  
and San Bernardino

### HealthCare Partners, IPA

[www.hcpipa.com](http://www.hcpipa.com)

Phone: 516-746-2200  
501 Franklin Ave.  
Garden City, NY 11530  
Counties Served: Manhattan, Queens,  
Bronx, Brooklyn, Nassau, Suffolk,  
Westchester

### Heritage New York Medical, P.C.

Phone: 516-531-2001  
1225 Franklin Ave., Suite 100  
Garden City, NY 11530  
Counties Served: Manhattan, Queens,  
Bronx, Brooklyn, Nassau, Suffolk,  
Westchester

### Heritage Victor Valley Medical Group

[www.hvvmg.com](http://www.hvvmg.com)

Phone: 760-245-4747  
12370 Hesperia Rd., Suite 6  
Victorville, CA 92395  
Counties Served: Los Angeles  
and San Bernardino

### High Desert Medical Group

[www.hdmg.net](http://www.hdmg.net)

Phone: 661-945-5984  
43839 N. 15th Street West  
Lancaster, CA 93534  
Counties Served: Los Angeles  
and Kern

### Lakeside Community Healthcare

[www.lakesidemed.com](http://www.lakesidemed.com)

Phone: 818-637-2000  
8510 Balboa Blvd., Suite 150  
Northridge, CA 91325  
Counties Served: Los Angeles,  
Ventura, Riverside, and San  
Bernardino

### Regal Medical Group

[www.regalmed.com](http://www.regalmed.com)

Phone: 866-654-3471  
8510 Balboa Blvd., Suite 150  
Northridge, CA 91325  
Counties Served: Los Angeles,  
Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino,  
San Diego, and Ventura

### Sierra Medical Group

[www.sierramedicalgroup.com](http://www.sierramedicalgroup.com)

Phone: 661-945-9411  
44469 N. 10th Street West  
Lancaster, CA 93534  
Counties Served: Kern,  
Los Angeles, and San Bernardino

# touchpoints

**Heritage Provider Network**  
8510 Balboa Blvd., Suite 150  
Northridge, CA 91325-5810

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## Our Awards

### Recognition of Commitment and Excellence

The recognition we have received demonstrates our practices in excellence. We're proud to be awarded for our commitment to our members and our community.



Wellness Excellence Award in Health Education – Southern California Foundation for Health Care



Top Ten Physician Medical Networks in California by the California Association of Physician Groups



NCQA Certification for Credentialing



Elite Status of Excellence for the Standards of Medical Care by the California Association of Physician Groups



Recognized by the Integrated Healthcare Association (IHA) for our diabetic registries